

U.S. Azeris Network - USAN

Report of Activities



January 2014 – June 2015



Statement of Interest

The U.S. Azeris Network is fully supporting the UNGC goals as part of making the first nationwide attempt to bring all the Azerbaijani-American current and potential voters together, to educate them about the need for voting and thus voter registration, to engage them in the American political debate, to energize them to vote and be active on important issues facing the Azerbaijani-American community and the country at large, to link and unite the Azerbaijani-American voters to speak with one vigorous voice, to be heard in Washington D.C. and state capitals, and to be recognized as an influential voice on the issues pertaining to the Azerbaijani-American voters, particularly energy security, religious tolerance, racism, NATO, EU and WTO politics, humanitarian aid and technical assistance to the strategic ally nations, taxation, social security and healthcare.

As a relatively new group of “swing” or “undecided” voters, the up to 400,000 strong Azerbaijani-American community, concentrated primarily in the states of California, New York, New Jersey and Texas, together with other Turkic communities, such as the half-million strong Turkish-American voter block, along with Iranian-Americans of Azerbaijani Turkic heritage, and, Jewish-Americans (primarily Mountain Jewish) who came from Azerbaijan, presents a great opportunity as a new force in grassroots activism and voting in U.S. politics.

The U.S. Azeris Network (USAN) is a registered 501(c)(4) non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian genuine grassroots advocacy and voter education network that is facilitating political efforts and activism by Azerbaijani-Americans, other Turkic-Americans, and their associations, organizations, councils, conferences, and other formal, semi-formal and informal groups, on the federal, state and local levels of government. Created by grassroots for grassroots, USAN is the first nationwide organization of its kind uniting Azerbaijani-Americans.

USAN co-founders and Board of Directors are delighted to be able to report their ongoing support for the UN Global Compact through these practical actions, and willingly renewing their commitment to the initiative and its principles for the years ahead.



Introductory Message

Since its inception six years ago, the U.S. Azeris Network has worked tirelessly in its mission to introduce Azerbaijani-Americans to the democratic political process that they may enjoy as citizens of and voters in the United States of America. The list of endeavors undertaken to achieve that goal is a very lengthy one. For the last six years, our agenda has been filled with continuous grassroots advocacy letter and media campaigns, and thanks to our efforts, we have experienced unprecedented success, with (insert recent examples here).

During the first half of 2014 our efforts were focused on engaging in dialogue with experts at think tanks, conferences, seminars and other events regarding the Caucasus region. We experienced much success at these events in provoking positive and progressive dialogue on issues pertaining to Azerbaijan and its interests by asking questions, offering comments, and debating detractors. While we continued these efforts during the second half of 2014 and in 2015, we refocused our mission to have a stronger emphasis on traditional grassroots advocacy activities. Such activities include meetings with congressmen and senators on the hill, launching actions campaigns on our website and social media sites, and more.

As our record demonstrates, these sorts of activities are exactly what we specialize in here at U.S. Azeris Network, thus, our vast accomplishments come as no shock. We have....



U.S.-Azeris Network's activities thus far this year would not have been possible without the continued financial assistance from its supporters. We would like to thank them for both their past and future generosity, without which this organization could not effectively and efficiently function.

<http://usazeris.com/donate-to-usan/>

To remain updated on all USAN activities throughout the year, please follow our various media accounts below:

- Website:** <http://usazeris.com>
- Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/USAzerisNetworkUSAN>
- Twitter Account:** @USAzerisNetwork
<https://twitter.com/USAzerisNetwork>
- YouTube Channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/AzerisNetwork>



U.S. Azeris Network has spent the first half of the year planning, attending, and participating in various events pertaining to Azerbaijan's interests and the Caucasus region as a whole. USAN's engagement at these meetings has served two purposes. The first is the enhancement of our own cache of knowledge of Western interest in Azerbaijan and the Caucasus. The second, more critical objective is the facilitation of our primary goal of creating dialogue, which enhances public and professional knowledge of key interests aiding in Azerbaijan's global development.

