

# ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN TODAY

## EVENTS AND COMMENTS

Electronic Bulletin

N 7, 2012



### ENHANCING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF 'THE OTHER SIDE' BY ARMENIANS AND AZERBAIJANIS THROUGH ALTERNATIVE AND FIRST-HAND INFORMATION

With the support of the British Embassies in Armenia and Azerbaijan Region Research Center (Armenia) and The Institute of Peace and Democracy (Azerbaijan) are implementing a project "Enhancing Knowledge and Understanding of 'The Other Side' by Armenians and Azerbaijanis through Alternative and First-Hand Information" (April 2012-April 2014).

In fact, it is a new round of work aimed at improving the knowledge of Armenians and Azerbaijanis about each other.

**Public Dialogues** is a new website that will be launched soon. There you may find materials referring not only to this stage of the project, but also the outcomes of previous periods. We believe that the site will become a kind of joint platform on the Internet, where readers will be able to obtain reliable information about Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as to draw parallels comparing the present situation in the two countries in various areas of life.

**Parallel interviews and video materials for the website "Public Dialogues"** are held with experts and specialists from the two countries and reflect the present situation. These dialogues do not necessarily touch upon the issues of the Karabagh conflict or Armenian-Azerbaijani relations, they also raise and discuss problems which are no less important for the two conflicting societies. These parallel interviews are simultaneously published in Armenian newspaper "Aravot" and in Azerbaijani newspaper "NovoyeVremya".

**Internet discussions:** With the help of these Internet discussions Armenian and Azerbaijani political scientists will be given an opportunity for joint discussions on various issues related to the most topical developments in the international life and will help to adjust their assessments and perceptions with the approaches of their counterparts from the opposite party. Our discussions are held according to the rules of correct and comprehensive discussions where the representatives of both sides are involved.

**Joint Internet press conferences:** Armenian and Azerbaijani journalists working in various mass media will have a chance to participate in online joint press conferences with Armenian and Azerbaijani professionals and political figures, as well as with political figures and experts from other countries and receive direct answers to the urgent issues they are interested in. Materials based on these conferences will be published in their mass media outlets.

**The electronic bulletin "Armenia and Azerbaijan Today: Events and Comments"** reflects the results obtained in the process of cooperation of the Research Center "Region" (Armenia) and The Institute of Peace and Democracy (Azerbaijan).

Region Research Center:  
[www.regioncenter.info](http://www.regioncenter.info)  
[www.caucasusjournalists.net](http://www.caucasusjournalists.net)  
<http://www.facebook.com/RegionCenter?ref=hl>

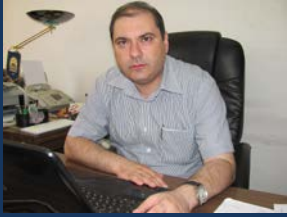
The Institute of Peace and Democracy: [www.tt-ipd.info](http://www.tt-ipd.info)  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Институт-Мира-и-Демократии-Institute-for-Peace-and-Democracy/251251188282946>

# PARALLELS

The interview in Armenia is conducted by Region Research Center and in Azerbaijan by the Institute of Peace and Democracy

## ***VISIT OF THE US SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE SOUTH CAUCASUS***

### **IT IS DIFFICULT TO SPEAK ABOUT THE CONTENT OF NEW PROPOSALS**



**From the interview with the head of the Institute of CIS countries Armenian Branch ALEXANDER MARKAROV**

- **What may the clashes along the front line that took place on the eve of H. Clinton's visit signal to the US and other leading superpowers with regard to the resolution of the Karabakh conflict?**

- If we look through all the publications in mass media outlets on the violations of the ceasefire regime by Azerbaijan throughout a year, we will see that this number of violations is not any different from what we had in the course of the past weeks. We see that Azerbaijan is still following its line of provocations.

I do not think that Clinton's visit would be of any significance and that positive shifts are possible in the resolution of the Karabakh conflict, even though recently there were teases of possibly new proposals to be put forth at the upcoming meeting between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Azerbaijan on June 18. It is hard to say what content these proposals have, even though the information flow on the matter is quite intense.

