



Conference of European Rabbis

Coverage Baku Convention and Azerbaijan-Armenia Conflict
July to October 2023

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CER Convention in Baku

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DIASPORA

US Jewry plays significant role in strengthening relations between Israel and Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan's leadership has begun a policy of outreach to world Jewish leaders, continuing a centuries-old tradition of brotherly relations.



BY [AZEMEDIA](#) | PUBLISHED JULY 27, 2023 | 5 MIN READ



CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations William Daroff, and Azerbaijani Ambassador to Israel Mukhtar Mammadov, met this week in Jerusalem to discuss the growing role played by US Jewish organizations in strengthening cooperation between Baku and Jerusalem.

<https://aze.media/us-jewry-plays-significant-role-in-strengthening-relations-between-israel-and-azerbaijan/>

“The Conference of the Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has always been a supporter of Azerbaijan. I was glad to meet the new CEO of the Conference, William Daroff, to discuss Azerbaijan-Israel partnership and future perspectives. Looking forward to continued cooperation with American Jewish organizations towards expanding our partnership,” Mammadov said following the meeting.

Azerbaijani leadership has undertaken a policy of outreach to world Jewish leaders, continuing a centuries-old tradition of brotherly relations with the Jewish people. Mammadov, the first Ambassador to Israel, is a major player in this initiative. Several days after his arrival in Israel at the start of this year, he met with Malcolm Hoenlein, Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Prior to the meeting with Hoenlein, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev met with the President of the Conference of European Rabbis, Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, in Munich. Aliyev, who has been targeted by Iranian propaganda due to his overt ties with Israel, emphasized to Goldschmidt that close relations with the Jewish people is part of “the Azerbaijani way of life.”

As recently publicized, hundreds of members of the Conference of European Rabbis will arrive in Baku in mid-November for their annual summit. They will visit local synagogues and meet with representatives of different Jewish communities across the country.

Azerbaijan has seven synagogues: three in Baku, two in Quba, and two in Oghuz. A new synagogue opened in Baku in 2010, and is now one of the largest synagogues in Europe.

The country is a model of interfaith harmony, where the nation embraces and protects its Jewish community – the largest in the Muslim-majority world, and which has lived there since the 7th century at least.

Baku was one of the hubs of the Zionist movement during the Russian Empire in the late 19th century. Its first Hovevei Zion chapter was founded in 1891, followed by the establishment of the first Zionist organization in 1899. The short-lived Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan (1918–1920) saw the continuation of the movement, which was marked by the founding of the Jewish Popular University in 1919, periodicals published in Yiddish, Hebrew, Judeo-Tat and Russian, as well as a number of schools, social clubs, charitable organizations, and cultural institutions.

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<https://aze.media/us-jewry-plays-significant-role-in-strengthening-relations-between-israel-and-azerbaijan/>

“It is not just the strategic alliance with Israel, it is not just a common threat from Iran; this is something much deeper, this is a unique history. The Azerbaijanis don’t just ‘tolerate’ Jews, like in other countries. They consider us their brothers. One of the national heroes of the country is a Jewish tank commander named Albert Agarunov, who fell while protecting Azerbaijani land from Armenian occupation. He is revered as a Jew – they emphasize that each and every time. It is not hidden or suppressed,” says Rabbi Zamir Isayev, chairman of the Sephardic community in Azerbaijan.

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/374774>

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/ Jul 27, 2023, 3:13 PM (GMT+3)

Azerbaijan Spotlight In The Headlines



William Daroff and Mukhtar Mammadov

Photo: Azerbaijanii embassy in Israel



<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/374774>

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ISRAEL NATIONAL NEWS
ARUTZ SHEVA

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/374774>

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<https://www.kikar.co.il/world-news/ryi38d>

In Jerusalem: Azeri ambassador meets CEO from USA; "to strengthen relations between Baku and Israel"

ראשי / חדשות / בעולם

"יחסי אחווה מיוחדים"

בירושלים: השגריר האזרי נועד עם המנהל מארה"ב; "לחיזוק היחסים בין באקו לישראל"

מנכ"ל ועידת הנשיאים של הארגונים היהודיים הגדולים בארה"ב, וויליאם דרוף, והשגריר האזרבייג'ני לישראל, מוכתר ממדוב, נועדו השבוע בירושלים, כדי לדון בחיזוק שיתוף הפעולה בין באקו לירושלים (חדשות בעולם)

יוסי נכטיגל | כיכר השבת | י' באב | 28.07.23



הפגישה בירושלים (באדיבות שגרירות אזרבייג'ן בישראל)

In Jerusalem: Azeri ambassador meets CEO from USA; "to strengthen relations between Baku and Israel"

שגריר אזרבייג'ן בישראל מר מוכתר ממדוב, נועד השבוע עם מנכ"ל ועידת הנשיאים של הארגונים היהודיים הגדולים בארה"ב, וויליאם דרוף.

המנהיגות האזרבייג'נית החלה ליישם מדיניות של פניה למנהיגים יהודים ברחבי העולם, כחלק ממה שהם רואים כמסורת בת מאות שנים של יחסי אחווה מיוחדים עם העם היהודי.

ממדוב – השגריר הראשון לישראל, הוא הציר המרכזי במימוש יוזמה זו, ואכן מספר ימים לאחר הגעתו לישראל נועד ממדוב עם מלקולם הנליין, סגן יו"ר של ועידת הנשיאים של הארגונים היהודיים בארה"ב.

"ועידת הנשיאים של הארגונים הגדולים בארה"ב תמכו באזרבייג'ן מאז ומתמיד. שמחתי לפגוש את המנכ"ל החדש של הוועידה, וויליאם דרוף, כדי לדון בשותפות האזרבייג'נית-ישראלית ובתוכניות לעתיד. אני מצפה בכליון עיניים לשדרוג והעמקת שיתוף פעולה מתמשך עם הארגונים האמריקאים ולהרחבת השותפות שלנו", כך אמר השגריר לווייליאם דרוף.

כזכור, לפני הפגישה עם הונליין, נועד הנשיא האזרבייג'ני אילהאם אלייב עם נשיא 'ועידת רבני אירופה, הרב פנחס גולדשמידט, במהלך ועידת הביטחון במינכן. הנשיא אלייב, אשר הפך למטרה של מאמצי תעמולה איראנים עקב הקשרים הגלויים שלו עם ישראל, הדגיש בפני הרב גולדשמידט, כי יחסים הדוקים עם העם היהודי, הם חלק "מדרך החיים האזרבייג'נית".

יצוין, כי בעוד כשלושה חודשים מאות מחברי 'ועידת רבני אירופה, יגיעו לבירת אזרבייג'ן - באקו, כדי להשתתף בוועידה הגדולה המתקיימת מידי שנתיים. הרבנים יבקרו בבתי כנסת מקומיים ויפגשו עם הקהילות היהודיות ברחבי המדינה.

באזרבייג'ן פועלים שבעה בתי כנסת: שלושה בעיר באקו, שלושה בעיר קובה, ושניים בעיר אוגוז. בית כנסת חדש נפתח בשנת 2010 וכיום הוא אחד מבתי הכנסת הגדולים ביותר באירופה.

המדינה המוסלמית מהווה מודל להרמוניה בין אמונות שבה האומה מטפחת ומגנה על הקהילה היהודית שלה – הגדולה ביותר בעולם במדינה מוסלמית – אשר שכנה באזור, ככל הידוע, עוד מימי המאה השביעית.

"זה לא רק הברית האסטרטגית עם ישראל או האיום המשותף מצד איראן; זה משהו עמוק במיוחד והיסטוריה ייחודית. האזרבייג'נים רואים את היהודים בתור אחיהם ולא רק 'מקבלים' את נוכחותם כמו במדינות אחרות. אחד מגיבורי האומה במדינה הוא מפקד טנק יהודי בשם אלברט אגרונוב אשר נפל בעת הגנה על אדמה אזרבייג'נית נגד כיבוש ארמני. הוא מהולל בתור יהודי – הם מדגישים זאת בכל הזדמנות בגאווה ובפומבי", מסביר הרב זמיר איסייב, רבה של הקהילה הגיאורגית הספרדית באזרבייג'ן.

<https://www.maariv.co.il/news/politics/Article-1026419>

The Ambassador of Azerbaijan in Israel met with the CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Jewish Organizations in the USA

מעריב < חדשות מהארץ והעולם < פוליטי-מדיני

חדשות מהארץ והעולם פוליטי-מדיני

שגריר אזרבייג'ן בישראל נועד עם מנכ"ל ועידת הנשיאים של הארגונים היהודיים בארה"ב

בתום המפגש העניק ממדוב הצהרה לתקשורת ואמר כי "מצפה בכליון עיניים לשדרוג והעמקת שיתוף פעולה מתמשך עם הארגונים ולהרחבת השותפות שלנו"

יואל מילר 20:41 30/07/2023 3 דק' קריאה

האזינו לכתבה 3 דקות

שתפו: שחפנו:

תגיות: יחסי ישראל-אזרבייג'ן / אזרבייג'ן



וויליאם דרוף, מוכתר ממדוב (צילום: שגרירות אזרבייג'ן בישראל)

<https://www.maariv.co.il/news/politics/Article-1026419>

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בסוף השבוע שעבר התקיים מפגש בין שגריר אזרבייג'ן בישראל מוכתר ממדוב ומנכ"ל ועידת הנשיאים של הארגונים היהודיים הגדולים בארה"ב, וויליאם דרוף. בתום המפגש העניק ממדוב הצהרה לתקשורת ואמר כי "ועידת הנשיאים של הארגונים הגדולים בארה"ב תמכו באזרבייג'ן מאז ומתמיד. שמחתי לפגוש את המנכ"ל החדש של הוועידה, וויליאם דרוף, כדי לדון בשותפות האזרבייג'נית-ישראלית ובתוכניות לעתיד. אני מצפה בכיליון עיניים לשדרוג והעמקת שיתוף פעולה מתמשך עם הארגונים האמריקאים ולהרחבת השותפות שלנו".

לדברי השגריר, המנהיגות האזרבייג'נית החלה ליישם מדיניות של פניה למנהיגים יהודים ברחבי העולם, כחלק ממסורת בת מאות שנים של יחסי אחווה מיוחדים עם העם היהודי. כזכור, מיד עם מינויו לשגריר בישראל, נפגש ממדוב גם עם סגן יו"ר של ועידת הנשיאים של הארגונים היהודיים בארה"ב, מלקולם הנליין, והשניים סיכמו על הגברת הקשר היהודי בין המדינות.

קודם לכן, נועד הנשיא האזרבייג'ני אילהאם אלייב עם נשיא 'ועידת רבני אירופה', הרב פנחס גולדשמידט, במהלך ועידת הביטחון במינכן. הנשיא אלייב, אשר הפך למטרה של מאמצי תעמולה איראנים עקב הקשרים הגלויים שלו עם ישראל, הדגיש בפני הרב גולדשמידט כי יחסים הדוקים עם העם היהודי הם חלק "מדרך החיים האזרבייג'נית".

<https://www.maariv.co.il/news/politics/Article-1026419>

The Ambassador of Azerbaijan in Israel met with the CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Jewish Organizations in the USA

כפי שפורסם לאחרונה, מאות מחברי 'ועידת רבני אירופה' יגיעו לבאקו בחודש נובמבר הקרוב לוועידה הגדולה המתקיימת מידי שנתיים. הרבנים יבקרו בבתי כנסת מקומיים ויפגשו עם הקהילות היהודיות ברחבי המדינה. באורבייג'ין פועלים שבעה בתי כנסת: שלושה בעיר באקו, שלושה בעיר קובה, ושניים בעיר אונזו. בית כנסת חדש נפתח בשנת 2010 וכיום הוא אחד מבתי הכנסת הגדולים ביותר באירופה.

יהודי המקום מציינים כי המדינה המוסלמית מהווה מודל להרמוניה בין אמונות שבה האומה מטפחת ומגנה על הקהילה היהודית שלה – הגדולה ביותר בעולם במדינה מוסלמית – אשר שכנה באזור, ככל הידוע, עוד מימי המאה השביעית.

באקו הייתה אחד ממרכזי התנועה הציונית בתקופת האימפריה הרוסית במאה ה-19. שלוחת חובבי ציון הראשונה שלה הוקמה בשנת 1891, ואחריה הארגון הציוני הראשון בשנת 1899. הרפובליקה הדמוקרטית של אורבייג'ין, שהחזיקה מעמד שנים בודדות (1918-1920), ראתה את ההמשכיות של התנועה, אשר התאפיינה בייסוד האוניברסיטה העממית היהודית בשנת 1919, כתבי עת תקופתיים שהתפרסמו בשפות יידיש, עברית, ג'ודיא-טאט ורוסית, בנוסף למספר בתי ספר, מועדונים חברתיים, ארגוני צדק ומוסדות תרבות.

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<https://judaism.walla.co.il/item/3597861>

American Jewry plays a significant role in strengthening relations between Israel and Azerbaijan

ליהדות ארה"ב תפקיד משמעותי בחיזוק היחסים בין ישראל לאזרבייג'ן

מנכ"ל ועידת הנשיאים של הארגונים היהודיים הגדולים בארה"ב, וויליאם דרוף, והשגריר האזרי בישראל, מוכתר ממדוב, נפגשו השבוע בירושלים כדי לדון בתפקיד ההולך וגדל של הארגונים היהודיים בחיזוק שיתוף הפעולה בין באקו לירושלים

אריה זמיר, בשיתוף שובה ישראל / 30/07/2023



מנכ"ל ועידת הנשיאים של הארגונים היהודיים הגדולים בארה"ב, וויליאם דרוף והשגריר האזרי בישראל, מוכתר ממדוב (צילום: השגרירות האזרית בישראל)

<https://judaism.walla.co.il/item/3597861>

American Jewry plays a significant role in strengthening relations between Israel and Azerbaijan

"ועידת הנשיאים של הארגונים הגדולים בארה"ב תמכו באזרבייג'ן מאז ומתמיד. שמחתי לפגוש את המנכ"ל החדש של הוועדה, וויליאם דרוף, כדי לדון בשותפות האזרבייג'נית-ישראלית ובתוכניות לעתיד. אני מצפה בכליון עיניים לשדרוג והעמקת שיתוף פעולה מתמשך עם הארגונים האמריקאים ולהרחבת השותפות שלנו" - כך אמר השבוע שגריר אזרבייג'ן בישראל מוכתר ממדוב בתום פגישה עם מנכ"ל ועידת הנשיאים של הארגונים היהודיים הגדולים בארה"ב, וויליאם דרוף.

