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The Problem of Southern Azerbaijan

Say (No.): 553/2012
İlaygün (Date): 29 August 2012

For the attention of Mr. Ban, Ki-moon, the General Secretary of the United Nations;

The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, Please circulate this letter to:

- Special Rapporteur on [adequate housing](#) as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context
- Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- Special Rapporteur on the right to food
- Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
- Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation & guarantees of non-recurrence
- Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights
- Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
- The Independent Expert on Minority Issues
- The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

CC Mr. Drewery Dyke and Mrs. Ann Harrison, Amnesty International, London

Also: International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (the Oslo Branch);
Human Rights Watch; and Human Rights Server

Dear General Secretary,

GENERAL COMMUNICATION: THE QARADAG EARTHQUAKE TRAUMATISED SOUTHERN AZERBAIJANI VICTIMS; EXPOSED THE RACISM AMONG IRANIAN AUTHORITIES; CARVED OUT A CHASM IN BETWEEN SOUTHERN AZERBAIJAN AND IRAN; AND TRANSFORMED GEOLOGICAL TECTONICS INTO SOCIAL TECTONIC MOVEMENTS

Please find enclosed General Communication 2012/1, concerning the seismic activities in the Qaradag region of Southern Azerbaijan causing strong earthquakes on 11 August 2012. The main earthquakes registered 6.4 and 11 minutes later the strength of 6.2 on the Richter scale. Curiously, this modest earthquake caused huge destruction and a massive loss of life.

This communication is attached with an overview report by summarizing some of the information issued by the Iranian authorities, their emergency response and the massive inconsistencies in their information. Our report then analyzes the Iranian tactics of disinformation and their inaction, who unashamedly tried to diffuse the trauma through misinformation. The salient points of the report are as follows:

1. **Misinformation:** The death toll in this earthquake remains unaccounted, as the official figures are literally “cooked” in the Iranian “Ministry of Information.” The Iranian authorities redressed the whole episode by the following statistical figures on 13 August. Dead: 227; wounded: 1380; hospitalized: 480. The actual figures can be higher by one or even two orders of magnitude. Only 24hrs after the earthquake, Najjari, the Minister of Internal Affairs, visiting the region, declared from the Iranian television that the rubbles were made safe and those under were pulled out and the wounded victims were treated. The reality is that, even after 5 days afterwards, the victims were pulled out and the first aid reached some of the villages for the first time seven days after the earthquake.
2. **Breach of “Responsibility to Protect”:** As the only official rescue activities were staged for the production of films by the Iranian television crew for the consumption of the international media, we hold that the Iranian authorities have committed mass murders and are responsible for it. In fact, the Iranian authorities do not *protect the citizens of Southern Azerbaijan* but the Qaradag earthquake shows that they breach their international obligations and this is just one instance out of many.
3. **Disinformation:** Besides stage-managing the international media, the Iranian authorities elected to trivialize this natural event without covering the news of the event in Iran and thereby in Southern Azerbaijan. The people learned about the event from: their direct experience, Southern Azerbaijani national television of GünAz broadcasting from Chicago or international radio/television services.



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4. **Preventing International Humanitarian Assistance:** The Iranian authorities displayed an incredible capacity for callousness by preventing the humanitarian assistance immediately dispatched from the Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkey. But the response from Azerbaijan was hampered and that from Turkey was refused on the grounds of national security to their sovereignty, without fearing their breach of international conventions. Mr Faqih, the chief of the Iranian Red Crescent declared on 13 August 2012 (<http://www.ndmo.org/NewsBody.aspx?id=474>) that “we do not need any help from foreign countries.” This was simply a flagrant lie.
5. **Decoys:** The Iranian authorities issued statements on their emergency response and even mentioned the presence of foreign press visiting the region. These were ploys to decoy their breaches of international conventions and hide their racist acts of murder by letting the victims to die.

The focus of this communication is on providing you further evidence on the failure of the Iranian authorities to discharge their responsibility to protect Southern Azerbaijanis. It also exposes their insatiable capacity to violate even the principles dear to humanity and compassion. At the time when the victims of the earthquake were traumatised by their immense sense of loss and needed the basic amenities, the Iranian authorities committed crime against humanity. This crime is racially motivated.

