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Report - 21

SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Visit to Azerbaijan

December, 2008

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## From the Chairman's Desk

The Report on Senate Foreign Relations Committee visit to Azerbaijan is of special significance. Azerbaijan emerged as an independent country in 1991 with the breakup of Soviet Union, along with five other Central Asian states. Pakistan recognized it shortly after its independence and opened diplomatic relations with resident ambassadors in the two capitals.

Azerbaijan is the largest of the Trans-Caucasus states in size and population. It is endowed with rich mineral and energy resources. It is a member of all the regional organizations as well as UN and the OIC.

Pakistan has pursued a policy of close and fraternal relations with all the states in the region. Its membership of SCO is motivated by its desire to forge close economic and political relations and work for the stability in the region.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee visit to Baku was in return for an Azerbaijan parliamentarians visit to Islamabad in December, 2006; and reflected the mutual desire to promote and deepen bilateral relations.

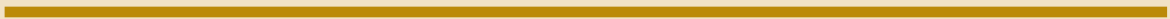
I trust, the report, as the previous ones, will constitute a useful addition to literature on Central Asia, and welcomed by analysts, researchers and those interested in the affairs of the region.



**Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed**



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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A delegation of 9 Senators of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee visited Azerbaijan from 6th to 10th July, 2008, on the invitation of the Azerbaijan Parliament. During its visit the delegation called on the President, the Prime Minister and the Chairman of Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan. The delegation held meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Industry and Energy, the Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for International and Inter Parliamentary Relations of Milli Mejlis, Members of the Pakistan-Azerbaijan Friendship Group, Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for Social Affairs, Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for Security and Defence and Vice Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party.

The first meeting of the delegation was held with Pakistan-Azerbaijan Friendship Group. Its Chairman, Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov, welcoming the delegation recalled that Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize Azerbaijan after its independence. After the earthquake of October 2005 in Pakistan, President Ilham Aliyev was the first leader to offer condolences to the President of Pakistan and the first Vice President of Azerbaijan visited Pakistan. Lady Mehrban Aliyev, the First Lady of Azerbaijan, donated a school in the earthquake affected area of Azad Kashmir. The people of Azerbaijan

will always remember Pakistan's offer of military assistance for the liberation of Azerbaijan's occupied lands and its support in the UN on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. The President hoped that the visit of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee delegation would further strengthen relations between the two countries. He invited Pakistan to send a delegation to monitor the Presidential Elections in Azerbaijan scheduled for 15th October 2008.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, leader of Pakistan Senate delegation stated that coming to Azerbaijan was like home coming. The two countries had consensus on many issues and Pakistan-Azerbaijan solidarity was a source of strength. In spite of the changes of governments in Pakistan, the position on Nagorno-Karabakh would not change. He said that countries which have visionary leaders like Quaid-e-Azam and Heydar Aliyev were successful in breaking the shackles of imperialism. He invited the New Azerbaijan Party to the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) to be held in Islamabad on 24-26 October 2008. He also thanked the First Lady of Azerbaijan for financing the building of a school in the earthquake affected area of Azad Kashmir.

Senator Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa conveyed greetings of Pakistan parliamentarians to the



Azerbaijan Parliament. He said that he was impressed with the 99% literacy rate of Azerbaijan and asked as to how it was achieved. Senator Wasim Sajjad thanked for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to the Pakistani delegation and referred to the commonality between the two countries in terms of their struggle for freedom. There was some commonality between the culture and the language as well as common interests and shared values.

The meeting between the Pakistan delegation and the Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for International and Inter Parliamentary Relations was held at the Milli Mejlis. Professor Samad Seyidov, Chairman of the Commission, thanked Pakistan for supporting Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed thanked Azerbaijan for supporting Pakistan's principled stand on Kashmir while Pakistan supports Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. He said that both the countries were in complete cooperation on all issues and since March 2004, Pakistan has posted a military Attache in Baku. Mr. Asim Mollazada stated that on 14th March, 2008, India voted against Azerbaijan at the UN on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

Mr. Hadi Rajabli, Chairman of the Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for Social Welfare, informed that Azerbaijan faced many problems after its independence. 70

percent of its population was below the poverty line and 20 percent of its population died in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. After independence, President Heydar Aliyev started his reform programme through the Milli Mejlis, which passed 30-50 laws each year. He said that the work of this Commission was supervised by the Chairman of the Milli Mejlis.

The meeting between the Pakistan delegation and the Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for Security and Defence was also held on 7th July 2008 at the Milli Mejlis. The Chairman of the Commission stated that Pakistan and Azerbaijan were tied together in a strategic partnership besides many agreements on bilateral relations. He recalled resolutions including one in the Council of Europe asking for withdrawal of Armenian troops from Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan desired to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh issue by peaceful means and requested Pakistan to raise the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly meeting to be held in November 2008.

Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that Pakistan does not recognize Armenia because it was an aggressor and Pakistan supports Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. He stated that defence cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan would be reinforced since a fulltime Defence Attache had been posted in the

### Pakistan Embassy in Azerbaijan.

In a meeting with Mr. Ogtay Asadov, Chairman of Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ogtay Asadov stated that Azerbaijan delegation that visited Pakistan in 2006 came back very satisfied and happy. The relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan were very deep rooted. He also recalled the speech of President Musharraf to the Milli Mejlis in 2004 where he said that Pakistan was ready to provide even military assistance to Azerbaijan. He thanked Mr. Mohammedmian Soomro, Chairman, Senate of Pakistan for visiting Baku in June 2008 for the 19th Independence Day celebrations of Azerbaijan. He also thanked Pakistan for supporting Azerbaijan and not recognizing Armenia. Senator Mushahid Hussain complimented Eldar Ibrahimov for being the architect of Pakistan-Azerbaijan relations. He informed the Chairman that a Conference on Pakistan-Central Asia and Caucuses is likely to be held either in Islamabad or Baku.

In the meeting between the delegation from Pakistan, Vice Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party Mr. Ali Ahmedov, Chairman of the Party stated that Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoyed fraternal relations based on commonalities, which would be further cemented by this visit. He reiterated Azerbaijan's unequivocal support for Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. Azerbaijan wanted relations between the two countries not only

in the political field but also to extend to economic and trade relations. Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that the two countries had three similarities. Both Pakistan and Azerbaijan were victims of foreign aggression. Both democracies were economically vibrant and believed in the supremacy of the ballot box. Both countries had leaders like Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Mr. Heydar Aliyev, who trans-formed their respective countries. Mr. Ahmedov said that in these times, justice was based on the power of force but Azerbaijan was trying to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh issue peacefully. Senator Mushahid Hussain stated that it was due to oil politics. The West had double standards, the UN resolutions on Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh had not been implemented while those on East Timor and Kuwait were implemented.

In their meeting with Mr. Natig Aliyev, Minister of Industry and Energy, the Minister stated that the 21<sup>st</sup> century was going to be a difficult century from the point of view of energy, food and environment. He informed that last year Azerbaijan exported 843,000 barrels of oil while this year the figure would touch 1 million barrels. Azerbaijan was self sufficient in energy resources, including electricity. There was longterm programme for transporting energy resources to other countries for which there are diversified supply routes. This year, gas production was more than 1 billion cubic meters and the total gas reserves of Azerbaijan are



2.3 trillion cubic meters. He offered cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pakistan on energy projects. Senator Mushahid Hussain thanked the Minister for offering technical support on oil exploration.

Senator Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa stated that he would request the Prime Minister of Pakistan to send a delegation to Azerbaijan for talks on oil, gas and electricity since it had surplus production of all three. Senator Nisar A. Memon stated that Pakistan had defence production units and Azerbaijan could benefit from those. Senator Talha Mahmood stated that the offer of sharing exploration expertise was very important and Pakistan should consider it. Senator Wasim Sajjad asked the Minister if, as an oil producing country, he was in favour of oil prices going up. Mr. Ali Ahmedov responded that high oil price was not due to any economic reason but was due to fight for resources and energy between the big powers. The current price of \$ 140 per barrel was not the real price and would stabilize between \$ 110-120 per barrel. He was of the view that the increase in price of oil was not helping the producers because they also faced higher prices for other goods that they imported and consumed.

The delegation from Pakistan also called on Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Senator Mushahid Hussain thanked the President for providing the delegation an opportunity to meet him. He

conveyed greetings from the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan to President Aliyev. He also thanked the President for building of a school in the earthquake affected area of Azad Kashmir by the First Lady of Azerbaijan, Madam Mehrban Aliyev. He wished success to President Aliyev in his election scheduled for 15th October 2008 as Azerbaijan and the region needed him. He reiterated Pakistan's stand on Nagorno-Karabakh and said that Pakistan had strategic bond with Azerbaijan. President Aliyev stated that Azerbaijan supported Pakistan's principled position on the Kashmir issue. He said that the voting on the UN Resolution on Nagorno-Karabakh showed who are friends of Azerbaijan. He felt that if OIC was strengthened the two countries would also be strengthened. Senator Nisar A. Memon suggested that Azerbaijan could send more officers for training to Pakistan's defence training institutions and invited Azerbaijan to the next Defence Industrial Exhibition. Senator Mushahid Hussain thanked the President for his valuable time. President Aliyev stated that Pakistan was one of Azerbaijan's closest allies.