### **AZERBAIJAN AND ARMENIA DEMONSTRATE UNPREPAREDNESS TO PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS**



**From the interview with the Director of Turan News Agency MEHMAN ALIYEV**

- **What may the clashes along the front line that took place on the eve of H. Clinton's visit signal to the US and other leading superpowers with regard to the resolution of the Karabakh conflict?**

- No matter how strange that is, on the eve of or even during any important visit or high profile negotiations, considerable military skirmishes take place between the military forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan, just as it happened a few months ago during the meeting of the Presidents of Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. This is how parties want to make clear that they are not prepared for peace negotiations today. The USA and other stakeholders understand that signal and only undertake steps to restrain the parties not to allow for the violation of the balance set. The USA is not currently prepared to move on to the stage of the resolution of Karabakh conflict, because other priority issues are there on agenda, for example the Syrian and Iranian issues.

Washington perceives local military losses of the parties only as a sign of their unpreparedness and no more than that.

Full versions of the interviews see:

<http://www.aravot.am/ru/2012/06/16/82144/>

<http://online.novoye-vremya.com/new/2012/06/19/get=60847>

<http://www.aravot.am/ru/2012/06/16/82148/>

<http://online.novoye-vremya.com/new/2012/06/19/get=60847>

## **ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN BETWEEN IRAN, TURKEY AND RUSSIA**

### **FOR TURKEY THE WAR IN IRAN IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE EYES OF THE US**



*From the interview with Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic ARMAN MELIKYAN*

**- To what consequences can the further escalation of the conflict around Iran lead to for the Armenian party and especially in case a war breaks out? Are there any signs of the influence of the Iranian crisis on Armenia?**

- If the Western community, Turkey and Israel make a decision on the reasonability of commencing hostilities against Iran, this may lead to a global violation of the still existent relative geopolitical balance in the Eurasian continent. I think that in case things develop in this manner, Iran will be strategically interested in causing minimum problems for its adversaries and to enlarge the area of military actions, activating various armed conflicts in the territory of Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Egypt and so on. Azerbaijan will become a zone Iran will pay special attention to, for it will become a potential springboard for attacks on Iran from the North. The least that Russia and China will be able to do for Iran is to keep positive neutrality. Among other things this also means that Russia will be able to insist on the nonparticipation of Armenia in the hostilities against Iran. And though the Iranian crisis has not yet been visibly reflected onto the life of our country, Armenia and Artsakh need to be prepared for a compelled limited or large-scale military operations, related to the probable armed conflict between Azerbaijan and Iran. In any case the war in Iran will become a terrible ordeal for all the peoples in the region.

**- What attitude to the issue of striking Iran is there in Russia and Turkey? How realistic is such a strike today and how may Russia and Turkey behave in this situation?**

- An effective and destructive strike on Iran will undoubtedly lead to the weakening of Russia's positions in South Caucasus and Central Asia. The interests of Russia will be obviously damaged both politically and materially. That is why I believe that Russia will do everything possible in order to prevent the realization of the military scenario against Iran. For Turkey the war in Iran, along with some risks (the intensification of the Kurdish factor, the appearance of refugees and so on) may also contain some positive prospects in terms of increasing its own influence in South Caucasus and in the territory of Northern Iran with expansion into Central Asia. For Turkey the war in Iran will become a good occasion to raise its own importance in the eyes of the USA as well as its other currently open and secret friends once again. And if Russia preserves at least positive neutrality towards Iran, Turkey may, to a certain degree, participate in the military actions against Iran, hoping for various political and specifically material preferences.

## AZERBAIJAN IS BEING EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS



*From the Interview with the political scientist and Milli Mejlis (Parliament of Azerbaijan ) deputy RASIM MUSABEKOV*

**- To what consequences can the further escalation of the conflict around Iran lead to for the Azerbaijani party and especially in case a war breaks out? Are there any signs of the influence of the Iranian crisis on Azerbaijan?**

- A lot has been said about such a negative turn of things. This includes both the probable inflow of refugees and environmental consequences. Quite probably, the communication routes both for the delivery of freight from Bandarabad port in the Persian Gulf and transit into Nakhijevan via Iran will be destroyed. Not mentioning the possibility of the cornered Islamic regime, irrationally striking all over the place wherever their military machine can reach. Tehran is not capable of doing significant harm to Israel and the USA. That is why Iran is threatening to block the Strait of Hormuz 40 percent of global oil exports pass through, to strike at the objects and terminals of oil extraction in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Qatar and so on. Among Iran's potential targets the objects of Azerbaijani oil production infrastructure are also mentioned. Regardless of repeated assurances that no military activities against Iran will be allowed from the territory of our country, Tehran expresses its mistrust and makes quite explicit threats.