The Qaradag Earthquake alarmed the nation of Azerbaijan in Southern Azerbaijan that the racism infesting Iran is a phenomenon like no other. This racism facilitated the killing of the victims under the rubble; it amplified trauma rather than alleviating it; it hampered citizens' efforts and slurred them; it breached international conventions and falsified statistics. Southern Azerbaijanis now know to be without any protection as conferred by international norms and conventions but they also know their latent strength remaining intact after a century of being ruled by the racism in Iran. Today you witnessed the sense of solidarity within this nation triggered by tectonic movements of seismic activities; you can expect tectonic social uprisings when the time is right.

It is puzzling that the democratic organizations of the world community are under the spell of the Iranian disinformation and remain uncritical to the flagrant racism in Iran and keep appeasing this beastly mindset. It may be that racism infesting Iran is inflicting atrocity but uncritical and misguided democratic organizations of the world community prolong the life of this machinery. These organizations mistakenly regard the Iranian *racist* policies as *racialist* policies. We are explicitly on the record by stating to challenge this by stating that the racism in Iran unashamedly insults the intelligence of all the fair-minded people in the world by being appeased. Furthermore, the appeasement of the racism waged by both the Iranian authorities and the Iranian-centric opposition politicians undermine the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the point of absurdity.

The Iranian authorities are at a slippery slope but they have no sense to feel it. We appeal to you to campaign for the victims of the Qaradag earthquake. In particular, the program of reconstruction is vital and needs your attention, as the lip services of the Iranian authorities is highly disingenuous and evidently an indication of a deliberate act to disperse the people and manipulate the demographic composition of the area. We also rally for your strong representations against the Iranian authorities and demand that no longer you will tolerate their racist policies. It is only your mandates that stand some chance of reminding them the entitlement of the nations of Azerbaijan in Southern Azerbaijan for the full enjoyment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. If you remain silent, you are appeasing the Iranian institutionalised racism. Thank you in advance for your campaigns.

Yours sincerely,

Boyuk Resuloglu

The Committee for the Defense of the Rights of World Azerbaijanis

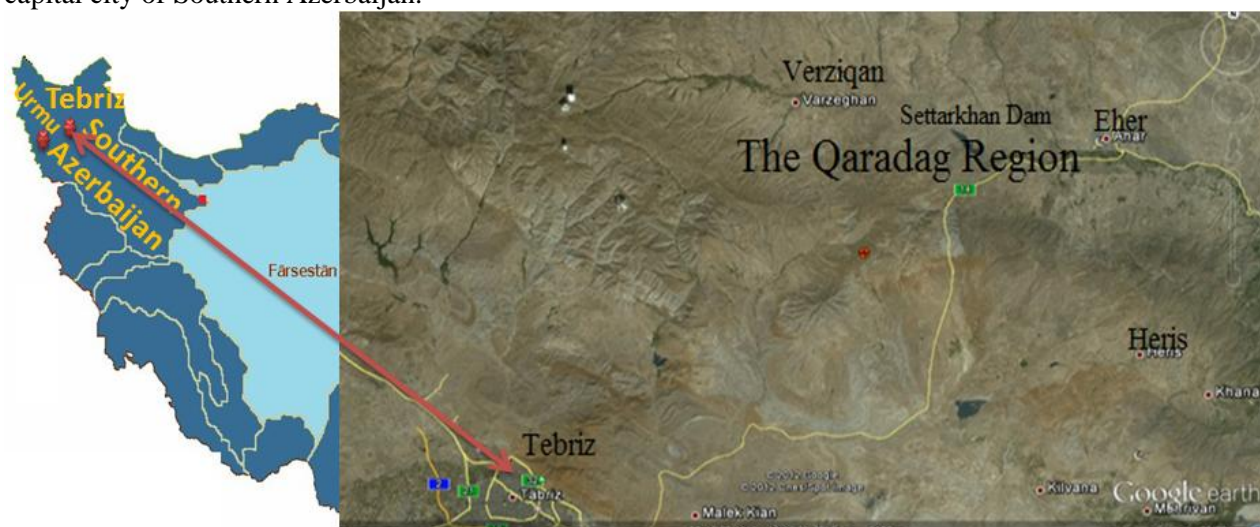


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Overview of Earthquake in South Azerbaijan in August 2012

The Location

The Qaradag region in Southern Azerbaijan is the hinterland of the historic Azerbaijan and the beating heart of Southern Azerbaijan. Its location-map is shown below, where the earthquake occurred, together with three cities directly affected by the earthquake: Eher (also transcribed as Ahar), Verziqan and Heriz (or Heris (although the Persians transcribe it as Haris with an abusive connotation), as well as Tebriz, the capital city of Southern Azerbaijan.