Events

Conferences & Seminars

1. Sochi's Impact: Russia, the Caucasus, and Beyond
The Woodrow Wilson Center
Washington, D.C.
02/03/14
2. Book Discussion on "Afghanistan: A Distant War" by Robert Nickelsberg
Johns Hopkins SAIS
Washington, D.C.
02/05/2014
USAN Question Asked
3. Turkish Foreign and Security Policies: Problems and Expectations
The Middle East Institute
Washington, D.C.
02/06/14
USAN Question Asked
4. The Budget and Economic Outlook For the Fiscal Year of 2014-2024
The United States Senate
Washington, D.C.
02/11/14
5. Russia and the North Caucasus After the Sochi Olympics
The Jamestown Foundation
Washington, D.C.
02/14/14



6. The Limits of Partnership: U.S.-Russian Relations in the 21st Century
Georgetown CERES
Washington, D.C.
02/19/14
7. A Preview of the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit
G.W. Elliot School of International Affairs
Washington, D.C.
02/20/14
USAN Question Asked
8. No End in Sight: Syria's Refugees and Regional Repercussions
The Brookings Institute
Washington, D.C.
02/21/14
USAN Question Asked
9. A Conversation with Russian Minister of Economic Development Ulyukaev: Looking Forward
Georgetown CERES
Washington, D.C.
02/24/14
10. A Conversation with Georgia's Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili
The Atlantic Council
Washington, D.C.
02/25/14
11. Commemoration of the 22nd Anniversary of the Khojaly Tragedy
AFAZ on Capitol Hill
Washington, D.C.
02/28/14
12. A Time of Transition: Coalition Forces in Afghanistan's RC-Southwest
The Atlantic Council
Washington, D.C.
03/07/14



13. Conflict Prevention & Resolution Forum: Development Evaluative Learning Review of USAID/ CMM People to People Conflict Programs
Johns Hopkins SAIS
Washington, D.C.
03/11/14
14. Challenges to the Strategic Interests of the U.S. in Azerbaijan
Johns Hopkins SAIS
Washington, D.C.
03/12/14
15. A Conversation About Russia
The Center for Strategic and International Studies
Washington, D.C.
03/19/14
16. Mustafa Aksakal: Ottoman Perspectives on the First World War
Georgetown Center for German and European Studies
Washington, D.C.
03/20/14
17. In the News: Ukraine
Georgetown Mortara Center
Washington, D.C.
03/25/14
USAN Question Asked
18. Does Geography Affect Foreign Policy? The Case of Landlocked Azerbaijan
Georgetown Mortara Center
Washington, D.C.
03/26/14
USAN Question Asked
19. Anne Applebaum: Between East and West
The Atlantic Council
Washington, D.C.
04/03/14
USAN Question Asked



20. The Crisis in Ukraine: The Energy Factor
The Atlantic Council
Washington, D.C.
04/03/14
21. The Ukrainian Economy: After 20 Years of Underperformance, What Comes Next?
GWU Elliot School of International Affairs
Washington, D.C.
04/15/14
22. EU Progress Report on Eastern Partnership Status
The Wilson Center
Washington, D.C.
04/16/14
USAN Question Asked
23. The Role of the United States in International Organizations: A Discussion with Dr. Esther Brimmer
GWU Elliot School of International Affairs
Washington, D.C.
04/16/14
USAN Question Asked
24. Ukraine's Crisis, Russia's Policy, Western Responses
The Jamestown Foundation
Washington, D.C.
04/21/14
USAN Question Asked
25. Azerbaijan: Trusted Friend at the Critical Global Crossroads
Growing Economy: Energy and Beyond
AFAZ at The Willard Intercontinental Hotel
Washington, D.C.
04/30/14
26. Into the Fold or Out Into the Cold? NATO Expansion and Security After the Cold War
The Wilson Center
Washington, D.C.
05/02/14
USAN Question Asked