המנהיגות האזרבייג'נית החלה ליישם מדיניות של פניה למנהיגים יהודים ברחבי העולם, כחלק ממסורת בת מאות שנים של יחסי אחווה מיוחדים עם העם היהודי. ממדוב - השגריר הראשון לישראל, הוא הציר המרכזי במימוש יוזמה זו ואכן מספר ימים לאחר הגעתו לישראל נועד ממדוב עם מלקולם הנליין, סגן יו"ר של ועידת הנשיאים של הארגונים היהודיים בארה"ב.

מכור, לפני הפגישה עם הנליין, נועד הנשיא האזרבייג'ני אילהאם אלייב עם נשיא 'ועידת רבני אירופה, הרב פנחס גולדשמידט, במהלך ועידת הביטחון במינכן. הנשיא אלייב, אשר הפך למטרה של מאמצי תעמולה איראנים עקב הקשרים הנלווים שלו עם ישראל, הדגיש בפני הרב גולדשמידט כי יחסים הדוקים עם העם היהודי הם חלק "מדרך החיים האזרבייג'נית".



היחסים מתחזקים. באקו (צילום: Shutterstock)

<https://judaism.walla.co.il/item/3597861>

American Jewry plays a significant role in strengthening relations between Israel and Azerbaijan

כפי שפורסם לאחרונה, מאות מחברי 'ועידת רבני אירופה' יגיעו לבאקו באמצע נובמבר לוועידה הגדולה המתקיימת מידי שנתיים. הרבנים יבקרו בבתי כנסת מקומיים ויפגשו עם הקהילות היהודיות ברחבי המדינה.

באזרבייג'ן פועלים שבעה בתי כנסת: שלושה בעיר באקו, שלושה בעיר קובה, ושניים בעיר אונזו. בית כנסת חדש נפתח בשנת 2010 וכיום הוא אחד מבתי הכנסת הגדולים ביותר באירופה.

המדינה המוסלמית מהווה מודל להרמוניה בין אמונות שבה האומה מטפחת ומגנה על הקהילה היהודית שלה - הגדולה ביותר בעולם במדינה מוסלמית - אשר שכנה באזור, ככל הידוע, עוד מימי המאה השביעית.

באקו הייתה אחד ממרכזי התנועה הציונית בתקופת האימפריה הרוסית במאה ה-19. שלוחת חובבי ציון הראשונה שלה הוקמה בשנת 1891, ואחריה הארגון הציוני הראשון בשנת 1899. הרפובליקה הדמוקרטית של אזרבייג'ן, שהחזיקה מעמד שנים בודדות (1918-1920), ראתה את ההמשכיות של התנועה, אשר התאפיינה בייסוד האוניברסיטה העממית היהודית בשנת 1919, כתבי עת תקופתיים שהתפרסמו בשפות יידיש, עברית, ג'ודיאוו-טאט ורוסית, בנוסף למספר בתי ספר, מועדונים חברתיים, ארגוני צדק ומוסדות תרבות.

"זה לא רק הברית האסטרטגית עם ישראל או האיום המשותף מצד איראן; זה משהו עמוק במיוחד והיסטוריה ייחודית. האזרבייג'נים רואים את היהודים בתור אחיהם ולא רק 'מקבלים' את נוכחותם כמו במדינות אחרות. אחד מניבורי האומה במדינה הוא מפקד טנק יהודי בשם אלברט אגרונוב אשר נפל בעת הגנה על אדמה אזרבייג'נית נגד כיבוש ארמני. הוא מהולל בתור יהודי - הם מדגישים זאת בכל הזדמנות בנאוה ובפומבי", אומר הרב זמיר איסייב, רבה של הקהילה הניאורגית הספרדית באזרבייג'ן.

אריה זמיר, בשיתוף שובה ישראל

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THE JERUSALEM POST

<https://www.jpost.com/judaism/article-753153>

Jerusalem Post > Judaism

US Jewish organizations warmly welcome Israel-Azerbaijan relations

By MARK FISH Published: JULY 31, 2023 12:55

Updated: JULY 31, 2023 13:56



Courtesy of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Jerusalem
(photo credit: Shuva Israel)

<https://www.jpost.com/judaism/article-753153>

CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, William Daroff, and Azerbaijani ambassador to Israel, Mukhtar Mammadov, meet in Jerusalem to discuss the role of the American Jewish Organizations in strengthening cooperation between Baku and Jerusalem.

Israel-Azerbaijan relations: At the end of last week, Azerbaijani ambassador to Israel, Mukhtar Mammadov, met with CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, William Daroff.

Following the meeting, Mammadov stated, "The Conference of the Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has always been a supporter of Azerbaijan. I was glad to meet the new CEO of the Conference, William Daroff, to discuss Azerbaijan-Israel partnerships and future perspectives. I look forward to continued cooperation with American Jewish organizations towards expanding our partnership."

According to the ambassador, Azerbaijani leadership has undertaken a policy of outreach to world Jewish leaders, continuing a centuries-old tradition of exceptional brotherly relations with the Jewish people.

Immediately following his appointment in Israel, Mammadov also met with the vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Malcolm Hoenlein, where they agreed to deepen the Jewish ties between the countries.

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Prior to the meeting with Hoenlein, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev had met with the president of the Conference of European Rabbis, Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, during the Munich Security Conference. President Aliyev, who has been targeted by Iranian propaganda due to his overt ties with Israel, emphasized to Rabbi Goldschmidt that close relations with the Jewish people are part of "the Azerbaijani way of life."

As recently publicized, hundreds of members of the Conference of European Rabbis will arrive in Baku this November for their large biennial conference. The rabbis will visit local synagogues and meet with representatives of different Jewish communities across the country.

Azerbaijan has seven synagogues: three in Baku, two in Quba, and two in Oghuz. A new synagogue opened in Baku in 2010, and is now one of the largest synagogues in Europe.

The local Jewish residents see the Muslim country as a model of interfaith harmony, where the nation embraces and protects its Jewish community – the largest in any Muslim country in the world – which has existed in the region since the 7th century, as far as is known.

Baku was one of the hubs of the Zionist movement during the Russian Empire in the late 19th century. Its first Hovevei Zion chapter was founded in 1891, followed by the establishment of the first Zionist organization in 1899. The short-lived Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan (1918–1920) saw the continuation of the movement, which was marked by the founding of the Jewish Popular University in 1919, periodicals published in Yiddish, Hebrew, Judeo-Tat and Russian, as well as a several schools, social clubs, charitable organizations, and cultural institutions.

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"It is not just the strategic alliance with Israel, it is not just a common threat from Iran; this is something much deeper, this is a unique history. The Azerbaijanis don't just 'tolerate' Jews, like in other countries. They consider us their brothers. One of the national heroes of the country is a Jewish tank commander named Albert Agarunov, who fell while protecting Azeri land from Armenian occupation. He is revered as a Jew - they emphasize that each and every time. It is not hidden or suppressed," explained Rabbi Zamir Isayev, chairman of the Georgian Sephardic community in Azerbaijan.

This article was written in cooperation with Shuva Israel

<https://www.jns.org/world-news/azerbaijan/23/8/1/306951/>

NEWS World News

Hundreds of rabbis to join conference in Azerbaijan as Jewish ties flourish

Historically, Azerbaijan is home to three distinct Jewish communities with the country devoid of antisemitism.

ETGAR LEFKOVITS



The port of Baku, Azerbaijan, on the Caspian Sea. Credit: Credit: Shenker S. from Dubai, United Arab Emirates via Wikimedia Commons.

<https://www.jns.org/world-news/azerbaijan/23/8/1/306951/>

(August 1, 2023 / JNS) Hundreds of European rabbis from across the continent will be gathering in Azerbaijan this fall to discuss Jewish affairs in the first such convention in a Muslim nation.

The planned event comes amid burgeoning relations between Israel and Azerbaijan that developed from a centuries-long affinity between the two nations into an unprecedented strategic partnership.



Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev. Credit: Wikimedia Commons.

The biennial convention of the Conference of European Rabbis is scheduled to take place in Baku between Nov. 12-15 at the invitation of Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, who will serve as the honorary host, with about 500 rabbis expected to attend the event.

<https://www.jns.org/world-news/azerbaijan/23/8/1/306951/>

The primary Orthodox rabbinical alliance in Europe, the organization unites more than 700 religious leaders from communities across Europe. Founded in 1956, it works to defend the rights of Jews in Europe, with freedom of religion and matters related to the Jewish communities expected to be front and center at the conference.

“Azerbaijan is a place with a special memory for the Jewish people, and is home to one of the most unique Jewish communities in the world,” said Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the Conference of European Rabbis who met with Aliyev earlier this year.

“The developing ties between Israel and Azerbaijan are of great importance in today’s Middle East,” he added.

The Zurich-born Goldschmidt, who served as chief rabbi of Moscow for nearly three decades, left Russia last year following the invasion of Ukraine and then resigned from his position. His subsequent public criticism of the war led him to be branded by Russia as a “foreign agent.”

<https://www.jns.org/world-news/azerbaijan/23/8/1/306951/>



The Baku metro system. Credit: Presidential Press and Information Office via Wikimedia Commons.

‘It is just the right place’

The selection of secular Shi’ite Muslim Azerbaijan as the venue for the conference is also highly symbolic and comes full circle since it is believed that indigenous Jews arrived on the territory of Azerbaijan following the Babylonian destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem in 586 BCE.

“The fact that this European rabbinical conference will be held here in Baku is recognition of people feeling safe here; it is just the right place,” said Elchin Amirbayov, representative to the president on special assignments.

<https://www.jns.org/world-news/azerbaijan/23/8/1/306951/>

“It is a good precedent,” he added.

“Azerbaijan is a model of multiculturalism and humanity, and it is the most fitting place to hold such a conference,” said Rabbi Zamir Isayev, the head of the Georgian Jewish Community in Baku who campaigned to have the event held in Azerbaijan. “It is much safer than any country in Europe.”

Indeed, at a time of heightened anti-Semitism across the globe, Azerbaijan is considered free of such animus with the country’s 25,000 to 30,000 Jews living in harmony with their predominantly Muslim neighbors.

“It is truly a privilege to work with Jews from so many diverse backgrounds who live together with a special nation and leadership that honors us and greatly respects us,” said Shneur Segal, who serves as Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Community of European Jews in Baku.

Segal is one of seven Chabad emissaries to Azerbaijan, including five in the capital Baku. The city also has three synagogues, two Jewish schools, a newly opened kosher restaurant and hotels that cater to strictly kosher groups.



Baku, Azerbaijan. Credit: Sakine Mamedli/Pexels.

<https://www.jns.org/world-news/azerbaijan/23/8/1/306951/>

Historically, Azerbaijan is home to three distinct Jewish communities: European Jews, who settled in the area during the late 19th to early 20th centuries, and during **World War II**; Jews from the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, who settled mainly in **Baku** during the early part of the 20th century; and **Mountain Jews**, the most sizable and ancient group.

The conference will include a visit to the historic ancient Jewish town of Quba in Azerbaijan, which was home to **Mountain Jews** for centuries.

“People are always asking where you can see the Mountain Jews when, in fact, they are often sitting right next to you at a Shabbat service,” he said.

<https://ejpress.org/hundreds-of-rabbis-to-join-conference-in-azerbaijan-as-jewish-ties-flourish/>

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Hundreds of rabbis to join conference in Azerbaijan as Jewish ties flourish

By YOSSI LEMPKOWICZ — August 2, 2023 No Comments



The conference will include a visit to the historic ancient Jewish town of Quba in Azerbaijan, which was home to Mountain Jews for centuries.

This is the first such gathering in a Muslim nation.

Historically, Azerbaijan is home to three distinct Jewish communities with the country devoid of antisemitism.

By Etgar Lefkovits, JNS

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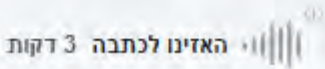
500 rabbis will come to the conference of European rabbis in Baku

מערב < חדשות מהארץ והעולם < בעולם

חדשות מהארץ והעולם בעולם

500 רבנים יגיעו לוועידת רבני אירופה בבאקו

לראשונה בהיסטוריה יתקיים כנס רבנים גדול במדינת אזרבייג'ן המוסלמית, הידועה בקהילה היהודית עתיקן היומין שלה

נ"ש אחרנסון 06:00 03/08/2023 2 דק' קריאה האזינו לכתבה 3 דקות

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הכתב ניוש ארונסון עם הרב זמיר איסייב במסעדה הכשרה שנפתח רק השבוע (צילום: פרטי)

<https://www.maariv.co.il/news/world/Article-1027296>

500 rabbis will come to the conference of European rabbis in Baku

"בקהילה היהודית בבאקו חיים כ־25 אלף יהודים", אמר ל"מעריב" הרב שניאור סגל, שליח חב"ד המקומי, שמספר כי יש שלושה בתי כנסת.

עוד סיפר הרב: "יש לנו מניין קבוע ואנו מספקים לקהילה היהודית גם אוכל כשר, בדיוק החודש גם נפתחה מסעדה כשרה תחת השגחתו של הרב הקהילה הגאורגית באזורבייג'ן הרב זמיר איסייב". יש שני בתי ספר יהודיים בבאקו, ואין צורך בביטחון כי אין אנטישמיות. "אני מסתובב עם כובע וחליפה, ילדי עם כיפות וכולם אומרים שלום וכמה אוהבים את הקהילה היהודית וישראל" אומר הרב סגל.

