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<p>The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, please circulate this report to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (also for Fair Trials)• The Independent Expert on Minority Issues• Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance <p>CC Mrs. Harrison, Amnesty International, London UNESCO and other organisations</p>	

Dear Sir/madam

Please find enclosed Release 2 of our report on the various initiatives by the nation of Southern Azerbaijan to celebrate International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2007.

The report pools together various information items and aims to project an insight into the ongoing events in the context of the national movement of Southern Azerbaijan and contribute to the mapping of the mindset of the culture of the Iranian racism.

International Mother Language Day should have been a celebration day but the Iranian authorities unwisely turned it into the day of violation of human rights. We urge your organisations and other similar ones to document how the Iranian authorities are perpetrating human rights of the nation of Southern Azerbaijan. We hope that you will step up your campaign to ensure the unconditional release of the Southern Azerbaijani victims; and to call the Iranian authorities to comply with their international obligations towards the nation of Southern Azerbaijan.

Thank you in advance for your care.

Yours sincerely

Boyuk Resuloglu

The Committee for the Defence of the Rights of World Azerbaijanis



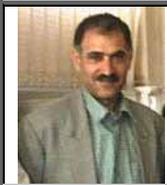
The Iranian authorities denied the right of association for the population of Tebriz, the capital of Southern Azerbaijan, despite a reported official licence. However, the following day, the activist used the occasion of a football match and stage protests within the football stadium and outside, all the way from the stadium to the city centre. A glimpse of protests may be viewed through the following link: <http://www.azadtribun.net/Dekoment37.wmv>

REPORT:
THE CELEBRATION OF THE MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY
IN SOUTHERN AZERBAIJAN
UNDER THE IRON FIST OF IRANIAN AUTHORITIES

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Compiled by DunAzHAK

	<p>Hesên Erk A journalist, writer and thinker, who has also suffered the arrest in the ongoing preparation for celebrating the Mother Tongue day</p>
	<p>Seid Metinpur A renowned Southern Azerbaijani human right defender and an arduous defender of the mother language</p>
	<p>Ibrahim Jeferzade Activist</p>
	<p>Hesên Esedi Activist</p>
	<p>Atila Derjezini Activist</p>
	<p>Ismail Javadi A journalist</p>
	<p>Huseyn Sebebi Activist</p>

1. Introduction

This is Release 2 of the report on the celebration of the International Mother Language Day by the nation of Southern Azerbaijan, defying the racist policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, currently ruling Southern Azerbaijan.

The dust is settling of the whirlwind created out of the intolerance of the racist policies waged by the Islamic Republic of Iran even in celebrating the harmless day of Mother Language. This day is really regarded as the day of celebration but we provide evidence that in Iran the authorities have turned such a benign day into the season of persecution and repression.

Iranian racism is an ongoing process for some 80 years and Southern Azerbaijanis resisted it first by advocating democracy for Iran up to 20 years ago. Events keep verifying that the entity under the auspices of Iran comprising the government and NGOs are not really interested in the interests of Azerbaijan but are engaged in undermining the enterprise, called Azerbaijan (north or south). Southern Azerbaijanis have been rethinking their position and are now putting up a stiff resistance to defend the national and human rights of Southern Azerbaijan within the framework of international law and conventions particularly within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The emerging Southern Azerbaijani national movement has always been careful not to violate Iranian laws and the movement conducts its initiative within legal frameworks.

The Mother Language Day confirmed the beat rate of the will of the nation of Southern Azerbaijan, as another springtide, showing that the underlying movement is a strong current. The experience since the May 2006 Mass Protests show that each time, there are new individuals willing to show up in the rank-and-file of the activists. This is a spontaneous movement with the mass of Southern Azerbaijanis being its source.

This report has the following structure:

- Chapter 2: as before, providing a background to the celebration of the Mother Language Day in Southern Azerbaijan.
- **Chapter 3:** A reflection of the nationwide celebration plans
- **Chapter 4:** Repressive acts of the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- **Chapter 5:** A new chapter reflecting the situation in the various towns and cities before the dust is settled
- **Chapter 6:** conclusion

A Release 3 of this report has been envisaged to reflect on the aftermath of the situation.

2. Embracing the Mother Tongue Day by the Nations of Southern Azerbaijan

We are providing you the translation of an article on this issue by Mr. Elirza Serrafi in Table 1, which is concise and authoritative.

Table 1

English Translation of the Article by Elirza Serrafi

Source: <http://www.baybak.com/Baybak/?p=4821> or <http://www.azadtabriz.com/news/?p=2093>

Mr. Serrafi is a successful engineer by profession and one of the intellectual vanguards of the national movement of Southern Azerbaijan



Mr. Serrafi calls the Tebriz conference for the International Mother Language Day (2004) as a golden page in the history of Southern Azerbaijan. This report is a testimony to his vision. He also has a stark warning:

“History has proven that a civil nation insisting on her national rights through self-restraint and peaceful means is also capable of securing them using other means when the time is right to confront the enemy.”

This report also provides evidence from Tebriz in 2007 that if the authorities suppressed the celebration on the 21st of February, the people used the opportunity of a football match to orchestrate a protest of 30,000 strong. So Mr. Serrafi’s warning should not be interpreted as securing our rights through violence but definitely through strategic manoeuvres.

February 21st was declared the international day of mother tongues eight years ago by the UNESCO. Many countries have been celebrating this day since then. As far as we are concerned, our nation too strives to express their love to our mother tongue but is faced with constraints imposed by the officials. They have mobilised all their resources for a number of years to ensure that such a momentous day could not be aired through the media and would be totally hidden. This is disgrace to them.

Thanks to teamwork of a great many compatriots, the city of Tebriz hosted the very first mother tongue conference on 21st of February 2004. The participants were drawn from the every corner of Southern Azerbaijan, including Urmu, Khoy, Maragha, Zenjan, Erdebil, as well from Tehran and Kerej. One of the accomplishments of the Conference was its rich communiqué. It articulated the reinstatement of our rights to our language based on the United Nations conventions; was unanimously approved by the conference; and within as little as one week, the Communiqué was undersigned by three thousand three hundred and thirty three (3333) individuals. It was published in four languages and was delivered to all responsible authorities within the country, as well as to the UNESCO and the United Nations. In this way, the first Conference and its Communiqué were transformed into the golden pages of our national movement.

In spite of obstacles created against the second and third Conferences in 2005 and 2006, the day was celebrated throughout our cities stressing that our people are defiant and shall preserve our national rights. Nonetheless, our rulers carried on with their indulgence to ignore the peaceful strive of our honourable nation.

If the shackling against our nation was induced eighty years ago by aliens, there is no abatement of the onslaught since then—instead of opening the channels for dialogue, the authorities keep distorting the situation and are getting pig-headed with their incompetent policies. We keep asking questions out of our sincerity, but they respond behind closed doors.

It is hardly surprising that, our nation did not fit the space of conference halls or the reception of their houses to preserve our mother tongue and therefore poured to the streets challenging rotten policies in an arena as vast as Southern Azerbaijan. In this way, another golden page was written in the history of our national movement. I argue that this episode shall be regarded as a classical normative movement in the history of our national movement, and I dare to say that it will mark a paradigm shift too at the international level.

It may be that tomorrow will be too late. The masters reigning from the upper echelons and engaged in demeaning our nation, should open their ears, and should dare to listen to the just voice of the Turkic citizens. History has proven that a civil nation insisting on her national rights through self-restraint and peaceful means is also capable of securing them using other means when the time is right to confront the enemy.

Our nation is distinguished internationally for a stiff resistance in safeguarding our mother tongue whatever casualties it may suffer. If we consider the extent of our losses in the following terms: only sixty years ago our struggle for our mother tongue some twenty five thousands (25,000) [Translator's Note: This is due to the invasion of Southern Azerbaijan by Iranian Army] of our sons and daughters suffered death; thus we can talk of one casualty per day.

The substance of our claim for our mother tongue has therefore been gained at the expense of one casualty per day, as a result of which I hold that even if the Day of Mother Tongue is truly an International day, we embrace it as our national day of celebration.

The English Version of the Resolution by the First Tebriz Congress on Mother Tongue

Resolution Adopted on the Occasion of The First Congress on Mother Language

(Note: the text is slightly refined here compared with the published text two years ago)

The undersigned, participants in the First Congress on Mother Language held on the occasion of the International Mother Language Day in Tebriz on the 21st of February 2004, with due respect of the:

- International Declaration of Human Rights,
- Convention on The Political and Civil Rights,
- Convention on The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted by the United Nations

and with due consideration of:

- The Convention on National, Racial, Linguistic and Religious Rights adopted by the United Nations on 18 December 1992, ref. 47/135
- Article 15 and 19 of the Constitution of The Islamic Republic of Iran (so far not translated into action)
- The fact that, two thirds of the Iranian population belong to various cultural and linguistic groups such as Turkic, Kurdish, Arabic, Lori, Turkmenish, Balouchi etc.

demand that the esteemed leaders of **the Islamic Republic of Iran** provide convenient judicial, economical and spiritual circumstances for achieving the following objectives:

1. Setting up mother language courses in elementary and intermediate levels.
2. Utilising the mother languages in radio, television and local as well as in the country-scale media in proportion to the ethnic make-up of the regions.

3. Establishing civil and cultural institutions by the State in order to protect, revive and develop the various languages and cultures, and also supporting the NGO's involved with such activities.
4. Respecting the language, religion, historical names, costumes and traditions of all nationalities within Iran, and creating favourable conditions for them to learn about the spiritual, cultural and historical values of all fellow citizens.
5. Removing bureaucratic obstacles to facilitate establishment of social and political organisations (local as well as country-scale) who are devoted to defending the rights of nations.
6. Challenging the ongoing chauvinist ideology remaining from the past regime, which is committed to assimilating all nationalities within a single language and culture, and which still retains some persistence to date through the State policymaking machinery.

We also plea to **The United Nations and the UNESCO** to canvass the Iranian government in any initiative towards the reinstatement of civil, cultural and linguistic rights of the nationalities within Iran, and also in defending mother languages.

First Congress on The Mother Language
21 February 2004,
Tebriz, Azerbaijan, Iran

The signatories (consisting 333 authors and intellectuals)

Cc: The United Nations
Cc: UNESCO

3. Preparations for Rallies

Although activists of the national movement of Southern Azerbaijan keenly applied for licences to peaceful rallies throughout Southern Azerbaijan, inside stories indicated that the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran had ordered their subservient local agents not to ratify these applications by acting obstructively. Apparently one group had obtained a licence in Tebriz but it was not honoured by the authorities. Besides widespread arrests, the authorities militarised streets and city squares not only in Tebriz but all over Southern Azerbaijani cities. These will be discussed in Chapter 4.

The national movement demonstrably insists on the rights granted by international law and conventions and therefore well publicised the will of the nation on celebrating the day at a nationwide scale. Therefore various groups and cultural associations issued statements calling for street rallies. Some of the initiatives are outlined below.

3.1 Publicising Celebrating to Minimise Surprises

CDs and leaflets were distributed to introduce the day and publicise its significance and relevance. Three examples are given in Table 2. There is nothing unique on these initiatives in democratic countries but the situation is much different for non-Farsi speakers ruled by "Farsi-loving" Iranian authorities.

