

## **Alex Petersen**

As Azerbaijanis around the world mourned the victims of the murderous attack by the Soviet military against unarmed civilians in Baku on January 20, 1990, a terrorist attack in Kabul claimed numerous victims, including our friend Dr. Alexandros Petersen.

It is hard to believe that Alex is no longer with us. An amazing personality full of life and intellectual curiosity, he had an aura of optimism around him. Any loss of life is profoundly sad; this is even more so when an untimely death interrupts a promise of a young and accomplished individual, who had so much more to offer.

Even in his death Alex continued his mission vividly reminding us that, while the daily reports of violence around the world often force us to become detached consumers of statistics, the victims behind the numbers are very real human beings. The tragedy in Kabul is also a reminder that, far from an abstract academic discussion, the future of Afghanistan is real challenge to be addressed rather than ignored.

Alex knew the region and was very enthusiastic about its prospects. Even his appearance was impeccably enthusiastic. He explored and frequently traveled in Eurasia. Part of me still desperately wants to believe that he is once again on one of his prolonged voyages.

E.S.