



TOPICAL  
DIALOGUES

# TOPICAL DIALOGUES

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# Content

## ONE TOPIC - TWO AUTHORS

**GEGHAM BAGHDASARYAN (Armenia)**

**Azerbaijani journalists and media about Armenia and Armenians-----5**

**SHAHIN HAJIYEV (Azerbaijan)**

**What Do Armenian Media Write about Azerbaijan? -----17**

**Shahin Hajiyev's comment on Gegham Baghdasaryan's article -----27**

**Gegham Baghdasaryan's comment on Shahin Hajiyev's article -----29**

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## One topic covered by two authors

This time the media coverage of Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis in Armenia and, accordingly, the image of the opponent created in the media of Azerbaijan were the topics of articles by an Armenian and Azerbaijani authors (journalists and analysts from both countries).

The Armenian author shared his perceptions of materials about Armenians and Armenia in the Azerbaijani media, and the author from Azerbaijan, in his article, respectively, wrote about the coverage of Azerbaijanis and Azerbaijan in the Armenian media.

And in the “Comments to the Articles” section, the Armenian and Azerbaijani authors commented on each other’s articles. Judging by the content of these comments, the discussion at distance could still be continued by a whole series of new comments (in the mode of responding to the comment, and back and forth comments over and over again). But both the articles and these first comments reflect both the attitude to the opposite side in each country, and the perception of this attitude at the moment, as of July 2019.

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**GEGHAM BAGHDASARYAN,**  
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## Azerbaijani journalists and media about Armenia and armenians

### ***Information War: a la guerre comme a la guerre***

Azerbaijan, on the one hand, and NKR with Armenia, on the other, are in a state of war. The war is many-sided, and one of its facets is information warfare. The Azerbaijani coverage of Armenians and Armenia should be viewed precisely against the background of this information war. The military chronicle or coverage of the situation on the line of contact of the troops is a separate aspect of covering the above-mentioned topic and the most powerful resource for stimulating the image of the enemy and Armeniophobia.

“An Armenian invader is dead in Karabakh”. This is a very common headline in Azerbaijani military chronicles. It does not matter in what circumstances it happened. A continuation may be the following: *“In Nagorno-Karabakh, a soldier of the invading Armenian army died as a result of a traffic accident” (1)*. He died in an accident, but still – the person was an invader.

*“As a continuation to the escalation in rhetoric, escalation increases on the front with the aggressor,” “The Armenian side defiantly calls Azerbaijan to war”, “Our answers are so devastating that we even feel sorry for the enemy”, “The true face of Armenian fascism”, “The Armenian leadership propagates and exalts fascism”, “Armenia provokes Azerbaijan”, “Armenian provocation on the frontline”, “Another Armenian fascist finds merciful release in death.”* These are usual and very “innocent” headlines ...

However, sometimes people in Azerbaijan feel disgusted from such headlines. Here is, for example, how the famous Azerbaijani journalist Shahin Rzayev responded to the last headline quoted above on his Facebook page:

*“Another Armenian fascist finds merciful release in death.” (Minval.az). Born in 1998. Only 19 years old. But already a fascist. How disgusting. Damn, you repeat Putin's rhetoric. Merkel and Macron are fascists, and Le Pen and Alternative Germany are your friends. And Jobbik in Hungary, too. Ugh”*

And in such an atmosphere, it is not at all necessary to be surprised at the statement by MP **Aydin Mirzazade**, who called onto the army to shoot Prime Minister Pashinyan as soon as possible. The international community, as they call, did not like this statement.

True, then Mirza-zade repudiated this statement, saying that journalists misunderstood him. The latter circumstance did not please any journalists in Azerbaijan.

*“To back out of it” is not an appropriate thing for an MP,” says well-known journalist Kamal Ali. “It is possible, of course, to insist that he did say it,” Ali writes, “and leave the Parliament, remaining in people’s memory as a real defender of the Motherland, to whom personal gain is inferior to the public. This is what they did in Azerbaijan in 1992-1993. Now we live a different time...” (2).*

Yeah, really a different time ...

Here is another trend of the new time, performed by the same journalist: *“I watched an interview with Eldar Namazov on Real TV channel today. I liked it, he clearly formulated: diplomatic victories, if there are any, are good, well done, but such small things do not prevent the invader from continuing to de facto own our land. Only the Azerbaijani army can stop this lawlessness. It is very nice, if it is possible to solve the issue by diplomacy, without killing people. If not, why do we feed the army, spend the budget on it if it is not to leave the barracks?” (3).*

### ***The War ... of Peacekeepers***

A la guerre comme a la guerre. Sometimes, almost everyone is subject to this truth. Even ... peacekeepers.

After the April 2016 war, your humble servant made a paradoxical remark as follows: *“Azerbaijani peacekeeping dies at the first serious military success. Armenian peacemaking disappears at the first grave danger.”* Which of these peacemaking styles is acceptable? It is difficult to say, although the instinct of self-preservation can still be understandable ...

But still, still...

One of the Azerbaijani peacekeepers welcomed the decision of the official Baku to bomb Stepanakert. According to him, it is their (Azerbaijani) sovereign and constitutional right. He was not very worried by the fact that in those unfortunate April days there were only old men, women and children in Stepanakert (all the rest were at the front). Another Azerbaijani peacemaker “generously” stated that in principle he was not against the fact that ... Armenians could also live in Karabakh.

And the situation was not quiet on the other side either. One of the Armenian peacekeepers was photographed in a military uniform in front of a military map, with a pointer showing which Azerbaijani objects should be bombed. And another Armenian peacemaker jokingly called for revenge by drinking tea in Ganja.

It is true that there were honest and sober voices, too. Here is what journalist Aliya Haghverdi from the regional media platform JamNews wrote in her article on those tragic days, titled “As you discuss the Karabakh conflict in your kitchen”:

*“... Memory is apparently some kind of rudiment. Relic of generic vengeance. It turns out that if two peoples are hostile, they must cut each other until they are completely annihilated on the principle of “an eye for an eye.” During the conflict, there were enough corpses on both sides – commensurate to the side’s capacity! You are unhappy with the social situation, the policy of the authorities, the prosecution of freedom of speech, unemployment, but you cannot openly protest? It’s OK, aggression will accumulate in you, and then it will pour out as angry cries against “these bastards and murderers.” Have you never seen the addressee? Nothing wrong with it. They are all the same there ... As for the love of the country, this is the last, most touching and most false postulate. And the most popular one. We all love our homeland. These are our default settings. At school, we read poems and sang songs about it. We argue all our life how to do it right and who to succeed. But what is love for the country? The willingness to go to the front, kill and be killed? A tear of tenderness at the sound of the hymn? A silent agreement with everything that is happening in this country? Or is it something else? Then think of these pictures: you are on the couch, love your homeland, as always. And then - blood, open guts, corpses. Of people who also loved their homeland, or were told that they should love it. You said and wrote all the time that love of country requires sacrifice and you are ready for it. Does this love of yours take only the dead as a sacrifice? Is it not possible to appease it in a different manner? Now it is quiet on the line of contact between the troops, and there is disappointment in the kitchens and on the sofas. Over the past 4 days, all my friends learned that I am a callous and unfeeling person who has nothing sacred. I totally agree. Perhaps that is why I am glad that nobody will be killed in Karabakh tonight” (4).*

### **Only ... journalists go to battle**

Once, my Azerbaijani counterpart and I argued on what would happen if our brothers in journalism took up the official settlement of the Karabakh problem. And we came to a shared regrettable conclusion - it would be worse! Judge for yourself.