הרב זמיר איסייב הנציג של ועידת רבני אירופה באזורבייג'ן אמר למעריב: "עבדנו ויש עוד עבודה קשה לארגן הכנס, מה שיהיה שונה בין כנסים אחרים של ועידת רבני אירופה שלא נצטרך ביטחון כבד בגלל שאין אנטישמיות וכולם פה אוהבים יהודים וישראלים, מצפה לנו סדנאות מרתקות עם רבנים שמגיעים מכל מקום באירופה אני מתרגש לקראתו, קהילה שלנו מגוונת ופורח וביחד עם ועידת רבני אירופה נוכל לחזק הקשרים שלנו ולתת עידוד לחברי קהילה, המנכל של ועידת רבני אירופה גדי גרונך היה פה בביקור וממש התרשם מהקהילה ומההכנות לקראת הועידה".

כרגע הם מתכננים לכנס ועידת רבני אירופה שיתקיים לראשונה במדינת מוסלמית, [בבאקו](#), אליו מיועדים להגיע כ־500 רבנים.

ההחלטה לקיים את הועידה באזורבייג'ן התקבלה בעקבות הזמנה אישית שקיבל נשיא ועידת רבני אירופה הרב פנחס גולדשמידט מנשיא אזורבייג'ן איליהם אלייב.

ההודעה על כך יצאה על רקע תערוכה שהתקיימה בברלין שהציגה לראווה את מורשת הקהילה היהודית באזורבייג'ן ואת השיח הרב־תרבותי עם הרוב המוסלמי במדינה. החלטה זו היא נדבך נוסף בחיזוק מעמדה של הקהילה היהודית במדינה, יחד עם הודעתו של נשיא אזורבייג'ן על הקמת מרכז יהודי רב־תכליתי במרכז באקו במהלך ביקור הנשיא יצחק הרצוג בעיר הבירה.

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<https://www.maariv.co.il/news/world/Article-1027296>

500 rabbis will come to the conference of European rabbis in Baku

יהדות אזורייג'ן היא קהילה יהודית עתיקת יומין שהתקיימה בהרי הקווקז באזור אזורייג'ן של היום. כעשרה מיליון תושבים חיים באזורייג'ן, מחציתם גרים בעיר באקו וסביבותיה.

נשיא ועידת רבני אירופה, הרב פנחס גולדשמידט: "אנו שמחים לארח את הכנס השנתי שלנו לראשונה באזורייג'ן המהווה דוגמא ומופת לסובלנות ודו קיום בין יהודים למוסלמים. אני מודה לנשיא אלייב על מחויבותו לקהילה היהודית ולמורשתה. כפי שראינו בתערוכה, לקהילה היהודית במדינה יש היסטוריה מפוארת ותחומה אדירה למדינה ואנו נפעל ככל הניתן בכדי לחזק עוד יותר את הקהילה היהודית במדינה ואת הקשר עם הרשויות המקומיות".

https://azertag.az/en/xeber/Hundreds_of_rabbis_to_join_conference_in_Azerbaijan_as_Jewish_ties_flourish-sh-2719615

HOMEPAGE / SOCIETY

SOCIETY



Hundreds of rabbis to join conference in Azerbaijan as Jewish ties flourish

04.08.2023 (18:09)



Baku, August 4, AZERTAC

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Hundreds of European rabbis from across the continent will be gathering in Azerbaijan this fall to discuss Jewish affairs in the first such convention in a Muslim nation, Tazpit Press Service (TPS) reported.

The planned event comes amid burgeoning relations between Israel and Azerbaijan that developed from a centuries-long affinity between the two nations into an unprecedented strategic partnership.

https://azertag.az/en/xeber/Hundreds_of_rabbis_to_join_conference_in_Azerbaijan_as_Jewish_ties_flourish-2719615

The biennial convention of the Conference of European Rabbis is scheduled to take place in Baku on Nov. 12-15 at the invitation of Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, who will serve as the honorary host, with about 500 rabbis expected to attend the event.

The primary Orthodox rabbinical alliance in Europe, the organization unites more than 700 religious leaders from communities across Europe. Founded in 1956, it works to defend the rights of Jews in Europe, with freedom of religion and matters related to the Jewish communities expected to be front and center at the conference.

"Azerbaijan is a place with a special memory for the Jewish people, and is home to one of the most unique Jewish communities in the world," said Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the Conference of European Rabbis who met with President Ilham Aliyev earlier this year.

"The developing ties between Israel and Azerbaijan are of great importance in today's Middle East," he added.

The Zurich-born Goldschmidt, who served as chief rabbi of Moscow for nearly three decades, left Russia last year following the invasion of Ukraine and then resigned from his position. His subsequent public criticism of the war led him to be branded by Russia as a "foreign agent."

The selection of secular Shi'ite Muslim Azerbaijan as the venue for the conference is also highly symbolic and comes full circle since it is believed that indigenous Jews arrived on the territory of Azerbaijan following the Babylonian destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem in 586 BCE.

"The fact that this European rabbinical conference will be held here in Baku is recognition of people feeling safe here; it is just the right place," said Elchin Amirbayov, representative to the president on special assignments.

"It is a good precedent," he added.

Indeed, at a time of heightened antisemitism across the globe, Azerbaijan is considered free of such animus with the country's 25,000 to 30,000 Jews living in harmony with their predominantly Muslim neighbors.

"It is truly a privilege to work with Jews from so many diverse backgrounds who live together with a special nation and leadership that honors us and greatly respects us," said Shneur Segal, who serves as Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Community of European Jews in Baku.

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Segal is one of seven Chabad emissaries to Azerbaijan, including five in the capital Baku. The city also has three synagogues, two Jewish schools, a newly opened kosher restaurant and hotels that cater to strictly kosher groups.

Historically, Azerbaijan is home to three distinct Jewish communities: European Jews, who settled in the area during the late 19th to early 20th centuries, and during World War II; Jews from the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, who settled mainly in Baku during the early part of the 20th century; and Mountain Jews, the most sizable and ancient group.

The conference will include a visit to the historic ancient Jewish town of Quba in Azerbaijan, which was home to Mountain Jews for centuries.

"People are always asking where you can see the Mountain Jews when, in fact, they are often sitting right next to you at a Shabbat service," he said.

<https://aze.media/a-rabbinical-conference-in-muslim-azerbaijan/>

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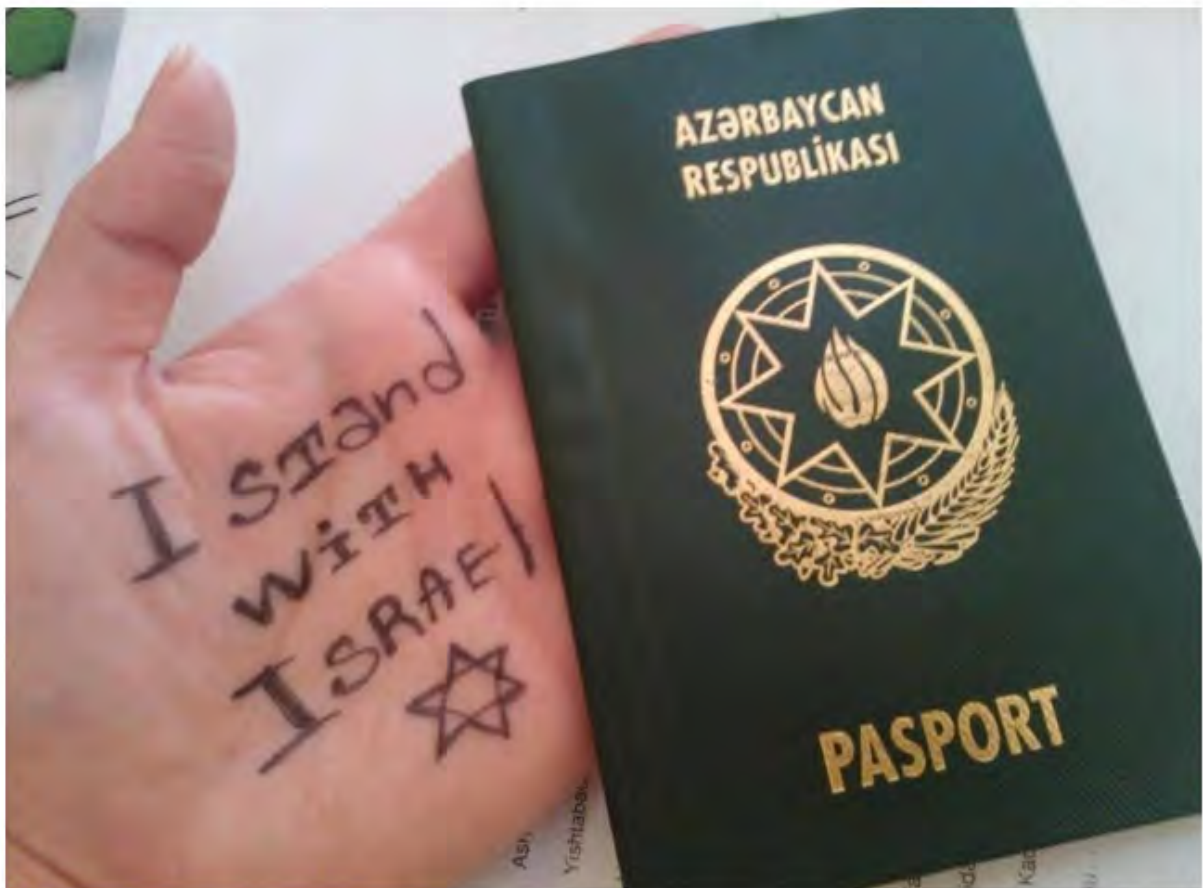
OPINION

A rabbinical conference in Muslim Azerbaijan

The signs of a flourishing Azerbaijani-Israeli friendship abound, but a rabbinical conference in a Muslim country is a miracle.



BY [AZEMEDIA](#) | PUBLISHED AUGUST 7, 2023 | 7 MIN READ



— AZERBAIJAN IS ONE OF THE FEW MUSLIM NATIONS WHOSE PEOPLE PROUDLY WAVE ISRAELI FLAGS AND VIEW THE JEWISH STATE POSITIVELY. (PHOTO: STANDWITHUS)

<https://aze.media/a-rabbinical-conference-in-muslim-azerbaijan/>

It was recently reported that hundreds of European rabbis will be attending the Conference of European Rabbis this fall, which is scheduled to take place in Baku between November 12 and November 15 at the invitation of Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev. According to the reports in the media, about 500 rabbis are expected to attend the event and they will meet with local representatives of the Mountain Jewish, Georgian and Ashkenazi communities, in addition to visiting Azerbaijani synagogues.

Azerbaijan has seven synagogues: three in Baku, two in Quba and two in Oghuz, with a Jewish communal center also existing in Ganja.

The fact that Azerbaijan is hosting this event is another **sign of the flourishing friendship** between Israel, world Jewry and Azerbaijan. Today, Baku supplies Israel with almost half of its energy needs and 70 percent of Azerbaijan's arms are said to be produced by Israel. However, the friendship between Azerbaijan and Israel is not just strategic. It is not just about an exchange of arms for energy security. It is about a strong people-to-people bond between both peoples.

The Azerbaijanis are one of the few Muslim nations that waves Israeli flags. It is one of the few Muslim countries where there is no anti-Semitism and Jews can proudly don kippahs and Star of David necklaces, without fear. The Azerbaijani nation prides itself on having a rich multi-culturalism policy, which gives equal respect to all faiths and religions living in Azerbaijan.

When I was in Guba, I witnessed how the Azerbaijanis restored synagogues that the Soviets had abused and transformed one of them into the Mountain Jewish Museum, the only of its kind in the world, documenting the rich history of the Mountain Jewish people in the Caucasus region.

Azerbaijan's respect for the Jewish people led to the creation of a strong friendship between Israel and Azerbaijan. "Today, we are at the peak of our bilateral relationship, with a strong will to deepen and expand this friendship and cooperation," Elchin AMirbayov, representative of the President of Azerbaijan for special assignments," told JNS in an interview. "It is one of the rare cases in which we don't see any clouds. What you see is the tip of the iceberg. It's multi-fold, vibrant and constantly expanding."

In recent days, Rabbi Zamir Isayev reported, "The only kosher restaurant in Azerbaijan "Rimon" was officially launched! Address: Uzeyir Hajibeyli 74." This comes after the number of flights by Azerbaijan Airlines between Baku and Tel Aviv was raised from five to seven. As Israelis go out on holiday, many Israelis are expected to go to Baku this summer, and efforts have been made to make it easier for Israelis to travel to Azerbaijan.

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Historically, Israel was one of the first countries to recognize Azerbaijan's independence and the two countries have enjoyed diplomatic relations since 1993. Israel was one of the countries who supported Azerbaijan during the Second Karabakh War, and the Azerbaijanis appreciate this.

This led to Azerbaijan opening up an embassy in Tel Aviv earlier this year, after opening up both a Tourism and Trade Office in the country previously in the wake of the Second Karabakh War. For the Azerbaijanis, this was a brave stance, given that they border Iran and Iran constantly threatens them over their friendship with Israel. However, the Azerbaijanis have chosen to remain staunch friends and allies of Israel in defiance of Tehran.

Aside from that, "Azerbaijan is a place with a special memory for the Jewish people, and is home to one of the most unique Jewish communities in the world," said Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the Conference of European Rabbis who met with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev earlier this year. He was referencing the Mountain Jewish community, which has been living in Azerbaijan since the Babylonian exile.

And the 500 European rabbis who will be attending the conference in Baku will also visit Quba, the ancestral home of the Mountain Jews, which is one of the most beautiful places that I have ever seen.

Let this conference be the beginning of even more fruitful cooperation.

Ayoob Kara served as Israel's communication minister under Netanyahu.

<https://gagrul.net/500-immoral-european-rabbis-sell-their-souls-to-the-azeri-devil/>

500 unmoralische europäische Rabbiner verkaufen ihre Seelen an den aserbaidshanischen Teufel

4. SEPTEMBER 2023 VOM ADMINISTRATOR

Von Harut Sassounian

Letzten Monat habe ich über zwei Gruppen „gerechter Juden“ geschrieben, die die israelische Regierung dazu drängten, bei Aserbaidshan zu intervenieren, um den Lachin-Korridor zu öffnen.