The relations between Azerbaijan and Iran leave much to be desired and are far from being good-neighborly. We have to undertake extra measures in order to ensure the security of our economic and civilian objects from hostilities, first of all by air and in the sea. At the same time we closely coordinate our positions with our strategic, military and political partner – Turkey. It is not accidental that against the background of the dramatic aggravation of relations with Iran, a number of commanders of various troops from Turkey arrive in Baku in order to coordinate the actions in the sphere of security. Tehran is well aware that in case of hostilities against Azerbaijan, it will have to face not only the West, but also Turkey, Pakistan and even Russia.

**- What attitude to the issue of striking Iran is there in Russia and Turkey? How realistic is such a strike today and how may Russia and Turkey behave in this situation?**

- Both Russia and Turkey are on their guard against military strikes at Iran. Azerbaijan shares this position. However, in case Israel and the USA decide on bombarding the nuclear objects in Iran, I assume that neither Russia, nor Turkey will support Iran by getting involved in the armed conflict. They will confine their actions to protests only. Moscow has made it explicit that in this case it will try to restore its military control over South Caucasus. They have voiced plans on “opening up a corridor” across Georgia in order to ensure communication with the Russian military base in Armenia. It is not excluded that some military cooperation may be requested from Azerbaijan, too (placing airfields at Russia's disposal, providing waters for mooring warships and others). It is specifically the neutralization of such risks and threats both from the South and the North that should make us extremely cautious in the issue of Iran and compel us to harmonize our actions with Turkey and Pakistan, just as we are doing it now.

**Full versions of the interviews see:**

<http://www.aravot.am/ru/2012/06/23/84524/>

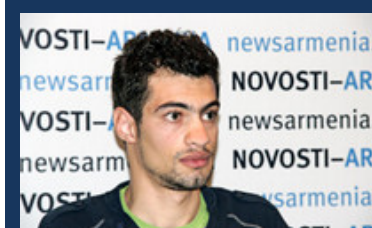
<http://online.novoye-vremya.com/new/2012/06/22/get=61004>

<http://www.aravot.am/ru/2012/06/23/84527/>

<http://online.novoye-vremya.com/new/2012/06/22/get=61004>

## CINEMATOGRAPHY TODAY IN ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN

### WITHOUT LAW ON CINEMATOGRAPHY ANY TALK ON THE CINEMA WILL ONLY BE AN EMOTIONAL OUTPOUR



From the interview with the film critic  
**RAFFI MOVSISYAN**

**-What is the main problem of modern domestic cinematography? Are there any signs of solutions to these problems?**

- The major problem of film -making is the lack of a law on film production. Cinematography is a production that requires a legislative framework to regulate the legal and economic relations in this area, as well as to specify the infrastructure. Since we do not yet have a law on cinematography, we cannot even dream of having a developed film industry, a joint production of films, or a controlled system. Without the law of cinematography all our talks about film- making will be only emotional outbursts. I must say that the bill on film production has been there for a long time, and I hope the relevant authorities will pass it.

Another problem in filmmaking is distribution, the process of selling the movies. Considering the fact that television channels and even public television are absolutely uninterested in the Armenian cinematography and that in Armenia we have only four cinemas - in the cities of Berd, Gyumri and Yerevan, it is unclear how the film should be pay back the money spent on it, or at least reach its audience. I think that in these circumstances the talks about the development of our film industry and its introduction to the international market are irrelevant and are only sporadic examples. We have many problems in the areas of statistics and archiving. It is unknown how many films are shot annually, what their budget is and how much income they provide. We do not even know how many private film companies there are in Armenia, and what they do.