The founder and editor-in-chief of the Azerbaijani newspaper *Gündelik Baku*, Gabil Aliyev, appealed to President Ilham Aliyev in 2015 to protect him from the former chairman of the medical and social expert commission N24 of Samukh region Amirkhan Aslanov during the trial proceeding on Aslanov’s claim against Aliyev. The editor of the Azerbaijani newspaper claims that Aslanov’s mother, Knarik, is Armenian, which is why he insulted Aslanov, and he sued him. This is what the website of the Azerbaijani newspaper “Gündelik Baku” informs (5).

As noted in the material, the editor wrote an article in which he pointed out at Aslanov’s Armenian origin, which was the reason for firing him. “Today he was recruited by another minister. He occupies a post in Ganja,” Aliyev said indignant. *“I consider Armenians to be my eternal enemies. Wherever I see Armenians, I will cut off their tongues and will call them lecherous. Even if they tear me to pieces, I will always hate them. But how can we express our protest against Armenians, if we do not call them depraved enemies? If I go to war again, I will not spare even Armenian children. Both we and our descendants will fight against Armenians and will never reconcile with them. I appeal to the public of Azerbaijan: take part in court sessions! In the trial Knarik’s son is against all of us, we all must be*

guided by the motto: "Let's say no to every Armenian" and raise this issue on Facebook," the editor of the Azerbaijani newspaper *Gundelik Baku* urges in his letter (see the link above).

But **Azad Sharif**, one of the "elders" of Azerbaijani journalism, writes: "You have to shout about this so that our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren hear, so that they do not repeat the mistakes of our fathers, and our mistakes. So that they never trust Armenians again, do not give them an opportunity to repeat Khojaly! Believe me, it will take half a century, and they will again cunningly come to us with their treacherous friendship, crawl into our trust, repent and flatter us. Children! Grandchildren! And great-grandchildren! Do not forget this! ... We did not detect the innate cunning nature of Armenians. We didn't even take seriously the great Pushkin, who exclaimed two hundred years ago: "You are a coward, you are a slave, you are an Armenian!" (6).

Yes, it is better to entrust the negotiation process to non-journalists. Although...

### **Official hate**

In Armenia and the NKR, it is generally accepted that Armenophobia in Azerbaijan has been elevated to the rank of a state policy. The quotes below will leave little room for discussion on this topic. They are taken from A. Adibekyan and A. Elibegova's study "Armenophobia in Azerbaijan".

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev: "Our political weight and economic power are growing. <...> But there are also forces that do not like us, ill-wishers. They can be divided into several groups. First of all, our main enemies are the Armenians all over the world and hypocritical politicians who are steeped in corruption and bribery under their influence" (7).

"The Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno Karabakh conflict should be resolved only within the framework of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, as recognized by the international community. After that, we, Azerbaijanis, of course, will return to all our ancient lands - both in Yerevan, and Goycha, and Zangezur Mahal. All this is our ancient land. The younger generation should also know that our lands are not only lands of today's independent Azerbaijan. We must go back and return to these lands. We must work every day to bring this day close" (8).

**Allahshukur Pashazade, chairman of the Board of Muslims of the Caucasus (CMO) for life:** "We are doing everything possible to resolve the conflict peacefully. <...> However, the results of these meetings are invisible. Because the lies and betrayal are in Armenians' blood. They sat at our table and ate our bread, and, going out into the street, spoke against us" (9).

**Ex-president of Azerbaijan Abulfaz Elchibey:** "Armenians cannot build a state. Throughout history, Armenians never built a state and were not a nation building a state. The Russians built the state for the Armenians and kept giving them directions." (10)



**The Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan Abulfaz Garayev:** *“As long as there are Azerbaijani people and Azerbaijani culture, we will be subject to Armenian plagiarism” (11).*

**The head of the press service of the Ministry of Defense, Colonel Eldar Sabiroglu:** *“They even shamelessly accuse us of provocation. What is their purpose? It is clear that in this way an insidious enemy is trying to form an erroneous opinion among the Azerbaijani public. Lies are in their blood” (12).*

**Ziyafat Asgarov, First Vice-Speaker of the Parliament:** *“It is difficult to cure the “Armenian” disease. The longer this disease is not treated, the more severe its consequences become. And its aggravation harms Armenians themselves. This fictional genocide has no historical, legal or moral basis. Simply Armenians live with this fantasy, this disease. And this is due to territorial claims against neighboring countries – Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, and even Russia. Although currently Armenia is supported by Russia” (13).*

### ***Armenians, Armenians, and only Armenians all over the place ...***

Well, it is not surprising that after such a scary image people may have hallucinations. And, for example, you can also see the Armenian flag when looking at what the cartoon character Snow White is clad in ...

This is not a joke at all. This is what TV presenter **Kyubra Magerramova** writes: *“Actually, you should act like an enemy to your enemy. Yes, the enemy must be defeated. But do it wisely. At least because you should not look like a fool later. Recently, young people have fallen into the fashionable habit of burning flags. By burning the flag, they protest. Our youth took and burned the flag of Colombia, taking it for the Armenian flag. It is good that the Republic of Colombia did not turn this incident into a political matter. And our people manage to literally give a political tint to everything. Recently, on the eve of the International Children’s Day, a festive event was organized. It was attended by a girl in the image of the character from a fairy tale, called “Snow White”: this character entertained children. If you feel interested, watch the cartoon “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs”. At the same time pay attention to the clothes of the characters” (14).*

Yes, all they see is only Armenians around. And all look the same. Recently, during a press conference Azerbaijani Defense Minister Zakir Hasanov, answering a question on whether he fled from the line of contact, as stated by the Secretary of the Armenian Security Council Armen Grigoryan, said: *“Grigoryan, Tonoyan, Mkhitaryan, Kardashian: they are all one person, their goal is the same” (15).*

By the way, about Henrikh Mkhitaryan.

## ***Oh sport, you ... do not lead to peace***

At the above-mentioned press conference, the Azerbaijani Defense Minister suddenly became a sports commentator. Either due to the lack of apparent success on the front line, or due to the great love for sport. And he made the first figurative comparison: *“The football player Mkhitaryan is not worth a penny.”* And there was more to come. *“Armenians have built their policy around football player Mkhitaryan. As a person who does not play football, I wondered who Mkhitaryan was. And I was told that this person spends 90% of playing time on the bench,”* the Colonel-General said at the meeting with journalists **(16)**.

And some Azerbaijani MPs advised Arsenal to *“cry together with Armenians.”*

For example, MP **Sahib Aliyev** noted that “Arsenal”, together with his midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan, played *“not football, but politics against Azerbaijan”*. *“I regard the victory of Chelsea as a victory of Azerbaijan, which turned the final match into a real football holiday, a victory over the politicization of sports and over detractors. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International should be aware of this,”* he added.

MP **Tahir Mirkishili** also stressed that *“Azerbaijan won the greatest victory here”*: *“You should have played football and not dirty political games, gentlemen! In the end, deceit was defeated. The biggest winner on this night was Azerbaijan! The greatest victories of Azerbaijan are ahead!”*

MP **Fazil Mustafa** advised the following: *“Let all Arsenal players put on the Armenian uniform and mourn the defeat. Armenians have been mourning their lies for a hundred years already!”*

MP **Ganira Pashayeva**: *“Now this Armenian player, Armenians and slanderers together mourn this shameful defeat ... May Allah always support our country and protect from enemies!”* **(17)**.