The epicenter of the earthquake was in Verziqan but destruction was equally strong in Eher and Heriz, whereas the tremors reached Tebriz inflicted some damages.

The Official Iranian Account

In this section, we are presenting an official account of this earthquake according to a series of information released by National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) of Iran, see: <http://www.ndmo.org>. NDMO was formed in 2008 to utilize the national, regional and local capacities to cope with the disasters triggered by natural hazards, as well as creating an integrated management system for planning, and coordinating executive activities in a cohesive manner (<http://www.ndmo.org/NewsENBody.aspx?id=2>). The above is a passage from the Iranian NDMO and below is the news coverage by NDMO website in relation to the Qaradag earthquake in Southern Azerbaijan. It also translates one item of news from the BBC Persian services to reflect a managed coverage.

Table 1 Collecting Evidence for Inaction

	Excerpts	Source
1.1	The chief of NDMO Mr. Ghadami: regarding (strong) earthquake registering 6.2 on the Richter scale took place at 16.53 on Saturday (11 August 2012) stated: upon receiving the information, the NDMO of the province and action groups were alerted. After reconnaissance of the area affected by the earthquake and anticipations, we noticed that this earthquake can inflict considerable damage. The dispatch of one helicopter was coordinated from Tehran to the incident area.	Source: http://www.ndmo.org/NewsBody.aspx?id=473 Date: 13 Aug. 2012
2.1	The chief of NDMO referred to the losses in Eher, Heriz and Verziqan: “The first 5 hours of an incident are the 5 golden hours. The more time passes after these 5 hours, the greater is the loss of life.	Source: http://www.ndmo.org/NewsBody.aspx?id=473



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2.2	According to the statistics from the hospitals until the lunchtime on Sunday received, 227 were dead, 1380 wounded, of which 480 people were hospitalized but the rest were treated by inspection and were immediately released.	Date: 13-Aug 2012
2.3	Ghadami: In an incident, provincial and even district resources are first mobilized and when needed adjacent provinces could join. Although the provinces of Esfahan, Alborz and Qezvin expressed their cooperation, there was no need for their assistance. The 115 villages suffering damage in the range of 40-60% and these were due to their low strength and resilience. If they had better building materials, the number of losses would have been low.	
2.4	Ghadami: “the prediction was that should we have widespread loss of life, we should then have an appropriate level of readiness. As there is no hospital in Verziqan, a makeshift hospital was set up.	
2.5	Ghamami: should these citizens wish to reconstruct, the state is ready to help.	
3.1	Engineer Ghadami, the chief of the Iranian NDMO: “The supply of hygienic amenities and water for taking a bath are the responsibility of the local authorities but bear in mind that after an incident, the provision of services are prioritized, e.g. on the 1 st day, the priority is to rescue and after that food and shelter.”	Source: http://www.ndmo.org/NewsBody.aspx?id=478 Date: 15 Aug
3.2	“Food distribution services are excellent and we even believe that a number of distributors are wasting extravagantly, as they are less familiar with best methods of distribution.	
3.3	“If Tehran is faced by an earthquake, 3200 hectare of area are vulnerable for having dilapidated buildings ...”	
3.4	“The statistics by the Ministry of hygiene confirms that 306 people were killed but the statistics by Coroner’s Office show 169 but to be updated as soon as possible.”	
3.5	“According to international norms, we have not appealed for an international assistance but the countries are helping and so far Pakistan, Qatar, Turkey and Azerbaijan have presented their helps.	
	A report from Abolhassan Fagih, the chief of the Iranian Red Crescent:	Source: http://www.ndmo.org/NewsBody.aspx?id=474 Date: 13 Aug 2012
4.1	“Although the level of destruction in 200 villages was 70-100%, the number of people under the rubble was high, some of whom were killed and the others were wounded.	
4.2	“With the help of local people, seeking for the victims under the rubble ended at 6.00 a.m. yesterday leading to the completion of the first phase of the operation. [Note that according to the above official information the rescue missions ended at 6.00 am on 12 Aug 2012.	
5.1	According to the report by TABNAK, Mehdi Davatgeri the Member of the Iranian Parliament from Maragha vsisting the earthquake affected areas stated that “the earthquake took place at approximately 16.30 on Saturday. It is regrettable that the Red Crescent entered into action at 1.30 in the morning and this is inexplicable.”	Source: http://www.tabnak.ir/fa/news/265486 Date: 15 Aug 2012
5.2	Mohammad Ashrafi, an official in East Azerbaijan states that the damage inflicted by the earthquake will probably rise. Currently this is estimated to be less than one billion dollar and more than 300 villages have suffered damages from 1 to 100 percent, as well as four cities suffering damages to the houses. The BBC adds that the coverage of the earthquake in East Azerbaijan was limited in some news media including those run by the government and this was followed by some criticism for the process of recovery. The statement by the BBC Persian services is the gauge for a discourse to sweep the events under the carpet and yet appear to have discharged journalistic duties.	Source: http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/rolling_news/2012/08/120813_1_earth_quek_iran.shtml 13 August 2012