**- What domestic films (historical, contemporary, the screen version of classical works) have become popular recently in our country, and how large is the demand for making such films?**

- Continuing the discussion of the previous theme, I would like to note that one of the problems of modern cinematography is the polarization of author's films and box-office hits. There are a number of author's movies and box-office hits. If the author's film is meant for a certain number of viewers and is taken to film festivals, we already have soap operas that collect a large number of viewers due to TV promotion. For example, "Wanted a Millionaire", "Alabalanitsa", and so on. As a rule, author's films do not have a long life and do not gather an audience, because television is not interested in them. This polarization leads to a loss of films that are in between an author's film and a box-office hit. If in the past a mix of an author's film and a mass popularity film generated good quality and interesting pictures, now we do not have anything of the kind any more. Many complain today, wondering why we cannot watch budget films in the stead of soap operas. This discontent is definitely justified, and I think that the authorities should pay attention to this. Thus, I can say that successful films do not earn popularity and they are gradually losing demand.

## CINEMA SCREENING IS THE MAJOR PROBLEM OF OUR FILM-PRODUCTION



From the interview with film director, member of the Union of Cinematographers of Azerbaijan, RUFAT ASADOV

**- What is the modern Azerbaijani film like today? Are these domestically made films that are on at the cinemas in the country? Are these films on DVDs, soap operas or documentaries? What topics prevail in modern films?**

- The modern Azerbaijani cinematography is currently presented in the form of both feature films, and documentaries, and soap operas, and animation. Feature and documentary films in Azerbaijan have their own history, whereas they began to shoot soap operas quite recently. After the collapse of the USSR Brazilian soap operas became quite popular, and this seems to have been the trigger for the development of this genre of films in Azerbaijan and in the whole of the former Soviet Union space. The immediate stimulus for shooting national soap operas was the decree passed on November 9, 2011, by President IlhamAliyev. The screening of foreign soap operas has been prohibited in Azerbaijan since May 1, 2012. The decree on the development of domestic cinematography passed by IlhamAliyev was enforced on this day. Now every channel shoots a few soap operas. One of them is called the *Secret*, and I am shooting it myself. The film is being shot using the resources of SOY RODUCTION. It was commissioned by ATV channel. Ratings show that today people mostly watch soap operas and feature films. Now the TV channels mostly show old and new domestic films, as for cinemas, they prefer to show new films. I think that this is the new policy of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, which I think is right. As for documentary films, it has its own audience, just as it was in the Soviet times. Documentaries are, as usual, shown on TV, which is common practice for any country, I believe. We cannot unequivocally identify any topic that prevails in modern films. We have both history and modern times.

**- What is the main problem of modern domestic cinematography? Are there any signs of solutions to these problems?**

- Early in 1990s the situation in the Azerbaijani cinematography was terrible. Certainly, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the war in Karabakh and other factors did have a certain effect. Nothing was shot for quite a time. There were some attempts made, but nothing further than that. In 1998 I shot a short feature film, and even received an invitation from different countries. It was difficult to go to the film festivals because of the money. We gathered the money to travel to the film festival in France due to contributions from literally all over the world. The situation has greatly changed now. Films are shot, especially by young directors. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism sends out their films to different international film festivals and covers all expenses. This is highly inspiring, of course.

The main problem that our cinematography and I believe is the distribution of films. I think that this is the greatest problem. No matter what is shot, whether this is a feature film or a soap opera, people wonder when it will be on TV. The famous Dutch cinematographer Peter Greenway has named the date of the death of the cinema: that was “September 31, 1983, when the remote control of TV came forth.” This has turned the cinema into a different art – “interactive and multimedia,” Greenway explained. However, in the recent years new film-production centers have started to operate even in the regions. People have started to go to the cinema, which, in fact, is a good sign.

**- What domestic films (historical, contemporary, the screen version of classical works) have become popular recently in our country, and how large is the demand for making such films?**

- I am not a cinema historian and I am not a film critic. I think that there are films which remain popular regardless of anything. For example, VaghifMustafayev’s short film “All for the Better” (this film presents the

absurdity of the war), received several awards at one of the most prestigious film festivals in Oberhausen (Germany), the historical drama, made by RamizFataliyev “The Destiny of the Ruler,” the film made by RamizHasanoghli “Javid’s life,” the film made by Oleg Sarafaliyev “Good Bye, Southern Town.”