The delegation also held a meeting with Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan. He said that political relations were very strong but economic and trade relations were not satisfactory. Senator Mushahid Hussain agreed that the relationship was lopsided. There was also scope for oil and energy cooperation. He said that





Pakistan was unfairly blamed for developments taking place in Afghanistan. Pakistan was fighting the war on terror in which it had lost more than 1000 Pakistani soldiers while Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was the victim of terrorism. Problems started when the US left Afghanistan and went to war in Iraq and out-sourced the Afghan war to NATO. After five years, they discovered that Afghanistan was the leading exporter of narcotics and the Afghan Government was confined to the city of Kabul only. Moreover, Pukhtuns in Afghanistan had been left in the lurch. The United States blames Pakistan for the West's failure in Afghanistan and wants Pakistan to do more. Afghanistan was important to the US because it borders Russia and China. Indians on the other hand, have a string of consulates along the Pakistan border in Afghanistan. He suggested that Afghanistan should have a broad-based government after elections next year. Talks should be held with Gulbadin Hekmatyar and other likeminded people. The NATO allies have no comprehensive policy on Afghanistan and they only act as a fire brigade. Corruption was endemic and the Afghans are involved. Militarily the war was not winnable. There had to be some new thinking. The policy of the United States after 9/11 has created more enemies for it.

Mr. Mammadyarov asked whether Senator Mushahid was suggesting that NATO should leave Afghanistan. Senator Mushahid said that there

should be new allies including Muslim countries or some Arab countries to look into the Afghan problem. Senator Latif Khosa stated that NATO forces were being looked upon as occupying forces and not as liberating forces. Senator Mushahid cautioned Azerbaijan to be careful as it was in a volatile neighbourhood.

The delegation also called on Mr. Artur Rasizade, Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Prime Minister welcomed the delegation and informed that he had worked with late President Heydar Aliyev for 35 years. He recalled the visit of President Musharraf to Azerbaijan in 2004 and President Ilham's visit to Pakistan in 2005. He expressed gratitude to the people of Pakistan for expressing solidarity with Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. He also talked about Azerbaijan's support to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. He said that the two countries had a Joint Ministerial Commission and the fourth meeting of that Commission would be held in Baku which should be instructed to achieve progress. He was of the view that only strong countries are taken seriously by the world community and the stronger Pakistan and Azerbaijan are, the more political weight they would have. He said that the main problem of Azerbaijan was the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh. 20 percent of Azeri territory was under the occupation of Armenia and there were one million refugees out of a total population of 8 million. Azerbaijan was endeavouring to solve



this problem by peaceful means but the destructive attitude of Armenia did not allow this.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed stated that it was a pleasure to meet a senior leader who helped in building a modern state in the Caucasus. He informed the Prime Minister that all the political parties of Pakistan were united and supported Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. He thanked Azerbaijan for its support to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. He agreed that states need to strengthen to protect national security. The mutual cooperation between the two countries was also a source of strength. Mr. Rasizade

stated that whatever party came to power in Azerbaijan it would have the same strong relations with Pakistan. Senator Nisar Memon congratulated the Prime Minister for the high economic growth rate achieved by Azerbaijan. He said that Pakistan had a strong defence including nuclear capability which was controlled by a capable Command and Control Authority. Pakistan had developed JF-17 Aircraft in collaboration with China which would subsequently be sold in the world market. He extended defence capabilities to Azerbaijan. The Prime Minister thanked the delegation for the offer of cooperation in the defence and economic fields.



Members of the Senate Foreign Relations  
Committee Delegation to Azerbaijan

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## Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Delegation to Azerbaijan

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A delegation of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee visited the Republic of Azerbaijan from 6th to 10th July 2008 on the invitation of Azerbaijan Parliament. The delegation which was led by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed spent four busy days and held meetings with various dignitaries of Azerbaijan which included the President of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, the Chairman of Milli Mejlis, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Industry and Energy, Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for International and Inter Parliamentary Relations, Members of the Pakistan-Azerbaijan Friendship Group, Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for Social Affairs, Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for Security and Defence and Vice Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party.

The following were the members of the delegation:

1. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed  
(Leader of the delegation)
2. Senator Wasim Sajjad
3. Senator Syed Tahir Hussain Mash'hadi
4. Senator Nisar A. Memon
5. Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq
6. Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood
7. Senator Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa
8. Senator Naeem Hussain Chattha
9. Mr. Iftikharullah Babar,  
Secretary Committee/Additional Secretary



## Verbatim record of the meetings held in Azerbaijan

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- Meeting with Pakistan-Azerbaijan Friendship Group
- Meeting with Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for International and Inter-Parliamentary Relations
- Meeting with Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for Social Affairs
- Meeting with Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for Security and Defence
- Meeting with Chairman of the Milli Mejlis (National Assembly)
- Meeting with Vice Chairman of New Azerbaijan Party
- Meeting with Minister for Industry and Energy
- Meeting with President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Meeting with the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan
- Meeting with the Prime Minister of Azerbaijan



## Meeting with Pakistan – Azerbaijan Friendship Group

July 7, 2008

Eldar Ibrahimov: Welcome to you on my behalf and on behalf of the members of the Pakistan – Azerbaijan Friendship Group. In 1995, the then-President Mr. Heydar Aliyev instructed me to develop relations with Pakistan. The first high level visit from Azerbaijan to Pakistan was in April, 1996 under President Heydar Aliyev. A number of agreements were signed between Pakistan and Azerbaijan during President Musharraf's visit to Azerbaijan from 8th to 10th June, 2004. Pakistan was the first country to recognize Azerbaijan. Pakistan has not recognized Armenia nor established diplomatic relations with that country. In March, 1993 when Pakistan was the President of Security Council it got a resolution passed on Nagorno-Karabakh. In April 2005, Ilham Aliyev paid an official visit to Pakistan. In December 2006 our parliamentary

delegation paid an official visit to Pakistan on your invitation. I would like to thank you for that visit and for arranging meetings with dignitaries of Pakistan. After the earthquake of October, 2005 President Ilham Aliyev was the first leader to offer condolences to President Musharraf and the first Vice President of Azerbaijan visited Pakistan. The President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, wife of President Ilham, initiated construction of a school in the earthquake affected area of Azad Kashmir and I visited Pakistan with her for the opening of that school.

Pakistan and Azerbaijan have so many similarities. We are Muslims and support each other in different forms. The people of Azerbaijan will always remember the speech of President Musharraf in the Azerbaijan



July 7, 2008: Meeting with Pakistan-Azerbaijan Friendship Group.



“The people of Azerbaijan will always remember the speech of President Musharraf in the Azerbaijan Parliament when he offered assistance, even military assistance for liberating our land. I am abundantly sure that your visit will further strengthen relations between our two countries.”

*Eldar Ibrahimov*

Parliament when he offered assistance, even military assistance for liberating our land. I am abundantly sure that your visit will further strengthen relations between our two countries. The present building of the Assembly was reconstructed under the supervision of the Chairman of the Milli Mejlis, Mr. Ogtay Asadov. The Chairman instructed me to make a special programme for your delegation. The Parliament is in summer recess so few members are present in the capital. Thank you once again for coming to Azerbaijan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: It is a great pleasure for Pakistan parliamentary delegation to visit Azerbaijan. For us, it is like coming home. We have consensus vision on many issues. Pakistan – Azerbaijan solidarity is a reality of Pakistan's foreign policy. We stress the principled position on Nagorno-Karabakh. In this delegation, five

political parties from Pakistan are represented and their position on Nagorno-Karabakh is one. Pakistan and Turkey were the first countries to recognize Azerbaijan after its independence. On 14th March, 2008 the UN General Assembly passed a resolution on Nagorno-Karabakh and Pakistan lobbied for its success. In spite of changes of governments in Pakistan the position on Nagorno-Karabakh remains the same. Mr. Ibrahimov accepted our invitation in 2006 and that visit was a turning point in our relations. The evidence of that visit is a report that we published. This visit is also path breaking because it is not for any conference or seminar.

Countries, sometimes, have visionary leaders to break the shackles of imperialism. Quaid-e-Azam and Heydar Aliyev were such leaders. We just paid tribute to Heydar Aliyev and his wife at the Alley of Honour. Since we are meeting the Pakistan – Azerbaijan Friendship Group, I would like to ask

“On 14th March, 2008 the UN General Assembly passed a resolution on Nagorno-Karabakh and Pakistan lobbied for its success. In spite of changes of governments in Pakistan the position on Nagorno-Karabakh remains the same.”

*Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed*



what steps should be taken to strengthen this relationship? On our side, I will request Senator Talha Mahmood to hold a conference on Azerbaijan in Pakistan.

We are grateful to you for your timely support to the earthquake victims in Pakistan and to the First Lady for financing the building of a school in Azad Kashmir. I was present at the Aiwan-e-Sadr in April 2005 for the dinner hosted by President Musharraf in honour of President Ilham Aliyev. President Aliyev spoke in English and I consider him the future leader of the region.

Eldar Ibrahimov: We are confident that on 15th October 2008, President Ilham Aliyev will be re-elected as President of Azerbaijan. We will invite you to witness that election. During the five years presidency of President Ilham, he has done a lot for the country and the people are happy with him. During the last four years the budget of Azerbaijan has reached \$16 billion. The parliament of Azerbaijan is also active under its Chairman, Mr. Ogtay Asadov. We adjudicated 1000 laws. The parliament has 11 Permanent Commissions or Committees. You have come with a big delegation and important people and we consider everyone a member of the Friendship Group. We are very happy with your choice of the delegation. You have brought the entire geographical and political map of Pakistan. Congratulations to Mr.

