

READER BEWARE: Azerbaijani Government Disinformation Campaign Hits Capitol Hill



Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States of America

June 15, 2009

On June 11, 2009, Armenian National Committee of America's (ANCA) Executive Director Aram Hamparian's sent a letter to the Foreign Affairs Legislative Aid. The letter is false on facts and insulting in substance.

It claims that change in proposed FY10 economic aid to the countries of the Caucasus compared to FY09 is +20 percent for Azerbaijan, +19 percent for Georgia, and -38 percent for Armenia.

ANCA attempts to blame the U.S. Administration in double-standards but in fact, it pursues double-standards itself. ANCA compares appropriated funds for FY09 with requested funds for FY10 in case of Armenia, while for Azerbaijan and Georgia only requested funds are compared. True figure for Armenia is +25 percent (FY09 request was USD 24 million and FY10 is USD 30 million).

Moreover, since independence in 1991, Armenia has always been a leading U.S. aid recipient enjoying USD 1.7 billion in aid.

Distortion of Azerbaijan's and Georgia's democratic credentials, while shielding Armenia's is continuation of double-standards. Both Azerbaijan and Georgia proved to be U.S. strategic partners and neither one ever held an election which claimed the innocent lives of peaceful opposition protesters.

ANCA would serve both Armenia's and America's interests by truthfully informing the U.S. public, law-makers and officials.

Prepared by the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States