**Full versions of the interviews see:**

<http://www.aravot.am/2012/07/06/88394/>  
<http://online.novoye-vremya.com/new/2012/07/05/get=61366>  
<http://www.aravot.am/2012/07/06/88397/>  
<http://online.novoye-vremya.com/new/2012/07/05/get=61365>

## ***TOURISM IN ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN***

### **CONFERENCES AND BARBEQUE FESTIVALS ARE NOT MEANS TO DEVELOP TOURISM**



**From the interview with the expert of Mitq Analytical Center  
VAHE SARGSYAN**

**- What is the level of service in Armenian resorts? What are the prices there as compared to the resorts in Georgia and Turkey?**

- In Armenia, the quality of service in the tourism industry is gradually improving: companies import new and high-quality vehicles, upgrade recreation areas, but unfortunately, none of this helps to bring the prices down. In the resort areas in our country the prices of the service remain unaffordable to our own citizens, and often amaze even the citizens of other states. The overly high, I would even say, illogical tariffs charged by Armavia, the Armenian airlines servicing the country, are another major obstacle to increasing the number of tourists coming to Armenia. Armavia, being the sole national airline in Armenia, actually enjoys a monopoly, and foreign airlines often charge prices that are initially and mutually coordinated and agreed upon by Armavia. We are now watching tourists from neighboring Iran, who in the past years would come to have their holidays in Armenia, go to Georgia. All this is a consequence of many omissions in the tourism sector, a lack of investment competition, monopolies for building hotels and other resorts. In Armenia we have not yet come to understand that the investment made today for the person visiting your country this year will be compensated by the visits and investments made by other tourists

**- Does the RA have a program on tourism development and how successful are they? How many tourists visit our country every year?**

- Every year approximately 750,000 tourists visit Armenia: this is a very small figure when compared with neighboring Georgia. The number of tourists visiting Georgia last year amounted to 2,822,000. This year they are planning to receive about 3.5 million people, and according to the comprehensive program of 10 points prepared by the Government, the number of tourists will have reached the 5 million crossing line by 2015. It should be noted that according to statistics every tourist brings 1,502 U.S. dollars to Georgia. Unfortunately, in Armenia we cannot yet see any determination and concrete steps in this direction. The line agency that regulates the sector is very passive. You cannot roll out and develop tourism through the participation in a few international agreements and conferences, holding a wine festival in Areni and a barbeque festival in Akhtala.

Certainly, it is a sad fact that the rate of development of tourism in our country is 10 – 15% and it is conditioned not only by the activity of this agency. Again I will have to refer to Georgia where the growth in tourism sector is 45 – 50% and which, according to the report of the World Tourism Organization of UNO, published on June 22, has taken the first place due to its rates of tourism development. However, the fact that since January 2011 it has been forbidden for foreign tourists to stay in the territory of Armenia with their own vehicles for a period longer than 15 days is an absurd decision. It disallows these people to stay in our country for a long time. Whereas this would mean to have money spent here. Besides, this also creates unpleasant lines at Georgian border passes. This has already spurned and continues to spurn many foreign citizens from our country. Another important circumstance is the existence of a visa regime with a number of countries. The big difference among the tourists in our country and those in Georgia consists in the fact that Georgia has cancelled the visa regime with a number of countries, including Russia, to which it is hostile. Only one fact would suffice to mention: the elimination of the visa regime with Russia has led to a situation when this January – June, as compared with the same period last year, a 75 % growth in the number of the citizens from the RF was registered in Georgia. The relations between Georgia and Iran, Turkey, the EU, and the USA, whether unilateral or multilateral, are regulated without a visa regime. It is surprising that we are still preserving the visa regime with Iran.