Table 2	Examples of Leaflets Distributed before the Day of Mother Tongue Source: http://azoh.blogfa.com/post-130.aspx
Example 1, Source:	http://azoh.blogfa.com/post-125.aspx
<p>آذربایجان از شیونیسیم فارسی رنج میرد:</p> <p>در طول هشتاد سال گذشته تمام اقوام و ملل ساکن در ایران شاهد علیّه سیاستهای شیونیسیتی فرهنگی، اجتماعی، سیاسی و اقتصادی بعضی-خوری بوده اند که هویت وجودی ایران را، در یکسان سازی هویتی بصورت عینی یا ذهنی دانسته است. سیاست یکسان سازی فرهنگی و هویتی ساکنان زبان در قالب شعار « کشور پاک زبان پاک ملت پاک » که از زمان حکومت پهلوی آغاز گردیده است با محور قرار دادن منافع یک گروه قومی سعی در امحاء فرهنگ، زبان و اقتصاد سایر مناطق کشور نموده است و سیاستهای فرهنگی اعمال شده بر این اساس استوار گردیده که تنها باید یک زبان، یک فرهنگ و یک هویت به رسمیت شناخته شده و تقویت گردد و بقیه زبانها و فرهنگها غیر خودی و بیگانه تلقی گردند در این اساس در حالی که میلیاردها تومان از بودجه کشور صرف تقویت و تبلیغ فرهنگ، زبان، تاریخ و هویت حدود ۲۵ درصد از جمعیت کشور (فارسیها) میگردد بقیه شهروندان از تحصیل به زبان مادری خویش محرومند اگر چه با پیروزی انقلاب بهمن ۵۷ تا حدودی این سیاستها تعدیل گردید. و در قانون اساسی در اصول ۱۵ و ۱۹ و ۲۰ بر اعطای محدود حقوق اقوام و ملل کند شد. ولی امروزه پس از گذشت نزدیک به ۲ دهه از عمر جمهوری اسلامی هنوز هم، امروز بیش از ۶۵ درصد مردمان غیر فارسی زبان کشور مبنی بر محور عدالت اجتماعی، اقتصادی و فرهنگی در دل مانده و بر آورده نگردیده است و پروژه سرکوب هویت و زبان نورگها، اعراب و کردها همچنان ادامه دارد. آذربایجانیها به دلیل جمعیت زیاد و حضور تاریخی بیشتر در ساختارهای اجتماعی، اقتصادی و سیاسی ایران در صدر اهداف پروژه مذکور قرار گرفته اند. در نتیجه اقتصادی نیز سیاست اصلی حکومت توسعه نقاط مرکزی ایران است هر چند بی تدبیری و بی لیاقتی حاکمیت بهره ک جندانی هم نصیب مرکز نگردد. امروزه آذربایجان در حال بسرف اقتصاد است، آذربایجان که در عصر منسروطه از لحاظ اقتصادی در رتبه اول قرار داشت، امروز استانیهایش در رتبه-ای میانی و آخر جدول پیشرفت و توسعه قرار دارند و استانیهای آذربایجان به مهاجر فرستند تبدیل نشده اند. خلاصه اینکه نیروهای طبیعی و بشنایی استانیهای حاشیه ای صرف توسعه استانیهای مرکزی (اصفهان، بزد، کرمان، سمنان، تهران و...) میشوند و با ایجاد توهم تحریر در مناطق آذربایجان، دزستان، خوزستان و بلوچستان، صنایع مادر، استراتژیک و اشتغالزای آنها در استانیهای مرکزی ایجاد کرده و این مناطق را با امن معرفی میکنند. سیستم مدیریت سیاسی کشور بیش از حد عرصه را بر فعالان ملی و اقوام رنگ کرده است و از دیدگاه اکثر احزاب مرکز نشین، سیاستمداران و مدیران، فعالیت بر اساس منافع قومی-ملی جرمی امنیتی به حساب آمده و با عنوانهایی چون تحریر طلبی، پانترکیسم، پان عربیسم و غیره روبرو میشود. علاوه بر سیاست خلقی، مناسفانه در عرصه سیاست خارجی نیز شاهد بی اعتنایی به منافع مردمایی هستیم که بنا به واقعتهایی تاریخی یا مردمان کشورهای هم جوار و همسایه دارای علائق و احساسات مشترک فرهنگی و سیاسی هستند. نمود بسیار واضح آن ارتباط سیاسی و اقتصادی استراتژیک دولت جمهوری اسلامی ایران با کشور متجاوز ازمنستان میباشد. طبق آموزه های دین اسلام که حکومت ادعای پیروی از آن را دارد، ارتباط با هر کشوری که جان و مال و سیرزمین مسلمانان را مورد تجاوز قرار دهد، حرار واطل است. پس روابط گسترده ایران با دولتی که خاک جمهوری آذربایجان را اشغال و بیش از یک میلیون مسلمان را آرز و هزاران زن، کودک و مرد آذربایجانی را قتل عام کرده چگونه قابل توجیح است؟ آنچه که از اواخر دهه ۶۰ تحت عنوان "حرکت ملی آذربایجان" مطرح شد، حرکت دموکراسی خواه، مدنی، هویت طلب، عدالت جو و مردمی است که تمامی افشار ملت آذربایجان را در خود جای داده است. ما خود را میراث دار اقتصاد تاریخی حبش ازادستان شیخ محمد خیابانی، حکومت ملی بنیسه وی (۱۲۲۵-۱۲۳۲)، جنبش خلق مسلمان اوایل انقلاب میندیم و در نهایت "حرکت ملی آذربایجان" در زمان حال نشانگر مبارزه مردمی است که هویت و منافع ملی خود را مورد تعرض دیده و در جهت دفاع از آن به حرکت در آمده است و در بنده نیز با محور قرار دادن حقوق بشر در جهت پاسداری از هویت ملی آذربایجان و کسب حقوق فرهنگی، سیاسی و اقتصادی نشان تلاش خواهد کرد</p> <p>روز جهانی زبان مادری": بر اساس خبرهای رسیده از شهرهای مختلف آذربایجان به مناسبت "روز جهانی زبان مادری" در بزرگه دور اسفند ۸۵ (روز چهارشنبه) در حیابانهای اصلی این شهرها جمعیت اعتراضی امیر بر گزار خواهد شد. در این مراسم ملت آذربایجان با سر دادن شعارهایی همانند "منیم دلیلم اولی دنلی" "یورک دلیمنده مدرسه اولمالیدیر هر کسه" اعتراض خود را به مصوعیت بان یورکی در مراکز و ادارات رسمی اعلام خواهند کرد . محل تجمع در تبریز (راسنا کوجه - ساعت چهار بعد از ظهر)</p> <p>هموطنان گرامی لطفا به احترام هویت و زبان مادریمان، هر کس به توان خود در کپی و پخش این اعلامیه همکاری نماید.</p>	

Example 2: A Leaflet in Azerbaijani Turkic



Example 3: A Leaflet in Farsi



3.2 Scale of the Preparations

There were calls almost from all the Southern Azerbaijani cities for demonstrations, many of which were aired from GunAzTV (Southern Azerbaijani TV broadcasting from the USA). These were published in various websites, e.g. <http://oyrenci.mihanblog.com/Rss.ASPX>. The cities with well publicised demonstrations include: Urmu, Khoy, Qoshachay, Sulduz, Zenjan, Erdebil, Kheyov, and Tebriz. These are examples and by no means exhaustive. An example of the call for demonstrations is given in Table 3.

Table 3 An example of the call for demonstrations: Source: <http://www.azerbaycansesi.com/news/bugun2R.htm>

به مناسبت روز جهانی زبان مادري و در اعتراض به آپارتايد فرهنگي رژیم ايران نسبت به ملتهاي غير فارس زبان و در جهت مبارزه براي آزادي در تمامی آذربایجان، تظاهرات گسترده در داخل شهرها و میادین اصلی شهرها برگزار خواهد گردید .

اسفند برابر با ۲۱ فوریه روز جهانی زبان مادري گرامی باد 2

در اکثر شهرهاي آذربایجان بیانیه‌هاي حضور در خیابانهاي اصلی شهرها پخش گردیده است و آذربایجان آمادگی کامل برای برگزاری روز جهانی زبان مادري را به صورت گسترده دارد

زمان و مکان برپايي تجمعات در برخي از شهرها به شرح زیر مي‌باشد

تبریز: چهارشنبه ۲ اسفند ۸۵ ، ساعت ۴ بعد از ظهر، راستا كوچه ارومیه: چهارشنبه ۲ اسفند ۸۵، ساعت بعد از ظهر ۴:۳۰، میدان مرکز اردبیل: چهارشنبه ۲ اسفند ۸۵، ساعت ۴:۳۰ بعد از ظهر، مابین میدان شریعتي و چهارراه امام زنجان: چهارشنبه- ۸۵/۱۱/۲- ساعت ۱۶- سبزه میدان خوي: چهارشنبه ۲ اسفند ۸۵، ساعت ۵:۳۰ بعد از ظهر، خیابان امام (محلہ خیاباني)، سر خیابان سینا خیوو: چهارشنبه ۲ اسفند، ۸۵ ساعت ۴:۳۰، میدان اصلی شهر قوشاچاي(میاندواب): چهارشنبه ۲ اسفند ۸۵، ساعت ۴:۳۰ بعد از ظهر، چهارراه اصلی شهر

لازم به ذکر است در شهرهاي تهران، شبستر، اهر، مراغه، ماکو، خلخال، مرند... نیز اعلامیه‌هاي حضور در خیابان و تظاهرات بر علیه آپارتايد فرهنگي پخش شده است و شنیده‌ها حکایت از تدارک گسترده مردم برای حضور در ۲ اسفند دارد

3.3 Conferences

Organising conferences and parties, for instance due to collaboration between the Sehend Literary Society, the Islamic Society and the Centre for Publicising (Southern) Azerbaijan successfully presented a conference on 19 February 2007 in Tebriz University. (Source: <http://www.baybak.com/Baybak/?p=4831>). Further conferences were also held in Zengan and Tehran Universities in the morning of 21 February 2007.