Die erste Gruppe von 17 Israelis, darunter Rabbiner, Journalisten und Wissenschaftler, schickte am 15. Januar 2023 einen Brief an den Außenminister Israels. Die zweite Gruppe von 35 Israelis, darunter Rabbiner, Wissenschaftler, Journalisten, ein ehemaliger Kabinettsminister und ein Knesset-Mitglied, Architekten und Wissenschaftler, schickten einen Brief an den Präsidenten Israels.

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Vergleichen Sie die rechtschaffenen Taten der beiden oben genannten israelischen Gruppen mit dem unmoralischen Verhalten von 500 europäischen Rabbinern, die auf Einladung des Präsidenten im November eine Konferenz in Aserbaidschan abhalten wollen. Ilham Aliyev, berichtete das Jewish News Syndicate (JNS). Der Besuch wird von der Orthodoxen Rabbinerallianz in Europa organisiert, die mehr als 700 religiöse Führer aus Gemeinden in ganz Europa vereint.

„Aserbaidschan ist ein Ort mit besonderer Erinnerung an das jüdische Volk und die Heimat einer der einzigartigsten jüdischen Gemeinden der Welt“, sagte Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, Präsident der Konferenz Europäischer Rabbiner, der sich Anfang des Jahres mit Aliyev traf.

Den Worten von Rabbi Goldschmidt folgte die lächerliche Aussage von Elchin Amirbayov, dem Vertreter des Präsidenten, Aliyev: „Die Tatsache, dass diese europäische Rabbinerkonferenz hier in Baku stattfinden wird, ist eine Anerkennung dafür, dass sich die Menschen hier sicher fühlen. Es ist genau der richtige Ort.“ Ebenso lächerlich war die Aussage von Rabbi Zamir Isayev aus Baku, der gegenüber JNS sagte, dass Aserbaidschan „viel sicherer ist als jedes andere Land in Europa.“ Diese Rabbiner müssen vergessen haben, dass erst vor zwei Monaten eine Terrorgruppe plante, die israelische Botschaft in Baku in die Luft zu sprengen.

JNS berichtete, dass „die geplante Reise inmitten der aufkeimenden Beziehungen zwischen Israel und Aserbaidschan stattfindet, die sich aus einer jahrhundertelangen Affinität zwischen den beiden Nationen zu einer beispiellosen strategischen Partnerschaft entwickelt haben.“ Wie konnten die Beziehungen zwischen Israel und Aserbaidschan eine „jahrhundertelange Verbundenheit“ haben, da Aserbaidschan erst 1918 und Israel 1948 ein Staat wurde?

<https://gagrul.net/500-immoral-european-rabbis-sell-their-souls-to-the-azeri-devil/>

Tatsächlich basieren die Beziehungen zwischen den beiden Ländern überhaupt nicht auf „Affinität“, sondern darauf, dass Aserbaidschan fast die Hälfte des Energiebedarfs Israels liefert, während Israel Waffen im Wert von über 5 Milliarden US-Dollar an Aserbaidschan verkauft – 70 % seiner hochentwickelten Waffen, einschließlich illegaler Cluster Bomben – die Baku während des Krieges 2020 einsetzte, um Tausende armenischer Soldaten zu töten und zu verletzen.

Um sich über die bevorstehende Ankunft europäischer Rabbiner in Baku zu freuen, veröffentlichte Aze Media einen Artikel mit dem Titel: „Eine Rabbinerkonferenz im muslimischen Aserbaidschan“ und berichtete, dass „die aserbaidshische Nation stolz darauf ist, eine reiche Multikulturalismus-Politik zu haben, die ...“ zollt allen in Aserbaidschan lebenden Glaubensrichtungen und Religionen den gleichen Respekt.“ Dies ist eine völlige Lüge, da alle Minderheiten in Aserbaidschan unter Diskriminierung und massiven Menschenrechtsverletzungen leiden. Einheimische Aserbaidschaner selbst werden von der aserbaidshischen Regierung strafrechtlich verfolgt, falls sie sich kritisch über den Präsidenten äußern. Aljewe

Aserbaidschans Liebesbeziehung zu Israel und den Juden hat eine viel finstere Absicht als den einfachen Austausch von Öl gegen Waffen. Auslöser dafür ist der Antisemitismus Aserbaidschans in der falschen Überzeugung, dass „Juden alles in Amerika kontrollieren“ und dass Aserbaidschan, wenn es nett zu Juden ist, die Vereinigten Staaten dahingehend beeinflussen wird, eine pro-aserbaidschanische Haltung einzunehmen. Dies ist Bakus offensichtlicher Plan, der armenischen „Lobby“ in den Vereinigten Staaten entgegenzuwirken.



<https://gagrul.net/500-immoral-european-rabbis-sell-their-souls-to-the-azeri-devil/>

Während die Türkei und Aserbaidschan amerikanische Juden und Israel umwerben, in der Hoffnung, von ihrer Lobbyarbeit in den Vereinigten Staaten zu profitieren, wäre es von Israel und den Juden unklug, mitzumachen und die antisemitische Haltung aserbaidshanischer Beamter zu verstärken. Die Gruppe unmoralischer europäischer Rabbiner hat den falschen Eindruck, dass Aserbaidschaner sie aufgrund ihrer Liebe zu Juden mit offenen Armen empfangen. Diese Rabbiner sind sich nicht darüber im Klaren, dass sie sich einfach von Aserbaidschan für seine vermeintlichen politischen Vorteile ausnutzen lassen.

Obwohl Israel 1993 seine Botschaft in Baku eröffnete, richtete Aserbaidschan seine Botschaft in Tel Aviv erst 2023 ein, nachdem es die Eröffnung seines Repräsentanzbüros in Ramallah im Westjordanland, der De-facto-Hauptstadt der Palästinensischen Autonomiebehörde, angekündigt hatte, um der Gegenreaktion entgegenzuwirken viele Muslime in Aserbaidschan und auf der ganzen Welt.

Der französische Historiker Marc Knobel schrieb am 8. August einen empörten Artikel in der französischen Zeitung Le Point, in dem er die geplante Reise der europäischen Rabbiner nach Baku scharf kritisierte. Knobel schrieb: „Meine Herren Rabbiner, ich schäme mich und ich bin Jude.“ Wichtig ist, dass er berichtete, dass Haim Korsia, der Oberrabbiner Frankreichs, die anderen Rabbiner nicht nach Aserbaidschan begleiten werde, „um dem Diktator von Baku zu schmeicheln, und sich nicht von einem solchen Regime bestechen lassen werde“.

Anstatt sich auf die Seite der hungernden 120.000 Arzach-Armenier zu stellen, verkaufen die 500 unmoralischen europäischen Rabbiner ihre Seelen an den Teufel in Baku.

<https://mediamax.am/en/column/121456/>

September 6, 2023 12:23

500 Immoral European Rabbis Sell Their Souls to the Azeri Devil



Harut Sassounian
The Publisher of The California Courier

Last month, I wrote about two groups of 'Righteous Jews' who urged the government of Israel to intervene with Azerbaijan to open the Lachin Corridor.

The first group of 17 Israelis, including Rabbis, journalists and scholars, sent a letter to the Foreign Minister of Israel on January 15, 2023. The second group of 35 Israelis, including Rabbis, scholars, journalists, a former Cabinet Minister and Knesset Member, architects and scientists, sent a letter to the President of Israel.

Contrast the righteous actions of the above two Israeli groups to the immoral behavior of 500 European Rabbis who are planning to hold a conference in Azerbaijan in November at the invitation of Pres. Ilham Aliyev, the Jewish News Syndicate (JNS) reported. The visit is organized by the Orthodox rabbinical alliance in Europe that unites more than 700 religious leaders from communities across Europe.

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"Azerbaijan is a place with a special memory for the Jewish people, and is home to one of the most unique Jewish communities in the world," said Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the Conference of European Rabbis who met with Aliyev earlier this year.

Rabbi Goldschmidt's words were followed by the ridiculous statement of Elchin Amirbayov, the representative of Pres. Aliyev: "The fact that this European rabbinical conference will be held here in Baku is recognition of people feeling safe here; it is just the right place." Equally ridiculous was the statement of Rabbi Zamir Isayev of Baku, who told JNS that Azerbaijan "is much safer than any country in Europe." These Rabbis must have forgotten that just two months ago a terrorist group plotted to blow up the Israeli Embassy in Baku.

JNS reported that "the planned trip comes amid burgeoning relations between Israel and Azerbaijan that developed from a centuries-long affinity between the two nations into an unprecedented strategic partnership." How could relations between Israel and Azerbaijan have a "centuries-long affinity" since Azerbaijan became a state only in 1918 and Israel in 1948?

In fact, relations between the two countries are not based on 'affinity' at all, but on Azerbaijan supplying almost half of Israel's energy needs, while Israel sells to Azerbaijan over \$5 billion of arms — 70% of its sophisticated weapons, including illegal cluster bombs — which Baku used during the 2020 War to kill and injure thousands of Armenian soldiers.

Rushing to gloat over the pending arrival of European Rabbis in Baku, Aze.Media published an article under the title: "A rabbinical conference in Muslim Azerbaijan," reporting that "the Azerbaijani nation prides itself on having a rich multi-culturalism policy, which gives equal respect to all faiths and religions living in Azerbaijan." This is a complete lie as all minorities in Azerbaijan suffer from discrimination and massive violation of human rights. Native Azeris themselves are victims of prosecution by Azerbaijan's government in case they say anything critical about Pres. Aliyev.

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Azerbaijan's love affair for Israel and Jews has a much more sinister agenda than the simple exchange of oil for weapons. It is prompted by Azerbaijan's anti-Semitism under the false belief that "Jews control everything in America," and if Azerbaijan is nice to Jews, then they will influence the United States to have a pro-Azerbaijani stance. This is Baku's obvious plan to counter the Armenian 'lobby' in the United States.

While Turkey and Azerbaijan woo American Jews and Israel hoping to benefit from their lobbying in the United States, it is unwise of Israel and Jews to go along and reinforce the anti-Semitic attitude of Azeri officials. The group of immoral European Rabbis is under the mistaken impression that Azeris welcome them with open arms because of their love for Jews. These Rabbis do not realize that they are simply allowing themselves to be exploited by Azerbaijan for its perceived political gains.

Even though Israel opened its Embassy in Baku in 1993, Azerbaijan established its Embassy in Tel Aviv in 2023, only after announcing the opening of its representative office in Ramallah, West Bank, the de facto capital of the Palestinian Authority, to counter the backlash from many Muslims within Azerbaijan and around the world.

French historian Marc Knobel wrote an indignant article in Le Point French newspaper on August 8, harshly criticizing the European Rabbis' planned trip to Baku. Knobel wrote: "Gentlemen Rabbis, I am ashamed and I am Jewish." Importantly, he reported that Haim Korsia, the Chief Rabbi of France, will not accompany the other Rabbis to Azerbaijan "to flatter the dictator of Baku and will not allow himself to be bribed by such a regime."

The 500 immoral European Rabbis, instead of siding with the starving 120,000 Artsakh Armenians, are selling their souls to the devil in Baku.

Harut Sassounian is the Publisher of The California Courier.

These views are his own.

<https://armenianweekly.com/2023/09/06/500-european-rabbis-to-attend-conference-in-baku/>

500 European Rabbis to attend conference in Baku

September 6, 2023 Harut Sassounian My Turn 1



Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt

Last month, I wrote about the two groups of "righteous Israelis" who urged their government to intervene with Azerbaijan to open the Berdzor (Lachin) Corridor.

One group of 17 signatories, including Rabbis, journalists and scholars, sent a letter to the Foreign Minister of Israel on January 15, 2023. Another group of 35 signatories, including Rabbis, scholars, journalists, a former cabinet minister and Knesset member, architects and scientists, sent a letter to the president of Israel on August 11, 2023. "The State of Israel enjoys close ties with Azerbaijan, the state which is responsible for this crisis, and has the ability to resolve it," the letter reads. "We cannot remain silent, especially in light of our historic and multilayered connection with the Armenian people."

<https://armenianweekly.com/2023/09/06/500-european-rabbis-to-attend-conference-in-baku/>

These letters stand in stark contrast to a conference that will be attended by 500 European Rabbis, held in Azerbaijan in November at the invitation of President Ilham Aliyev, as reported by the Jewish News Syndicate (JNS). The visit is organized by the Orthodox rabbinical alliance in Europe that unites more than 700 religious leaders from across the continent.

"Azerbaijan is a place with a special memory for the Jewish people and is home to one of the most unique Jewish communities in the world," said Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the Conference of European Rabbis, who met with Aliyev earlier this year.

Rabbi Goldschmidt's words were followed by a statement from Elchin Amirbayov, Aliyev's representative: "The fact that this European rabbinical conference will be held here in Baku is recognition of people feeling safe here. It is just the right place." Rabbi Zamir Isayev of Baku told JNS that Azerbaijan "is much safer than any country in Europe."

"The planned trip comes amid burgeoning relations between Israel and Azerbaijan that developed from a centuries-long affinity between the two nations into an unprecedented strategic partnership," JNS reported. How could relations between Israel and Azerbaijan have a "centuries-long affinity" when Azerbaijan became a state only in 1918 and Israel in 1948?

Rather, this "affinity" stems from economic ties. Azerbaijan supplies almost half of Israel's energy needs, while Israel sells over \$5 billion of arms to Azerbaijan – 70-percent of its sophisticated weapons, including illegal cluster bombs – which Baku used during the 2020 Artsakh War to kill and injure thousands of Armenian soldiers.

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The group of European Rabbis traveling to Baku for the conference is under the mistaken impression that Azerbaijan welcomes them with open arms. They do not realize that they are allowing themselves to be exploited by Azerbaijan for political gain.



Rushing to gloat over the pending conference, Aze.Media published an article titled, "A rabbinical conference in Muslim Azerbaijan," reporting that "the Azerbaijani nation prides itself on having a rich multiculturalism policy, which gives equal respect to all faiths and religions living in Azerbaijan." To the contrary, minorities in Azerbaijan suffer from discrimination and massive violation of human rights. Azeris themselves are victims of prosecution by Azerbaijan's authoritarian government if they say anything critical about President Aliyev.