## 2011-THE YEAR OF TOURISM



From the interview with co-founder of the Movement REAL  
**NATIG JAFARLI**

**- What is the level of service in Azerbaijani resorts? What are the prices there as compared to the resorts in Georgia and Turkey?**

- Only 58.7% are satisfied with the quality of tourism services within the country. The following are the factors that cause dissatisfaction among the tourists: lack of skillful professional staff (47.9%), incompliance with sanitary and hygienic norms (29.2%), an underdeveloped concept of "tourism" (16.6%). 57, 8% of respondents are not satisfied with the prices and believe that the high cost prevents from drawing tourists to the recreational sites. 92, 2% of respondents believe that the prices should be 30-50 percent lower, and the citizens of Azerbaijan should enjoy benefits. More than one fifth of the respondents believe that the tourist services in Azerbaijan do not provide enough tours, hiking, or adventures. Prices in Georgia are much lower than in Azerbaijan, so most of the citizens of Azerbaijan who have long periods off on holidays spend them in Georgia.

**- Does the Azerbaijan Republic have a program on tourism development and how successful are they? How many tourists visit our country every year?**

- The government has introduced some programs that are directly or indirectly meant to promote tourism in the country. Even the year 2011 was declared the year of tourism, but there is no significant shift in this direction. The official statistics on tourism does not inspire confidence, to put it mildly. Foreign authorities, who cross the border, are registered as tourists, too. Given that there are many Azerbaijanis in Georgia and in Russia who hold the passports of those countries and who visit Azerbaijan several times a year to see their relatives, official figures in statistics on tourism do not inspire confidence.

**-Is there a necessity to encourage people to have a holiday in some country at state level, when, for example, the state officials and the famous people select places of recreation within the country and thus serve as an example for others?**



- It will take radical reforms in all sectors of the economy to raise the level of tourism in the country. The most important obstacles are the thriving monopolies and the corruption in the economy of the country. Tourism has a multiplier effect and drags many sectors of the economy behind its own cart. Improving the tourism sector will enhance the development of many sectors of the economy, therefore, reforms are necessary to implement in all the sectors of the economy. Our officials and executives prefer to spend their vacations in different countries, thus indirectly confirming the underdeveloped level of tourism in the country.

**Full versions of the interviews see:**

<http://www.aravot.am/2012/07/14/90785/>

<http://www.aravot.am/2012/07/14/90787/>

## JOINT INTERNET PRESS CONFERENCES FOR ARMENIAN AND AZERBAIJANI MASS MEDIA



**From the press conference with the analyst and the editor of ATJournal (www.prm.am) electronic journal HRACH GALSTYAN**

- I think that we have grounds to assume that all the actors are interested in a quick resolution of the conflict. The issue is different, and it mainly consists in the final resolution of the conflict – a process that requires huge resources – both material, and financial, and political. And this problem should be discussed on this very plain. We need donors for peace, and hence a question comes forth – when will donors be able to allocate the required large sums for peace? But this takes the responsibility away from the real participants of the conflict. We must shape up our own values ourselves, set our goals and make our resources serve these very purposes. Yes, peace is a resource-consuming process, but on the other hand, our real strive for peace itself will yield opportunities for the generation and formation of new and extensive resources.
- Undoubtedly, Russia has its own interests in the region, and this is not a secret. And there are no doubts that Russia is trying to promote its own interests. But we live in the 21st century, and everyone understands that the interests of one party (in the given case – the concrete interests of Russia) are shaped, taking into account the interests of the regional actors themselves. I think that it is high time that we stopped demonizing one of the interested parties, or on the contrary, think that the presence of any external force will be of common good.
- The Karabakh problem has become a hostage of our internal processes. It often becomes an instrument, a small change in the solution of timeserving problems of individual politicians and blocks. Even we – the citizens and our societies, often forget and do not realize what particularly the essence of the Karabakh conflict is, and what it is that we should resolve, after all. And every time we seem to face the need to go back to the roots of the problem, everything is clear and distinct there – people's security, a possibility to live in their own houses, and a possibility of full cultural self-expression. These are the very problems we are solving. The whole of the Karabakh issue lies within the frames of these problems. There is no conflict in Armenia or Azerbaijan; there is no conflict between the communities

and commonwealths. All this is in papers, in the so-called big politics. In fact, these are abstract notions, not real fates of concrete people, whereas the latter should be the basis for any resolutions and actions on the part of the politicians.