*“Azerbaijan was rooting for Chelsea, and they punished Arsenal.”* This is the blog headline of the famous journalist **K. Ali**. *“The cowardly deed of Mkhitaryan, who, upon the incredible official guarantees of Azerbaijan, consulted with his family and decided to skip the third match because of Azerbaijani participation in it, also contributed to Arsenal’s defeat with a score of 4: 1 - this is not a joke, only desperate losers lose with such a score! Mkhitaryan put Arsenal to a standstill, because if he flew to Baku with the team after supplying the occupation military corps of the Armenian army in Nagorno-Karabakh with arms, he would not be arrested in Azerbaijan due to the guarantees granted by Baku, but every time he hit the ball the whole stadium would go on a squall of whistle”* **(18)**.

Meanwhile, serious international media have focused on other circumstances. Here is one example: *“BBC. Fans with Armenian surnames are not allowed into the Europe League final in Baku”* **(19)**.

These are unsportsmanlike passions. Meanwhile, in the Azerbaijani media, the competition between Armenians and Azerbaijanis at various sports venues is almost a

Shakespearean dilemma of “To be or not to be”. The Azerbaijani who won the fight or competition is the hero of the nation, and the loser is a traitor.

And Armenians and ... Azerbaijani opposition are guilty. In the information portal Media.az, a material was recently published with the following title: “Who is to blame for the defeat of the Azerbaijani national team?” One of the users immediately responded: “Armenians and the opposition”. This is a fairly common opinion.

However, sometimes sober voices are heard too, though - again with a political tint.

*“I cannot understand why an atmosphere of artificial patriotism is being created in Azerbaijan, and our athletes are becoming hostages to it. I am glad when our athletes win over Armenians, Russians or Germans and win gold medals. We also rejoice when they are inferior in the finals and bring medals of other virtues. But after all, participation in competitions implies the risk of being defeated. Because competition suggests that your opponent is also strong, smart, and has some tactics,”* writes Milli Majlis MP **Fazil Mustafa**, expressing his attitude to the new witch-hunt in Azerbaijan, as reported by **Oxu.Az** with reference to [haggin.az](http://haggin.az). This time, the Azerbaijani wrestler Hasan Aliyev, who lost the match to an Armenian athlete the day before, was the target.

*“If this topic was brought up for discussion in any other country, any sane person would simply laugh at it. In general, when in sports, the strongest wins in the concrete competition, and there is nothing strange in this. And when our athletes gain the upper hand over Armenians, it gives us all only episodic joy, and no more. This victory does not return Karabakh to us and does not force the Armenian occupying forces to leave our lands. Now some have attacked Hasan Aliyev because he lost to the Armenian wrestler. I am not acquainted with him personally, I found out about him recently, after the competition at the European Games. But, judging by the logic of some, now everyone, going out into the street, should slap the first person he met with the question: “Why did you lose in Karabakh?” Has this Hasan Aliyev lost more than us? He still has a chance for revenge in the upcoming competitions. And do we, as a nation, have the will to return the lost part of the Motherland to make us feel entitled to lynch Hasan Aliyev? Pseudo-patriots, who turn sport into a deadly standoff, cause irreparable moral damage to our young promising athletes. According to their logic, it is impossible to let Teimour Radjabov into Azerbaijan, since he lost to Aroyan. Not to greet the veterans of “Neftchi”, because they lost to “Ararat” long ago (20).”*

### **“Cultur-Multur” ...**

The coverage of cultural events is a separate topic, or rather a separate battlefield. Watch out, Armenians are stealing our culture! *“Speaking about” antiquity: how Khachaturian slashed music from Hajibeyov” (21)*. A very ordinary title for some Azerbaijani journalists and media.

Or here's a headline from the press in 2003. *“Why do we have to watch “Ararat”, the Azerbaijani audience failed to see “the old lie in the new design” with their own eyes.”* The occasion was as follows: on April 24, a Canadian film director Atom Egoyan's “Ararat” was

broadcast on “Russia” TV channel. No one saw it in Azerbaijan, since during the screening of the film, AZTV - 1 channel broadcast over the “Russia” channel. Journalist **Aygun Aslanova** writes: *“The Ministry of Communications decided for all the people of Azerbaijan and came to the conclusion that we should not watch the film “Ararat”. The Azerbaijani people did not watch this film, although it was broadcast throughout the post-Soviet space and in other countries on the TV channel “Russia”. A question may arise: what kind of film is this, so that we give it such importance?”*

Trying to express an objective point of view about the quality of the film, the author of the article writes at the end: *“Everything said above is not a praise to the film “Ararat” and its director. We just want to show that this film was supposed to be broadcast in Azerbaijan. Since we still lose in the information war with the Armenians. How can you fight if you do not see and have not studied the weapons used by the enemy? Armenians are pathological liars. This disease is in their genes and is very dangerous. We need to see films like “Ararat” in order not to lose caution. That is why the Azerbaijani audience was supposed to watch Atom Egoyan’s film “Ararat” ... (525 gazet, May 13th).*

And here is the “cultural-multicultural” opinion of the general producer of the ATV channel, TV presenter **Elchin Alibeyli**: *“For many years, Armenians have been stealing Azerbaijani tunes and presenting them to the international community as their own. The fact is that if one people does not have history and culture, which is confirmed by Armenian historians, they should be “formed” at the expense of other peoples’ and therefore decided to steal from their neighbors – Azerbaijanis <...>. Wherever Armenians live, they always stole culture and even language from these peoples” (22).*

***But we are still the most peaceful and tolerant ones on earth. The world has not yet seen such peaceful and tolerant people***

But it turns out that “there is no “Armenophobia” in Azerbaijan, and Armenians “have refused” people’s diplomacy. The Yerevan newspaper *Aravot* reacted in precisely this way to the shocking statement by an Azerbaijani official. State Counselor on Interethnic Issues, Multiculturalism and Religion **Kamal Abdullayev** stated that there is “no Armenophobia” in Azerbaijan. His words are quoted by the APA agency. *“The world is slowly beginning to understand that there is no Armenophobia in Azerbaijan. We prove it with every step of ours,”* he said. *“When, within the framework of people’s diplomacy, Armenians arrived in Azerbaijan, they were surprised to see the Armenian church in Baku and to learn that books and materials in the Armenian language were saved in Azerbaijan. They called Moscow and said that they had seen valuable manuscripts in Baku. This is an indication that the Azerbaijani people respect religious, spiritual and intellectual values,”* he said, adding that *“Armenians refused” people’s diplomacy in the peace process. “Third countries also wanted it to continue. But Armenians refused it. The Azerbaijani people have the potential to coexist with Armenians. The potential for a peaceful settlement of the conflict has not dried up. We are for peace”* said the adviser (23).

However, the Azerbaijani people are not only the most tolerant, but also the softest. At least, **Kenan Guluzade** thinks so: *“Azerbaijanis are really soft people, who stand far away*

*from ungrounded aggressiveness, and especially planned propagation or incitement of religious, national and ethnic hatred. This is not a rant, but a reality well known to each of us. <...> We cannot hate any people who live in the countries around us, including Armenians. Yes, we may well have the right to hate the nationalist circles of Armenia. <...> But we are not able to hate a whole nation, at least because there cannot be so much hatred in a person. <...> Xenophobia is a phenomenon alien to the Azerbaijani society” (24).*

We are dealing with pure pharisaism, which confirms the presence of a vacuum of an unfeigned position. But it is still there - the position. Here is what **A. Haghverdi**, mentioned above, writes on his Facebook page:

*“It began right now: Armenians live with us, Armenians live with us. Eschschi (popular appeal in Azerbaijan – G.B.), well understood, yes, they do. Armenian propaganda jerks say that we devoured all our Armenians up a long time ago. We say that is not true, they are very much even alive, and nothing is wrong with them. Many of them do not work, so as they do not walk around in front of our eyes. And for the most part these are women - the wives of Azerbaijanis, who at one time had nowhere to go. For Baku, the situation is really absolutely normal - when a person lives who is one hundred percent, half or a quarter Armenian, everyone knows about it and nothing terrible happens to him/her. But we are not tolerant of this minority, because such is the specificity of our conflict and the specificity of our society. Armenians and Azerbaijanis - 90% of either - hate each other. Recognize this as a given, stop making civilized people out of yourselves, you are not civilized people. It has been proven – over and over again. It's not bad, just that is the way it is. Accept it. Change something in yourself or choose not to, justify it or choose not to, but do not deny the obvious.”*

By the way, the World Wide Web is another platform for both war and peacemaking.