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Table 2

Iranian authorities have a whole range of crafty tactics and they masterfully pull a rabbit from their sleeve in an attempt to trivialize the burning issue of the day. For instance, the actual time of the earthquake can be an issue in the mind of the Iranian authorities. Considering that untold people (possibly up to or more than 10, 000 individuals died under the rubble, the actual time at which the earthquake happened is far more trivial than the number of dead. Iranian authorities elected to be inaccurate on the number of dead victims but reciprocated this by being accurate on the time at which earthquake struck. Consider the following example from *TABNAK* website, in which an official from the Iranian Red Crescent, Mr Puya Hajian, has demanded that correction to be published and these are translated below:

Source:

<http://www.tabnak.ir/fa/news/265486/%D8%A7%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%B4-%D9%86%D9%85%D8%A7%DB%8C%D9%86%D8%AF%DA%AF%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%86%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D8%B1-%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B7%D9%82-%D8%B2%D9%84%D8%B2%D9%84%D9%87-%D8%B2%D8%AF%D9%87>

A Response to the reporter on the process in the areas affected by the earthquake

Dear Editor of *Tabnak*

I refer to the News Item 265486 on 14 August 2012, as title above. In accordance to Article 11 of the law on corrections to publication, I request the following correction to be issued to enlighten the public opinion.

Contrary to the claim by your site stating the time to be 16:30 at which the earthquake struck by quoting the right honorable Member of the parliament from Maragha, the actual earthquake struck at 16:53 on 11 August 2012 with the strength of 6.2 Richter in Eher and of 6 in Verziqan, as per information issued by the Seismic Centre 1.

Plus two more corrections ...

Puya Hajian

Manager of Public Relations

«جوابیه برای «گزارش نمایندگان از روند امور در مناطق زلزله زده»

سر دبیر محترم سایت خبری تحلیلی تابناک

سلام علیکم

احتراماً توجه به درج خبر به شماره 265486 در روز سه شنبه مورخ 24 /05/ 1391، تحت عنوان «گزارش نمایندگان از روند امور در مناطق زلزله زده»، خواهشمند است دستور فرمایید مطابق با ماده 11 قانون اصلاح قانون مطبوعات مصوب 1379 و در جهت تنویر افکار عمومی نسبت به چاپ جوابیه ذیل در آن سایت اقدام لازم را به عمل آورند

برخلاف ادعای این سایت به نقل از نماینده محترم مردم مراغه در مجلس شورای اسلامی و بر اساس اعلام مرکز لرزه نگاری، زلزله ای در ساعت 16:53 مورخ 21 /5/ 91 به بزرگی 6/2 ریشتر در شهرستان اهر و 6 ریشتر در شهرستان ورزقان استان آذربایجان شرقی به وقوع پیوسته است و نه در ساعت 16:30 دقیقه

پویا حاجیان

مدیر کل روابط عمومی و ارتباطات مردمی

In the State Television Network 3 (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eN7TN1vZta0&feature=relmfu>) in the program called “towards God” a priest, named, Haj aga Farahzad said: when disasters strike, these are lessons for the others, as God intends to test and by being charitable we can repel such disasters. “The victims should not expect help from the State but they should help themselves and we pray for them. These earthquakes should also be a reminder for the earthquake at the day of reckoning.