3.4 Canvassing the Authorities

The main characteristic of the Southern Azerbaijani national movement is fermenting an open culture of debate and campaign and on this the role of petitions, appeals and open letters are commendable despite the atmosphere of suppression. An example of open letter is presented below from a journalist to canvass the Iranian General Secretary of the Commission in the UNESCO on Nationalities. We are not aware of any subsequent response. At the same time we would like to contrast it with the way the day was received in the Republic of Azerbaijan. These are presented in Table 4.

Table 4 Appeal of Southern Azerbaijani journalist to the Iranian General Secretary of the Commission of UNESCO on Nationalities

Source: <http://www.baybak.com/Baybak/?p=4878>

Umid Shukri, is a Southern Azerbaijani journalist and the editor-in-charge of *Sayan*, a student publication. Congratulations on the success for winning his recent awards for *Sayan*. Source: <http://www.baybak.com/Baybak/?p=4920>



To the Iranian General Secretary of the Commission of UNESCO on Nationalities

Dear Dr. Mohammed Tavakkoli,

We wish to bring to your attention that since the naming the 21st February 1999, as the International Mother Language Day, it is celebrated all over the world but we have the following question to you. Although Iran took part in that meeting and undersigned the outcome, why is this day not celebrated in Iran and not even mentioned in the calendar, to the extent that the existence of this day is denied? It is regrettable that the news even related to the International Mother Language Day is not covered in your Internet website either. Inevitably, you are unaware of the existence of this day.

We therefore attach the message by Mr. Iran Koichiro Matsuura in English and its Farsi translation in relation to the International Mother Language Day in 2007 to inform you and your colleagues of the existence of this day. Now that you are informed of this day, we hope you will then prepare provisions for the celebration of the International Mother Language day in 21 February 2008. As you know, Iran is a multilingual country and Farsi is not the only language of discourse. Mother Language of every individual is the dearest thing and all your efforts to preserve Farsi must be replicated in preserving the mother languages of other nations and ethnics.

We find it surprising that you have overlooked this important day whilst the most important objective of the High Commission of UNESCO on Nationalities is related to publicising policymaking and approval of plans. Yet you have demonstrably overlooked all your obligations for the celebration of the International Mother Language Day with no publicity given to this day, or perhaps ... Why you have not done anything at all for the celebration of this day whilst you have 20 active Commissions?

We hope that you will pay attention to the cases described here and ensure the right conditions for celebrating the International Mother Language Day in the coming years. Your Commission will hopefully steer away from politics and the ruling chauvinistic mindset.

Undersigned by Umid Shukri
Sayan, Independent Student Publications



Compare the above with the approach taken in the Republic of Azerbaijan
 Excerpts form the report: <http://www.today.az/news/society/36962.html>

... To commemorate this day a roundtable discussion was organized at the Baku Ataturk Centre with participation by representatives of the Azerbaijani Parliament, the Ministry of Education as well as the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, civil society representatives, linguists and other prominent personalities representing Azerbaijani academic circle and the NGO community, to highlight the value of languages – both as means of communication and as an expression of culture and identity.



... ..
 “Mr. Agababa Ibrahimov, head a department in the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, gave a brief overview of the situation of bilingual and trilingual schools in Azerbaijan. In addition to Azerbaijani, Russian and Georgian schools, there are 400 schools for groups such as Avar, Lezgin, Tsachur, Talysh, Kurd and Ingiloy where children are given the opportunity follow the elementary school curriculum in their own language.”

3.5 Rallying if it means hunger strike

Mr Hidayet Zakir (Arazli) and his wife Mrs. Ulduz Arazli pledged to a hunger strike to publicise the cause for mother tongue. See Table 4.

Table 4 Mr. Hidayet Zakir (Arazli) and his wife Mrs. Ulduz Arazli underwent hunger strike
 Source: GunAzTV and <http://www.35000000.com/habergoruntule.asp?bolum=243&katid=48>

Mr Hidayet Zakir (Arazli) and his wife Mrs. Ulduz Arazli pledged to a hunger strike. See Table 3. towards publicising the unacceptable status of the mother tongue of the 30 million Southern Azerbaijanis. They issued a communiqué detailing the sufferings of the nation of Southern Azerbaijan inflicted by the Iranian racist policies. They insist that the Azerbaijani Turkic language must be the language of education throughout Azerbaijani educational institutions all the way through and including higher educations in the universities. Mr. Hidayet Zakir himself is a teacher by profession.



4. A Glimpse of Repressive Acts by Iranian Authorities in Advance of the Day of Celebration

With the benefit of the hindsight, it is clear that the Iranian authorities never had good intention to bless the International Mother Tongue Day. Next chapter presents the events as they rolled out during and just after the Day but this chapter presents the raft of ploys used by the Iranian authorities to deter Southern Azerbaijanis. They include the following.

4.1 Repressive Acts

Table 5 outlines the basic details of the individuals who were arrested. The residual victims suffering detentions will be detailed in Chapter 6.

No.	Name	City	Source
1	Hesen Esedi	Erdebil	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-346.aspx
2	Huseyn Mehemedi	Erdebil/Tebriz	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-339.aspx
3	Peyman Bəhrami	Erdebil/Tebriz	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-339.aspx
4	Davud Mehemedi	Erdebil/Tebriz	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-339.aspx
5	Ibrahim Jeferzade	Khoy	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-340.aspx
6	Eli Ebdullahi (already tortured)	Qum (Qom)	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-352.aspx
7	Jefer Abidini, see also below	Qum	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-352.aspx
8	Ibrahim Kazimi	Qum	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-352.aspx
9	Mehdi Movlai, see also below	Qum	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-352.aspx
10	Mesud Pejman	Qum	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-352.aspx
11	A name yet to be established	Qum	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-352.aspx
12	Rza Derjezini	Qum	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-351.aspx
13	Yusuf Suleymani	Qum	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-353.aspx
14	Behzad Xorshidzade	Shebuster	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-342.aspx
15	Perviz Sultani	Shebuster	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-342.aspx
16	Qehreman Sultani	Shebuster	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-342.aspx
17	Hesen Erk	Tebriz	http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/02/blog-post.html#links
18	A client of Mr. Erk was also arrested in his work place	Tebriz	http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/02/blog-post.html#links
19	Yunus Zarei	Tebriz	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-343.aspx
20	Behnam Nur Mehemedi	Urmu	http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/02/blog-post.html#links
21	Ebulfezl Alilu	Urmu	http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/02/blog-post.html#links
22	Ehmed Qureyshi	Urmu	http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/02/blog-post.html#links
23	Ismayil Javadi	Urmu	http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/02/blog-post.html#links
24	Jefer Huseyni kiya	Urmu	http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/02/blog-post.html#links
25	Meherrem Huseyni kiya	Urmu	http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/02/blog-post.html#links

Two of the individuals in Table 5 (*i.e.* **1:** Mehdi Movlai, and **2:** Jefer Abidini) are known to be forced to drink poisonous liquid, after which they have suffered from vomiting (<http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-351.aspx>). This deplorable act was known to be inflicted in the past but the names of the victims were not known. Now this evidence is in hand.