## ***Hate on the Net***

The World Wide Web is full of hatred of Armenians and Azerbaijanis. Thousands of people have become specialized in this. You can find so many words of hate and outright abuse on social media, in various information sites, in the Youtube open channels, that sometimes you just wonder when you come across sober voices and sincere opinions. They seem like a spoon of honey in a barrel of tar.

False peacemaking on the net is a separate topic is, a sphere in which there are a plenty of dubious individuals and ideas.

Here is just one example of a sober evaluation:

*“Vahe Avetyan announced that “we have only six peacekeepers. Zardusht, Arzu, Ali Abbasov, Vanyan, Poghosyan (I do not know who this is) and himself. The rest are all “KGB agents.” Thank you very much. I'd rather be a “KGB agent” than a colleague to Vahe on the “peacekeeping” platform of Eynullah” (from Sh. Rzayev’s Facebook page)*

## ***New Armenia: a View from Azerbaijan***

In the Azerbaijani segment of social media, there were quite positive opinions about the new situation and the Velvet revolution in Armenia. It was hoped that cardinal changes would also occur in Azerbaijan. There were the most interesting comparisons of Pashinyan and Aliyev - not in favor of the latter. Popular were the photos of Pashinyan's open communication with the people and the cordon between Aliyev and the people.

Meanwhile, the Azerbaijani official press tried to give as negative evaluations as possible to the democratic developments in Armenia, including the early parliamentary elections on December 9, but they did not find the proper response. As an Azerbaijani user noted, *“now the world will perceive NK process as negotiations between democracy and authoritarianism”*.

But not only did the official press stand out in this regard.

*“Well done, a smart speech. He’s good at presenting,” said Ostap Bender to Kisa Vorobianinov. Now the duty blockers at the outpost will decide to initiate my fourth ban on Facebook, as they did three times before, for absolutely honest critical criticism on the purpose of the 102nd Russian military base. Why, what did I write? What is wrong? Can't we speak the truth? Have courage to look openly in the eyes of reality: Nikol is a windbag, and you know it!”*

Who do you think would write like that? Who else but **Kamal Ali (25)**.

This is how he presents the Azerbaijani interest in “Pashinyan’s sufferings”. Enjoy the lines below:

*“It seems that the new thing in the Armenian politics is to pour out lies onto political opponents about cooperation with Azerbaijan and the intention to “surrender the territories”. In Azerbaijan, there were similar mirror statements by some of our politicians against others, but they did not get down to the “surrender of the territories”. Armenia has gone farther in absurdity than us. I would not call this statement by Pashinyan anything but “absurd”. Nikol knows that he is talking nonsense, but it turns out these are his moral principles, he can say boundless lies. Pashinyan showed that he is a real fool, and Rizhkov was not mistaken, calling him one.” (26)*

But this is nothing. It turns out that, according to some, Armenians still have a lot to learn in this regard, and most importantly... from the Azerbaijanis.

**For example, a member of the current Azerbaijani Parliament, Elman Nasirov, would like very much** “to have the same democracy in Armenia as in Azerbaijan” (27).

## ***Life ... in spite of Armenians***

All this leads to the fact that Armenophobia becomes the meaning of life, bringing the consciousness of people to absurdity.

Judge for yourself:

***“10 million Azerbaijani in spite of Armenians”***. And the reason is not political at all: ***“On the night of April 6, the 10 millionth citizen of the country was born in Baku. The girl was born in the family of Rauf and Nigar Odzhagovs, her weight is 3.6 kg. Her height is 52 cm, the press service of the Ministry of Health reported with reference to the State Statistics Committee”*** (28).

It is just one step from such mentality to the five-minute hate sessions - “Five minutes of hate in the Azerbaijani school” (29).

As they say, finita la comedia...

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1. <https://minval.az/news/123895875>
  2. <https://www.kavkaz-uzel.eu/blogs/83772/posts/38037>
  3. <https://www.kavkaz-uzel.eu/blogs/83772/posts/37438>
  4. <http://jam-news.net/Publication/Get/ru-RU/1631>
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  6. “Sumgait Echo”. Azad Sharif . 25.01.2007 Archived copy: <http://www.peeep.us/8f193140>
  7. From Ilham Aliyev’s final speech at a conference dedicated to celebration of the results upon the third implementation year of the “State program on the socio-economic development of the Azerbaijan Republic regions in 2009-2013”. az. 28.02.2012 [Online resource] <http://ru.president.az/articles/4400>
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  14. <https://ru.oxu.az/society/315547>
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  16. <https://haqqin.az/news/152454>
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28. (<https://www.kavkaz-uzel.eu/blogs/83772/posts/37264>)
29. <http://www.yapfiles.ru/show/1875936/32f16f5beadf4dc2c672cf829c8eb1bc.mhtml>





**SHAHIN HAJIYEV,**  
Editor, Turan Agency

## **What do Armenian media write about Azerbaijan?**

**Messages and articles related to Azerbaijan and the Karabakh conflict occupy a central place in the Armenian press. This is not just the realities of today, but already a long-standing tradition. Probably, there is no need to explain the reasons behind this, it is clear. The content and nature of these publications are more important and interesting.**

**For the 30 years of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, a certain approach has been developed, which, depending on the political situation, may change. However, in general, it remains unchanged.**

**If we try to systematize by the topic-based approach, publications can be classified by the following aspects: history, psychology and mentality, geopolitics, war, “artificial” education called Azerbaijan, the role and influence of oil on the conflict, legal validity of the withdrawal of Karabakh from Azerbaijan, etc.**

Perhaps the main thing is that in the Armenian press there is no alternative opinion on practically all the issues mentioned. In short, the general opinion is as follows: Armenians are right, Azerbaijanis are aggressors and nomads who seized the lands of Armenians. There is a consensus on these issues, which practically no one from the media disputes. The difference is only in the degree of assessment of the “savagery” of Azerbaijanis and the timing of their appearance on “historical Armenian lands”.

In general, the theme of Azerbaijan as a nation is one of the most beloved in Armenia. Writers, historians and politicians compete in the search of evidence, testifying to the emergence of the Azerbaijani nation 70 years ago with Stalin’s help. This “fact” is presented as one of the trump cards in a dispute with Azerbaijan over the ownership of Karabakh.