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Challenging Iranian Claims on Rescue Operations

So the gross time spent on the rescue operations to save those people who were alive under the rubble are calculated as follows:

- Based on Item 1.1: The earthquake took place at: 16.53 on Saturday (11 August 2012), although Item 5.1 give this value as approximately 16.30.
- Start of operations: There seems to be no information on this but the implication is that it started immediately but the Iranian authorities are typically vague and therefore they leave room for a diverse range of interpretation.
- Based on Item 4.2: The operations ended at 6.00 on 12 August 2012
- Duration: The duration of the rescue operations is therefore 13 hours 07 minutes.
- Based on Item 5.1: The Member of Parliament from Maragha challenges the officials and states that the rescue mission arrived at 1.30 a.m. on Sunday 12 Aug 2012

Inconsistencies in the Official Account

Within 13hrs 07 min there was no operation, as the dark falls around 21.00, and the rescue team, if ever arrived, they did so at 1.30 a.m. on Sunday morning. They would have remained inactive until sunrise after 6.00 a.m., at which time the wise guys of the Iranian authorities did not see any value in carrying out the search and rescue operations.

We challenge the claims of the Iranian authorities for rescue operations and hold that their claims are false (or blatant lies). The humanitarian assistance by the Iranian authorities took place for the purpose of camera and some sporadic amounts at unspecified times and unspecified locations for publicity.

Demography of the Earthquake Area and an Analysis of the Casualties

Based on information released by the Iranian government in 2006 (<http://www.ostan-as.gov.ir/?PageID=6>), the composition of the population in the areas affected by the earthquake is:

1. Eher and the villages attached to its administration have a population of 149530
2. Heriz and the villages attached to its administration have a population of 68300
3. Verziqan and the villages attached to its administration have a population of 48112

These are normally falsified by reducing the actual figures towards the tactic of minoritizing the majority-forming Southern Azerbaijanis in the ethnic composition of Iran towards majoritizing the minority ethnic Persians.

More detailed reports on the scale of destruction caused by the earthquake show that:

1. Eher: the scale of destruction here is 50-80% with four of its villages suffering total destruction and a further 60 villages suffering near total destruction
2. Heriz: The scale of destruction here is 70-100% and within 40 of the villages attached to its administration.
3. Verziqan: The scale of destruction here is reported to be between 50-90% with 110 villages being damaged, of which 12 villages suffered a total destruction.

Each of these villages is normally populated by 900-1000 individuals. Based on these facts and the news emerging from the region, Southern Azerbaijanis regards the official statistics with a great suspicion and far from the truth. The death toll may be as high as 10,000 but GünAzTV is in the process of compiling a document for the death toll and casualties.



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Emerging Details of the Qaradag Earthquake from Southern Azerbaijan

The details emerging from Southern Azerbaijan exposed the absence of incident management by the Iranian authorities. We confirm the following account based on our personal contacts, the news reported by Azerbaijanis and above all, the victims of earthquake calling GunAz.tv and giving their account of the situation.

1. The Iranian authorities did not organize any significant rescue operations. Their claims and statements are an acknowledgement of their textbook knowledge but their inactions are a reflection of the gap between what an authority must do and how a racist authority breaches international norms and duty of care.
2. The Iranian authorities did not broadcast the news on earthquake or its destruction for a long time and only on 13th of August they started their deceiving information. In the main-time they carried on with normal programs broadcasting comedies to Southern Azerbaijan, where the knowledge of earthquake spread by mobiles and word of mouth.
3. The nation of Azerbaijan in Southern Azerbaijan rushed to supply the basic amenities to the vulnerable victims from all quarters of Azerbaijan, especially from Urmu, Qoshachay, Salmas, Sulduz, Zengan, Erdebil. Although Tebriz was affected by earthquake, the urge for relieving fellow Azerbaijanis was the greatest in this capital city, as ever. However, the Iranian authorities resorted to a diversity of ploys unworthy of an authority. These included: (i) obstructing the highways leading to the earthquake affected areas by a variety of techniques including setting up patrols and arresting the volunteers and creating traffic congestions; (ii) confiscating the basic amenities taken by Azerbaijani citizens; (iii) slurring the earthquake victims by saying that they do not need any aid, they are greedy and take more than they need or be careful of their pickpocket treacheries; (iv) when everything failed, they confiscated the aid by the volunteers, saying that the authorities would distribute when the need is greatest, possibly in one month time; notably, the people were very weary of this, as they believed that the confiscated material was taken to Syria but not to the earthquake victims! (v) the abyss of humanity even emerged in this episode, as canned tuna fishes were distributed by the Iranian authority, which inflicted diarrhea on the victims.
4. In their sparse coverage of the Qaradag earthquake news, the Iranian authorities elevated the “supposed” aids dispatched from some of Persian regions to the earthquake areas to glorious levels (making something from nothing). At the same time, they embarked on a massive aid to Syria and Palestine dwarfing their supposed operations in Azerbaijan.
5. The Iranian authorities remained vague throughout in discussing the amount of aid to be provided to the region for its reconstruction. The clearest expression was that the victims have to reconstruct themselves.