“You have come with a big delegation and important people and we consider everyone a member of the Friendship Group. We are very happy with your choice of the delegation. You have brought the entire geographical and political map of Pakistan.”

*Eldar Ibrahimov*

Abdul Hameed for his appointment as Ambassador of Pakistan to Azerbaijan. The President received his credentials within five days which shows Azerbaijan’s love for Pakistan.

Senator Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa: I, on behalf of the ruling party in the Federal Government and provinces, bring greetings to Azerbaijan. Both countries have gone through trials and tribulations. You are in the process of holding elections and we have passed that stage. We are impressed with your 99% literacy rate and we would like to emulate that. How was that achieved? It is the strength of any country. We are facing international inflation. We are looking for your guidance and support to our economy.

Eldar Ibrahimov: Thank you for the kind words. In October 1998, six members of the Pakistan Senate came to observe elections in Azerbaijan and this time too your group will come. We want brothers





July 6, 2008: Welcome Dinner hosted by Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov, Chairman of Pakistan-Azerbaijan Friendship Group.

and not strangers to come. You can also come and see the value other people give to the President of Azerbaijan.

Senator Wasim Sajjad: I would like to join Senator Mushahid and Senator Khosa to thank you for the hospitality and warmth shown to our delegation. This morning we were privileged to visit the Alley of Honour and pay our respect to the heroes of Azerbaijan and also witnessed history. Just as you had to struggle for your freedom we had to struggle for ours too and that is the commonality between the two countries. There is some commonality between the language and the culture as well. We have

many common interests and shared values and we should build on them to strengthen Pakistan – Azerbaijan relations. Thank You.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: We can speak for hours but we have another meeting at 1215 hours so we thank you once again for the warm hospitality extended to our delegation.

“Just as you had to struggle for your freedom we had to struggle for ours too and that is the commonality between the two countries.”

*Senator Wasim Sajjad*

## Meeting with Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis (Parliament) for International and Inter-Parliamentary Relations

July 7, 2008

Prof. Samad Seyidov, Chairman: I welcome all of you to Azerbaijan. Thanks to Pakistan for supporting Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. We congratulate Mr. Abdul Hameed, the new Ambassador of Pakistan, on assuming office in Baku. We should not forget our relations with Pakistan and we are working together in the OIC. Mr. Asim Mollazada who is sitting with me is an active member of the Committee. He has been to Pakistan and has many friends there.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Welcome back from a

successful visit abroad. We were the government and now we are the opposition but we have a majority in the Senate. We had a smooth dignified transition. Pakistan was the first country along with Turkey to recognize Azerbaijan after its independence. Pakistan does not recognize Armenia and will never do so. We speak with one voice on Nagorno-Karabakh. On 14th March, 2008 we together passed the first Resolution 882 on Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan has supported us on Kashmir and we are thankful to you for that. In April 1996, Mr. Heydar Aliyev visited Pakistan when Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was the



July 7, 2008: Meeting with Chairman, Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis on International and Inter Parliamentary Relations of Milli Mejlis.



July 7, 2008: Senator Mushahid Hussain presenting gift to the Chairman, Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis on International and Inter Parliamentary Relations.

Prime Minister. We have complete cooperation on all issues and since March 2008 Pakistan has posted a Military Attaché in Baku.

Asim Mollazada: Friendship between Azerbaijan and Pakistan is based on brotherly relations. On 14th March, 2008 India voted against Azerbaijan at the UN because we support the Kashmir issue and the resolutions on that issue.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Thank you for the time and hope to see you in Pakistan.

“Pakistan was the first country along with Turkey to recognize Azerbaijan after its independence. Pakistan does not recognize Armenia and will never do so. We speak with one voice on Nagorno-Karabakh. On 14th March, 2008 we together passed the first Resolution 882 on Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan has supported us on Kashmir and we are thankful to you for that.”

*Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed*

## Meeting with the Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for Social Affairs

July 7, 2008

Mr. Hadi Rajabli: Welcome to Azerbaijan. I hope you have a productive stay here. Azerbaijan faced difficulties after its independence. 70 percent of its population was below the poverty line. 20 percent of our population died in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The economy of Azerbaijan had collapsed as it was integrated in the economy of Soviet Union. After independence, reforms started and President Heydar Aliyev brought transformation to our country. These reforms were started through Milli Mejlis. The Mejlis adopted a law about health insurance and law on the status of displaced persons. Every year the Mejlis enacts about 30 to 50 laws. Our Commission is part of the International Commission

on Social Affairs, therefore members of our Commission go to different organizations to know their policies. We are training to attract different NGOs to study the problems of different groups. Our Social Affairs Commission is a difficult place to work in and the Chairman gives special attention to its work.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: It is a pleasure to be here and the pleasure has increased manifold because we are meeting an old friend. Your Commission is quite representative as it has members from different groups like education, sports and environment, etc. Thank you for your time and the very informative briefing.



July 7, 2008: Meeting with Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for Social Affairs.



## Meeting with Permanent Commission of the Milli Mejlis for Security and Defence

July 7, 2008

Chairman: Welcome to Azerbaijan. It is a great honour to receive you today in the Milli Mejlis. I am glad to say that relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan are friendly and close. Azerbaijan and Pakistan are members of many organizations. I would like to avail this opportunity to thank Pakistan for its support to Azerbaijan in the UN on 14th March, 2008 on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. I am grateful to Mr. Mohammedmian Soomro who came to Baku to participate in the 19th Independence Anniversary of Azerbaijan. Pakistan and Azerbaijan are tied in a strategic partnership. Many agreements have been signed between the two countries on different occasions. Pakistan is assisting Azerbaijan in training

officers and Azerbaijan is assisting Pakistan in fighting terrorism.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Thank you for receiving us today. We feel at home. Defence and foreign affairs are inextricable part and I am member of the Defence Committee of the Senate too. I also lecture at defence training institutions. Pakistan and Azerbaijan face similar militancy problems in Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh respectively. In both the cases Security Council Resolutions have not been implemented. On 14th March, 2008 we supported Azerbaijan in the UN. We do not recognize Armenia because it is an aggressor. The defence cooperation between Pakistan and Azerbaijan will reinforce as a full time Defence



July 7, 2008: Meeting with Security & Defence Affairs Commission of Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of Azerbaijan.



Attaché has been posted in Baku since March, 2008.

Let me brief you on our security situation. When India went nuclear in May, 1998 Pakistan followed suite but there is a difference between the two. India went nuclear for status, wanting to be a big power. It had no security threat from any country in 1998. Pakistan went nuclear because of security. We faced threat, war and aggression. It is deterrence against the balance of power in South Asia. Size does not equal strength, so we went nuclear. The delegation that I am leading has different shades and opinions but has the same view on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. It is a classic example of unity in diversity. Since you are also the Vice President of the Parliament I want to congratulate you for this beautiful building.

Chairman: Thank you for your kind words and for supporting us on Nagorno-Karabakh. We know that there are UN Resolutions on Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh and both have not been implemented. 20 percent of Azerbaijan territory is occupied by Armenia. Four Resolutions have been adopted since 1993, including the one in the Council of Europe asking for withdrawal of Armenian troops from Azerbaijan. We want this problem to be resolved by peaceful means. If talks fail we cannot stop thinking about a new resolution. You are with us and we are with you, therefore, we need to strengthen this relation. We expect that you will talk about this in NATO Parliamentary Assembly in November 2008 in Valencia, Spain. I hope this visit will be the first and not the last one. Thank you very much.



## Meeting with H.E. Ogtay Asadov, Chairman, Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan

July 7, 2008

Mr. Ogtay Asadov: Welcome to Azerbaijan and the Milli Mejlis. Our delegation has already been to Pakistan and the members came back very satisfied and happy. The relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan are very deep rooted. I have been a member of Milli Mejlis a number of times but I will never forget the occasion when President Musharraf while addressing the Milli Mejlis said that Pakistan is ready to provide any assistance including military assistance to Azerbaijan. We have a Joint Ministerial Commission between our two countries. Very recently, Mr. Mohammedmian Soomro was in Baku for the 19th

Independence Day celebrations of Azerbaijan. We thank him for that. You will notice that our country is developing. Economic growth is 30 percent and cannot be compared to any country. We are thankful to Pakistan for supporting Azerbaijan and not having diplomatic relations with Armenia. We know that justice is on our side. All the countries of the world support the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Once again, I welcome you to Azerbaijan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: I bring special greetings from the Chairman of the Senate and Speaker of the National



July 7, 2008: Meeting with Mr. Ogtay Asadov, Chairman of Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of Azerbaijan.

“Our delegation has already been to Pakistan and the members came back very satisfied and happy. The relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan are very deep rooted. I have been a member of Milli Mejlis a number of times but I will never forget the occasion when President Musharraf while addressing the Milli Mejlis said that Pakistan is ready to provide any assistance including military assistance to Azerbaijan.”