The caustic and derogatory publications by **David Babayan**, an adviser and press secretary of the “President” of Nagorno-Karabakh, about the origin of the Azerbaijani nation may serve as a vivid example of the above-mentioned. Pretending to be a historian, Babayan draws his “conclusions” without any references and proofs! **(1)**

Here is an excerpt from Babayan's work, which quite fully describes the author's attitude to the topic:

"The first part of the study, published on January 8, 2017 (<https://regnum.ru/news/2224735.html>), pointed at the Azerbaijani origin of the forefather of humanity Adam and his wife Eva, which is confirmed by the fact that in the Azerbaijani language adam "is translated as" man." However, recent studies have shown that the word "adam" goes back to the proto-Azerbaijani "atam", the root of which "ata" means "father", i.e. in this context, the "forefather of humanity". This discovery provides the key to the ultimate understanding and identification of the location of mythical Atlantis. After all, the toponym "Atlantis" originally sounded like "ATAtlantis", that is, the land of the fathers, the fatherland or the ancestral homeland of humanity. The name of the Atlantic Ocean that previously sounded as "ATAlantic" derived from the same root and meant "the sea fatherland of humanity." By the way, the Russian word "fatherland" is also a borrowing from the Azerbaijani and earlier sounded like "ATAtechestvo", bearing the same meaning. In this context, the results of the study of the "Manhattan" toponym came as quite unexpected. According to the dominant theory, the name of this island, which now forms the heart of the city of New York, was given by the Indian tribe Manahata inhabiting it. However, in reality, the roots of the word "Manhattan" are Azerbaijani words "myan" and "H Atam", which means "I am Atam or Adam". Thus, did the forefather of all humanity Adam first respond to the voice of God and His question "Who are you?", answering: "I am Atam or Adam". This fundamentally reshapes the idea of the localization of heaven on earth. After these revolutionary discoveries, anthropologists, paleontologists and biologists seriously began to consider the hypothesis that people did not migrate from Eurasia to America through the Beringian land, but vice versa. This hypothesis is indirectly confirmed by the name Chukotka, which is based on the two Azerbaijani words "choh" and "orta", which means the very middle. And indeed, if you look at the map, on the way from Manhattan, that is, the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, to Europe, the center of Eurasia and Africa, Chukotka occupies a middle position. And here the ancient Azerbaijani navigators and migrants not only accurately indicated the geographical position of Chukotka as the middle link of the migration of the proto-humans, but were also the first to introduce the word "equator", which is based on the Azerbaijani word "iki" - "two", i.e. the line dividing the globe into two halves. And it originally sounded as "IKlvator". We have already talked about the etymology of the Atlantic Ocean. So, the Azerbaijanis gave the name to the Pacific Ocean, too. The word "Pacific" has in its root the Azerbaijani word "pishi" - "kitten" and initially sounded like "Pishifik", i.e. "playful and peaceful"."

In the given case, the reference to the Russian **agency Regnum** is not accidental. From the very beginning, Armenian journalists occupied key positions in this resource, and this resource will always be distinguished by its pro-Armenian position.

**Pandukht**, an author on Voskanapat website, writes about Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis in a similar spirit.

The terms "Transcaucasian Turks", "Askerians", "Nomads", etc., are favorite expressions.

Here is a link to a series of his articles entitled

**"The whole truth about the 'internationally recognized borders' of the Republic of Azerbaijan,"** designed to prove the inconsistency of the principle of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and the illegality of Nagorno-Karabakh's inclusion in its composition **(2)**

In general, the major direction line of this publication, considered to be among the most aggressive ones, is to exclude any compromise for the sake of reconciliation with Azerbaijan. Therefore, the rest of the site's publications are distinguished by extreme intransigence and aggressiveness.

The website "Epress.am", which occupies a relatively balanced standpoint may be cited as the opposite position. Perhaps this is the only permanent site where there are publications about the persecution and murder of Azerbaijanis in Armenia.

**"Events in Gugark. How Azerbaijanis fell to pogroms" (3).**

On this site, you can find publications that cast doubt on the theory of the exclusivity of Armenians, the universal guilt of Azerbaijanis and the need to fight with Azerbaijan until complete victory.

This media outlet publishes materials on the need to seek peace and reconciliation with Azerbaijanis and Turks. An example is the joint appeal of peacekeepers **George Vanyan and Zardusht Alizadeh** to the authorities of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the article by **Vanyan** about his trip to Azerbaijan in 2018 **(4)**.

In continuation of the topic on exchange travel, I would like to give an example of reactions in social media to such visits. For example, last February, I visited Yerevan as a journalist. This is what the reaction was in the social media in Armenia, which took place on the page of an active Armenian blogger who was indignant at the admission of an Azerbaijani journalist to Yerevan:

***"Andrei Grigoryan: Are you total nuts? ...***

***Yelena Dadayan: They will soon drink Azer-tea "Akhmat" or "Akhmakh"***

***Zohrab Isoyan: And what's the problem?***

***Norayr Markaryan: Vladimir, is it good or bad? What do you think?***

***Zohrab Isoyan: And where is the sign of surrender?***

***Katerina Tish: Are you sure that he will not deploy espionage there? And does Azerbaijan have a similar Armenian correspondent?***

***Dilbaryan Araik: This is a duck or something, I do not understand.***

***Elena Dadayan: IT'S GOOSE***

***Rudolf Ayriyan: Geese and ducks in power)***

***Elina Babayan: Cattle is in power***

***Norayr Mikayelyan: Who will be responsible 'for all this!!!***

**Katerina Tish:** Norayr Mikayelyan, our human government will be responsible, it wants to show the world that we have a democracy, and in fact we have anarchy.

**Dilbaryan Araik** Who is now a Turk – Serjik, Robik or Nikolik??

**Garegin Grigoryan** We must act, tomorrow will be too late...

**Armine Martirosyan:** This is awful; they are completely stupefied.

**Katerina Tish:** Armine Martirosyan, no one is stupefied, this is a special program (in Ukraine it was tougher, in Armenia it is done in a slightly different way).

A person's coming to power with an ultimatum of "either I or no one" shall be called terrorism. Power is in the hands of terrorists. When compared with former leaders, this is the most unpredictable power.

**Tatul Tigranyan** Armenians, who are citizens of the RF, are not even allowed to go to Baku, whereas their journalists come to us for work. Quite interesting.

**Katerina Tish:** This is a new way of espionage under such a cover, tomorrow this journalist will bring the necessary information to his country.

**Emil Osipyanyan:** So this is what they had agreed on.

**David Bakhshiyanyan:** A talker is a godsend for a spy!!! To give the enemy information about internal matters is a very stupid act.

**Karina Sargsyan** Where do you see people????? And where do you even see the unity of the nation and patriotism..... This is a flock of stupefied rams who never needed anything..... And this flock of rams is worthy of such a government that is now in power.....

**Sofia Sargsyan** Friendship started??! (((((Those responsible for making such a terrible decision must be tried and imprisoned.

**David Bakhshiyanyan:** Some in power stole, others in power surrender the country to enemies! Our country not only has no diplomatic relations with Azerbaijan, but is at war with it, how can the Foreign Ministry give accreditation to the media workers of the enemy side? They do not understand that they are potential spies! People sitting there are not in their right place, they are not professionals, stupid and incompetent people. They surrender the country without a fight.

**Karen Grigorian** Turks certainly will not understand this, but the world will understand this diplomatic step. But how could one think that the country is surrendered, do not make hasty conclusions?

**Sarkis Oganesyanyan** This is not a diplomatic process, but and a direct sale of interest. When a country invites an agent of its enemy's special service, is this called a diplomatic process in the world??? Then I am commander marshal Zhukov???)????????) He is just a traitor...

**Svetlana Korkotyan** Karen Grigorian, this may still be a provocative move by Azerbaijan. They will kill their own people to put the blame on us and raise a howl all over the world ...

The focus of the Armenian press with full negativity against Azerbaijan is expressed in the fact that journalists are competing in the search for "facts" exposing Baku's insidious policy towards all its neighbors. So, according to the Yerevan publications, Baku is preparing coups in Iran, supports the separatism of local Azerbaijanis, and supplies Israel with

*intelligence about Iran. In addition, Baku seeks to grab a part of the territory of Georgia with its historical heritage - the David Gareji Monastery.*

This is how famous sites – Armenpress, Aravot and Lragir – write about these topics.