Some of the video films exposing the authorities include:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=pRhJZvD4Du4

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ap8odIyaP6Q>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JmH2NGMIG0k>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XX0R3GcKuQo&feature=share>



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The Iranian Discourse

The national movement of Southern Azerbaijan is very critical of the discourse in Iran, which has been set by the racist mindset solidified in the last 90 years and if anything, it is escalating.

The historic background of this discourse is: the coup d'état by Reza Pahlavi; the overthrow of the Protectorate (or Commonwealth) of the Qajar Dynasty. The emerging new order comprised a bag of measures including:

1. In 1935, the country was renamed from the commonwealth to Iran with the connotation that: this is the land of “Aryan.” This ideology was quite hot in Europe then and some of the educated individuals in the country fell under the spell of being at the European magic, though not culturally but by the sense of self-aggrandizement then and feeling cozy with this gained European rank. This also legitimized a racist policy fitting the mindset of a dictator such as Reza Pahlavi. He outlawed all multilingualism and multiculturalism, which was norm for the last thousand years during the Turkic powers in the region.
2. The emerging racist policy included a package of measures to majoritize the ethnic Persians who were one of the minority groups and minoritize the ethnic Azerbaijanis, who were the majority, as well as by encouraging a culture of abuse against all non-Persians and severely punishing any individual reacting against the Persians. It became a sort of being “cool” by accepting the abusive language if one was from the non-Persian ethnic nations and the Persian ethnic groups started enjoyed a sense of grandeur and being impregnable. This nurtured a master-and-slave mentality in Iran, where some of the slaves were putting a great deal of effort to reach the status of being a master but the true masters used these converts to wash their dirty linen. European scholars have elected to overlook this mentality and still they remain uncritical. Organizations such as Amnesty International showed some sensitivity to the underlying issues and started their campaigns in exposing the situation, but soon the racially-motivated Iranian Diaspora managed to overwhelm even Amnesty International to the extent that they issued reports on ethnic minorities but hesitated to issue the one related on Southern Azerbaijan, on the incredible pretext of lack of resources.
3. The master-and-slave mentality was established by a well-knitted crafty discourse, abusive at the popular level, discriminatory at the policy level, fluid and sweet at the communication level, diffusive at the critical instances. The State machinery regarded the Farsi (Persian) entity as an impregnable entity and brutally defended this entity and conversely any defense of ethnic rights was subjected to a raft of measures and eventual extrajudicial executions, without leaving any trace.

The racism in Iran is an idiosyncratic entity and the world community has difficulty in believing the existence of such a rotten entity. This has come about by an idiosyncratic Iranian mindset comprising (our past communications have provided evidence for the following):

1. The Iranian justice system is a sophisticated system of collusion operated by (i) racially motivated Iranian politicians, as well as by subservient Iranian security agents and paramilitary nebulous forces to repress with their iron fist and deny Southern Azerbaijanis even the most basic human rights of education in mother language.
2. The virtue of the Iranian politics is founded on telling lies even using religion for the preservation of their imagined supremacy of their “Aryan race” e.g. re-election of President Ahmedinejad was accomplished by cheat and telling a lie. On the racial sentiment of the so called glorious *Aryan* race, Iranian-centric politics beats idiosyncratic notes, opposition or those participating in the State power.