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Harut Sassounian

California Courier Editor

Harut Sassounian is the publisher of The California Courier, a weekly newspaper based in Glendale, Calif. He is the president of the Armenia Artsakh Fund, a non-profit organization that has donated to Armenia and Artsakh \$917 million of humanitarian aid, mostly medicines, since 1989 (including its predecessor, the United Armenian Fund). He has been decorated by the presidents of Armenia and Artsakh and the heads of the Armenian Apostolic and Catholic churches. He is also the recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

COMMENTARY

MY TURN



by Marut Sassounian

500 Immoral European Rabbis Sell Their Souls To the Azeri Devil

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<https://armenianweekly.com/2023/09/20/righteous-jews-urge-pro-azeri-rabbis-to-cancel-planned-conference-in-baku/>

Righteous Jews urge pro-Azeri Rabbis to cancel planned conference in Baku

September 20, 2023 Harut Sassounian My Turn, Columns 0



Shortly after I wrote a column two weeks ago condemning European pro-Azerbaijan Rabbis for planning to hold a conference in Baku, I was pleasantly surprised to receive an email from 18 prominent individuals, most of whom are Jewish, including eight righteous Rabbis, who condemned the trip to Azerbaijan and called for its cancellation.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis of the UK, the 18 signatories wrote: "We earnestly seek to initiate dialogue with you to appeal the decision of the Conference of European Rabbis and ensure that this conference does not go ahead in a country that is so opposed to the core values of Judaism and the teachings of the Torah." The letter quoted Prof. James Russell of Harvard University, who recently wrote: "It takes bullets to kill people, but indifference pulls the trigger."

The letter described "the grave humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Artsakh" caused by Azerbaijan's blockade of the Berdzor (Lachin) Corridor, the only route linking Artsakh to Armenia, thus risking the starvation of 120,000 Artsakh Armenians. The letter stated that Azerbaijan is a country "widely recognized for having one of the lowest rankings in the world for upholding political rights and civil liberties."

This group of righteous Jews wrote: "We are saddened that this prominent organization that represents so many Jewish people across Europe is, by choosing to host their conference in Baku, supporting the Azeri government rather than standing up for human rights and living and breathing the lesson of the Shoah – 'never again.' While we acknowledge and appreciate the freedom that Jews can enjoy in Azerbaijan, the fact that these same inalienable rights do not extend to other minorities and religions in the country gives us cause to worry about how long Jews will be able to enjoy freedom in what is otherwise a totalitarian government in the Muslim world...Despite numerous international appeals and the decision of the International Court of Justice, the authorities of Azerbaijan have callously ignored calls to lift the blockade, disregarding the agreement signed in November 2020 by Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia regarding unimpeded traffic through the Lachin Corridor."

<https://armenianweekly.com/2023/09/20/righteous-jews-urge-pro-azeri-rabbis-to-cancel-planned-conference-in-baku/>

The letter was signed by Tamar Fyne, Seda Ambartsumian, Josh Kirk, Benjamin Nahum, Rabbi Avidan Freedman (Director of Yanshoof), Prof. Israel Charny, Dr. Oded Steinberg, Rabbi David Rosen, James R. Russell (Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies, Emeritus, Harvard University), Scott Jason, Lernik Jason, Michael Stone, Rabbi Yehoshua Engelman, Rabbi Tyson Herberger (Associate Professor of Religion and Religious Education, University of South-Eastern Norway), Rabbi Shimon Brand, Rabbi Irving 'Yitz' Greenberg, Rabbi Chaim Seidler Feller and Rabbi Alana Suskin.



Prof. Israel Charny and Rabbi Avidan Freedman

A separate statement issued jointly by Prof. Charny and Rabbi Freedman was titled: "This Kosher certificate for Azerbaijan stinks." They explained that the 50 European Rabbis, who had written to the leaders of Armenia complaining about Armenians using the term genocide, "are being used by Azerbaijan to prove the government's Kosher bonafides to the world, and to shut the world's ears to the cries of the afflicted."

Charny, the director of the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide in Jerusalem, and Freedman, a Jerusalem-based educator and Orthodox Rabbi, stated that they "say in the clearest terms possible that in our eyes, this

rabbinic letter misrepresents the facts, misunderstands the fundamental moral significance of the Holocaust, and misses a major pillar of Jewish ethics."

Charny and Freedman then enlightened the pro-Azeri Rabbis about the true meaning of the terms Holocaust and genocide: "In the Encyclopedia of Genocide, the word 'holocaust' was used to refer to the Armenian Holocaust in 1909, and even earlier in other contexts, and the word 'genocide' was coined in 1942 by a Polish Jewish lawyer, Raphael Lemkin, to describe the crime that had been committed against the Armenian people by Turkey, and that was then being committed by Germany against the Jews." The entry on the topic in the encyclopedia ends with the following conclusion: "the word (holocaust) belongs historically to all people's suffering, and certainly that it not become a basis for excluding the suffering of any other people."

Charny and Freedman described the pro-Azeri Rabbis' "claim that any contemporary comparison of the suffering of people is a desecration of the holy memory of the Holocaust, and a belittling of the Jewish people's suffering is itself an absurd desecration of Holocaust memory."

Publication: Armenian Weekly
Date: 20 September 2023
Reach: N. A.




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Charny and Freedman explained: "What the European Rabbis' letter does is to cynically weaponize the memory of the Holocaust in order to enable the infliction of mass suffering. After all, these Rabbis do not deny that 120,000 residents of Artsakh are in danger of starvation because of the blockade imposed by Azerbaijan. They do not deny that Azerbaijan is using mass starvation as a tactic for political gain. But by silencing Armenian criticism of Azerbaijan's actions, they are the ones who cynically use the 'Holocaust card' for political purposes."

Charny and Freedman concluded their statement: "The decision of these Rabbis to raise their voices on the side of the oppressor is a desecration of Holocaust memory and of Jewish values. In the spirit of this season of repentance, we call on the Conference of European Rabbis, or at the very least, on individual rabbinic members of conscience, to have the moral courage to remember their rabbinic duty, and retract their decision."

 Bio

 Latest Posts



Harut Sassounian

California Courier Editor

Harut Sassounian is the publisher of The California Courier, a weekly newspaper based in Glendale, Calif. He is the president of the Armenia Artsakh Fund, a non-profit organization that has donated to Armenia and Artsakh \$917 million of humanitarian aid, mostly medicines, since 1989 (including its predecessor, the United Armenian Fund). He has been decorated by the presidents of Armenia and Artsakh and the heads of the Armenian Apostolic and Catholic churches. He is also the recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

<https://gagrul.net/righteous-jews-urge-pro-azeri-rabbis-to-cancel-planned-conference-in-baku/>

Gerechte Juden fordern pro-aserbaischanische Rabbiner auf, geplante Konferenz in Baku abzusagen

18. SEPTEMBER 2023 VON ADMINISTRATOR — [HINTERLASSE EINEN KOMMENTAR](#)

Von Harut Sassounian,



Kurz nachdem ich vor zwei Wochen eine Kolumne geschrieben hatte, in der ich europäische pro-aserbaischanische Rabbiner dafür verurteilte, dass sie ihre Konferenz in Baku abhalten wollten, war ich angenehm überrascht, eine E-Mail von 18 meist jüdischen prominenten Persönlichkeiten zu erhalten, darunter acht rechtschaffene Rabbiner, die die Reise nach Aserbaischan verurteilten und forderte dessen Aufhebung.

<https://gagrul.net/righteous-jews-urge-pro-azeri-rabbis-to-cancel-planned-conference-in-baku/>

In einem Brief an den Oberrabbiner Sir Ephraim Mirvis aus dem Vereinigten Königreich schrieben die 18 Unterzeichner: „Wir sind ernsthaft bestrebt, einen Dialog mit Ihnen aufzunehmen, um gegen die Entscheidung der Konferenz Europäischer Rabbiner Berufung einzulegen und sicherzustellen, dass diese Konferenz nicht in einer Krise stattfindet.“ Land, das den Grundwerten des Judentums und den Lehren der Thora so sehr widerspricht.“ In dem Brief wurde Prof. James Russell von der Harvard University zitiert, der kürzlich schrieb: „Es braucht Kugeln, um Menschen zu töten, aber Gleichgültigkeit drückt den Abzug.“

Der Brief beschrieb „die schwere humanitäre Katastrophe, die sich in Arzach abspielt“, die durch Aserbaidshans Blockade des Latschin-Korridors, der einzigen Route, die Arzach mit Armenien verbindet, verursacht wurde und dadurch den Hungertod von 120.000 Arzach-Armeniern riskierte. In dem Brief hieß es, Aserbaidshan sei ein Land, „das weithin dafür bekannt ist, dass es bei der Wahrung politischer Rechte und bürgerlicher Freiheiten weltweit zu den schlechtesten zählt“.

Diese Gruppe rechtschaffener Juden schrieb: „Wir sind traurig darüber, dass diese prominente Organisation, die so viele jüdische Menschen in ganz Europa vertritt, mit der Entscheidung, ihre Konferenz in Baku auszurichten, die aserbaidshanische Regierung unterstützt, anstatt sich für die Menschenrechte einzusetzen und sie zu leben und zu atmen.“ Lektion der Shoah – „Nie wieder“. Während wir die Freiheit, die Juden in Aserbaidshan genießen können, anerkennen und wertschätzen, gibt uns die Tatsache, dass diese unveräußerlichen Rechte nicht auf andere Minderheiten und Religionen im Land ausgedehnt werden, Anlass zur Sorge darüber, wie lange Juden noch in der Lage sein werden, ihre Freiheit zu genießen sonst eine totalitäre Regierung in der muslimischen Welt... Trotz zahlreicher internationaler Berufungen und der Entscheidung des Internationalen Gerichtshofs haben die Behörden Aserbaidshans Aufrufe zur Aufhebung der Blockade rücksichtslos ignoriert.

Der Brief wurde unterzeichnet von: Tamar Fyne, Seda Ambartsumian, Josh Kirk, Benjamin Nahum, Rabbi Avidan Freedman (Direktor von Yanshoof), Prof. Israel Charny, Dr. Oded Steinberg, Rabbi David Rosen, James R. Russell (Mashtots-Professor für Armenisch), Studium, Emeritus, Harvard University), Scott Jason, Lernik Jason, Michael Stone, Rabbi Yehoshua Engelman, Rabbi Tyson Herberger (außerordentlicher Professor für Religion und Religionspädagogik, Universität Südostnorwegen), Rabbi Shimon Brand, Rabbi Irving „Yitz“ Greenberg, Rabbi Chaim Seidler Feller und Rabbi Alana Suskin.“

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In einer separaten Erklärung, die gemeinsam von Israel W. Charny und Rabbi Avidan Freedman herausgegeben wurde, hieß es: „Dieses Koscher-Zertifikat für Aserbaidshan ist stinkt.“ Sie erklärten, dass die 50 europäischen Rabbiner, die sich in einem Brief an die Führer Armeniens darüber beschwert hatten, dass die Armenier den Begriff Völkermord verwendeten, „von Aserbaidshan dazu benutzt werden, der Welt die koschere Glaubwürdigkeit der Regierung zu beweisen und die Ohren der Welt vor den Schreien zu verschließen.“ der Betroffenen.“

Charny, der Direktor des Instituts für Holocaust und Völkermord in Jerusalem, und Freedman, ein in Jerusalem ansässiger Pädagoge und orthodoxer Rabbiner, erklärten: „Wir sagen in möglichst klaren Worten, dass dieser rabbinische Brief in unseren Augen die Fakten falsch darstellt und missversteht“ die grundlegende moralische Bedeutung des Holocaust und lässt eine wichtige Säule der jüdischen Ethik außer Acht“

Anschließend klärten Charny und Freedman die pro-aserbaidshanischen Rabbiner über die wahre Bedeutung der Begriffe Holocaust und Völkermord auf: „In der Enzyklopädie des Völkermords wurde das Wort ‚Holocaust‘ 1909 für den Holocaust an den Armeniern verwendet, in anderen Zusammenhängen sogar noch früher.“ und das Wort „Völkermord“ wurde 1942 von einem polnisch-jüdischen Anwalt, Raphael Lemkin, geprägt, um das Verbrechen zu beschreiben, das die Türkei am armenischen Volk begangen hatte und das dann Deutschland an den Juden verübte. Der Eintrag zum Thema in der Enzyklopädie endet mit folgender Schlussfolgerung: „Das Wort (Holocaust) gehört historisch zum Leiden aller Menschen, und mit Sicherheit ist es keine Grundlage dafür, das Leiden anderer Menschen auszuschließen.“

Charny und Freedman beschrieben die pro-aserbaidshanischen Rabbiner als „Behauptung, dass jeder zeitgenössische Vergleich des Leidens von Menschen eine Schändung der heiligen Erinnerung an den Holocaust sei und dass eine Herabwürdigung des Leidens des jüdischen Volkes selbst eine absurde Schändung der Erinnerung an den Holocaust sei.“

Charny und Freedman erklärten: „Der Brief der europäischen Rabbiner dient dazu, die Erinnerung an den Holocaust zynisch zu einer Waffe zu machen, um die Verursachung von Massenleiden zu ermöglichen.“ Schließlich leugnen diese Rabbiner nicht, dass 120.000 Einwohner von Arzach aufgrund der von Aserbaidshan verhängten Blockade vom Hungertod bedroht sind. Sie leugnen nicht, dass Aserbaidshan Massenhunger als Taktik zur politischen Bereicherung einsetzt. Aber indem sie die armenische Kritik am Vorgehen Aserbaidshans zum Schweigen bringen, sind sie diejenigen, die die „Holocaust-Karte“ zynisch für politische Zwecke nutzen.“

<https://www.panorama.am/en/news/2023/09/20/Harut-Sassounian/2898790>



POLITICS 11:15 20/09/2023 ARMENIA

Righteous Jews urge pro-Azeri Rabbis to cancel planned conference in Baku

By Harut Sassounian

Publisher, The California Courier

Shortly after I wrote a column two weeks ago condemning European pro-Azerbaijan Rabbis for planning to hold their conference in Baku, I was pleasantly surprised to receive an email from 18 mostly Jewish prominent individuals, including eight righteous Rabbis, who condemned the trip to Azerbaijan and called for its cancellation.