Here are the conclusions made by the Armenian expert for a publication by Armenpress:

- 1. “Over the years, as a result of active military-technical cooperation with Azerbaijan in areas bordering with Iran, which in the American-Israeli anti-Iranian programs were constantly viewed as an important springboard, a fairly effective network of Israeli special services was formed. About a year ago the operation of the latter focused on the export of several tons of documentary archive on Iran’s nuclear program through Azerbaijan.*
- 2. The Turkish-Azerbaijani tactics of “action by proxy”, following the example of the Syrian conflict, but in this case through the introduction of Turkic and Islamic radical groups, was practically tested at the active military stages of the Artsakh issue. The latest example of this is the activation of the military situation in April 2016. At the same time, after Turkey, another regional adversary of Iran, Saudi Arabia, created an effective infrastructure in this direction. This could be proven by the recruitment and introduction of thousands of Azerbaijanis into Middle East conflicts.*
- 3. Iranophobia occupies a historically dominant place among the authorities, but in a much more obvious way, also in the socio-political circles of Azerbaijan, which with its influence may compete only with anti-Armenian sentiments. This circumstance, in its deepest sense, has always troubled Iran, instilling uncertainty about all the regimes in Baku throughout history of independent Azerbaijan” (5).*

And this is how the Aravot publication reveals the "cunning" plans of Azerbaijan with regard to Georgia:

*“Azerbaijan supplies Georgian libraries with books containing hate speech against Armenians. Although the libraries themselves do not see problems in this, some Georgian Azerbaijanis fear that this may contribute to the emergence of ethnic tensions. When Georgian Azerbaijani Imran Gafarov discovered in the public library in Marneuli - a city with an ethnic majority of Azerbaijani population in Kvemo Kartli region in southern Georgia - a book full of territorial claims and hate speech against Armenians, he could not believe his eyes.*

*“When I visited the Marneuli library, I saw the book “Monuments of Western Azerbaijan”, written by Aziz Alekperli. I thought that the book would be about historical monuments, located in the west of Azerbaijan. However, when I read the book, it became clear that the book is about monuments located in Armenia. The book contained an element of hostility towards Armenians,” Gafarov said to OC Media.*

*The library has two copies of the book. Page 13 of the 2006 edition tells about territorial claims to Armenia. On page 21, the author claims that Armenians committed a genocide*

*against Azerbaijanis four times. The 2007 edition contains a map of “Western Azerbaijan”, on which toponyms in Armenia are written in Azerbaijani version. “The Georgian state should not allow the importation of such books into Georgia.”*

*Aida Tagiyeva, an ethnic Azerbaijani woman and a public figure from Georgia, believes that books containing hate speech should be removed from libraries. “It’s just wrong to call people” low-grade “or” two-faced. “ The Georgian state should not allow such books to be imported into Georgia,” she told OC Media. According to her, such books have a “psychological impact” on Azerbaijanis living in Georgia. “As a result of pressure from Azerbaijan, about 80% of Georgian Azerbaijanis are currently experiencing a certain hatred towards Armenians. Although it is not obvious on the surface, it is felt in certain contexts. Such books increase this pressure,” said Taghiyeva. She also stated that this pressure is part of the policy of Azerbaijan. “The government of Azerbaijan sees us as part of the country. They can make use of Georgian Azerbaijanis, filled with hatred against Armenians. If a conflict arises here, they will use them to their advantage,” she said. However, she added that Georgia understands that Azerbaijan suffered greatly during the war. “We regret it, and we have always condemned the genocide in Khojali. However, justice is not born out of hatred. This does not mean that we should be enemies with Armenians in Georgia. Innocent people who lived during the war should not be targeted. Those who live in Georgia, for the most part, did not participate in the conflict. These issues should be decided not by us, but between states” (6).*

Here is a publication from the Lragir on the same subject of Azerbaijani-Georgian relations:

*“The Scientific Council of the History Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan stated that part of the Georgian lands are historical Azerbaijani territories, and the capital Tbilisi carries Azerbaijani culture. Azerbaijani scholars claim that the southern and eastern provinces of Georgia were part of the Albanian kingdom; Azeris, as is known, have for some time considered themselves descendants of Albanians.*

*In fact, Azerbaijani scientists declare the beginning of an attack against Georgia, like the one that they have been carrying out for many years against Armenia, Yerevan, Armenian monuments, declaring them their own.*

*The attack on Georgia was caused by a dispute over the Georgian David Gareji monastery, on the very border of Azerbaijan with Georgia. Part of the monastery complex is located in Georgia, but a small fragment is located in the territory of Azerbaijan. A few weeks ago, Azerbaijani border guards did not allow Georgian pilgrims to visit the monastery.*

*Then the incident seemed to have been settled - the Azerbaijanis said they were carrying out repairs. But the statement made by the scientists testifies to serious political and military claims.*

*Although it is unlikely that Tbilisi will be surprised, and there is hardly any person in the Georgian establishment who hoped that Baku's appetites would be saturated with Armenia, including Artsakh. These claims and appetites are based on something much deeper, which determines the prospects for the presence of the Turkic element in the region and impacts its security for others.*

*If it seems to the Georgian establishment that the issue is purely Armenian-Turkish, this is a serious misconception, which Azerbaijani scientists reveal, confirming that there is no separate security of Armenia and Georgia, they are organically spliced.*

*Meanwhile, some in Georgia explain what is happening between Georgia and Azerbaijan by the "Armenian factor". The Russian agency Regnum quoted a Georgian expert who determined the behavior of Azerbaijan by the Artsakh problem. According to him, since Armenians present Christian monuments as historical arguments, Baku puts forward a hypothesis that not only Karabakh, but also Saingilo region are monuments of Albanian culture.*

*The Georgian expert believes that, despite the good-neighborly relations of Georgia and Azerbaijan, the latter do not serve as grounds for Baku to make concessions, believing that in this way it will give new arguments to Armenians" (7).*

A real bacchanalia has unfolded in the Armenian press around the possible participation of Armenian footballer Heinrich Mkhitarian in the Europe League Final in Baku. Here is a publication in the same edition of Lragir, where the theme of Mkhitarian is "explained" in terms of the fact that hatred against Armenians and Armenian heritage has historical roots in Azerbaijan.

*"The 43rd session of UNESCO will be held from June 30 to July 10 in the capital of Azerbaijan, Baku, where issues of preservation of world heritage will be discussed. And this causes at least bewilderment - UNESCO is meeting in a country that systematically destroys the heritage of Armenian culture. The scandalous facts about the destruction of khachkars in Nakhijevan, in Jugha took place before the whole world, including UNESCO.*

*Thus, Baku can put an end to the history of UNESCO, if the leadership of this organization does not hold Azerbaijan to account. Although, if desired, this could have been done long ago, and there would be no decision to hold a session in Baku either.*

*In order to ask questions, you do not need to go to Baku. The city, of course, has its historical appearance, including, thanks to the Armenian culture, but as a result of the policy of the leadership of this country, the city turned into a lair of anti-Armenian phobias and anti-civilization shame.*

*The recent events related to the finals of the Europe League, which have become a fiasco of the Azerbaijani leadership, may testify to this. There were a lot of examples of shame - people were detained for the fact that they went outside in Heinrich Mkhitarian T-shirts.*

*But it was a fiasco not only for Aliyev, but also for the UEFA, which in September 2017 for some reason decided that the Europe League Final should be held in Baku.*

*The UEFA decision created not only the Heinrich Mkhitaryan problem, but also led to a discomfort for millions of fans. Both fans, and experts condemned and sneered at the choice of the city and the stadium. In the international press, information appeared that after the first half of the match, the country's leadership decided to open the gates of the stadium and let in the fans for free to fill the empty seats, although this did not improve the sad picture.*

*And this is despite the fact that the UEFA has made a decision to hold the matches of the European Championship games in 2020 at the same stadium.*

*Now UNESCO is actively moving towards a fiasco, having decided to hold a meeting in a country where the heritage of Armenian culture is being destroyed.*

*How are such decisions made, bypassing the policy pursued by Azerbaijan? And not only in relation to Armenians. Historical and political aggression against Georgia has been launched, too.*

*Has the caviar diplomacy, which has already been exposed in a number of European capitals, been the basis for such decisions?*

*Or are decisions made to show the contrast and make Baku pay for its own discomfort?*

*What do the Armenian authorities intend to undertake on the eve of the 43rd session of UNESCO in Baku?" (8).*

### ***What are the conclusions?***

The recent trip of the author of these lines to Yerevan allowed to make an, at first glance, unexpected conclusion that in the ordinary life the authors of the above publications are quite peaceful. Communication with fellow journalists, experts and politicians was quite correct. However, both in Armenia and in Azerbaijan there is a public order to expose insidious neighbors.