*Mr. Ogtay Asadov*

Assembly. I must congratulate you on installing high-tech gadgets and adopting good parliamentary practices. I must thank Eldar Ibrahimov for being the architect of Pakistan – Azerbaijan relations. We support your cause because we feel a certain bond with Azerbaijan. We expressed complete solidarity with Azerbaijan because Armenia is the aggressor. All the political forces are united on providing full support to Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. We will send a delegation for the next Azerbaijan presidential elections to be held in October, 2008.

Mr. Ogtay Asadov: The West is burying down the elections in Azerbaijan as against Georgia. President Ilham is doing his work

for the election. He brought down the poverty level to 10 percent. He also introduced a new 4-year programme for the development of Azerbaijan. We are interested that many friends should come to Azerbaijan to see the elections and say what they see. We trust in Allah and should tell the truth. The First Lady of Azerbaijan constructed a school in the earthquake stricken area of Azad Kashmir. In our childhood we saw Indian and Pakistani movies and there was similarity of culture and Soviet propaganda exposed you as one nation. Previously, we could not distinguish between Pakistan and India but later it became clear. We did not expect India to vote against Azerbaijan at the United Nations. Some Turkish speaking countries remained neutral but Iran which voted against us previously stayed neutral this time. Things are clear now and we know who our friends are and who are not. Azerbaijan has always supported Pakistan on Kashmir and we want peaceful solution of the issue. Nobody benefits from war. I want both countries to solve this problem.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Your people are looking after us very well. Azerbaijan’s role is very important because in the 21st century countries will be driven by economy and energy. Senator Talha Mahmood is the President of Pakistan, Central Asia and Caucuses





“Azerbaijan has always supported Pakistan on Kashmir and we want peaceful solution of the issue.”

*Mr. Ogtay Asadov*

Group and will hold a Conference in Islamabad or Baku.

Our visit has been productive as we have decided that an election mission will come to Baku for the October 2008 Presidential Elections. A conference on Pakistan, Central Asia and Caucuses will be held either

in Islamabad or Baku. We need your patronage and guidance and you are a doer, so you can do this. When the East was enlightened the people of the West were coming out of the jungle. The world is round and everything will come back again.

Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq: Out of the 10 books that I teach in the last semester at my Madrassah 8 are authored by scholars from Central Asia.

Mr. Ogtay Asadov: In my personal opinion there is no mediator between Allah and the people. There should be some centre point which will unite all Muslims. All problems are created



July 7, 2008: Senator Mushahid Hussain presenting Report of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to Chairman of Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan Mr. Ogray Asadov.



July 7, 2008: A group photo with Mr. Ogtay Asadov, Chairman of the Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan.

in the Muslim world and it is coordinated from the centre of the Christian world. In the 1980s a meeting between Gorbachev and Reagan was held in the Adriatic Sea and we learnt that they discussed issues including Pakistan and Islam. The problem is that we do not have one centre.

Senator Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa: Conflict of civilizations is a reality. That is how Sunni and Shia came about.

Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq: Shia and Sunni were created by the

Jews while the Christian world will not let us unite. Istanbul was our centre for 800 years but who broke that centre. Of course, the Christians and the Jews did it. They did not want us united in Makkah. Saudis and Iranians have their own interests.

Senator Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa: The OIC is the best centre to unite at.

Mr. Ogtay Asadov: In the 62nd session of the United Nations, 98% Muslim countries supported us. This is why we invited Muslim countries to the 19th Anniversary of Azerbaijan



Independence starting from Indonesia. We should be united and should support each other in some forum including the OIC. Last time, somebody deleted the Azerbaijan – Armenia conflict from the agenda of the OIC.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: You are a scholar and a deep thinker and have love at heart for the Muslims. Thank you for receiving our delegation and giving us time for this meeting.

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## Meeting with Mr. Ali Ahmedov, Vice Chairman, New Azerbaijan Party

July 8, 2008

Mr. Ali Ahmedov: Welcome to our Party office. People of Azerbaijan appreciate your visit to their country. You have great people in your delegation. Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy fraternal relations and these will be further cemented by this visit. Azerbaijan really needs to strengthen relations with Pakistan. Pakistan was the first country to recognize Azerbaijan after independence. I appreciate Pakistan's support to Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. Our fraternal relations are based on commonalities between the two nations. People of Azerbaijan always express love for the people of Pakistan. Azerbaijan unequivocally supports Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. We want Pakistan to be a developing and flourishing country. I strongly believe that this

“Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy fraternal relations and these will be further cemented by this visit. Azerbaijan really needs to strengthen relations with Pakistan. Pakistan was the first country to recognize Azerbaijan after independence. I appreciate Pakistan's support to Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.”

*Mr. Ali Ahmedov*

visit will help in further developing fraternal relations between our two countries. I believe that under the present circumstances, it is difficult for a country to move issues in the international fora, therefore we should get together for a united stand on issues. I believe that our relations will not only be political but economic relations and trade will also improve. I welcome you once again and the people of Azerbaijan are your friends and sincere to you.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: It's a great pleasure and privilege to be in Azerbaijan. This relationship has been transformed into a strategic relationship. We have three similarities:

1. Both Pakistan and Azerbaijan are victims of foreign aggression and UN Resolutions are yet to be implemented. Pakistan has a consistent and strong position on Nagorno-Karabakh. We do not recognize Armenia and condemn its aggression. Our policy on Nagorno-Karabakh is above party lines. No matter what government is in power the policy on Nagorno-Karabakh will be the same. Pakistan helped in the passage of the UN Resolution on Nagorno-Karabakh. We are grateful to you for your support on Kashmir.

2. Both democracies are economically vibrant and believe in the supremacy of the ballot box. The delegation that is meeting you comprises of members from five political parties. This year is important for both the countries. We had elections on 18th February and you will have

“Azerbaijan unequivocally supports Pakistan on the Kashmir issue.”

*Mr. Ali Ahmedov*

Presidential Election on 15th October. We are honoured that you invited Pakistan delegation for monitoring the elections. We will send a five member delegation.

3. We both have leadership which transformed our two countries, namely, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Heydar Aliyev.

Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov is the architect of Pakistan – Azerbaijan relations and the report that I just presented to you gives an account of his visit to Islamabad.



July 8, 2008: Meeting with Mr. Ali Ahmedov, Vice Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party.



“There are double standards. UN Resolutions on Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh are not implemented while those on East Timor and Kuwait have been implemented.”

*Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed*

Mr. Ali Ahmedov: The delegation is really a rainbow as it represents all shades of opinion and regions of Pakistan. Some countries are trying to give us lessons in democracy but Asia has its own democratic values. However, their number is less. Now they are changing their position towards Azerbaijan. Today, justice is based on the power of force but

we are trying to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh issue peacefully. Now we realize that this issue is there because of the West's bias in the region. It is similar to the Kashmir problem.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: It is oil politics. Justice based on force should be restricted. There are double standards. UN Resolutions on Kashmir and Nagorno-Karabakh are not implemented while those on East Timor and Kuwait have been implemented.

Mr. Ali Ahmedov: We also consider Eldar Ibrahimov the architect of Pakistan – Azerbaijan relations. We are your trusted friends. Thank you very much.



## Meeting with Mr. Natig Aliyev, Minister of Industry & Energy

July 8, 2008

Mr. Natig Aliyev: Welcome to Azerbaijan and to the Ministry of Industry & Energy. The 21st century is going to be a difficult century from the point of view of energy, food and environment. Azerbaijan is trying to use its natural resources for the benefit of its people and I hope it is successful in that. Presently, we are exporting oil and gas. Last year, we exported 843,000 barrels of oil and this year it is going to be one million barrels. We are self sufficient in energy resources including electricity. Our target is 10,000 MW generation. We have long term programme for transporting energy resources and we have diversified the supply routes. This year, our gas production was one billion and 7 million cubic meters. We have 2.3 trillion cubic meters gas reserves. President Heydar Aliyev used to say that Azerbaijan will use its own gas which will be sufficient for 100 years. We have excellent relations with Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. We have no energy project with Pakistan but we will be glad to cooperate. I believe we do not have much information about each other's potential. We have rich experience in oil exploration. We have companies working in India, Iraq and many other countries. So we can share our experience in this field. There are new approaches to exploration and we should share them.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Thank you for receiving us and offering technical support on oil exploration. Pakistan is located in a key area and it is driven by economy and energy. We are the shortest outlet to the landlocked Central Asian Republics. The example of Azerbaijan's development is outstanding and Pakistan can learn a lot from it.

Senator Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa: I will request the Prime Minister of Pakistan to send a delegation to Azerbaijan for talks on oil, gas and electricity as you have surplus production of all three.

“We have no energy project with Pakistan but we will be glad to cooperate. I believe we do not have much information about each other's potential. We have rich experience in oil exploration. We have companies working in India, Iraq and many other countries. So we can share our experience in this field. There are new approaches to exploration and we should share them.”

*Mr. Natig Aliyev*

“I will request the Prime Minister of Pakistan to send a delegation to Azerbaijan for talks on oil, gas and electricity as you have surplus production of all three.”

*Senator Sardar Muhammad Latif  
Khan Khosa*

Senator Nisar A. Memon: We agree that today the world is facing energy and food shortages. We are happy to see the progress you have made and growth is phenomenal. Pakistan has experience in oil refineries and oil and gas marketing companies. Pakistan's 25% GDP is

contributed by the industry. Pakistan has defence production units and since you are our brother, you have equal access to that. We are pleased to be here and received by you.