4.2 *Suppressive Acts*

- Obstructing the applications for licence to celebrate the day, as discussed in Chapter 4.
- It has been reported in Azerbaijani websites that up to 100 activists were summoned by Iranian authorities in the Southern Azerbaijani city of Eher, see <http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/>. The authorities have forced these activists to sign a statement that they will not take part in the planned meetings in Tebriz and the provincial capitals of Southern Azerbaijani province of Urmu, Zenjan and Erdebil. It has also been reported that Mr. Saleh Molla-Abbasi and others have vehemently refused to comply with these coercions.
- A clear expression of animosity towards the mother tongue of Southern Azerbaijani book. Once evidence is presented in Table 6, the Case of intimidating Mrs. Zohre Vefai

Table 6 Mrs. Zohre Vefai is intimidated for selling books in her mother tongue
Source of information: <http://www.baybak.com/Baybak/?p=4800>

Mrs. Zohre Vefai is a veteran of the Southern Azerbaijani national movement. She is a publisher by profession and the manager of a Bookshop, called *Zeyneb Pasha*. It is reported that she was threatened recently by Colonel Mohammad zade warning her in Farsi that “if you do not stop selling Turkic books in your shop, which are illegal, I will shut it down and put an official seal to it.” This is despite the fact that she only sells officially published books.



4.3 *Persecution of Journals and Journalist*

Some of others suppressive acts are as follows:

- The students publication *Tekhte-siyah* was banned by Iranian authorities.
- Mr. Yunus Zarei, the leader of the Arman Student Organisations, was cautioned
- The weekly *Veravi* was banned in Kheyov

4.4 *Mischievous Provocation Acts*

On the 20th of February, it emerged that the Iranian authorities were going to implant their operatives inside the masses to raise emblems and logos of some of the political organisations or even the national flag of Azerbaijan. According to this plan, these bogus groups were going to attack one another and create a pretext for the intervention of the security agents. In Urmu, the authorities were going to use imported Kurdish provocateurs. This plan was foiled in advance and the activists announced any flag-bearer as agents of the Iranian authorities. Eyewitness accounts confirmed seeing cars with disused flags.

5. The Aftermath before the Dusts Settled

5.1 The Start of the Day

The celebration started in Zengan, a hinterland of Southern Azerbaijan, that misguided Iranian racists were regarding this as their backyard. Table 7 presents a glimpse of the celebration of Mother Language by the students of the University of Zengan, together with the translation of their communiqué. Similar activities were reported by the Turkic students in the University of Tehran.

Table 7 A Glimpse of Students Protests in Zengan University – photos speak for themselves
Source of information: <http://www.baybak.com/Baybak/?p=4857> and other websites



The Communiqué issued by the students of Zengan University (only the demands are given here), Southern Azerbaijani websites including (<http://www.baybak.com/Baybak/?p=4857>):

1. Education to be based on Mother Language with official status to Azerbaijani Turkic
2. Creating the Academy for Azerbaijani Turkic and creating chairs for this language in the universities of the country
3. Putting in place the media in Azerbaijani Turkic including radio, television, publications and so on
4. Reinstatement of all the names Azerbaijani places and removing all the obstacles in selecting the names in Azerbaijani Turkic (to children and economical units)
5. Paying effective attention to historic places and cultural heritage related to the Turkic identity in Iran.

5.2 Solid Turnout in Urmu

Urmu is a provincial capital in Southern Azerbaijan and it basically beats the same rhythm as its capital city Tebriz and renowned for its fierce defence of Azerbaijani identity. This was demonstrated in the May 2006 Mass Protests and since then it maintains the same pace. The celebration of the International Mother Language Day was no exception. Reports are clear that up to 10,000 people gathered in the city centre and a young lady acted as a catalyst by singing a slogan on mother tongue. The dynamic participants were transformed into a marching carnival for up to 10 minutes. The police and Special Units, which were stationed near the city centre, quickly moved to the location where the carnival was in procession. The authorities deployed their arbitrary acts by using jetting water against peaceful civilians. Reports are specific that the water was mixed with acid and many

individuals were harmed. Source: Eyewitness accounts, GunAzTV, various websites including *Baybak* (<http://www.baybak.com/Baybak/?p=4894>).

5.2.1 Satellite Cities of Urmu: Sulduz

Sulduz is a city, which suffered with the greatest number of extrajudicial victims of ordinary citizens inflicted by paramilitary state machinery in the May 2006 Mass Protests and the State has done nothing to bring justice to this city, much to the anger of the whole Azerbaijan. So the question was: how this city is going to respond to the Mother Language Day?

Araz Atila from UrmuPress reports that (<http://www.baybak.com/Baybak/?p=4904>) just after 4.00 p.m. on the 21st of February 2007, a large number of people from all walks of life reaching thousands in number gathered within the *Imam* Street. The gathering was in a sincere atmosphere and the participants started their rally from the *Pasdar* Square with slogans of *I cry my heart out that I am a Turk* (the simplest expression for rejecting Iranian racism), *Education in Mother Language*. The State machinery, brought from Tehran or Qoshachay two days before were deployed at this time to intimidate the participants to disperse them. At this time, Veli Azeriyyun, the brother of Tovhid Azeriyyun (a victim of the May 2006 Mass Protests), delivered a powerful speech and boosted the *morale*, which will be remembers as the high point of this gathering. Tovhid's father was not also in good term with the security agents, who were filming the participants for reconnaissance at a later time. The proceedings took 2-3 hours under the intimidation and ended up by 30 participants being arrested. Also, the report by ASMEK indicated that helicopters were hovering above the city and taking films of the population taking part in the rally.

According to the report by ASMEK (<http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links>), a large number of participants of the rally were arrested and summarily tried, many of whom were fined or even jail sentences. Table x presented the names of those whose identity have been confirmed.

5.2.2 Satellite Cities of Urmu: Qoshachay

Qoshachay is another city nearby Sulduz, where thousands of participants gathered in the city centre after 5.00 p.m. but before not marching for 100m, security agents and paramilitary groups, stationed in the city for two days, started charging on defenceless participants and the youth. Faced with this violence, the participants stopped the march but remain in the area until the sunset. At least 10 people were arrested. The available victims' names will be presented in the next chapter. (Source: GunAzTV, many Southern Azerbaijani websites including: <http://www.baybak.com/Baybak/?p=4867>). OyrenciNews (<http://azoh.blogfa.com/post-142.aspx>) and other sources are specific that some of the arrested individuals were beaten up by the police charging on them. While in detention, these detainees have been denied of the right of access to their families or to a lawyer. The families of the detainees have expressed their concern on their loved one. Individuals released of detention give inside stories indicating that the rights of the detainees have been infringed and they are not in good conditions.