The interview was held in the Caucasus Journalists Network ([www.caucasusjournalists.net](http://www.caucasusjournalists.net)) in June, 2012. Hrach Galstyan answered the questions of the journalists from Armenia (internet newspaper “Panorama” – [www.panorama.am](http://www.panorama.am)) and Azerbaijan (news agency “Turan” – [www.contact.az](http://www.contact.az), newspaper “NovoyeVremya” – [www.novoye-vremy.com](http://www.novoye-vremy.com), newspaper “BizimYol” – [www.bizimvol.az](http://www.bizimvol.az)).

Full version of the interview see:

<http://www.caucasusjournalists.net/eng/interview.asp?idinterview=147>



### From the press-conference with the co-chair of the Republican Alternative Movement (REAL) ILGAR MAMEDOV

- Only the Kremlin has reasons to build up the tension. One of them is the Gabala radar station, with regard to which Baku requested a just attitude to itself. Russia is short of time, the rent period will be up in a few months, and it would like to clarify things quickly. The second reason is the circumstance which became known during Hillary Clinton's visit to the region, regarding the willingness of the USA to take over the Kremlin's dominant position in mediation, which they readily gave away to ex-President Medvedev. Now they would like to prove their efficiency against the failure of Medvedev's mission. That is why the Kremlin, building up the tension along the front line, wants to show that even if it failed to bring the peace closer, it was the Kremlin who could preserve the situation calm. The third reason is that the West is preparing a quick strike at Syria, something that Russia will give the UN mandate for, however, Russia would have liked to use it as a precedent to intrude Georgia and/or Azerbaijan. The fourth reason is that the decision on the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline is at a decisive stage, and a positive dialogue has been established with Turkmenistan, that is why they "need to" raise the risk level in relation to the gas pipeline. By the way, this is how we can explain the recent provocation at the border between Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan. Both in Ashkhabad and in Baku the elite is not homogeneous, and it seems that there too there are forces, servicing the Kremlin's interests. Finally, the buildup of tension is handy to the Kremlin NOT in the occupied Azerbaijani territory, since CSTO or Russia would not quite have a right to interfere, but rather on the immediate border between the Republic of Armenia and the Azerbaijan Republic. The first collisions of this wave happened quite far from the occupied territories and close to the borders of the two states, common with Georgia.
- It is not in Azerbaijan's interests to rapidly renew hostilities. Because currently we are on the peak of oil extraction and we are still going to be that high for quite a time. Currently, we are at a time of the accumulation of wealth and building up the military and political capacities of the country. On the contrary, it will be more beneficial to Armenia depressed by the growing lag, to renew the war now, than later. If Yerevan receives real guarantees of Russia's involvement, it will renew the war even tomorrow.
- The notion of "the limits for a compromise" is very vague. Deliberating on the ways of resolution, I do not confine myself with rigid and formal frames, and I prefer to look at the expected dynamic process of achievements or losses of Azerbaijan. And this process is always related to the history. The realia that

were important in the 1990s are not always topical today. The aim of the resolution is to ensure conditions for the existence of the Azerbaijani state and in which, already confident in our security, we could focus on the role of our country in the progress of the human kind, to settle an uninterrupted, effective and well-secured regime of goods exchange and passenger traffic from Turkey, to ensure the highly patriotic spirit of our people, basing it on the facts of the resolution and without distorting and mythologizing history.

The interview was held in the Caucasus Journalists Network ([www.caucasusjournalists.net](http://www.caucasusjournalists.net)) in June, 2012. Ilgar Mamedov answered the questions of the journalists from Armenia (internet newspaper “Panorama” – [www.panorama.am](http://www.panorama.am), National Radio of Armenia, online newspaper “Hetq” – [www.hetq.am](http://www.hetq.am), news agency “News.am” – [www.news.am](http://www.news.am), news agency “News Armenia” – [www.newsarmenia.am](http://www.newsarmenia.am)) and Azerbaijan (news agency “Turan” – [www.contact.az](http://www.contact.az), newspaper “NovoyeVremya” – [www.novoye-vremy.com](http://www.novoye-vremy.com), newspaper “BizimYol” – [www.bizimyol.az](http://www.bizimyol.az), newspaper “Echo” – [www.echo-az.com](http://www.echo-az.com), newspaper “Zerkalo” – [www.zerkalo.az](http://www.zerkalo.az)).

Full version of the interview see:

<http://www.caucasusjournalists.net/eng/interview.asp?idinterview=149>