There is no uncontested rule in the media to protect national interests, which implies condemnation of everything connected with Azerbaijan and depiction of the representation of Azerbaijanis in a negative light. The situation is exactly the same on the opposite side.

To better understand the reason for such sentiments in the society of a country which we are in a military conflict with, it is necessary to remember: there are a number of issues that are of vital importance for Armenia and Armenians, these are the events of 1915, the political role of the Armenian Church and Karabakh.



These issues are the main connecting element of this nation. Armenians look at many questions through this prism and explain many of their actions (if not all) by the consequences of these events or the threat of their repetition.

One can hardly agree that the assessments of the Armenian society are objective, rather the opposite. At the same time, in private conversations, interlocutors from among the press workers, civil society and ordinary citizens made it clear that they did not quite agree with the “national idea” of confrontation with Azerbaijan and the struggle to the bitter end. However, an open opposition against this line is tantamount to suicide.

At the same time, the most ardent opponents of reconciliation and compromise did not hide their readiness to reconcile and cooperate with Azerbaijan, but only after Baku recognized the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh and the loss of the occupied territories around it.

A common “task” facing the Armenian media is also a series of theses, repeated with constant frequency: Azerbaijan will soon run out of oil, so there is no need to compromise with Baku; Azerbaijanis do not know how to fight, because they do not feel that they belong to Karabakh; the demands of the Armenian side have always been legitimate, and Azerbaijan is an artificially created country, where the autochthonous peoples - Lezghins, Talyshs, Avars, Kurds – operate, and this state does not have a future. Finally, the most important thing is that in Azerbaijan they cannot ensure the rights and freedoms of their own citizens, hence, how can one believe that they will be able to ensure the rights and freedoms of Armenians there.

Another important point concerns the fact that in the Armenian press there are virtually no materials - articles, analyses, interviews on the topic of finding ways of reconciliation with Azerbaijan. There are no ideas and programs for finding peace and compromises. There are also no positive examples from the past, on which one could build reconciliation between the two peoples.

Now in Armenia and Azerbaijan they are talking about the need for steps for the parties' reconciliation. One of the elements of this process should be the exchange of delegations of journalists. It would be extremely useful to use this opportunity to make the first breakthrough in the consciousness of the societies of the two countries.

In our situation, the mass media is becoming an essential tool that can incline people both towards either peace or the opposite direction.

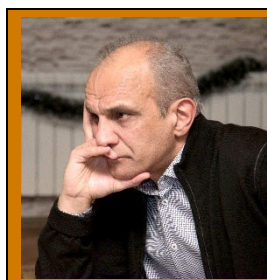
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1. <https://regnum.ru/news/2314482.html>
  2. <https://voskanapat.info/?p=35200&l=ru>
  3. <https://epress.am/ru/2015/04/29/%D1%81%D0%BE%D0%B1%D1%8B%D1%82%D0%B8%D1%8F-%D0%B2-%D0%B3%D1%83%D0%B3%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%BA%D0%B5->

[%D0%BA%D0%B0%D0%BA-%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%B8%D0%BB%D0%B8-%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B1%D0%B0%D0%B9.html](#)).

4. ([https://epress.am/ru/2018/09/06/%D0%9E-%D0%BA%D1%83%D0%BB%D1%8C%D1%82%D1%83%D1%80%D0%B5-%D0%BC%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B0-%D0%BF%D0%BE%D1%81%D0%BB%D0%B5-%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%B5%D0%B7%D0%B4%D0%BA%D0%B8-%D0%B2-%D0%90%D0%B7%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B1%D0%B0.html](#)).
5. [https://armenpress.am/rus/news/968512.html](#)
6. ([https://www.aravot-ru.am/2019/06/02/305678/](#)).
7. ([https://www.lragir.am/ru/2019/06/02/149678/](#)).
8. [https://www.lragir.am/ru/2019/05/18/148720/](#)

## COMMENTS TO THE ARTICLES

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### Shahin Hajiyev's comment on Gegham Baghdasaryan's article: "Azerbaijani journalists and media about Armenia and Armenians"



#### On the "Analysis" by the Analyst

We must pay tribute to the author, who literally read through the Azerbaijani media in search of evidence of Armenophobia. Not bothering to speculate on the reasons for this, he considered it beneficial to collect the maximum number of anti-Armenian statements, which, according to his logic, should make his conclusions more convincing.

However, the main thing the "analysis" of the author, in my opinion, lacks is the recognition that both parties are equally bad. Both nations and societies are like zombies, both have an image of the enemy, and this is a common disease. But the most important thing is that in warring societies there is no other way.

The presented analysis also lacks ideas and recommendations on ways out of this situation. It's all very simple: Armenians are true angels, while the others are nomadic savages. One gets an impression that the author initially set himself a goal of leading to this conclusion. Thus, in his analysis, there is no single reference to positive publications in the Azerbaijani media. The author, who thoroughly studied numerous publications, could not help noticing, say, articles and interviews by Zardusht Alizade and Georgi Vanyan about the need for reconciliation, about the zombie state of the two societies and the senselessness of hostility between Armenians and Azerbaijanis:

<http://www.contact.az/ext/news/2018/6/free/Want%20to%20Say/ru/72910.htm>

<http://www.contact.az/ext/news/2018/9/free/Want%20to%20Say/ru/74827.htm>

And it's quite hard to believe in the objectivity of the analyst, who did not notice a whole series of publications by Turan agency with several interviews with Armenian figures held in Yerevan last February.

In these materials, politicians, military and public figures of Armenia spoke and presented their version and position on the conflict without censorship.

Also authentic articles to Armenia were also published on the visit to Armenia made by the editor of Turan Agency. These articles also present what was seen and heard during the visit, and there is no Armenophobia in these articles. The mentioning of these publications

is not intended to acknowledge the merits of the author of these publications. It is a fact to denote that the Armenian party was given a voice and place in the Azerbaijani press:

2019 February 06 (Wednesday) 13:23:58

**A trip to Yerevan (Part 1)**

2019 February 14 (Thursday) 14:58:31

**A trip to Yerevan (Part 2)**

2019 February 19 (Tuesday) 12:05:36

**A trip to Yerevan (Part 3 - finale)**

2019 February 18 (Monday) 15:27:22

**Vova Vartanov: “Give away all your arms, and we may give back some territory”**

2019 February 13 (Wednesday) 14:34:15

**Kiro Manoyan: We are for the unification of Armenia and Karabakh**

2019 February 12 (Tuesday) 15:35:00

**Tevan Poghosyan: We waited for 70 years to return Karabakh**

2019 February 11 (Monday) 17:17:32

**Armenia is under Russian occupation - Tigran Khzmalyan**

2019 February 08 (Friday) 16:07:37

**Levon Zurabyan: It is necessary to be ready for mutual concessions**

2019 May 16 (Thursday) 14:48:14

**FILM 1: Azerbaijani Journalist in Yerevan. For the first time in 15 years**

2019 June 27 (Thursday) 11:57:08

**FILM 2: Azerbaijani Journalist in Yerevan.**

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How could the author, claiming the role of an objective analyst, help to notice this? Can he give similar examples from the Armenian press?