5.2.3 Satellite Cities of Urmu: Khoy

Khoy is another satellite city of Urmu, where the people gathered in the city centre to celebrate the International Mother Language day but this was suppressed by the authority and arrested a number of participants including Ibrahim Jeferzade. (<http://azoh.blogfa.com/post-142.aspx>)

5.3 Zengan, the Hinterland of Southern Azerbaijan as ever

The scale of the celebration of the International Mother Language Day in Zengan was a final blow to the rumours that Iranian racism has undermined the Turkic identity in Zengan. We have the English translation of two reports from a daily newspaper, *Merom-e-nov*, published in Zengan but in Farsi, which bear a clear testimony to the events. They are presented in Table 8. It gives a detailed account of the events as they rolled out but also exposes that the authorities failed to issue any account and denied the existence of the rally. Below, we draw your attention to some of the conflicts in the official account:

- The International Mother Language Day had a festive atmosphere to the extent that the participants were offering sweet to each other; as opposed to official denial of the day.
- The officials state that the rally was illegal. Contrast this against the right to rally and association in Iran, as by definition a rally or a group association is legal in Iran if the participants comply with Article 27 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran (stating that: “group associations are free if no weapon is carried and if it does not violate the Islamic foundations”). The report in Table 8 bears a witness that no participant took any weapon to this carnival atmosphere and the *Islamic foundation* was not undermined.
- Official statement is that “a few individuals numbering some 20 gathered in *Sebze Square*,” yet the report in Table 8 bears a witness that the turnout was massive and the number of the participants reached thousands.
- The authorities blame the 20 individual but the report in Table 8 bears a witness that at least 26 individuals alone were arrested and the officials resorted to physical violence, misinformation and disinformation.
- The contradictory information by the officials proves that they were disingenuous, to say the least.

TABLE 8 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Document 1 <http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=748>

News réel – Security agent personnel in Zengan prevented individuals intending to participate in the rally to celebrate the International Mother Language Day.



According to the reporter of *Merdom-e-nov*, yesterday afternoon the congregating individuals intended to offer sweets for marking the day within *Sebze* but they were confronted with the agents who ordered them to disperse. Amid this, those individuals who were unaware of the situation were asking for the reason and the police response was that they were there to arrest villains, rascals and addicts. When one of the rally participants was faced with physical violence, the atmosphere within the easygoing rally turned to be tense. When the rally participants sang their slogans, the police responded furiously and started arresting them. According to unconfirmed reports the number of the individuals arrested reached 19.

In spite of the persistence of the reporters to find out the details, there is no official press release and no accurate information on the fate of the victims from the right authorities.

Document 2 A Report by *Merdom-nov* – A daily Newspaper Published in the Southern Azerbaijani Provincial Capital of Zengan: Source: <http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768>

Reporter: Rza She'bani and Mehemmed Rejebi

Only 19 of the people arrested in Zengan on 21 February 2007 were released due to canvassing of the families in front of the building at Headquarter No. 2 of Security Forces.

According to the report by the daily *Merdom-e-nov*, approximately 35 individuals including men, women and children gathered in front of the building at Headquarter No. 2 on Thursday the 22nd of February to campaign for the release of those arrested due to celebrating the International Mother Language Day.

Their presence was concluded with the release of 19 individuals. Wednesday the 21st was the celebration day for the International Mother Language Day, where people gathered for a city-wide celebration.

According to eyewitness accounts, the police disperse the congregating people by resorting to physical violence against some and by arresting some other. Although the *Medom-e-nov*

reporters pursued the matter to learn the name of the victims from the security forces stationed in Zengan, this was in vain as they did not release any information, not even disclosed the whereabouts of the victims.

Thus, the only way to obtain the statistic on the arrested victims was to make enquiries from the family members in front of the Headquarter No. 2 of Zengan.

Persistence of the reporters of *Merdom-e-nov* led to identifying the names of some 26 victims, whose names are:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Seid Metinpur, | 2. Jelil Qenili (Ghenilu), |
| 3. Elirza Metinpur, | 4. Huseyn Rehmeti |
| 5. Eli Rehmeti, | 6. Nasir Rehmeti, |
| 7. Murtuza Muradi, | 8. Mohsun Refi'I |
| 9. Elnaz (Telnaz) Ne'meti, | 10. Davud Ne'meti |
| 11. Mahmud Mahajiri | 12. Aydin Beraderan-Muqeddem |
| 13. Rehmetulla Bayat-tebar | 14. Yusuf Mehemmedi |
| 15. Emir Nesiri | 16. Behruz Seferi |
| 17. Mehemmed Mehemmedi | 18. Eyrej Mehemmedi |
| 19. Kerim Jelili | 20. Abbas Qaffari |
| 21. Eli Mehemmedi | 22. Mehnaz Musevi |
| 23. Javad Sherifi | 24. Sudabe Metinpur |
| 25. sanaz Metinpur | 26. Sefereli Khoiyini |

Until the minutes when this report was being compiled, seven victims were still in detention and their names are: Seid Metinpur, Elirza Metinpur, Jelil Qenili, Huseyn Rehmeti, Behruz Seferi, Sefereli Khoini.

Some of the detainees explained the situation to the *Merdom-e-nov* reporter after being released. Nasir Rehmeti said: we were distributing leaflets in the city in relation to the International Mother Language Day when security agents resorted to physical violence against us and beat us severely until we were bungled to their vehicle. They beat me up severely in the detention facility but when I was being interrogated, I was not subjected to physical violence.

However, there were four women among the detainees.

Mehnaz Musevi, one of the detainees, explained her ordeal of detention after being released: I was going to get on to a bus, at which time two or three security agents arrested me. I did not know anything about the gathering of the people regarding the International Mother Language Day. They are telling that I am a university student but I have only studied until the first two years of high school.

The mother of this detainee has spent the night in trauma and said to the reporter: there was no stone that I left untouched after all, my daughter is our breadwinner.

Behruz Seferi's wife also explained the way her husband was arrested: security agents arrested him in his shop at 20.00 p.m. on Wednesday.

These are in a background where Araz Ziyai, the Governor of Zengan stated to the reporter of *Merdom-e-nov* on telephone regarding the gathering on Wednesday that “a few individuals numbering some 20 gathered in *Sebze* Square and were singing slogans. There was nothing special and that was the end of the story.” He expressed no knowledge of the detainees and said: “as far as I know no one has been arrested by the police today.”

The Governor of Zengan continued: “Any association or rallying must be licensed. Anyone wishing for a group association within the city must obtain a licence from the right authorities. If anyone does not observe the regulations, they will be subjected to law.”

The Governor of Zengan did not accept that the police subjected rallying people to physical violence and explained that: I do not accept the physical violence by the police and I do not think this is true either.