Senator Talha Mahmood: The offer of sharing exploration expertise by you is very important and Pakistan should consider that. Electricity is a big issue in our country. We need your help on energy resource conference.

Senator Wasim Sajjad: As an oil producing country, are you in favour of oil price going high?

Mr. Ali Ahmedov: The high oil price is not due to any economic



July 8, 2008: Meeting with Mr. Natig Aliyev, Minister for Industries and Energy of Azerbaijan.





phenomenon. It is basically a fight for resources and energy between the big powers. The cost of

“Pakistan is located in a key area and it is driven by economy and energy. We are the shortest outlet to the landlocked Central Asian Republics. The example of Azerbaijan’s development is outstanding and Pakistan can learn a lot from it.”

*Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed*

producing oil is going up and it is expensive to drill. OPEC has increased production but it has not helped in decreasing price accordingly, as the decrease is only \$ 2.43 per barrel. The current price of \$ 140 per barrel is not the correct price of oil. It will stabilize at \$ 110-120 per barrel. The increase in price of oil is not helping the producers because they also face higher prices for other goods that they consume.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Thank you very much for receiving the delegation and giving us your valuable time.

## Meeting with H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

July 8, 2008

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Thank you, Excellency, for providing us an opportunity to meet you. We are enjoying our stay in Azerbaijan and we have learnt a lot since the time we arrived. The President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan have sent their regards to you. I recall you made a good speech in English at the President's banquet at Islamabad. The gift of a school by the First Lady in the earthquake affected area in Azad Kashmir is a good gesture.

We have a representative delegation of five political parties and we have decided to send a five-member delegation to monitor your election on 15th October, 2008. You are needed by Azerbaijan, Pakistan and the region. We pray that you are re-elected. Pakistan stands with Azerbaijan on the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh and we do not recognize Armenia. We also supported you in the General Assembly of the United Nations. We have strategic bonds with Azerbaijan.



Baku, July 8, 2008: Meeting between the Foreign Relations Committee, Senate of Pakistan and H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan.



“Pakistan stands with Azerbaijan on the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh and we do not recognize Armenia. We also supported you in the General Assembly of the United Nations. We have strategic bonds with Azerbaijan.”

*Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed*

Mr. Ilham Aliyev: We support you on the Kashmir issue. The UN Resolution regarding Nagorno-Karabakh made things very clear. We now know who voted for us and who did not vote for us. India voted against us. Pakistan and Azerbaijan need to further strengthen their ties. If we are strengthened in OIC, we will be strong.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Your ambassador in Islamabad, Dr. Eynulla Madatli, is doing a good job. Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov is the architect of Pakistan–Azerbaijan relations. We feel that Azerbaijan is the country which has changed the style of leadership. We pray for your long life and want you to serve your country.

Mr. Ilham Aliyev: If my father were here at the time of collapse of the USSR, we would not have lost the territory. We are following his policies.

Senator Nisar A. Memon: Although we are in the opposition we voted for the Prime Minister in the National Assembly. It was a unanimous election.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: I and Senator Khosa spoke with one voice in Berlin in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Conference. We have diversity in Pakistan but there is unity in diversity. We will learn from your experience in the Baku-Tbilisi- Ceyhan Pipeline Project.

Mr. Ilham Aliyev: We have 4 pipelines going to Russia, Iran, Turkey and Georgia.

Senator Nisar A. Memon: The United States and Russia supported your pipelines.

Mr. Ilham Aliyev: They did not support but went along.

Senator Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa: We met your Minister for Industry and Energy and we asked him for help in oil, gas and electricity. We want to smooth out the effect of higher prices. I will ask the Prime Minister of Pakistan to send a delegation to Azerbaijan for

talks on energy issues. We can help you in defence matter.

Mr. Ilham Aliyev: We will do whatever we can. Georgia will have problems as it does not have energy resources. We had a meeting at Astana and we asked the Russian President to do something about energy prices because other prices also go up. We kept diesel prices at 50 cents per liter and we are also providing subsidy to our people.

Senator Nisar A. Memon: We are happy to know about your vision of the future. We have 300 slots in defence training courses. Two delegates from Azerbaijan came to the Defence Exhibition in Pakistan.

“We support you on the Kashmir issue. The UN Resolution regarding Nagorno-Karabakh made things very clear. We now know who voted for us and who did not vote for us. India voted against us. Pakistan and Azerbaijan need to further strengthen their ties. If we are strengthened in OIC, we will be strong.”

*Mr. Ilham Aliyev*

I hope you will send a delegation to the next exhibition.



Baku, July 8, 2008: President Ilham Aliyev with the delegation of Foreign Relations Committee, Senate of Pakistan.



Mr. Ilham Aliyev: I visited the Defence Exhibition in Pakistan myself.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Senator Talha Mahmood is the President of the Pakistan, Central Asia and Caucuses Group and he will hold a conference in three months time on the region. We are your friends and if we

strengthen each other it will be good for our two countries.

Mr. Ilham Aliyev: Pakistan is one of our closest allies. I hope you will enjoy your stay in Baku.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Thank you very much for giving us your valuable time. It was an honour to be with you.



## Meeting with Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan

July 9, 2008

Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov: Welcome to Azerbaijan. Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy brotherly relations. There have been high level visits in the past. President Heydar Aliyev and President Ilham Aliyev have visited Pakistan while President Musharraf visited Azerbaijan. The economic and trade relations are not very strong.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: We agree that the relationship is lopsided. Political relations are excellent but economic and trade relations are not strong. There is also scope for oil and energy cooperation. We support each other in the international fora. Pakistan

supported Resolution 882 on Nagorno-Karabakh at the United Nations while Azerbaijan supports Pakistan's position on Kashmir.

On Afghanistan we are concerned because we are blamed unfairly for the developments taking place in that country. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was a victim of terrorism and we have lost more than 1000 Pakistani soldiers in FATA, fighting the war on terror. Problems started when the US left Afghanistan and went to war in Iraq. They outsourced the war to NATO. After five years, they discovered that Afghanistan is the leading exporter of narcotics and the Afghan Government is confined



July 9, 2008: Meeting with Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan.

to Kabul only. Pukhtuns in Afghanistan have been left in the lurch. Corruption is endemic and the Afghans are involved. The US blames Pakistan and says that it should do more. In Iraq they failed too, but Afghanistan is important to the US because it borders Russia and China. Indians have a string of consulates along the Pakistan border in Afghanistan. It took NATO one year to appoint an envoy for Afghanistan.

The wayout is that Afghanistan should have a broad-based government after elections next year. They should talk to the insurgents like the US talked to insurgents in Fallujah and elsewhere. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar can also be reached out. The NATO allies and the West have

no comprehensive policy on Afghanistan and they only act as a fire brigade. There is no monitoring of funds coming into Afghanistan.

Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov: Afghan issue is a serious one.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: What is OIC doing?

Senator Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa: There are Afghan refugees in Pakistan. We wanted to fence the border but the Afghans resisted. America has the best monitoring facilities, therefore, it should monitor the Pak-Afghan border. If NATO forces pull out Karzai Government will fall like a house of cards.





Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Militarily the war is not winnable. British and Soviets could not overpower Afghanistan in the past. Six neighbours of Afghanistan have no territorial designs on its territory. There has to be some new thinking. The policy of the United States after 9/11 has created more enemies for it. The new Government of Pakistan is moving cautiously and reviewing its policy.

Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov: US know that with huge resources they will not win.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Pakistan is the only country which will stay as we are neighbours of Afghanistan, while the others may leave and go. The Iraq war was pushed by some people around the White House. The battle is being waged by the neocons in Washington and we in Pakistan are facing the brunt of all this. Russia, China and Iran might gang up. The US is under pressure and cannot leave.

Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov: Are you suggesting that NATO should leave Afghanistan?

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: There should be new allies including Muslim countries or some Arab countries.

Senator Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa: NATO is not being taken as a liberating force but as an occupying force.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Azerbaijan is an important country and has a volatile neighborhood, therefore, you should be careful. But we are your friends and a phone call away.

Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov: Thank you for your words. We consider you as one of our closest ally. Pakistan has emerged stronger after many crises.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Thank you for your valuable time and for receiving the delegation.





## Meeting with H.E. Artur Rasizade, Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan

July 9, 2008

Mr. Artur Rasizade: Pleased to meet you all. Welcome to Azerbaijan. You are leading a very high level delegation to Azerbaijan and I hope that you are enjoying your stay in Baku. I worked with late President Heydar Aliyev for 35 years continuously. The Prime Minister of Hungary was in Azerbaijan last week and he asked me if I had been to Hungary and I said I had visited Hungary when probably he was not born. We have good relations with Pakistan. I remember the visit of President Musharraf in 2004 when we had detailed discussions with him. Our President visited Pakistan in 2005.

I would express deep gratitude to the people of Pakistan for expressing solidarity with Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. While meeting different delegations abroad we mention about Pakistan's principled stand on Nagorno-Karabakh. We also remember Pakistan's support to Azerbaijan on the UN Reso-lution concerning Nagorno-Karabakh. Please convey our great gratitude to your leadership. We know about the problem of Kashmir and we support Pakistan. Pakistan is one of the closest allies of Azerbaijan and when you are in trouble we are concerned but unfortunately economic relations are not satisfactory.