27. Nagorno-Karabakh: Keys to a Settlement
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Washington, D.C.
05/07/14
28. Russian Military Modernization and Military Operations in the Crimea, North
Caucasus, and Georgia
The Heritage Foundation
Washington D.C.
05/30/14
USAN question asked
29. The Security, Economic, and Human Rights Dimensions of Azerbaijan
The U.S. Helsinki Commission
Washington D.C.
06/11/14
30. War With Iran?
The Center for New American Security
Washington D.C.
06/13/14
USAN Question Asked
31. 11th Annual Golden Man of the Year Award Ceremony
Ipek Yolu Magazine and Strategic Research Center
Istanbul, Turkey
06/13/14
<http://www.sonhaber.nl/yasam/torunogullari-ipekyolunun-altin-adami-h30312.html>
<http://yenisafak.com.tr/ekonomi-haber/iki-bakana-altin-adamlar-odulu-16.06.2014-658367>
32. The Repercussions of the Russia Conflict on Moldova and the South Caucasus
The Jamestown Foundation
Washington D.C.
06/16/14
USAN Question Asked
33. How Has US Aid Reform Failed? Revisiting the Aid Agenda
Center for Global Development
Washington D.C.



06/19/14
USAN Question Asked

34. Energy Security in the Black Region
The Wilson Center
Washington D.C.
06/19/14
USAN Question Asked

35. The Iranian Nuclear Deal and the Impact on Its Neighbors
The Woodrow Wilson
Washington D.C.
06/24/14
USAN Question Asked

36. Managing the Risks Posed by Unauthorized Arms Transfers
The Stimson Center
Washington D.C.
06/24/14
USAN Question Asked

37. NATO in an Era of Global Competition
The Atlantic Council
Washington, D.C.
06/25/14

38. Reviewing the Administration's FY 2015 Budget Request for Europe and Eurasia
The House Foreign Affairs Committee
Washington D.C.
06/25/14

39. Russian Gas, European Security, and U.S. Policy
American Enterprise Institute
Washington D.C.
06/26/14
USAN question asked

40. Assessment of Russian Defense Capabilities and Security Strategy
Center for Strategic and International Studies
Washington D.C.
06/30/14



Testimonies

41. 6th Annual USAN Testimony to State and Foreign Operation Committees
U.S. House of Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C.
04/04/14
Testimony provided by Dr. Adil Baguirov (to be published in the U.S. Federal Register)

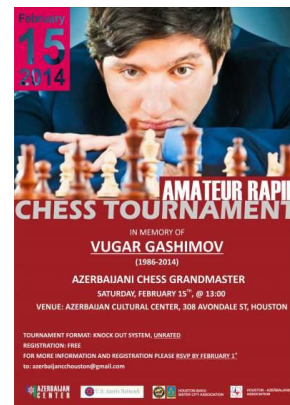
42. State Senate Committee on Resolution 9
Vermont State Senate
Montpelier, VT
04/28/14
Testimony provided by Yusif Babanly helped the shelving of the bill and improved knowledge of Vermont legislature on Nagorno-Karabakh region's occupation by Armenia
<http://www2.leg.state.vt.us/legdir/committeeinfo.cfm?CommitteeID=207&Sort=Witness>

Public Actions

43. Amateur Rapid Chess Tournament in Memory of Vugar Gashimov: Azerbaijani Chess Grand Master
USAN in collaboration with the Azerbaijan Center, the Houston-Baku Sister City Association, and the Houston-Azerbaijanis Association
Azerbaijani Cultural Center
Houston, TX
02/15/14

44. Annual Khojaly Massacre Commemoration and Vigil
Embassy of Armenia
Washington, D.C.
02/26/14
<http://youtu.be/fI7MBBE4AhU>
<http://youtu.be/Yx4Ebn3dQ0o>

45. “Ana Dili” Protest Demanding Equal Rights and Practice of Mother Tongue for 25 Million Ethnic Azerbaijanis in Iran
Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran





Washington, D.C.
02/26/14

- 46. History of the Ahiska Turkish Community: Reception & Photo Exhibit
USTN, The Karabakh Foundation & Ahiska Turkish American Community Center
Washington D.C.
02/27/14



- 47. Sumgait Counter-Demonstration Against the Armenian Lobby
Embassy of Armenia
Washington, D.C.
02/28/14

