# Azerbaijan is the best venue for interreligious and intercivilizational dialogue

The **February-March 2019 edition** of the Embassy's digest features news on the Georgian President's visit to Azerbaijan, Baku hosting interreligious and inter-civilizational dialogue, commemorations of the Khojaly tragedy in the United States, presentation of Azerbaijan in Utah Senate and House of Representatives, Azerbaijan's major improvement in the Heritage Foundation's Economic Freedom Index and a documentary film on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

To learn more about the Embassy's activities, please remember to like us on <u>Facebook</u> and follow us on <u>Twitter</u>.

Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili on an official visit in Azerbaijan



February 27, 2019

"I am happy to pay my first visit in the region to Azerbaijan," said President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili. "We have gone through a historic path together. Geographically, we are close neighbors. History has drawn us closer to one another."

### Twenty-Seven Years Pass since the Khojaly tragedy

Twenty-seven years ago, on February 26, 1992, the world witnessed what the Human Rights Watch later described as the "largest massacre to date in the conflict" between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Armenian armed forces, backed by the former Soviet Union's 366th Motor Rifle

Regiment, attacked the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly slaughtering over 600 civilians, including many children, women and elderly while thousands were taken hostage and tortured, hundreds more were wounded, many are still missing.



## **Khojaly Tragedy Commemoration in US Congress**

An event dedicated to the 27th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide was held in the US Congress. Members of the Congress noted the importance of remembering the Khojaly victims.

# Jewish, Muslim organizations in New York Commemorate Victims of the Khojaly tragedy

February 26, 2019

The American Sephardi Federation and the Muslim American Leadership Alliance in New York honored the memory of the victims of tragedy in Azerbaijan's Khojaly town. The event was attended by representatives of various religious and ethnic organizations of the US, local community activists and representatives of the Azerbaijani community. The resident of Khojaly and the witness of the tragedy Anar Usubov shared his memories about this tragic day.

# <u>Chairman of Helsinki Commission Remembers Khojaly 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of</u> <u>Khojaly Massacre</u>

February 26, 2019



"Khojaly, a town in the Republic of Azerbaijan, was home to a barbaric act of brutality that desecrated the norms and principles of international law, human rights, and freedoms. Armenian forces, with the support of the 366th motorized rifle regiment of the Russian army, stormed the besieged town of Khojaly engaging in acts so violent that their effects are still felt in the community, indeed the entire country, to this day..." says Helsinki Commission Chairman Rep. Alcee L. Hastings in his statement.

# The Heritage Index of Economic Freedom rates the Republic of Azerbaijan thumbs-up

February 28, 2019



Azerbaijan was named as the most improved country in the rule of law by the Heritage Foundation in its 2019 Index of Economic Freedom. The report also listed Azerbaijan as one of the 15 countries making huge strides in economic freedom since the introduction of an Index in 1995. Listen to John Batchelor Show as the editor of the Index, Ambassador Terry Miller talks about Azerbaijan's achievements in enhancing economic freedom.

Fifth Ministerial Meeting of Southern Gas Corridor Advisory Council held in Baku

February 20, 2019

The 5th Ministerial Meeting of the Southern Gas Corridor (SGC) Advisory Council has been held at the Heydar Aliyev Center in Baku. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev attended the meeting. The participants in the event included energy ministers from the Southern Gas Corridor member-states and representatives of a number of organizations, as well as European Commissioner for Budget and Human Resources, acting co-chair of SGC Advisory Council Gunther Oettinger.



# Evangelical Leaders Gather in Baku, Azerbaijan for interreligious and intercivilizational dialogue

March 5, 2019

At the Conference Marc Schneier, president of the US-based Foundation for Ethnic Understanding said that Azerbaijan can serve as an example for all states for interreligious and interconfessional relations.

### <u>Azerbaijan reaffirms support to development of Caspian Sea – Black Sea</u> <u>Internationall Transport Route</u>

"Azerbaijan has always been strongly supportive to building interconnectivity in the region and spared no efforts to enhance the region's transit potential through promoting East-West, North-South and South-West transport corridors" stated Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov.

# <u>Presentation on Azerbaijan at Utah State Senate and House of</u> <u>Representatives</u>

February 26, 2019



During his visit to the State of Utah Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan Elin Suleymanov was welcomed at Utah State Senate and House Representative. Both Chambers' officials made presentation on Azerbaijan.

# Ambassador Elin Suleymanov gives' an interview on the US-Azerbaijan Strategic Partnership

The US-Azerbaijan Strategic Partnership was discussed during the conversation between Ambassador Elin Suleymanov and Franz Kolb, Regional Director for International Trade and Diplomacy of Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development.

#### A look back at the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict

February 26, 2019



Watch the film of TRT World which sheds light on Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno Karabakh conflict, how Azerbaijanis were tortured and still suffering from conflict's implications.

### Young Azerbaijani inventor to represent country at Intel ISEF in US

February 15, 2019

Reyhan Jamalova, a 10th-grade student of the secondary school of Baku, will represent Azerbaijan with her world-renowned Rainergy startup at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), in Phoenix on May 12-17.

Azerbaijan's master of design Rufat Ismayil at the New York Fashion Week



Rufat Ismayil is the Creative Director and Co-Founder of AFFFAIR brand. He is involved in the Collection Design and leads the innovative and creative lab of the garment production line. His collection "Butterfly Effect" was presented as part of the New York Fashion Week.

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