The two countries have a Joint

Ministerial Commission and the fourth meeting of this Commission will be held in Baku and we should instruct them to achieve some progress. Only strong countries are taken seriously. The stronger Pakistan and Azerbaijan are the more political weight they will have. The economy of Azerbaijan is growing for the last ten years and a number of projects are being implemented in the country.

The main problem for Azerbaijan is the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh. Twenty percent of our territory is under occupation. There are one million refugees out of a population of 8 million. We are trying to solve this problem by peaceful means but the destructive attitude of Armenia does not allow this. We should also not forget about other means to solve this issue.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: It is a pleasure to meet a senior leader who helped in building a modern state in the Caucuses. I carry greetings from the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan to your good self. Our visit is a determination of the fact that we attach importance to the strategic relations with Azerbaijan. We want to express gratitude for the school donated by Lady Mehrban Aliyev, the First Lady of Azerbaijan to the earthquake affected people of Azad Kashmir.



“I would express deep gratitude to the people of Pakistan for expressing solidarity with Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. While meeting different delegations abroad we mention about Pakistan’s principled stand on Nagorno-Karabakh. We also remember Pakistan’s support to Azerbaijan on the UN Resolution concerning Nagorno-Karabakh. Please convey our great gratitude to your leadership. We know about the problem of Kashmir and we support Pakistan. Pakistan is one of the closest allies of Azerbaijan and when you are in trouble we are concerned but unfortunately economic relations are not satisfactory.”

*Mr. Artur Rasizade*

I want to express a few things which matter most to us. On Nagorno-Karabakh our stand is very clear and all the political parties of Pakistan are united on this issue. We have not recognized Armenia and have no relation with it. The mutual support to each other's cause has reinforced our principled stand on Nagorno-Karabakh as Azerbaijan has a principled stand on Kashmir. The Joint Ministerial Commission met in February, 2007 and we hope that it will take concrete steps in

Baku in 2008 to make progress on the 2007 agenda. Pakistan has given the names of the members of the working group but response from Azerbaijan is awaited. You are right that economic potential has great scope and products like cement and sugar, etc. can be provided by Pakistan.

Mr. Artur Rasizade: We have already sent the names.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: The third point is that states need to strengthen to protect national security. Both Pakistan and Azerbaijan have faced similar situation. There have been foreign aggressions on both countries. President Ilham told us that Azerbaijan is increasing its defence budget significantly. Our mutual cooperation is also a source of strength. Diplomacy is the first line of defence and now we want to learn from Azerbaijan regarding energy resources and its potential. The 8-member five parties delegation may have political difference in Pakistan but we speak with one voice on issues and all the political parties support your principled stand on Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mr. Artur Rasizade: Whatever party comes to power in Azerbaijan we will have the same relations with Pakistan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: On 14th March, 2008 the Prime Minister of Pakistan instructed the Foreign Office to lobby for the



UN Resolution 882 in favour of Azerbaijan. Excellency, before we leave, I wish to tell you that I have been a University Professor and a Journalist. You have worked with Hayder Aliyev for 35 years, therefore, you must write a book for posterity. I will not say, "when you retire", but I say, "if you retire".

Mr. Artur Rasizade: It is difficult.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: In our country Generals and Journalists do not retire.

Senator Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa: But politicians and lawyers also do not retire.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: You must write. The world will be at a loss if you do not write.

Mr. Artur Rasizade: I remember there was a delegation from the US Congress which called on President Hayder Aliyev. A Congressman asked him, if, instead of Gorbachev, he came to power in the USSR will the country stay? I will write about it in the book what was his reply.

Senator Nisar A. Memon: It is an honour to meet an institution-like

person. I want to congratulate you for the high economic growth rate achieved in Azerbaijan. Since both leaders have talked about peace, I would say, "work for peace but develop your defence". We have strong defence including nuclear capability which is controlled by a strong 'Command & Control Authority' put in place by President Musharraf. Pakistan has developed JF-17 Aircraft in collaboration with China which will later be produced in Pakistan and can be sold to friendly countries. We wish to extend our economic and defence capabilities to Azerbaijan. We have a training programme with Azerbaijan in the defence field but we are ready to offer more. I will mention something about Mushahid Hussain Sayed. He was a leftist student leader in university days and then he became the youngest Editor of an English newspaper.

Mr. Artur Rasizade: Thank you very much for your offer of cooperation in the defence and economic fields.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed: Thank you very much for giving us your precious time.



## Appendix

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- Pakistan - Azerbaijan Relations



## Pakistan-Azerbaijan Relations

### Azerbaijan - Country Profile:

Pakistan recognized Azerbaijan shortly after its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991. Diplomatic relations were established in 1992. Pakistan's embassy was opened in Baku in March 1993. Pakistan and Azerbaijan enjoy close relations characterized by a common cultural heritage, shared perceptions on major global and regional issues and cooperation at international forums.

Azerbaijan is located south of the Caucasus Mountains. It shares borders with Russian Federation, Georgia, Armenia and Iran. The south Caucasus states (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) served historically as a north-south and east-west trade link between Europe, Middle East and Asia. Oil and natural gas resources in Azerbaijan attracted outside interest. After the Russian Empire collapsed in 1917, the three states declared independence but by early 1921 all had been re-conquered by Russia's Red (Communist) Army. They regained independence when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Azerbaijan, the easternmost and the largest of the trans-Caucasus states in size and in population, has the richest combination of agricultural and industrial resources of the three states. Although Azerbaijan is

included in the three-part grouping of the trans-Caucasus countries, it has more in common, culturally, with the Central Asian republics east of the Caspian Sea than with Armenia and Georgia. In 1924, the Soviet Union also created the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region within Azerbaijan, an enclave whose population was about 94% Armenian at that time and remained about 75% Armenian in the late 1980s.

Azerbaijan is a member of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), regional alliance GUAM, Council of Europe (CE), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), NATO partnership for Peace Program, and Conference on Interaction & Confidence Building in Asia (CICA). It maintains close interaction with European Union (EU) and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

### Political Situation:

Internally, Azerbaijan enjoys political stability. The President's ruling party won the parliamentary elections held on 6 November 2005. The opposition only managed to secure a handful of seats but staged widespread protests against electoral rigging and sought international support for their cause. Organization for



Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) criticized the election but the US, by denouncing violent means of protest, refrained from any involvement.

#### Pakistan-Azerbaijan Relations: High Level Bilateral Visits:

At first, presidential visits were exchanged in 1995-96. President Sardar Farooq Laghari visited Baku in 1995 followed by the visit of President Heydar Aliyev to Islamabad in 1996. The President of Pakistan visited Azerbaijan from 8-10 July 2004. Azerbaijan's President, Ilham Aliyev paid a return visit to Pakistan in April 2005 which served to enhance bilateral relations. The Prime Minister of Pakistan visited Azerbaijan to attend the ECO Summit held in May 2006. Earlier, the former President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Heydar Aliyev visited Pakistan twice - first in March 1995 to attend ECO Summit and the second in April 1996.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz visited Azerbaijan in May 2006 to attend the 9th ECO Summit. On the sidelines of the Summit, the Prime Minister received the Azeri Minister for Defence Industry, Mr. Yavar Jamalov and invited him to pay an official visit to Pakistan to explore opportunities of enhancing Pak-Azeri cooperation in production and procurement of defence equipment. Azeri Minister of Defence will explore possible cooperation in the field of defence production.

During the 4th JMC held at Islamabad on February 6-7, 2007, the co-chairperson of Azerbaijan, Mr. Yagub Eyyubov, Deputy Prime Minister, called on the former Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and highlighted the excellent and longstanding relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, characterized by a spirit of brotherhood and solidarity. The ground breaking ceremony of the administrative building of Azerbaijan Embassy was also held during this visit.

A 6-member parliamentary delegation of the Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan headed by Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov, Chairman of the Azerbaijan - Pakistan Parliamentary Working Group and head of Standing Commission on Agrarian Policy, visited Pakistan from Nov. 28 to Dec. 3, 2006 on the invitation of Mr. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Some other visits included a pharmaceutical delegation from Pakistan to Baku (9-12 November 2006) and Azeri tourism team's participation in the "Visit Pakistan Year Celebrations (14-17 December 2006)".

The Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov paid a three days visit to Islamabad to attend the 34th session of the Islamic Countries Foreign Ministers' (ICFM) Conference, which was held



in Islamabad on 15-17 May 2007. At the conclusion of the 34th session, the participants adopted the Islamabad Declaration which, inter alia, urged the Armenian armed forces to immediately vacate occupied Azeri land. Lately, Chairman Senate, Mr. Mohammedmian Soomro visited Azerbaijan on the occasion of the Azerbaijan anniversary. During his visit he called on, among others, the Foreign Minister and the President.

#### Security Defence Cooperation:

Security cooperation is an important facet of bilateral relations. Pakistan has been training Azeri armed forces personnel. Pakistani Chief of Naval Staff visited Azerbaijan in September 2003. The two countries have signed 18 bilateral agreements including an agreement on cooperation in military and defence fields signed in Karachi on September 17, 2002. The Defence Agreement includes, inter alia cooperation in the fields of military training, exchange of personnel and information and use of facilities.