In a letter addressed to the Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis of the UK, the 18 signatories wrote: "We earnestly seek to initiate dialogue with you to appeal the decision of the Conference of European Rabbis and ensure that this conference does not go ahead in a country that is so opposed to the core values of Judaism and the teachings of the Torah." The letter quoted Prof. James Russell of Harvard University who recently wrote: "It takes bullets to kill people, but indifference pulls the trigger."

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Charny and Freedman concluded their statement: "The decision of these rabbis to raise their voices on the side of the oppressor is a desecration of Holocaust memory and of Jewish values. In the spirit of this season of repentance, we call on the Conference of European rabbis, or at the very least, on individual rabbinic members of conscience, to have the moral courage to remember their rabbinic duty, and retract their decision."

<https://www.jns.org/rabbinical-confab-in-azerbaijan-sparks-debate/>

NEWS Europe

Rabbinical confab in Azerbaijan sparks debate

The Conference of European Rabbis' convention is set to meet in Baku on Nov. 12-15.

ETGAR LEFKOVITS



Baku at night. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

<https://www.jns.org/rabbinical-confab-in-azerbaijan-sparks-debate/>

(October 3, 2023 / JNS) A conference of European rabbis that will be held in Azerbaijan next month has sparked a divisive debate among European Jewish student groups and Azerbaijani Jewish leadership over the venue due to the recent developments in the Caucasus.

The divisions within the Jewish community over holding the biennial convention of the Conference of European Rabbis (CER) in Baku, in the first such gathering in a Muslim nation, follow the developments in Nagorno-Karabakh. The breakaway Azerbaijani region, which until recently was populated by Armenians, is now depopulated and under complete Azerbaijani control following a lightning military offensive.

“It is with great concern that we raise the question of whether it is ethical and moral for leaders of our Jewish communities to organize and attend this event in Baku, Azerbaijan, amidst such a challenging and controversial geopolitical context,” reads a Sept. 22 letter from the Brussels-based European Union of Jewish Students to the leadership of the Conference of European Rabbis.

<https://www.jns.org/rabbinical-confab-in-azerbaijan-sparks-debate/>

The public letter, which expressed “unwavering support with the ethnic Armenians,” over 100,000 of whom have relocated to Armenia, called to relocate the conference.

“Our Jewish values call upon us to stand in solidarity with those facing adversity and to continue advocating for the protection of human rights whenever and wherever they are violated,” the letter, signed by European Union of Jewish Students president Emma Hallali and supported by eight national Jewish student union groups, concludes.

Azerbaijani Jews not consulted

The leaders of the Jewish community in Azerbaijan condemned the letter.

“We must admit our utter surprise at your chosen subject and convenient omission of certain facts,” their Sept. 28 response read. “Strangely, you did not ask

us [about it], the Jews of Azerbaijan, the people who have lived here for more than a thousand years in peace and friendship with Azerbaijanis, who consider us brothers.

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“We are calling on the European Union of Jewish Students to participate in a dialogue to discuss regional matters without propagandistic narratives, which have nothing in common with the reality,” the response concludes.

The rebuttal letter was signed by Milikh Yevdayev, the chairman of the Mountain Jewish Community of Azerbaijan; Alexander Sharovsky, the chairman of the Azhkenazi Jewish Community of Azerbaijan; Zamir Isayev, the chairman of the Georgian Jewish Community, Shaul Davidov, the director of the STMEGI-Azerbaijan Foundation of Mountain Jews; and Boris Mushailov, the director of Hillel Azerbaijan.

Similar letters of support for the conference in Baku were sent by the Canadian Foundation for the Education and Welfare of Jews in the CIS, the New York-based Vaad L’Hatzolas Nidchei Yisroel and Hillel of Central Asia and Southeastern Europe.

“There is an accepted rule within the Jewish community that organizations consult with local communities before publishing letters or statements,” the Conference of European Rabbis President Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt told JNS on Tuesday. “It seems that EUJS has not reached out to the Jewish community in Azerbaijan.”

<https://www.jns.org/rabbinical-confab-in-azerbaijan-sparks-debate/>

Landmark event

The Conference of European Rabbis' convention, which is expected to be attended by over 500 participants, is scheduled to take place in Baku on Nov. 12-15, at the invitation of Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, who will serve as the honorary host.

The primary Orthodox rabbinical alliance in Europe, the organization unites more than 700 religious leaders from communities across the continent. Founded in 1956, it works to defend the rights of Jews, with freedom of religion and matters related to the Jewish communities expected to be front and center at the conference.

The event also comes amid thriving relations between Israel and **Azerbaijan**.

The selection of secular Shi'ite Muslim Azerbaijan as the venue is also highly symbolic.

At a time of heightened antisemitism across the globe, Azerbaijan is considered free of such animus with the country's 30,000 Jews living in harmony with their Muslim neighbors.

<https://www.jns.org/rabbinical-confab-in-azerbaijan-sparks-debate/>

Historically, Azerbaijan has been home to three distinct Jewish communities: European Jews, who settled in the area during the late 19th to early 20th centuries, and during World War II; Jews from the former Soviet Republic of Georgia, who settled mainly in Baku during the early part of the 20th century; and **Mountain Jews**, the largest and most veteran group.

The conference will include a visit to the historic Jewish town of Quba, which was home to Mountain Jews for centuries.

<https://www.ijn.com/armenian-azeri-conflict-casts-shadow-conference-european-rabbis/>

Armenian-Azeri conflict casts shadow on rabbinical conference

INS Oct 05, 2023 International News

By Etgar Lefkovits

A conference of European rabbis that will be held in Azerbaijan next month has sparked a divisive debate among European Jewish student groups and Azerbaijani Jewish leadership over the venue due to the recent developments in the Caucasus.



The iconic Flame Towers of Azerbaijan's capital city, Baku. (TPS)

The divisions within the Jewish community over holding the biennial convention of the Conference of European Rabbis (CER) in Baku, in the first such gathering in a Muslim nation, follow the developments in Nagorno-Karabakh. The disputed region, which until recently was largely populated by Armenians but according to the UN is part of Azerbaijan's territory, is now depopulated and under complete Azerbaijani control following a lightning military offensive.

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The conference will include a visit to the historic Jewish town of Quba, which was home to Mountain Jews for centuries.

Anti-Semitism in Armenia

<https://www.azernews.az/analysis/214391.html>

With anti-Semitic tendencies, Armenians dig deep hole for themselves

🕒 6 September 2023 12:30 (UTC+04:00)



Abbas Ganbay

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<https://www.azernews.az/analysis/214391.html>

The tentacle of the Armenian cuttlefish caught in yet another lie and manipulation about Azerbaijan and Israel has been grasped tenaciously by rabbis all around the world. More than 1,500 rabbis from across the United States recently signed a letter in support of accepting refugees, demonstrating the American Jewish community's commitment to the safety and dignity of those in need. The big news is that similarly, rabbis from around the world are uniting to speak out against the demonization of Azerbaijan and the use of the Holocaust theme by Armenian propaganda.

With the web of Armenian lies on the global map, since May 2023, pro-Armenian activists in Israel have been disseminating left-liberal materials in Israeli and Jewish-American media outlets calling for the withdrawal of support for Azerbaijan. The main argument is that Jews, who survived the Holocaust, are now allegedly becoming "complicit in the genocide" of Armenians in Garabagh. Thus, there is an attempt to put pressure on the Israeli leadership to abandon its military-strategic partnership with Azerbaijan.

The Armenian lobby in the United States is a diverse coalition of individuals and groups seeking to influence US foreign policy in favor of Armenia, Armenians, or Armenian politics. The lobby's main goal is for the United States to recognize the Armenian genocide, but it has not been able to fully exert its influence, as the Turkish lobby has until recently successfully lobbied against it.

In the US, the Armenian lobby is formed almost exclusively by domestic organizations such as the Armenian National Committee of America and the Armenian Assembly of America, the largest and most influential Armenian-American organization in the US, engaged in public affairs (to sow lies) and government relations (to have pressure in promoting the Armenian agenda).

These organizations have similar pro-Armenian lobbying goals, which are mainly to improve US relations with Armenia in terms of aid (propaganda), block aid to Türkiye and Azerbaijan, and the ultimate goal of recognizing the Armenian genocide. The influence of the Armenian lobby can be judged by its concentration in a few congressional districts, such as California's 30th congressional district. According to the 2000 census, one-third of the Armenian-American community lived in just 5 districts in the 106th Congressional District.

<https://www.azernews.az/analysis/214391.html>

The Armenian lobby in Israel continues to pressure the Israeli leadership to abandon friendly relations with Azerbaijan in their agenda of propaganda about the alleged "genocide of Armenians in Garabagh", as well as to abandon military-strategic partnership and economic partnership. The Armenian lobby is not a decree for Israel and Azerbaijan.

Turkiye, a close ally of Azerbaijan, called on Yerevan to "stop provocations" against Baku and focus on peace talks and cooperation with its neighbor. US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken also called for "an immediate halt to any military action", adding that "there can be no military solution to the conflict". Russia also expressed "extreme concern" over the intensified fighting, while the European Council said it was "ready to make efforts to prevent further escalation."

Rabbi Zsolt Balla of Saxony, Germany, joined a group of influential rabbis around the world in condemning the demonization of Azerbaijan and the use of the Holocaust theme by Armenian propaganda.

"I join my fellow rabbis and share their opinion that using the Holocaust theme as a tool to demonize Azerbaijan and distort the situation in the region is wrong," Balla said in a post on his Facebook page.

Balla's statement was in response to a joint statement by the Rabbinical Council of America, the Rabbinical Centre of Europe, and the Conference of European Rabbis condemning the use of the Holocaust as a propaganda tool in the ongoing conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Armenians are digging a deep hole for themselves. The statement notes that the Holocaust should never be used as a tool to demonize any people and that using the Holocaust as a propaganda tool is an insult to the memory of the millions of Jews killed in the Holocaust.

Balla's statement is significant because he is the first rabbi to be appointed to military service in Germany in almost a century. His appointment is seen as a symbol of the resurgence of Jewish life in Germany, as well as evidence of the country's commitment to fighting anti-Semitism and extremism. Balla's announcement is a reminder that the Holocaust should never be used as a propaganda tool and that it is the responsibility of all people to ensure that the memory of the Holocaust is respected and honored.

<https://www.azernews.az/analysis/214391.html>

On 25 August 2023, Baku-based Rabbi Zamir Isayev posted a video message on his Facebook page addressed to all Jews around the world in Hebrew and English. In the first two days, major Jewish media not only published the text of the message but also supported it.

The video message provided documentary evidence that Azerbaijan's accusation of "genocide of Armenians in Garabagh" is pure fiction. It also called on Jews around the world to oppose the demonization of Azerbaijan and the use of the Holocaust theme by Armenian propaganda.

The Armenian Diaspora will swiftly implode, Heidaiwing-style, around the world, as the lies of the pro-Armenian authorities and their patrons collapse in a short time, in their anti-Islamic, anti-Semitic, as well as anti-Turkic statements.

To understand how widespread the hatred towards representatives of Jewish nationality is, it is enough to look at statistics. According to a 2014 survey by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), about 58 percent of Armenians experience anti-Semitism and similar prejudices. The figures show that Armenia is the second most anti-Semitic country in Europe and the third in the world after the Middle East and North Africa.

Israel has not officially recognized the "armenian genocide". This issue has been repeatedly raised in the Israeli Knesset, but each time the adoption of a relevant resolution was postponed.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/analysis-opinion/1694183792-rabbis-protest-armenian-usage-of-the-holocaust-as-a-foreign-propaganda-tool>

i24news > Analysis > Rabbis protest Armenian usage of the Holocaust as a foreign propaganda tool

Rabbis protest Armenian usage of the Holocaust as a foreign propaganda tool

Ariel Kogan ■ September 08, 2023 at 06:01 PM ■ latest revision September 08, 2023 at 06:02 PM

🕒 6 min read

Political analyst, Israel



Sergei Bobylev/TASS News Agency Host Pool Photo via AP ■ Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Vladivostok, Russia.

A group of 50 leading European rabbis sign a joint letter condemning the Armenian leadership for using Holocaust rhetoric in a campaign against Azerbaijan

Protests erupted this week across the European Union, the United States, and Muslim countries against the constant use of the Holocaust as a propaganda tool by the Armenian government.

A group of 50 leading European rabbis (RCE) signed a joint letter on Wednesday condemning the Armenian leadership for using **Holocaust rhetoric** in a campaign against its neighbor, Azerbaijan.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/analysis-opinion/1694183792-rabbis-protest-armenian-usage-of-the-holocaust-as-a-foreign-propaganda-tool>

"Expressions such as 'ghetto,' 'genocide,' 'Holocaust,' and others are... inappropriate to be part of the jargon used in any kind of political disagreement," read the rabbis' letter addressed to Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and President Vahagn Garniki Khachaturyan.



An Instagram post by an Armenian clothing brand. ■ An Instagram post by an Armenian clothing brand.

The letter followed recent interviews and statements by Armenian leaders about the conflict with Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

"In a recent interview by Prime Minister Pashinyan to *AFP*, the Armenian leader drew comparisons between **Nazi-created ghettos** and the Holocaust, and what Azerbaijan is currently doing in the **conflicted region**," the RCE press service said in a statement.

This joint letter by European rabbis was in response to an article written by Rabbi Zamir Isayev, head of the Sepharadi-Georgian community in Baku. He cited shocking examples of Armenian officials' use of terms such as "Holocaust" and "ghetto," and who published a video comparing **Nazi atrocities** to the current social media photos of Armenians in the separatist enclave in Azerbaijani Karabakh.

Rabbi Isayev explained to *i24NEWS* how the ethnic Armenians are "claiming that they are 'dying like Jews in the ghettos from starvation.'"

But the Rabbi said, "They also post Instagram stories of weddings with huge cakes, seek to hire extra staff for restaurants, and advertise discounted shish-kebabs."

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/analysis-opinion/1694183792-rabbis-protest-armenian-usage-of-the-holocaust-as-a-foreign-propaganda-tool>

Hagop Ipdjian @jipdjian · 18h

Azerbaijan's blockade of Artsakh echoes Hitler's Hunger Plan—both imposed suffering on innocent populations. Both defied international law, and both demand global attention. We must stand with Artsakh, just as the world stood against past atrocities.