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3. The Iranian governance in Southern Azerbaijan is very costly, where the Lake Urmu is subjected to a deliberate drying and thereby Southern Azerbaijan is now poised towards a catastrophe by meeting the fate of the Aral Sea in a few years time; the environment in Southern Azerbaijan is deteriorating;
4. Iranian authorities are not implementing any modern system of planning in Southern Azerbaijan to make this region as sustainable as other regions of the country in the face of a whole range of risks such as climate change and natural hazards such as earthquakes. Yet they have a sophisticated plan for implementing their racist policies for the last eighty years (continuing the Pahlavi racist policies) including the fragmentation of Southern Azerbaijan and detaining activists arbitrarily and at will.
5. The racism in the Iranian mindset is highly cunning. For instance, consider one item in their disinformation on inventing the visit of foreign journalist to the Qaradag earthquake areas.

EN جستجو صفحه نخست | معرفی سازمان | تماس با ما | آخرین حوادث طبیعی | آموزش همگانی | وب نوشت | مطالب علمی | آلبوم تصاویر

1391/05/22

نمایندگان چهل رسانه خارجی وارد آذربایجان شرقی شدند.

40 گروه خبری از رسانه های خارجی عملیات امداد و نجات زلزله زدگان در استان آذربایجان شرقی را منعکس می کنند.

به گزارش پایگاه اطلاع رسانی سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور؛ گروهی از خبرنگاران رسانه های خارجی با هماهنگی اداره کل رسانه های خارجی وزارت فرهنگ و ارشاد اسلامی و اداره کل روابط عمومی و امور بین الملل سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور به منظور انعکاس عملیات امداد و نجات زلزله زدگان در استان آذربایجان شرقی به این محل اعزام شدند.

شایان ذکر است نمایندگان این رسانه ها می توانند از امروز به مدت چهار روز به شهرستان های اهر و ورزقان سفر نمایند.

Source: <http://www.ndmo.org/NewsBody.aspx?id=472>

Photo : Kamel Rouhi FARS NEWS AGENCY

The above news item has been captured from the website of Iranian National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO). Its translation is: “according to the report by NDMO, a group of journalists from the foreign media were dispatched to the areas affected by earthquake in eastern Azerbaijan. They were coordinated by the Ministry of Ershad. The purpose of this visit was to reflect the rescue operations in the region. We should mention that, the media can travel to the cities of Eher and verziqan for four days from today.

The text is quite ambiguous and open for different interpretations but that is not the point. The point is that this information item was entered to the website as a decoy, implying that the falsified statistics by the Iranian authorities related to the Qaradag earthquake have been corroborated by the international journalists. The most cunning aspect of the racism in Iran is the “principle of inculcation,” according to



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which they manufacture information in a systematic way, and then they repeat it; and in this way, they create a norm. In reality, their norms are nothing but fiction.

The Impact on Southern Azerbaijan

The basic fact is that the region needs a fast program of reconstruction but the Iranian authorities have no intention to allocate any significant budget. They make noise but all crafty and without any substance. We hold the Iranian authorities responsible for the atrocities committed following the Qaradag Earthquake. The perished victims were largely due to racially-motivated Iranian policies. We appeal that you express your condemnation against the Iranian authorities.

Based on the above, it is not surprising that Iran consistently fails its “responsibilities to protect” Southern Azerbaijanis and deliberately violates the human and national rights in Southern Azerbaijan. The Qaradag earthquake brought the Iranian breaching of the responsibility to protect to the focus once again but also exposed the abyss of immorality in the mindset of the Iranian authorities.

Southern Azerbaijanis know that the Iranian authorities are ruthlessly attacking the integrity of Southern Azerbaijanis. This episode added another tangible evidence to measure their inner strength of nationhood among the Azerbaijani Turks in Southern Azerbaijan. It demonstrated the immense sense of solidarity and at such a difficult time, everywhere in Southern Azerbaijan acted in unison with Tebriz, their capital city.

The State machinery of Iran is in the exclusive service of the Persian ethnic identity and in this way they have brought the country to a totally polarized situation. The Iranian authorities command the Iranian-centric political mindset. Southern Azerbaijan leads a commendable antiracist movement supported by most of the other ethnicities in Iran. Evidence is rising in Southern Azerbaijan against irredeemable racism infesting the country. The geological tectonics has now imprinted social tectonics in the national movement of Southern Azerbaijan.