Criticising the rallying group, he added: these people do not believe in Turkic language. They write the communiqué in Persian and at the end they enter the expression *long live Turks* (yaşasın Türk). What is wrong, if they refer to the office of the governor and seek our permission?

In this conversation the Governor of Zengan emphasised that: one needs a permit for all programs including operating xx? Station (Translator’s note: the word was not a familiar one). All these people including critiques can apply for permits and get on with their program. Whilst he was denying the detainees on the 21st February, the Political Deputy of the Security Office of the Province informed that the affairs of the detainees will be evaluated rapidly and said that: the files of the detainees are within the authority of security forces and they will be appraised rapidly.

Ali Babai [translator’s note: presumably this individual is the Political Deputy of the Security Office in the Province of Zengan] promised: they will not lose much time and their files will be rapidly transferred to judiciary authorities. His opinion regarding the police treatment of the rallying individuals was that: physical violence is natural and the reason was that the rally was illegal.

Ali Babai, added that: unlicensed rallying groups should not expect any better from the police. He too did not have an accurate knowledge on the number of detainees.

Also, in relation to these events, the Islamic Society of Student of the Zengan University have protested to the ill-treatments by the police against the rallying individuals stating that according to Article 27 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, “these rallies and group associations are free if no weapon is carried and if it does not violate the Islamic foundations.” They have asked the members of the Islamic Majles to take up the matter before the right authorities to secure justice for the nation.

5.4 The Awakening National Consciousness in Hemedan and Qum

This year the celebration of the International Mother Language Day also reached Hemedan and Qum, the outpost cities of Southern Azerbaijan. In Hemedan, two Student Unions of Azerbaijani Turks (1. Shehriyar Association of the University of Medical Science and 2. the Turkic Society of Ildirim of Bu Ali University) celebrated the Mother Language Day in two consecutive days and called for the reinstatement of the official status of Azerbaijani Turkic (an example source: <http://azoh.blogfa.com/post-148.aspx>). Also Mr. Telai nik, the member of National Security Commission and the Member of Parliament for Bahar and Kebuderaheng have become vocal in expressing the national rights of Turkic population of the province of Hemedan, who are in majority. Source: <http://www.baybak.com/Baybak/?p=4919>).

The city of Qum (Qom) still retains its indigenous Turkic population and this year they became vocal, which is reflected in Table 5.

5.5 Erdebil and its Satellites

Erdebil also was in full swing toward celebrating the International Mother Language Day on the 21st of February. Security agents and paramilitary units were in a state of alert in Imam Khumeyni Square, and Sherieti Square. The city seemed to be under siege and special units with their motor cycle were created fear among the rallying participants to disperse them. There is a number of people who were arrested, see Table x. Also there was a conference in the Erdebil University of Medical Science in relation to Mother Language and despite a licence for this, the authorities revoked their licence and disallowed the conference (Source: <http://www.savalansesi.blogfa.com/post-165.aspx>).

5.7 Tebriz Can never be silenced

The authorities militarised Tebriz transforming it into a barrack environment. Armed police, military Special Units geared with arms and plain clothes security agents were prepared to deny the civilians with the right to association and the celebration of the International Mother Language Day. In spite of the intimidating presence of the authority, a large number of people turned up in the city centre, in *Rasta Kuche*, as widely advertised in advance. There was very little opportunity to coalesce and form the carnival atmosphere. In spite of this, brief opportunities were effectively utilised to orchestrate peaceful slogans. When the violence was reaching excessive degrees, the participants were melting down only to regroup elsewhere. At least in two places, (near Emin Square and Shahnaz Square) the formation lasted several minutes, before the charging of offensive forces of the authorities. Eyewitness accounts say of seeing State vans laden with the national flags of Azerbaijan and emblems and logos of the Azerbaijani groups, which the security agents had brought to implant seeds of factionalism to create as a pretext for their intervention. However, no one was fooled by such monumental naiveties. Source: GunAZTV, various Azerbaijani websites including *Baybak*: <http://www.baybak.com/Baybak/?p=4866> or <http://www.baybak.com/Baybak/?p=4876>

The above would be seen as a light escape for the Iranian authorities in Tebriz, the capital of intellectuals, renowned for its maturity in democratic movements, as well as in civil disobedience. News was spread during the fuzzy protests on the 21st of February to regroup

on the 22nd of February at the Football match between Tebriz, the historic capital of Azerbaijan and Erak, an outpost city of Southern Azerbaijan. The following day the Tebriz Stadium was fully packed with football lovers of the city, transforming the stadium into the national theatre, with one side singing *long live* and the other side singing *Azerbaijan*. There was scepticism to believe the claim until the films arrive and broadcasted from GunAzTV, removing any doubt on the authenticity of this massive triumph in breaking the defence line of the Iranian racism. You can view the incident in various Azerbaijani websites including: (<http://www.azadtribun.net/Dekoment37.wmv>)

5.8 Persecution of Journals and Journalists

- *Bulud* <http://www.baybak.com/Baybak/?p=4918>
- *Tekhte-Siyah* <http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-344.aspx>

6. The Residues of the Arrests

The Integrated names list of the individuals arrested since 1 February 2007 is given in Table 9. We still aim to establish the residue of the detainees but this is a difficult task and probably the details will emerge in a few weeks time.

Table 9: The Integrated names list of the individuals arrested since 1 February 2007				
No	Name and SURNAME	Date arrested	Date detained	
Zengan				
1	Abbas Qaffari	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
2	Aydin Beraderan-Muqeddem	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
3	Behruz Seferi	22/02/2007	03/03/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768 http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-368.aspx
4	Davud Ne'meti	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
5	Eli Mehemmedi	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
6	Eli Rehmeti,	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
7	Elirza Metinpur	22/02/2007	01/03/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768 http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-368.aspx
8	Emir Nesiri	22/02/2007	01/03/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768 http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-368.aspx
9	Eyrej Mehemmedi	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
10	Huseyn Rehmeti	22/02/2007	3/03/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768 http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-368.aspx
11	Javad Sherifi	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
12	Jelil Qenili (Ghenilu)	22/02/2007	03/03/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768 http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-368.aspx
13	Kerim Jelili	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
14	Mehemmed Mehemmedi	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
15	Mehnaz Musevi	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
16	Mahmud Mahajiri	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
17	Mohsun Refi'I	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
18	Murtuza Muradi	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
19	Nasir Rehmeti	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
20	Rehmetulla Bayat-tebar	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
21	Sanaz Metinpur	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
22	Seid Metinpur	22/02/2007	3/03/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768 http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-368.aspx
23	Sefereli Khoiyini	22/02/2007	Not released yet	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
24	Sudabe Metinpur	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
25	Telnaz Ne'meti	22/02/2007	01/03/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768 http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-368.aspx
26	Yusuf Mehemmedi	22/02/2007	24/02/2007	http://mardom-e-no.com/index.php?id=768
Urmu – According to UrmuNews 50 individuals were arrested on 22/02/2007, some of the names are as follows				
27	Atila Qulunju (Keyanush Yusufi)			
28	Arif Elvefa			
29	Babek Mehemmedi	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links
30	Davud Ebdî	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links