Twitter screenshot of An Armenian official ■ An Armenian official comparing the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh to the Holocaust.

"Officials in the enclave, who have blocked the road used by the Azerbaijani government to bring all the necessary products, claim that it is better to die than to accept 'Hitler's handouts'," Rabbi Isayev continued, adding that Armenian claims of "famine" in the enclave echo the "Palestinian genocide" narrative of which Israel is falsely accused.

Isayev, who is an Israeli citizen and served in the IDF, noted that "Iran has been pushing the 'genocide' theme with all its might, spreading lies and fabricated images, accusing us of 'starving millions of Palestinians in Gaza.'"

"The Iranians have gone to international organizations with delusional demands for sanctions on Israel, which has fought such lies for decades, publishing photos of the gap in the quality of life in between the majority of the population in Gaza and its wealthy local leadership. Today, Azerbaijan is in the exact same situation: not a single piece of unbiased media emerges from the enclave. Social media, though, reveals a completely different picture."

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/analysis-opinion/1694183792-rabbis-protest-armenian-usage-of-the-holocaust-as-a-foreign-propaganda-tool>

Isayev's article received the support of 30 rabbis around the world, including Rabbi Aryeh Rabbag, head of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada; Rabbi Abraham Weill of Strasbourg and the Rhineland in France; Rabbi of the Caucasian community in the world Yaniv Naftaliev; Rabbi of Poland Mordechai Schudrich; Chief Rabbi of the Jewish Community of Vienna Jaron Engelmayer; Rabbi Eliyahu Hamara, founder of the Latin American Rabbinical Conference and president of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA); Zsolt Balla, the state Rabbi of Saxony and Federal Military Rabbi of Bundeswehr; Chief Rabbi at Geneva Izhak Dayan; Senior Rabbi of the S&P Sephardi Community of the UK Joseph Dweck; Chief Rabbi of Belgium Avraham Gigi, and many others.



AP Photo/Sergei Grä, File ■ Russian military vehicles roll along a road toward the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Two more letters condemning the use of the Holocaust by Armenian officials were written by rabbis from Muslim countries and the American "Israel Heritage Foundation," established by Holocaust survivors.

It should be noted that 500 rabbis from the EU are planning to visit Baku in November 2023 for the biennial congress of the Conference of European Rabbis, which will be held at the invitation of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, who will act as the honorary host.

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Date: 8 September 2023
Reach: N. A.



<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/analysis-opinion/1694183792-rabbis-protest-armenian-usage-of-the-holocaust-as-a-foreign-propaganda-tool>

Azerbaijan is now considered a key ally of Israel in the fight against Iran. It has no history of anti-Semitism, and for nearly a millennium Azerbaijanis have protected their Jewish community. At least twice it hosted tens of thousands of Jewish refugees – during the pogroms in the Pale of Settlement and the Holocaust.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/armenia-synagogue-vandalized-apparently-over-israeli-azeri-ties/>

Synagogue vandalized in Armenia, apparently over Israeli-Azeri ties

'The Jews are the sworn enemies of the Armenian state,' reads text that circulates after red paint poured on Yerevan's only Jewish center

By CANAAN LIDOR

4 October 2023, 5:30 pm | 6



Red paint is seen smeared on the facade of the Mordechai Navi Jewish Religious Center in Yerevan, Armenia, following a suspected antisemitic incident on October 3, 2023. (CER)

Unidentified individuals poured red paint on the façade of a synagogue in Armenia in an attack that appeared to be connected to Israeli weapon sales to Azerbaijan.

Following the incident Tuesday outside the Mordechai Navi Jewish Religious Center in Yerevan, Armenia, a text began circulating in pro-Armenian social media pages, describing the incident as retaliation for Israel's sale of drones and other arms to Azerbaijan and the recent criticism by dozens of rabbis of rhetoric by Armenian officials, who equated the Holocaust to Azerbaijan's actions against Armenian troops and civilians.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/armenia-synagogue-vandalized-apparently-over-israeli-azeri-ties/>

"The vandalism of the World Jewish Center in Armenia is distressing," Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, the president of the Conference of European Rabbis, said in a statement Wednesday. "The Jewish community in Armenia is not a party to the conflict" between Armenia and Azerbaijan, he added.

In the antisemitic text that circulated in pro-Armenian channels, the authors wrote: "The Jews are the enemies of the Armenian nation, complicit in Turkish crimes and the regime of Aliyev, stained with the blood of the Republic of Armenia and Artsakh." Ilham Aliyev is the president of Azerbaijan. Artsakh is the name of the pro-Armenian government of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, which Azerbaijan captured last month in a military campaign.

"The Jewish state provides weapons to Aliyev's criminal regime, and Jews from America and Europe actively support him. Turkey, Aliyev's regime, and the Jews are the sworn enemies of the Armenian state and people," the text also reads.



Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt attends the 2017 Breakthrough Prize at NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California, December 4, 2016. (Kimberly White/Getty Images North America/AFP)

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/armenia-synagogue-vandalized-apparently-over-israeli-azeri-ties/>

Israel buys a substantial part of its petrol from Azerbaijan, a Muslim-majority that shares a border with Iran. It also sells drones and other advanced weapons to Azerbaijan.

The antisemitic text also references a [letter](#) recently cosigned by dozens of rabbis, many of them from Chabad, who criticized Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan for equating Azerbaijani actions with those of the Nazis during the Holocaust. His remarks belittle the “terrible suffering experienced by the victims of the horrific Holocaust and the Jewish people at large,” the rabbis wrote.

“If Jewish rabbis in the United States and Europe continue to support Aliyev’s regime, we will continue to burn their synagogues in other countries. Every rabbi will be a target for us. No Israeli Jew will feel safe in these countries,” the text circulating in pro-Armenian channels reads.



Defense Minister Yoav Gallant (right) shakes hands with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev in Baku, Azerbaijan, July 13, 2023. (Ariel Hermoni/IMoD)

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/armenia-synagogue-vandalized-apparently-over-israeli-azeri-ties/>

The Mordechai Navi Jewish Religious Center is the only synagogue in Yerevan, where several hundred Jews live.

Goldschmidt in his statement called on Armenian President Vahagn Garniki Khachaturyan to “condemn this heinous act,” referencing the vandalism. “The Armenian government must enhance the security around the Jewish community and prosecute those responsible for this antisemitic act,” Goldschmidt wrote, adding: “I stand in solidarity with the Jewish community in Armenia and pray that they continue to celebrate the holiday of Sukkot and carry on their extensive activities.”

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-761659>

Jerusalem Post > Diaspora > Antisemitism

Armenians threaten violence against Jews over Azeri relations

The World Jewish Center in Armenia was vandalized. The attackers left a note saying "the Jews are the enemies of the Armenian nation."

By ZVIKA KLEIN

OCTOBER 4, 2023 15:37 **Updated:** OCTOBER 4, 2023 19:15



The vandalized World Jewish Center in Yerevan, Armenia.
(photo credit: CER)



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Publication: The Jerusalem Post
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Reach: N. A.

THE JERUSALEM POST

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-761659>

The World Jewish Center in Armenia's capital, Yerevan, was vandalized on Tuesday night in an act thought to be directly related to Israel's growing relations with neighboring adversary Azerbaijan.

The [Nagorno-Karabakh](#) enclave in Azerbaijan, historically inhabited by ethnic Armenian Christians, has been at the center of a longstanding conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The improved relations between Israel and Azerbaijan prompted supporters of the Armenian separatist government in Nagorno-Karabakh to target the Jewish center in Yerevan.

The attackers issued a statement saying: "The Jews are the enemies of the Armenian nation, complicit in Turkish crimes and the regime of [Azerbaijan President Ilhan] Aliyev. The [Jewish state provides weapons](#) to Aliyev's criminal regime, and Jews from America and Europe actively support him. Turkey, Aliyev's regime, and the Jews are the sworn enemies of the Armenian state and people."

They added: "If Jewish rabbis in the United States and Europe continue to support Aliyev's regime, we will continue to burn their synagogues in other countries. Every rabbi will be a target for us. No Israeli Jew will feel safe in these countries."

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-761659>



The vandalized World Jewish Center in Yerevan, Armenia. (credit: CER)

Armenia's Jewish community

The center in Yerevan was damaged, but not by fire, according to reports.

Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the Conference of European Rabbis (CER), responded that "the vandalism of the World Jewish Center in Armenia is distressing. The Jewish community in Armenia is not a party to the [conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh](#)."

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-761659>

He urged Armenian President Vahagn Khachaturyan to condemn the act and called for increased security measures for the Jewish community. Goldschmidt expressed his solidarity with the Jewish community in Armenia and hoped they could peacefully observe the holiday of Sukkot.

According to World Jewish Congress estimates, Armenia is home to about 500-1,000 Jews, mostly of Ashkenazi origin, and some Mizrahi and Georgian Jews, localized in Yerevan.

An ethnically diverse country, Armenia has had a deep historical connection to Judaism. Today, the [small Armenian Jewish community](#) is able to practice freely but there have been several manifestations of antisemitism.

Russia exchanged views with the United States and the European Union on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh ahead of the lightning military operation by Azerbaijan last month, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Wednesday.

Politico earlier reported that top officials from the US and the EU met their Russian counterparts in Turkey for emergency talks about Karabakh days before Azerbaijan launched its operation in the breakaway region.

"The US and EU approached us and asked us to hold a meeting," Zakharova told reporters. She said the sides exchanged views about the situation in Karabakh.

"There was nothing secret about this meeting; it was an ordinary exchange of views. We shall see how the West will present all this now," she said.

<https://en.trend.az/scaucasus/armenia/3807004.html>

Home > South Caucasus > Armenia >

France's conspiracy in Armenia: ASALA, anti-Semitism and even beyond?

Armenia | Materials | 4 October 2023 16:25 (UTC +04:00)



<https://en.trend.az/scaucasus/armenia/3807004.html>



Maryana Ahmadova

Read more

BAKU, Azerbaijan, October 4. The Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA), a terrorist organization, has claimed responsibility for an attack on a synagogue in Yerevan. The barbaric attack on the synagogue was carried out by the youth wing of ASALA. The synagogue was doused with liquid, and windows were smashed. A statement released by ASALA in this regard calls the attack "a successful intimidation operation against the world Jewish center in Yerevan".

"Jews are sworn enemies of Armenia and its people. This is a warning: our successful operation on October 3 in Yerevan is only the beginning. Every rabbi will be on our radar," the terrorist organization said in a statement.

ASALA also threatens war against Israeli Jews in Europe, America, Canada, and Georgia if the Israeli government continues to support Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile, Baku will host the biennial Conference of European Rabbis on November 12–15, upon the initiative of President Ilham Aliyev. About 500 rabbis are expected to attend the event. This organization unites more than 700 religious leaders from communities across Europe, making it the main orthodox rabbinical alliance. Founded in 1956, it is dedicated to protecting the rights of Jews in Europe. The conference is expected to focus on religious freedom and issues related to Jewish communities.

As they say, feel the difference. Jews in Azerbaijan have always felt themselves under the protection of the state; they enjoy all the benefits of Azerbaijan's development. Israel and Azerbaijan are comprehensively developing their relations. Whereas in Armenia, as we see, acts of vandalism and Judophobia take place. But France stubbornly does not want to pay attention to all these facts.

Moreover, former and current servicemen (mostly of Armenian origin) of the French Army and employees of French special services are sent to Armenia as instructors. At the same time, ASALA is being rehabilitated on the territory of France under the patronage of French special services, in particular French intelligence. There is information that terrorist training is conducted for future Armenian terrorists in special French schools.

<https://en.trend.az/scaucasus/armenia/3807004.html>

And this is despite the terror committed by Armenian terrorists in the 1970s and 1980s of the last century! They orchestrated terrorist attacks in several French cities. It's worth a lot just to talk about the terrorist incident at Orly Airport! An explosion in front of the Turkish Airlines counter at Orly Airport in Paris occurred on July 15, 1983, when a sizable bag packed with explosives detonated. The immediate death toll was four. There were a total of 55 injuries and 8 fatalities.

How did it end? With French disgrace. The French government and Armenian terrorists reportedly reached a secret agreement in January 1982, according to which the French authorities were to exert pressure on Türkiye regarding the fictitious "Armenian genocide" and to permit Armenian terrorists free access to French airports in exchange for a promise not to carry out terrorist acts on French soil. This agreement was made public by the international press.

Under this agreement, the four Armenian terrorists arrested in 1981 for the attack on the Turkish embassy received lenient sentences, and one of the ASALA leaders, Monte Melkonian, who had been imprisoned, was released. He eventually resurfaced in Karabakh and took part in the killing of Azerbaijani civilians. That was the French shame. That is why Paris, to this day, following that shameful collusion with Armenian terrorists, tries to put pressure on Azerbaijan and protects Armenia, where heinous crimes are committed and where Judeophobia and Azerbaijanophobia flourish.

It is clear that France had its own agenda regarding the Karabakh junta's presence on Azerbaijani territory. The concept dubbed "the second Armenian state" was vigorously supported in Paris. It is driven by the "crusades" strategy and deliberately emphasizes the religious aspect as a "argument" in favor of Armenia.

Moreover, the intelligence and security agencies of Armenia have been completely transferred under the curatorship of France. The process of militarization of Armenia by Paris is underway. ASALA is being revived; radical Armenians in France are being trained and recruited from the Armenian community in Lebanon.

France is preparing Armenia for a long-term terrorist war, especially terrorism against Azerbaijan. Does a country that pursues such a policy of supporting international terrorism in the UN Security Council have a place among the "civilized" states of the world? No, of course not. The current leadership of France has put this country on the same level as the states sponsoring terrorism.

Publication: Fanverse.org

Date: 5 October 2023

Reach: N. A.



<https://www.fanverse.org/threads/armenians-threaten-violence-against-jews-over-azeri-relations.1303335/>

Downtown > The Café >



Middle East

Armenians threaten violence against Jews over Azeri relations

CrownedEagle · Oct 5, 2023



CrownedEagle
Knight of Erza

Oct 5, 2023

The World Jewish Center in Armenia's capital, Yerevan, was vandalized on Tuesday night in an act thought to be directly related to Israel's growing relations with neighboring adversary Azerbaijan.