How could he fail to notice two video stories of interviews with Armenian politicians about the Karabakh conflict, about the search for ways of reconciliation with Azerbaijan? There was nothing of the kind in the Armenian press. For a long time, the opinion of the Azerbaijani side has been a taboo for the Armenian media ...

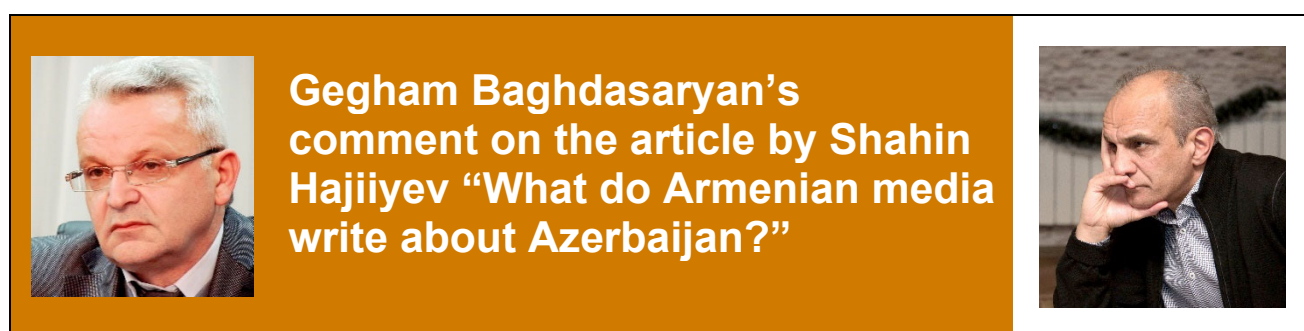
The author especially relishes the situation around Mkhitaryan's refusal to come to Baku without explaining in any way the reasons for the refusal, despite all the guarantees. And again, he “did not notice” the material, expressing an alternative opinion on this matter:

<http://www.contact.az/ext/news/2019/5/free/Want%20to%20Say/ru/81171.htm>

Summing up, we can conclude that the author has prioritized the desire to be speak ironically with and without any reason and to present this as an indicator of analytical depth.

And finally, the author “sincerely” thinks that in a country whose territory is captured by an adversary and who suffered more human and material losses in a war, there should be no Armenophobia. But he does not explain in any way, where such hatred for Azerbaijanis comes from in the “victorious country”? Why does the Armenian press continually hear appeals to continue the liberation of the “original” Armenian lands and reach the Kura and “release Nakhijevan”?

Apparently, Armenian style analysis does not imply such trifles ...



**Gegham Baghdasaryan's comment on the article by Shahin Hajiyev "What do Armenian media write about Azerbaijan?"**

### ***Sometimes We Just Don't Have Enough ... Sense of Humor***

Before proceeding with the reading of the analytical review of Shahin Hajiyev, I got into a very serious mood and was preparing for a long and very difficult process of digesting serious observations, arguments and facts. However, in the course of reading I caught myself thinking that there was more levity and irony in me than seriousness, and I liked it, because there was a premonition of something extraordinary and interesting. However, I am amused not by the search for humor in the mentioned analytical notes, but rather, on the contrary - its complete absence. I understand the importance and seriousness of the topic, therefore - I understand the important and serious look (approach) of the analyst, but I have a feeling that excessive seriousness left its mark on the observations, not allowing me to notice the frankly humorous layers of the analyzed topic.

For example, it was hardly worth seriously analyzing David Babayan's publication on the origin of the Azerbaijani nation. The author of the analytical review criticizes him for ***"Babayan who claims to be a historian makes his "conclusions" without any references and proofs."***

Well, judge for yourself what could be the links for such a humorous opus:

"In present-day Azerbaijan there is a city of Cuba. But there is a state called Cuba in Latin America. The capital of this country, **Havana**, comes from the word **hava** (in Azerbaijani,

the weather), which once again proves the Azerbaijani origin of Cuba. Well, it is impossible that the name of the country and its capital be of Azerbaijani origin and not Azerbaijani.”

Seriously analyzing lightweight material, Hajiyev with the same weight transfers his arrows towards the Russian agency Regnum, arguing that **“this resource has always been distinguished by its pro-Armenian position.”**

For some reason, it seems to me that Regnum staff enjoyed the fun of acquaintance with such an evaluation.

Willy-nilly, I recalled how at one time the Azerbaijani press harshly criticized the comic TV program Az.TV, which was published in a Karabakh newspaper. The programs, allegedly, were as follows: “Early in the night on a scimitar”, “Good night, Talyses”, “And Zori is not quiet there”.

Sometimes you just have to smile and move on ...

Hajiyev writes: **“In continuation of the topic on exchange travel, I would like to give an example of reactions in social media to such visits. For example, last February, I visited Yerevan as a journalist. This is what the reaction was in the social media in Armenia, which took place on the page of an active Armenian blogger who was indignant at the admission of an Azerbaijani journalist to Yerevan.”**

Then he gives a screenshot of this “discussion”. It is idiotic, of course, but how was it possible not to notice that most of all the irony, sarcasm and frank hatred was against the new Armenian authorities?

Or: **“And here’s how the Aravot publication reveals the “cunning” plans of Azerbaijan with regard to Georgia.”**

It seemed to me that the author had finally begun to joke and was preparing a surprise, that is, he would write at the end that this was not the Aravot newspaper at all, but the Georgian (regional) portal OC-Media, and the author was Rakhim Shaliev (<https://oc-media.org/ru/biblioteki-polnye-nenavisti-iz-azerbaydzhana-v-gruziyu/>). The Poor Aravot had simply reprinted this article.

Right, it takes just one step to get to absolutism from excessive seriousness.

**“One can hardly agree that the assessments of the Armenian society are objective, rather the contrary.”**

Very objective observation, and most importantly, a funny one.

And here is more: **“Another important point concerns the fact that in the Armenian press there are virtually no materials - articles, analyses, interviews on the topic of finding ways of reconciliation with Azerbaijan. There are no ideas and programs for finding peace and compromises. There are also no positive examples from the past, on which one could build reconciliation between the two peoples.”**

This is one of the main conclusions of the analytical review. It is true that a few paragraphs above there was a statement of a different kind:

**“The website “Epress.am”, which occupies a relatively balanced standpoint may be cited as the opposite position. Perhaps this is the only permanent site where there are publications about the persecution and murder of Azerbaijanis in Armenia. This media outlet publishes materials on the need to seek peace and reconciliation with Azerbaijanis and Turks. An example is the joint appeal of peacekeepers George Vanyan and Zardusht Alizadeh to the authorities of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as the article by Vanyan about his trip to Azerbaijan in 2018”.**

It seemed to me that this was done intentionally, because I learned from Wikipedia that “a sense of humor is a psychological feature of a person, consisting in noticing contradictions in the surrounding world and evaluating them from a comic point of view.” But the trouble is - in this case the second component - the comic point of view was missing.

**“Do smile, gentlemen,”** said the Baron, named Munchhausen.