31	Hesen Esedi	08/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-346.aspx
32	Ebulfezl Alilu			http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/02/blog-post.html#links
33	Ebuzer Esedzade	22/02/2007		Released on bail http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links
34	Ehmed Qureyshi			http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/02/blog-post.html#links
35	Emir Esedzade	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links
36	Eta Aghasi	22/02/2007		Has been released on bail http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links
37	Huseyn Huseyni kiya			http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-360.aspx
38	Husheng Teqipur	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links
38	Ismayil Javadi	18/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/02/blog-post.html#links
40	Ismayil Melek Khanneqin	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links
41	Jefer Huseyni kiya	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/02/blog-post.html#links
42	Kave Tavakkuli	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links
43	Mehdi Ebulqasimi (from Hemedan)	22/02/2007		Has been released on bail http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links
44	Mehrerrem Huseyni kiya	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/02/blog-post.html#links
45	Miqdad Teymuri	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links
46	Murtuza Rzai	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links
47	Muslum Nikju	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links
48	Ramin ??	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links
49	Seid Huseynzade	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links
50	Yusuf Destan	22/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-360.aspx
Tebriz				
51	Yunis zare'un	13/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-343.aspx
52	Tebriz			http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-354.aspx
53	Hesen Erk	18/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-354.aspx
Shebuster				
54	Behnam Nurmehemmedi	12/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-345.aspx
55	Behzad Khorshidzade	04/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-342.aspx
56	Qehreman Sultani	04/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-342.aspx
57	Perviz Sultani	04/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-342.aspx

Sulduz				
58	Herman Qenberpur			http://www.azadtabriz.com/news/?p=2251
59	Qehreman Seferpur	22/02/2007		http://www.savalansesi.blogfa.com/post-155.aspx
Qoshachay				
60	Behbud Qulizade	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/03/blog-post.html#links
61	Ehmed Jiddi	22/02/2007		
62	Eli Muqeddem	22/02/2007		
63	Jefer Haq-nezeri	22/02/2007		
64	Mehdi Hatemi Beyleri	22/02/2007		
65	Rza Vijdani	22/02/2007		
66	Sirus Hezreti	22/02/2007		
67	Sasan Musevi	22/02/2007		
Qum				
68	Eli Ebdullahi (already tortured)			http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-352.aspx
69	Hemid Shefaju (tortured)			
70	Jefer Abidini, see also below	13/02/2007	14/02/2007	Released on bail http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-352.aspx
71	Ibrahim Kazimi	13/02/2007?		Released on bail http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-352.aspx
72	Mehdi Movlai, see also below	13/02/2007	14/02/2007	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-352.aspx
73	Mesud Pejman			http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-352.aspx
74	A name yet to be established			http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-352.aspx
75	Rza Derjezini	13/02/2007	19/02/2007	http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-351.aspx
76	Yusuf Suleymani			http://haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-353.aspx
77	Khoy			
78	Ibrahim Jeferzade	10/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-340.aspx
79	Shirzad Hajili (Hajilu)	20/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-358.aspx
Khiyov (Meshgin sheher)				
80	Jelil Muqeddesi	22/02/2007		http://asmek-yeni.blogspot.com/2007/02/blog-post_24.html#links
81	Mehdi Talibi	22/02/2007		
82	Shahin Ismayilpur	22/02/2007		
83	?? Qurbanzade	22/02/2007		
Erdebil – According to Savalansesi 20 individuals were arrested in Erdebil before and during the Mother Language Day				
84	Aydin Nejati	22/02/2007		http://www.savalansesi.blogfa.com/post-165.aspx
85	Babek Shuja'	22/02/2007		http://www.savalansesi.blogfa.com/post-165.aspx
86	Davud Mehemmedi	8/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-339.aspx
87	Emin Jiddi		22/02/2007	http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-360.aspx
88	Emin Qedimi	22/02/2007		http://www.savalansesi.blogfa.com/post-165.aspx
89	Ehsan Fermani	22/02/2007		Transferred to the Youth Wing of Erdebil Prison http://dustaq.blogspot.com/
90	Hamid Lutfi	31/01/2007	10/02/2007	Released on bail http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-335.aspx http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-337.aspx
91	Hesen Esemi	8/02/2007		http://dustaq.blogspot.com/?Date=1385-11

92	Huseyn Mehemmedi	8/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-339.aspx
93	Huseyn Sebebi	22/02/2007	1/03/2007	Released on bail http://www.savalansesi.blogfa.com/post-169.aspx
94	Jelal Teqevi	22/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-360.aspx
95	Mustaafa Mehbub tepe	22/02/2007		http://www.savalansesi.blogfa.com/post-165.aspx
96	Qasim Qeribi	23/02/2007	23/02/2007	http://www.savalansesi.blogfa.com/post-165.aspx
97	Qedir Azerdokht	22/02/2007		http://www.savalansesi.blogfa.com/post-165.aspx
98	Peyman Behrami	8/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-339.aspx
99	Rehim Khudadadi	22/02/2007		Transferred to Erdebil prison and kept in solitary confinement; needs medical attention. http://www.savalansesi.blogfa.com/post-176.aspx
100	Rza Didever	22/02/2007		http://www.savalansesi.blogfa.com/post-165.aspx
101	Ramin Sadiqi esl	19/02/2007		http://www.haqqimiz.blogfa.com/post-360.aspx
102	Yequb Govherfer	22/02/2007		http://www.savalansesi.blogfa.com/post-165.aspx

The location map of Southern Azerbaijan and its cities are given below.



7. Concluding Remark

Whilst the nation of Southern Azerbaijan goes from strength to strength in demanding their national and human rights, the Iranian authorities keep resorting to their usual approach of repression. A symbol of demands for national and human rights is in terms of the reinstatement of the Azerbaijani Turkic throughout Southern Azerbaijan as the official language.

The report pieces together the aftermath of the International Mother Language Day in 2007 providing clear evidence that:

- The nation of Southern Azerbaijan relies on a vast array of well networking activists thriving to secure their national and human rights. The ongoing national movement is not a surge but a relentless and unstoppable current, drawing strength from the Universal Human Rights Proclamation. There is only tune in this movement, securing the national rights through non-violent means, although the movement is capable of resorting to any stiff resistance.
- The Islamic Republic of Iran, renowned for its singular approach in culture, politics, falsification of history, collusion with the underworld of terrorism, is spearheading a singular racist policy against the nation of Southern Azerbaijan
- The authorities created a drama in Tebriz by unwisely denying the population the right of association and therefore encouraged the activists to use the football game into a wave of protests.
- The national movement of Southern Azerbaijan is unstoppable, mature and relentless.

The integrity of human rights can only be maintained by solidarity with the defenders of human rights. Today, the nation of Southern Azerbaijan is defending even their most basic human rights, the right for the reinstatement of the official status of Azerbaijani Turkic. We reflected a glimpse of the events as they roll out in Southern Azerbaijan. We hope international organisation are monitoring the situation and will be defending the just cause of our nation before it is too late.