- 48. USAN's Second Meeting with Ambassador James Warlick – U.S. Co-Chair of OSCE Minsk Group
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C.
04/18/14 (Note: the first meeting occurred in 2013)



- 49. Rally in support of ethnic right in Iran and against “Persian Supremacy”
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C.
05/22/14



31. Annual Khojaly Demonstration



33. Sumgait Counter-Demonstration



Professional Development

In addition to engagement in various events, USAN has undertaken actions, which have enabled the professional development and growth of the organization. Such actions are as follow:

- Signed national partnership agreement between USTN and Nonprofit VOTE
- Composed new fact sheet regarding Russian intervention in Nagorno-Karabakh
- Researched and updated Azerbaijan Rankings fact sheet
- Annual Khojaly action campaign
- Aided USAN member in securing signed proclamation by mayor of Danbury, CT recognizing the Republic of Azerbaijan and the celebration of National Azerbaijan Day
- Sponsored “Dayton Patriots “ soccer team in Dayton, Ohio





Media

Finally, USAN has continuously been active in the media in order accurately voice the Azerbaijani perspective and enhance awareness.

- **Website Posts**
 - “Armenia: U.S. Friend or Russian Proxy?”
 - Increasing U.S. Efforts to Settle the Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict
- **Press Releases**
 - The Committee on Government Operations of Vermont State Senate holds a hearing on Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict
 - New York Congressmen Michael Grimm Indicted
 - Condolences to Turkish People and Victims of Soma Mine Collapse
- **Letter to the Editors**
 - Letter to Taras Kuzio regarding his article “Frozen Conflicts and Western Inaction”
 - Letter to Dylan Robertson regarding his article “Is Transnistria the ghost of Crimea’s future?”
 - Letter to Dr. James Coyle regarding his article “World Community Condemns Russia”
 - Letter to Roman Sohn regarding his article “Ukraine: The Empire Strikes Back”
 - Correction to Joerg Forbrig regarding his article “Will Ukraine’s Crimea region be Europe’s next ‘frozen’ conflict”
 - Correction to Amir Taheri regarding his article “Turkey’s Hundred Years of Identity Crisis”
 - Correction to Stefan Wolff regarding his article “Crimea Flashpoint Raises Stakes in Russia’s Regional Powerplay”
- **Other**
 - Correction to Minister of Europe David Lidington regarding his May 12th comments on Nagorno-Karabakh, resulting in the official letter of response from the British Foreign Office



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Events

Conferences & Seminars

1. NATO in the Caucasus: The Case of Azerbaijan
The Atlantic Council
Washington, DC
07/01/2014

1. Renewed Focus on European Energy Security
The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee
Washington, DC
07/08/2014

2. Energy Concerns & Options in Southeast Europe Following the G7
The Southeast Europe Coalition & The Richard G. Lugar Institute for
Diplomacy & Congress
Washington, DC
07/18/2014
USAN Question Asked



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- Researched and updated Azerbaijan Rankings fact sheet
- Board of Directors meeting with Congressman Connolly’s Office
- Board of Directors meeting with Congressman Griffith’s Office
- Board of Directors meeting with Congressman Ruppberger’s Office
- Sponsored “Dayton Patriots “ soccer team in Dayton, Ohio
- Composed new factsheet regarding Armenian destruction of cultural and religious heritage sites
- Composed new factsheet regarding Armenian terrorism in the US and abroad

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- **Website Posts**
 - Armenian Aggression media campaign on website and social media sites
 - Agdam occupation remembrance campaign
 - Srebrenica Massacre remembrance campaign
- **Press Releases**
- **Letter to the Editors**
 -
- **Other**
 - “Por qué y cómo cayó Agdam” article by USAN co-founder featured in Eurasia Hoy
 - “Marking a Day of Sorrow” article by USAN co-founder featured in The Hill
 - Letter on Sargsyan’s ballistic missile threat distributed to 15,000 journalists globally



We are so proud of all that we have accomplished this year, none of which would have been possible without the continued support of our members. In 2015, we will continue to serve them, other Azerbaijani-Americans, and the greater Turkic-American diaspora on the local, state, and national levels of governance. We will