

CULTURAL GENOCIDE in the 21st CENTURY

Who is the perpetrator?

The Republic of Azerbaijan.

During the past decades the government of Azerbaijan has been destroying and razing to ground all Armenian monuments that existed inside its territory, in spite of the fact that becoming a member of the UNESCO and The Council of Europe they had undertaken to protect all minorities and their heritage in their territory. The Cultural Genocide perpetrated by Azerbaijan far exceeds the destruction of the Bamian Buddhas by the Talibans in Afghanistan.



Azerbaijani army breaking down Armenian tombstones, Dec. 2005.

Where is the site of this deed?

In the Autonomous Region of Nakhjevan in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This area which was populated by majority of Armenians was systematically depopulated of its ethnic peoples between 1919 and 1922 and by 1988/89 only 2000 to 4000 Armenians remained.

What is the crime?

The murdered and expelled Armenians left behind a huge number of cultural monuments in Nakhjevan such as churches, chapels as well as finely carved unique type of tombstones,



The old cemetery of Djulfa up to 1998.



Broken down Khachkars, 2002

called Khachkars. Many of these monuments withstood natural calamities such as earthquakes and floods as well as other destructive forces and armies. They eventually fell victim to modern-day nationalism. In the

period between 1998 and 2002 Azerbaijan destroyed and covered up all Armenian monuments existing in the territory of Nakhjevan.

In the middle of December 2005, two hundred members of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces proceeded to break up and destroy the tombstones of the historical Armenian cemetery in Djulfa, which represented the most significant collection of Armenian large Khachkars. The Azeri action of 2005 destroyed every monument that had so far endured and was the culmination of the destruction of St John's Church in Abrakunis (Sourb Karapet - built in 1381), as well as the numerous churches of Agoulis, Chanegha, Ilandagh (Odzasar), Hatsi Sar and Shorot.



Site of the Armenian church in Abrakunis. Aug. 2005.

WE DEMAND THAT:

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND UNESCO DEMAND THEIR MEMBER STATE TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ARMENIAN MONUMENTS IN NAKHJEVAN.