The Chief of the Defense Forces of Azerbaijan Lt. General Najam Uddin Sadikov paid a four-day visit to Islamabad from February 5-8, 2007 along with a three-member delegation. During their visit, the Azeri Chief of Armed forces held meetings with the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Ehsan ul Haq and the Chief of Army Staff, General Ahsan Saleem Hayat

and discussed issues of bilateral interest. The Azeri Army Chief also met Air Chief Marshal Tanvir Mahmood Ahmed.

Azeri high-level two-member Defence Delegation of experts visited Pakistan to participate in IDEAS 2006 held in Karachi on November 21-24, 2006. The delegation showed keen interest in the purchase of defence equipment from Pakistan. The visit of the experts was aimed at assessing the manufacturing capabilities of the Pakistani defence industries and at exploring the possibilities for future cooperation.

The 36th PN Staff Course participants visited Baku from 12-15 March, 2007. During their visit, the participants visited various military training institutions and were briefed on the system of training of military personnel in Azerbaijan. Besides a briefing at the Naval Headquarters, they also visited the Shipyard and the Sangachal Oil Terminal.

The post of Military Attaché to the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Islamabad was established in December 2006 with the concurrence of the Government of Pakistan. A post for the counterpart as Defence Attaché of Pakistan to the Republic of Azerbaijan has been approved and an officer is to be posted shortly.

A two-member delegation headed by Major General Muhammad



Mustafa Khan, Director General (Analysis) ISI, visited Baku and held important meetings.

Federal Minister for Defence, Ch. Ahmad Mukhtar has invited his Azeri counterpart, Colonel General Safar Abiyev to visit Pakistan with a view to strengthen cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries. This visit would be a reflection of the strong desire to maintain tangible and exemplary military and defence cooperation.

**Nagorno-Karabakh Issue:**

The separatist conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh re-emerged in 1988 when Gorbachev's Glasnost was spreading throughout Soviet Union. This conflict since then has resulted in over 15,000 casualties and mass displacement of refugees. Around 20% of Azerbaijan's territory is controlled by NK Armenian forces. The OSCE's "Minsk Group" (co-chaired by the United States, France and Russia) of concerned member states began talks in 1992. A Russian-mediated ceasefire was agreed upon in May 1994 and was formalized by an armistice signed by the ministers of defence of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the commander of the NK Army on July 27, 1994.

Since 2005, media in both countries have reported negotiations on a fourth "hybrid" peace plan to return most of the NK border areas, prior to a referendum in NK on its status. Talks in France in February 2006

between the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents made little progress.

Transport and communication obstructions and stoppages have severely affected economic development in both the countries and stymied the region's emergence as an East-West and North-South corridor. Since 1989, Azerbaijan has obstructed railways and pipelines traversing its territory to Armenia. Azerbaijan's Nakhichevan exclave is blockaded by Armenia.

**Pakistan's position on Nagorno-Karabakh Issue:**

Pakistan has extended unqualified support to Azerbaijan in its dispute with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh. As an expression of solidarity with Azerbaijan, Pakistan has not established diplomatic relations with Armenia. Azerbaijan supports Pakistan's principled position on the Kashmir dispute. Azerbaijan has however, established diplomatic relations with India.

Presidential elections were held in the Nagorno-Karabakh region on July 19, 2007. Pakistan did not accept the outcome of these (illegal) elections. Pakistan maintains that Armenia must immediately and unconditionally withdraw its forces from Nagorno-Karabakh and other territories occupied by it.

President Musharraf visited Baku in July 2004 and stated that Pakistan would continue to extend full





support to Azerbaijan till the sovereignty of Azerbaijan is restored over Nagorno-Karabakh and other territories illegally occupied by Armenia.

During President Ilham Aliyev's visit to Pakistan in April 2005, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz assured President Ilham of Pakistan's continued support to Azerbaijan till the conflict is resolved in accordance with the principles of justice and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. He also reiterated that Pakistan was opposed to forcible occupation of territory and the dispute must be resolved amicably through negotiations.

President Farooq Ahmed Khan Laghari paid an official visit to Azerbaijan in October 1995. The President re-affirmed Pakistan's support to Azerbaijan and called for a peaceful resolution of the conflict according to the aspirations of the Azeri people and the United Nations Security Council resolutions. The President restated Pakistan's support to Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict while addressing the Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of Azerbaijan.

Pakistan has a long history of supporting their Azeri brothers on international fora including United Nations and OIC. Pakistan supported the Azeri move for inscription of Nagorno-Karabakh on the United Nations General Assembly Agenda in 2004. As a result of Pakistan's

lead role, a consensus also evolved among the OIC countries to support Azerbaijan. The Azeri government expressed its deep gratitude to Pakistan for its support and leading role.

During 1993, while Pakistan was member of UN Security Council, 4 resolutions (822, 853, 874 and 884) were adopted on Nagorno-Karabakh issue which called for immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from all occupied Azeri territories. This is a manifest to our serious support.

During the 22nd ICFM and 7th OIC Summit, held in Casablanca (13-15 December 1994), Pakistan fully supported the resolution that showed grave concern over the serious escalations of aggression by the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijan and strongly urged Armenia to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

Pakistan has once again shown her commitment by supporting the resolution in the United Nations General Assembly by Azerbaijan, entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan". The resolution was passed on 14th March, 2008.

#### Economic Situation:

Azerbaijan inherited large state-owned enterprises specializing in products assigned by the Soviet system: petroleum-based and textile



industries in Azerbaijan. Investment in oil and gas resources has fueled economic growth in Azerbaijan in recent years.

Azerbaijan's economy is grappling with widespread poverty and unemployment. The country has 6 billion barrels of proven oil reserves and 30 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves. Despite huge energy reserves, nearly 30% of population still lives below the poverty line. Since last year, economy has seen rapid development with visible improvement in macro-economic indicators. Oil production is expected to reach 1 million barrels per day this year (2008).

Azerbaijan is an emerging economy, growing at unprecedented scale (34.5% in 2006) owing to huge investments in oil and gas sectors. Gross Domestic Product grew 26 percent last year, the fastest rate in the world. Azerbaijan's foreign exchange reserves have risen fivefold since 2005 and are expected to reach US\$ 6.5 billion this year (2008). The foreign debt burden is low at 7.7 percent of GDP. However, the double digit growth in budgetary expenditure has kept the inflation rate high. (Independent observers rate it at double the officially put digit of 16.4%). New currency (Manat) introduced last year is now equal in value to Euro.

Windfall oil profits are being stored in the State Oil Fund of Azerbaijan (Sofaz). The balance of Sofaz stands

at \$ 2.5 billion and will triple within five years as production climbs at Azeri and the new Shah Deniz oil and condensates development. World Bank estimates that US\$ 200 billion will accumulate in the fund by 2025.

Our bilateral economic and commercial profile does not reflect true potential. Bilateral trade for July 2006 till December 2007 was US\$ 17.5 million. Pakistan's exports were US\$ 9.7 million and imports were US\$ 7.8 million. The low level of bilateral trade owes to a variety of reasons including non-availability of a direct land route, strict visa regime imposed by the Azeri Government on Pakistani nationals as well as suspension of air services between the two countries. There have also been instances of harassment of Pakistani nationals, who have entered Azerbaijan after obtaining visa.

The diplomatic and official passport holders have already been exempted from visa requirement. Efforts to simplify and liberalize the visa procedures for businessmen and citizens are underway. The proposal for the establishment of a Joint Business Council is being considered. A draft agreement for establishing a Joint Business Council was handed over to Azeri side during the 4th JMC session. The reply from the Azeri side is still awaited. The Council will boost trade volume between the two countries.



During the 4th Session of the JMC, the co-chairpersons emphasized that businessmen of both sides should be motivated to establish long-term business relations by availing abundant business opportunities prevailing in our two countries. Since 2003, several Pakistani business delegations have visited Azerbaijan. Our pharmaceutical companies have started exporting their products to Azerbaijan. Some have established their offices/agents in Baku.

#### Joint Ministerial Commission:

Established on 25th October 1995, the Joint Ministerial Commission is an effective instrument to explore more opportunities in the interest of bilateral cooperation. These meetings indicate the readiness of the two sides to forge stronger and mutually beneficial partnership in different fields.

The 4th Session of the Joint Ministerial Commission was held at Islamabad on 6-7 February 2007 in which a seven-member delegation from Azerbaijan, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Yagub Eyyubov participated. The Azeri delegation included the ministers of defence, communication and education as well. Our former Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Mr. Amanullah Khan Jadoon, was the Co-chairperson of JMC.

During their discussions, the two sides agreed to cooperate in the energy, telecommunication, agriculture, textile and tourism

sectors. Both sides agreed to set up a joint working group, which will monitor and ensure implementation of decisions taken in the Joint Ministerial Commission.

The Pakistani side offered assistance in planning and management of water resources, hydro power projects, land irrigation and construction of small dams. The services of Nespak and skilled labour including doctors and engineers were also offered.

#### Oil & Gas Reserves:

Azerbaijan is endowed with vast proven oil and gas reserves. The country's known reserves of petroleum are mainly located in offshore fields in the Caspian Sea. Azerbaijan is utilizing the newly built Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline to transport oil to the Turkish port of Ceyhan via Tbilisi in Georgia. Azerbaijan intends to build another pipeline to carry gas from Baku to Erzurum in Turkey via Tbilisi.