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They added: "If Jewish rabbis in the United States and Europe continue to support Aliyev's regime, we will continue to burn their synagogues in other countries. Every rabbi will be a target for us. No Israeli Jew will feel safe in these countries."

The vandalized World Jewish Center in Yerevan, Armenia. (credit: CER)

Armenia's Jewish community

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<https://www.fanverse.org/threads/armenians-threaten-violence-against-jews-over-azeri-relations.1303335/>

 <p>Gledowin I love rain , we need more of it ! :D</p>	<p>Oct 5, 2023 #2</p> <p>Seem's like middle aged mentality of essentialisation is far from vanishing yet. If you're a jew you're therefor a zionist , therefor a pro israel , therefor pro azerbaijan , therefor pro turkia. On the other hand islamists in turkia will push the judeo-christian conspiracy on daily basis do justify their downfall. The irony.</p>
 <p>Canute87 Nuke Imminent</p>	<p>Oct 5, 2023 #3</p> <p>Jews can't catch a break.</p>
 <p>dergeist Well-Known Member</p>	<p>Oct 6, 2023 #4</p> <p>Canute87 said: </p> <p>Jews can't catch a break.</p> <p>Whilst not right , it's because Israel is a major supporter of Azerbaijan is Israel. It has been providing them with weapons and now a deal has been struck for two satellites.</p>

<https://sofiaglobe.com/2023/10/05/antisemitism-in-armenia-molotov-cocktail-thrown-at-countrys-only-synagogue/>



Perspectives

Antisemitism in Armenia: Molotov cocktail thrown at country's only synagogue

📅 October 5, 2023 👤 Igor Chalenko 📍 Armenia

On the morning of October 3, in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, the only synagogue in the country, Mordechai Navi, was attacked.

ASALA_Young took responsibility for the act of vandalism. The organization's telegram channel, created on the same day, published a video from the scene of the incident, where a man in a cap and hood can be seen pouring red paint on the walls of the synagogue and breaking out the windows.

Judging by the name and logo, ASALA_Young promotes the ideas of the Armenian Secret Army for Liberation of Armenia (ASALA), an Armenian paramilitary organization created in 1975 and recognized by the United States as terrorist.

Publication: The Sofia Globe

Date: 5 October 2023

Reach: N. A.



<https://sofiaglobe.com/2023/10/05/antisemitism-in-armenia-molotov-cocktail-thrown-at-countrys-only-synagogue/>

According to the organization, the “act of intimidation” was prepared by ASALA_Young “to take revenge on Israel and world Jewry for supporting Azerbaijan”.

In their Telegram message, the Armenian radicals promised to take revenge on Jews, including in European countries: “If Jewish rabbis in the USA and Europe continue to support the Aliyev regime, we will continue to burn their synagogues in other countries. Every rabbi will be under our guns... We will start a war against Israeli Jews in Europe, America, Canada, Georgia.”

Israeli state radio Kan reported that the incident was not just an act of vandalism. The attackers threw a Molotov cocktail into the synagogue, planning to set it on fire, but for some reason the incendiary mixture did not ignite.

This is not the first provocation committed in Armenia against the Jewish minority over the past month.

On September 9, on the Jewish Sabbath, during prayer, an unknown Armenian burst into the same Mordechai Navi synagogue and began shouting curses and threats. Despite the incident, Yerevan authorities ignored the need to provide security to protect the only center of the Jewish religious community, although on September 17 the Israeli Ministry of Diaspora Affairs warned that (in Armenia) “there are concerns about... violent attacks against Jewish property in the near future.” The day before the attack, on October 2, the Israeli think tank Begin-Sadat Center wrote: “The restoration of Azerbaijan’s sovereignty over the entire territory of Karabakh triggered a wave of anti-Semitism in Armenia.” And the Israeli English-language publication The Jerusalem Post has been talking about “systemic anti-Semitism” of Armenians since 2019 .

If the Armenian authorities had taken the necessary measures, ASALA_Young members would hardly have been able to freely throw Molotov cocktails at a religious institution.

It is noteworthy that the Armenian law enforcement agencies are still silent about these events, although the head of the CER (Conference of European Rabbis) has already called on the President of Armenia to condemn the attack on the synagogue in Yerevan and “strengthen the security of the Jewish community.”

The main reason for the surge in anti-Semitic sentiments in Armenia was the support of Azerbaijan from the Jewish people, which manifested itself in a recent large-scale media campaign by rabbis from around the world.

Since August 27, about 200 rabbis from Europe, the US, Canada, Latin America, the UK and Israel have actively opposed the use of the terms “Holocaust” and “genocide” by Armenian propaganda to demonize Azerbaijan.

Publication: The Sofia Globe

Date: 5 October 2023

Reach: N. A.



<https://sofiaglobe.com/2023/10/05/antisemitism-in-armenia-molotov-cocktail-thrown-at-countrys-only-synagogue/>

On September 6, fifty rabbis from 19 European countries sent official letters to Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and President Vahagn Khachaturian demanding an “immediate and complete” end to the use of the Holocaust theme by Armenian propaganda “for the sake of achieving any political goals.” Copies of these appeals were sent to the presidents of the European Parliament and the European Commission.

A week and a half later, the largest rabbinical organization in Europe, RCE (Rabbinical Center of Europe), signed by 50 European rabbis, officially sent a similar letter to Israeli President Isaac Herzog, which resulted in widespread coverage in Israeli, Ukrainian and various European media.

In response to the actions of the organized Jewish community, the Armenian diaspora in Europe launched a pressure campaign against rabbis who participated in public statements or signed letters. In addition, Jewish citizens of Yerevan also began to come under pressure (according to the Israeli radio of Israel, Kan, there are only about 200 Jews left in Armenia).

On September 11, Baku rabbi Zamir Isaev called on the last Jews in Armenia to leave the country and move to Azerbaijan, where he guaranteed them citizenship and security.

(Photo: Vacio, via Wikimedia Commons)

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Date: 5 October 2023
Reach: N. A.

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY
EST 1917

<https://www.jta.org/2023/10/05/global/armenian-synagogue-defaced-as-local-anger-over-israeli-arm-sales-to-azerbaijan-grows>

GLOBAL

Amid Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Armenian synagogue defaced and local anger over Israeli arms sales to Azerbaijan grows

BY GABE FRIEDMAN OCTOBER 5, 2023 4:55 PM



Red paint is seen on the front of the Mordechai Navi Jewish Religious Center in Yerevan, Armenia, Oct. 3, 2023. (Conference of European Rabbis)

<https://www.jta.org/2023/10/05/global/armenian-synagogue-defaced-as-local-anger-over-israeli-arm-sales-to-azerbaijan-grows>

(JTA) – Vandals threw red paint on an Armenian synagogue on Tuesday, in the latest sign of increasing tensions between Armenia and Israel as Israeli arms sales have fueled Azerbaijan’s offensive in the contested Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The paint was smeared on the Mordechai Navi Jewish Religious Center in Yerevan, what is thought to be the only synagogue in Armenia’s capital city. Most estimates put the number of Jews in Armenia at a few hundred.

The Conference of European Rabbis – an organization of Orthodox rabbis led by the exiled former chief rabbi of Moscow, Pinchas Goldschmidt – tied the act of vandalism to posts it shared from a nationalist Armenian group that had circulated on pro-Armenian social media pages at the time.

“The Jews are the enemies of the Armenian nation, complicit in Turkish crimes and the regime of Aliyev, stained with the blood of the Republic of Armenia and Artsakh,” one post read, referring to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev.

“The Jewish state provides weapons to Aliyev’s criminal regime, and Jews from America and Europe actively support him,” the post continued, according to the Conference of European Rabbis. “If Jewish rabbis in the United States and Europe continue to support Aliyev’s regime, we will continue to burn their synagogues in other countries. Every rabbi will be a target for us. No Israeli Jew will feel safe in these countries.”

Despite that threat, the Armenian synagogue that was defaced was not burned on Tuesday, according to reports and photos from the scene.

Israel and Azerbaijan have developed close relations in recent years, as Azerbaijan provides Israel with approximately 40% of its oil resources. According to reports, Israel supplied up to 70% of Azerbaijan’s military arsenal in the years leading up to 2020. The Associated Press reported on Thursday that Azerbaijani cargo planes were seen leaving Israel last month.

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Israeli officials have said that the arms relationship is partly due to Azerbaijan's geographic proximity to Iran, a country that routinely calls for violence against Israel. "We have a strategic partnership to contain Iran," Arkady Mil-man, Israel's former ambassador to Azerbaijan, told the AP.

Over the past two weeks, more than 100,000 ethnic Armenians have fled Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijani troops began fighting with Armenian rebels, reigniting of a conflict that flared in 2020 and left thousands of fighters dead. The region – which is part of Azerbaijan but has a population that is ethnically and culturally tied to Armenia – was also the site of a war in the 1990s, after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Armenian officials have begun to express concern over Israel's military support of Azerbaijan. "For us, it is a major concern that Israeli weapons have been firing at our people," Armenian Ambassador to Israel Arman Akopian told the AP. "I don't see why Israel should not be in the position to express at least some concern about the fate of people being expelled from their homeland."

Azerbaijan has also taken steps to to cultivate ties with global Jewish groups, including the Conference of European Rabbis, which is slated to hold a meeting in Baku in November. The Rabbinical Centre of Europe, a group of European rabbis associated with the Hasidic Chabad-Lubavitch movement, issued a statement last month condemning Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan for using the word "genocide" to describe the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Pashinyan also told Agence-France Presse that Azerbaijani troops have created "a ghetto" in the disputed region.

"Senior Armenian government officials... employed the language and comparisons that are appropriate solely to describe the deliberate, systematic and largest genocide in the history of mankind, which the Jewish people have been subjected to: The Holocaust," the statement read. "Such words as 'ghetto,' 'genocide,' 'Holocaust' and the like [are] in no uncertain terms inappropriate to be part of the jargon used in any kind of political disagreement. Usage of these terms belittles the terrible suffering experienced by the Holocaust victims and the entire Jewish people."

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ANTI-SEMITISM

2023: The resurgence of anti-semitism

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PUBLISHED 2 WEEKS AGO ON OCTOBER 6, 2023

By James Wilson



<https://www.eureporter.co/world/israel/anti-semitism-israel/2023/10/06/2023-the-resurgence-of-anti-semitism/>

110 years ago, in 1913, Mendel Beilis, a Jewish factory manager in Kyiv faced false accusations of murdering a Christian boy. The Beilis trial was one of the most high-profile cases of a blood libel against Jews – a prejudice that goes back to ancient times and has cost the lives of countless Jewish people. The trial was followed by a series of pogroms throughout the Russian Empire, which in turn triggered a wave of emigration of Jews from Russia.

Today we are witnessing a disturbing revival of a centuries-old practice that has taken on more sophisticated forms.

This week, a number of major Western media outlets, including **CNN**, **AP**, **The Globe and Mail**, **ABCNews** to name a few, simultaneously published materials suggesting that Israeli weapons played the main role in Azerbaijan's retaking of its territory of Karabakh from the separatists.

Do not be deceived: behind the sanitised phrases lies the same sinister innuendo: because of the actions of the Jews, Christians have suffered once again, tens of thousands of whom are forced to leave their homes.

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This resurgence of anti-semitism is damaging responsible journalism and threatening Jewish communities around the world. Recent events include an act of terrorism in Yerevan, where unknown assailants tried to burn the synagogue. Threats have also been made against Israeli Jews in Europe and America.

The Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA), an allegedly defunct terrorist organisation with a long history of violence, claimed responsibility for this heinous act. It is widely believed that the founding of ASALA was inspired by the murder of two Turkish diplomats on American soil: in 1973, an Armenian-American, Gorgen Yanikian, shot and killed the Turkish Consul General and Vice Consul in Santa Barbara.

This was not an isolated act of violence: in the 70s–90s Armenian terrorists killed Turkish diplomats and their family members in Los Angeles, in Sydney, Paris and other European cities, stating that their actions were in retaliation for the mass killing of Armenians in 1915 in the Ottoman Empire.

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ASALA was armed and trained by the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) terrorists during the 1980s in Lebanon and fought against Israel till 1982. So, there is nothing new in a message circulating on pro-Armenian social media, in which ASALA blames Jews and Israel for the events in Nagorno-Karabakh.

"The Jews are the enemies of the Armenian nation, complicit in Turkish crimes and the regime of Aliyev, stained with the blood of the Republic of Armenia and Artsakh," reads the text. It also provides an unambiguous clarification: "The Jewish state provides weapons to Aliyev's criminal regime, and Jews from America and Europe actively support him. Turkey, Aliyev's regime, and the Jews are the sworn enemies of the Armenian state and people."

The text also makes reference to a letter signed by dozens of European rabbis who criticised Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan for equating Azerbaijani actions with those of the Nazis during the Holocaust. "If Jewish rabbis in the United States and Europe continue to support Aliyev's regime, we will continue to burn their synagogues in other countries. Every rabbi will be a target for us.

No Israeli Jew will feel safe in these countries," Sapienti sat. Next month, on November 12-15, the Conference of European Rabbis' convention is set to meet in Baku, Azerbaijan. Threats have been made against the participating rabbis, including those who signed the petition criticising the Armenian PM. Given the past history of Armenian terrorism, they should not be taken lightly.

Against this background, the support the accusations of Armenian extremists receive from major Western publications raises uncomfortable questions. Are they unwittingly or, worse, intentionally instigating the possibility of new pogroms in the 21st century? Jews fit the role of the Other perfectly, especially given the long tradition of blaming them for every misfortune, from child murder to crop failure.

The alliance of Jews with a traditionally Muslim country seems to further amplify this effect: the two favourite bogeymen of European Christian civilisation have given rise to the most heinous manifestations of xenophobia. In the twenty-first century, it is awkward to remind people about journalistic ethics, about the responsibility of media for the sentiments they seed in public opinion. Sadly, it appears that these reminders have to be repeated over and over again.