



Armenian National Committee of America  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To: Friends  
From: Aram Hamparian, Executive Director  
Date: January 18, 2006  
Re: Azerbaijani Ambassador denies desecration of sacred  
Armenian cemetery - despite videotape of destruction

Attached find a letter from Azerbaijan's Ambassador to the U.S., Hafiz Pashayev, denying that his government desecrated the Christian Armenian Church cemetery in Djulfa, Nakhichevan - despite the fact that the destruction by Azerbaijani troops is documented on videotape. Watch the video on-line: [www.hairenik.com/HairenikRadio/index.htm](http://www.hairenik.com/HairenikRadio/index.htm).

**Sadly, the Azerbaijani government is able to make such patently ridiculous denials, at least in part, due to our own government's official silence on this hateful act.**

**It would simply be unimaginable for Azerbaijan to lie so blatantly about this violation of human and religious rights in the face of vocal U.S. protests.**

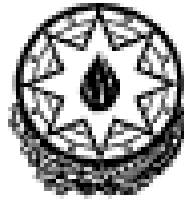


For more information, visit:  
[www.anca.org/docs/Djulfa\\_Destruction.pdf](http://www.anca.org/docs/Djulfa_Destruction.pdf)

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## *Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
421 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515-3006

January 09, 2006

Dear Representative Pallone,

I am writing to respond to your December 22 letter regarding the alleged activities surrounding the medieval cemetery in Julfa, Nakhichevan. I am very disappointed that your office did not bother to verify your sources' information on the subject.

The video footage used as a basis of these allegations displays a number of men of undisclosed affiliation destroying medium-sized stone objects of unknown origin. There are no visible stone crosses or any signs that would identify the site or the national identity of the perpetrators. Any accusation can be made against anybody based on that footage.

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense officially confirmed that its personnel have never engaged in any activity even remotely related to what you claim in your letter.

As you may be aware, Azerbaijan has been a multi-ethnic society historically, possessing a rich and diverse cultural heritage dating thousands of years derived from a number of ethnic groups, including Armenians, some 30,000 of whom continue to live in the country. Azerbaijan attaches great importance to the protection of more than 3.5 million historical, cultural and architectural monuments, works of literature and art, and archeological sites which exist in Azerbaijan and belong to all of mankind to cherish, enjoy and learn from.

This is not the first time that the Armenian side resorts to groundless accusations to divert attention from atrocities committed by the Armenian troops in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan seized through power of arms, where no single Azerbaijani historic and/or cultural monument has been left undamaged and practically no holy place escaped desecration. The economic infrastructure was purposefully damaged and dismantled. This policy is part of the larger agenda of the ethnic cleansing of any traces of the non-Armenian population not only in Armenia and occupied Nagorno Karabakh (NK), but also in seven Azerbaijan regions surrounding NK and occupied by Armenian forces. The recent OSCE fact finding mission sent to investigate illegal settlements of Armenians in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan confirmed this policy.

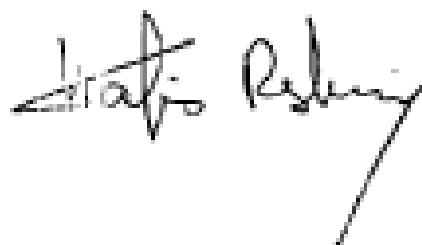
Fully sharing your concern for the protection and preservation of historical sites and cultural heritage and having addressed the issues raised in your letter, I hope you will take some interest in what can be only described as Armenian destruction and vandalization of Azerbaijan's unique cultural heritage, with damages amounting to at most \$7 billion. These include, but are not limited to:

- One thousand five hundred eighty five mosques and 23 religious schools in the Armenian territory belonging to the Irevan khanate, 830 mosques as well as 1,394 religious schools in the Zangazur and Icmiadzin districts, and more than 500 cemeteries were totally destroyed or converted into warehouses and storage areas.
- Twenty museums including the ancient historical museum of Kalbajar and its contents, the Shusha historical museum, the museum of Karabakh history, the unique Aghdam museum, the museum of stone monuments in the Zangejan region and twenty other museums were destroyed.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> century 2 minaret Govhar-Agha mosque in Shusha has been damaged, and the other mosques in the occupied regions have been destroyed and burned.
- A unique monument dating back to the Bronze Age in Khojaly was destroyed.
- Armenians also ruined and plundered priceless books and manuscripts, while libraries have been burned down. Nine hundred and sixty nine libraries, and 85 children's music schools, 4 theaters, 4 art galleries, 2 concert halls, and 1,852 cultural and art centers were razed to the ground.
- Twenty cultural centers have been destroyed in Aghdam, Lachin, Fizuly, Shusha and other occupied territories.

Now, as a courtesy, I ask that you respond to my assertions about Armenian behavior listed in detail above.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hafiz Pashayev', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Hafiz Pashayev  
Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan