

ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN TODAY

EVENTS AND COMMENTS

Electronic Bulletin

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

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 platform for virtual interactions or distance communication among specialists from Armenia and Azerbaijan who represent various spheres of life in both societies. We assume that readers may both find trustworthy information here about contemporary Armenia and Azerbaijan, and draw parallels between the situation in the various fields of their specialization in both countries due to the absolute parallelism of topics and addressed issues.

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".

On-Line 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 Online 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).

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“WHO ARE YOU, COME ON GO AWAY!”

This meyhana was played and is still playing on different Russian channels, in very popular TV programs on NTV, ORT, REN TV, MIR, etc.

Journalists of NTV even came to Baku and met with the maker of this super popular video Hilal Mamedov. Hilal Mamedov is not only the chief editor of the newspaper “Voise of Tolish” (“TolishSado”).

Hilal Mamedov is human right defender, the chief of the Committee of rehabilitation of the professor linguist Novruzali Mamedov, who was accused in 2007 in betrayal of Motherland and espionage in favor of Iran. Today Hilal Mamedov is accused in betrayal of Motherland and espionage in favor of Iran.



From the letter of Hilal Mamedov to the human rights defender Leyla Yunus

Leyla salam, of course I expected that these “cannibals” sooner or later would arrest me. But the “drug” was not expected...Those 6, 7 cannibals were in civilian clothes when they attacked me near our house, it was about 12.00 am, June 21.I thought that those criminals would kill me on the spot. But when they stuffed me into the car, I thought that they were going to kill me on the way and throw somewhere. They kept on beating me even in the car.

They said nothing about drugs. They talked about my Facebook page, about the video “Who are you? Come on, good-bye”, about my interview on NTV. They told me that I had gone too far. When I was taken to the Headquarters of the Commission against Drugs (their boss is Azi Aslanov) I realized that those criminals were their employees. They demanded that I emptied my pockets. I refused. Then they themselves pulled out everything. Suddenly they pulled out a cellophane bag from my right pocket and shouted: “And here is the drug!”

Full version: <http://www.publicdialogues.info/en/node/525>



AKRAM AYLISLI AND LUSIK AGULETSI

The Armenian artist and ethnographer Lusik Aguletsi spent her childhood with her grandparents who in the mid 20th century lived in a small town in Soviet Nakhijevan – Agulis. Her creative pseudonym (Aguletsi) means “from Agulis.”

Lusik Aguletsi is well-known in Armenia also due to her quite unusual appearance. The national costume that she has been wearing for a few decades now is an element of her routine, and not a uniform for meeting journalists.

Probably she is the only woman in Armenia today to dress like that.

The creative pseudonym of the Azerbaijani writer Akram Aylisli means “from Aylisli.”

Agulis (the name of the medieval town) is now called Aylis.

“The yellowish-pinky light on the tall dome seemed to tell the similarly tall mountains of the once present purity, elevation, spaciousness and beauty of the world. And Lusik was there again, in the yard of the beauty of all churches – the Vangh Church: the artist Lusik, the granddaughter of Haykanush, a girl of thirteen – fourteen. That summer Lusik came from Yerevan for the first time, to spend her summer holidays in Aylis and from the very first day on she would not leave the churchyard until late in the evening. How many times was it possible to draw the same church? ... Or could the church only be an excuse? Maybe Lusik saw the God’s smile reflected in the yellowish-pinky light on the dome in the mornings and evenings and believed that she could draw it, and that is why, being firmly settled in the churchyard, she would keep drawing the same thing day by day...?”

An excerpt from a novel by Akram Aylisli “Stone Dreams”

LusikAguletsi about Life in Agulis and her meeting with young Akram Aylisli there:

“I was in the first year of my studies at college, and I was only 14. That year I arrived in Agulis to draw the Tovma Church. A young man came up to us – a fair-haired one. I even wondered how handsome the young man was with such a light complexion. He had quite a prolonged conversation with my Grandma. When he left, I asked my grandma who that was. She said that he was the most educated young man in our village and a very intelligent man. I remember he was some 25 years old, quite a mature young man, I would say.

He spoke in a very literate and gentle manner. You know he talked to my grandmother in a way as if he was her son.

He saw me only once, but he described it in such a beautiful manner. He is right; I did see divine light in that church. I would draw all the time. Every year I would go there to draw. I did not ever meet him there again, but he could have felt me going to the church and drawing it.

Full version: <http://www.publicdialogues.info/en/node/528>

THEY SHOULD REPENT

The Armenian writers and publicists Tigran Paskevichyan and Hovhannes Yeranyan speak on the perceptions (adequate and not quite) of the Azerbaijani writer Akram Aylisli’s “*Stone Dreams*” on the Armenian society, the willingness of the public, of the time of repentance and the role of writers and literature in changing the atmosphere of hatred and the perceptions of the opposite party.



TigranPaskevichyan – I read this book after the great resonance it received and under the influence of the already formed opinions.

Frankly speaking, I wish I had read it before. This is a so-called planned novel which aimed to shock the Azerbaijani public, to overwhelm it.

HovhannesYeranyan – First, I read the novel in Russian, and then I read some parts of it, already translated into Armenian. I should mention that simultaneously a few translators are now translating this book into Armenian.

My first impression was to admire his courage as a citizen and an author. Quite amazing courage a writer may have... I think he should have been turned into a hero.

TigranPaskevichyan – On the other hand, there is some internal moderation.

In front of such sincerity and authentic compassion for one's people and one's country, a fear and some doubts are aroused: what if we become similarly sincere and unmerciful towards ourselves?

HovhannesYeranyan – I do not know a nation that would not have this problem of repentance. But I am disgusted and cannot stand when they say that see, Azerbaijanis wrote such a novel, when will repentance follow?

There may be such addresses to us from abroad. But when our writers say, yes, we should also repent... please show me my sin, my offense, and I will repent. We do have things to repent for and quite a lot, by the way.

- Repent before others?

HovhannesYeranyan – No, before ourselves. There are quite many things to repent for before our own people and such repentance will still take place.

Full version: <http://www.publicdialogues.info/en/node/527>