The U.S. Energy Department reported estimates of 7-13 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, and estimates of 30 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves in Azerbaijan (Country Analysis Brief, June 2005). The U.S. supported building the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline and supports constructing a gas pipeline to export Azerbaijani gas.

The Caspian energy resources have invited international attention.



Russia has tried to play a major role in future oil production and transportation in the Caspian Sea region. At the May 2002 US – Russia Summit, the two presidents issued a joint statement, endorsing multiple pipeline routes, implying Russia's non-opposition to plans to build oil and gas pipelines from Azerbaijan to Turkey that do not transit Russia. In March 2004, however, Russian desires of ensuring that the greatest volume of Caspian energy flowed through Russia came to surface.

The Silk Route revival efforts:

To facilitate a land route between Pakistan and Europe via Azerbaijan, Pakistan has approached Transport Corridor Europe, Caucasus and Asia (TRACECA) that has been established to revive the old Silk Route. TRACECA Headquarters in Baku has been approached for Pakistan's membership. The land route became functional in October 2003, when a convoy carrying relief goods for Afghanistan arrived in Kabul from Brussels.

Other Areas of Mutual Cooperation & Assistance:

A Memorandum of Understanding to rationalize the rates as well as to further enhance the cooperation in information technology and telecommunication sector is under consideration in the relevant ministries of both the countries for an early finalization.

A delegation of Azerbaijan

participated in the Donors' Conference held in Islamabad on November 18, 2005. The total amount pledged by Azerbaijan for earthquake relief is US\$ 1.5 million. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation of Azerbaijan completed the construction of the Government High School for Girls at the Rara near Muzaffarabad. The inauguration ceremony was held on February 9, 2008 and graced by Mr. Eldar Ibrahimov, Chairman of the Standing Committee of National Assembly of Azerbaijan and Head of the Azerbaijan – Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group.

A team of five Azeri journalists working for Azerbaijan Television, the Russian dailies "Zerkalo" and "Echo" and Azeri daily "Ayna" visited Pakistan from 7-15 March, 2007. During their stay they visited Islamabad Policy Research Institute, Lok Virsa Museum and other historical places.

PIA and AZAL started their weekly flights between Baku and Karachi in April 1995 but were discontinued in May 1998 due to less passenger traffic and high oil prices. A branch of the National Bank of Pakistan Ltd. was opened in Baku in July 2005.

The National University of Modern Languages (NUML) and the Nakhichevan State University (NSU) of Azerbaijan agreed to set up chairs at each other campuses in the names of their eminent personalities. The two universities



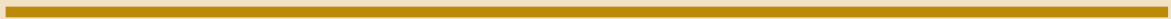
have also agreed to share their scientific and academic research, participate in scientific and cultural conferences, symposiums and seminars.

Since 1993, Pakistan has been offering various training courses in the fields of diplomacy, information technology, English language, agriculture, forestry, banking,

railways and telecommunication. So far 41 diplomats have been trained at the Foreign Service Academy, Islamabad while 10 students have attended various courses at the Postal Staff College, Islamabad. Since 1998, over 50 Azeri military officers have been trained in different armed forces institutions of Pakistan.



## PHOTO GALLERY





July 7, 2008: Visit of Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of Azerbaijan.



July 7, 2008: Visit/Briefing at Heyder Aliyev Foundation.



July 7, 2008: Senator Mushahid Hussain signing visitors book at Heyder Aliyev Foundation.



July 7, 2008: Visit of the Mausoleum of President Heyder Aliyev in Baku.





Profiles of the Chairman and  
Members of the Senate Foreign  
Relations Committee

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## Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed

(PML - Federal Capital)  
Chairman of the Committee

Mushahid Hussain Sayed is currently a Senator and Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate. He is also Secretary General of the Pakistan Muslim League. He has been a Cabinet Minister, Journalist, university teacher and political analyst. As Information Minister from 1997 to 1999, Mushahid Hussain was the country's principal spokesman and appeared frequently on international television and radio channels to present Pakistan's position on issues ranging from nuclear weapons to Islam and foreign policy. He was also Leader of Pakistan's Delegation to the UN Human Rights Commission at Geneva in 1993.

After October 12, 1999, Mushahid Hussain was held without any charges as a political prisoner for four-hundred and forty (440) days, including a period in solitary imprisonment. The world's leading human rights organization, Amnesty International, declared him a 'Prisoner of Conscience' making him the first such Pakistani to be honoured for the year 2000.

Mushahid Hussain has a Master's degree from the School of Foreign Services in Georgetown University at Washington. While studying in the US, he was President of the Pakistan Students Association and was awarded a Congressional Internship to work in the United States Congress. After completion of studies in the United States, he returned to Pakistan and became Member, Directing Staff of the country's prestigious training institution for civil servants, the Pakistan Administrative Staff College, training new diplomats. He then joined Pakistan's oldest seat of learning, the Punjab University, as Lecturer on International Relations in the Political Science Department, from where he along with three other teachers was removed on political grounds during Martial Law.

In 1982, at age 29, he became the youngest Editor of national English daily, 'The Muslim', published from capital Islamabad, which was respected for its independent positions.

As a specialist on international political and strategic issues, he has lectured widely and his articles have been published in various national and international publications including 'The New York Times', 'The Washington Post', 'International Herald Tribune', and 'Middle East International'. He was elected Co-Chairman of the NAM Media Conference of 100 countries, held in New Delhi in December 1983 and he is the first Pakistani journalist to have started a syndicated column in the Indian media, writing regularly in the 'Times of India' and the 'Hindustan Times' in 1989.

Mr. Mushahid Hussain is the author of three books. He is also Chairman of the Board of Governors of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), a leading Think Tank.

He is also the Vice President of the Centrist Democrat International (CDI) Asia – Pacific Chapter. On January 27, 2006, he was awarded Congressional Medal of Achievement by the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines. He served as Pakistan's Representative to the 15-member Commission of Eminent Persons of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) tasked with preparing a Plan of Action & Reforms for the Muslim World by the Summit of Islamic Leaders held in Malaysia in October, 2003.

### Membership of the Senate Committees:

- Committee on Foreign Relations, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas (**Chairman**)
- Committee on Defence and Defence Production.
- Functional Committee on Government Assurances.

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- Functional Committee on Human Rights.
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## Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi

Foreign Minister  
Ex-Officio Member

- Academic Qualification: M.A. (CANTAB)
- Educational Institutions attended:
  - (i) Aitcheson College, Lahore, Pakistan
  - (ii) F.C. College, Lahore, Pakistan
  - (iii) Cambridge University, U.K.
- Marital status: Married with three children.

### **Political Positions:**

- Federal Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Pakistan (1994 – 96)
- Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Food and Agriculture, Pakistan (1993 – 94)
- Minister for Planning and Development, Punjab, Pakistan (1988 – 90)
- Minister for Finance, Punjab, Pakistan (1990 – 93)
- Chairman, Prime Minister's Task Force on Agriculture (1993)
- Chairman, Institutional Reforms Group, Government of Pakistan (1994 – 96)
- Deputy Secretary General, Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan (1997)
- Spokesman to the Chairperson, Pakistan Peoples Party, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto (1996)
- Member, Central Executive Committee, Pakistan Peoples Party (1997)
- Chairman, Policy Planning Committee, Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan
- Chairman, Multan Development Authority (2001)
- Chairman Market Committee, Multan (2001)
- President, PPP – Punjab (2006)
- President Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (ARD), Punjab



**Senator Wasim Sajjad**  
(PML - Federal Capital)  
Member

Mr. Wasim Sajjad was born on 30th March, 1941. He went to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar in 1964 from where he obtained the Degrees of M.A. (Jurisprudence) and B.C.L. He is a Barrister-at-Law from the Inner Temple London and an Honorary Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford.

He has a highly distinguished career in politics and public service and has held the offices of :

**President of Pakistan** (July to November, 1993 and December, 1997 to January, 1998).

**Chairman, Senate of Pakistan** (24<sup>th</sup> December, 1988 to 12th October, 1999). Elected in 1988 and re-elected in 1991, 1994 and 1997.

**Federal Minister for Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs** (September, 1986 to December 1988). Has also held the portfolio of the Federal Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control.

**Leader of the House** in the Senate of Pakistan, 2003 - 2008.

**Leader of the Opposition** in the Senate of Pakistan, 1988.

He was elected as Senator from Punjab on a technocrat seat in 1985. Re-elected in 1991, 1994, 1997 and 2003. As a Lawyer by profession, he is presently heading his own law firm (Sajjad Law Associates) having its Head Office in Islamabad.

He is also the President of the Foundation for Advancement of Science & Technology and Chancellor of the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences.

Mr. Wasim Sajjad has travelled extensively and visited over fifty countries. He is married and has three children.

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**Senator S. M. Zafar**  
(PML - Punjab)  
Member

Senator S. M. Zafar is a prominent lawyer and former Federal Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Pakistan. He is involved with various aworks and is Chairman of the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency - PILDAT's Board of Advisors, Chairman of the Human Rights Society of Pakistan as well as of the Senate Committee on Human Rights. He was President of the High Court Bar Association Lahore (1975) and President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (1979). He is also Chairman of the Cultural Association of Pakistan. Senator Zafar has visited the US, Canada, UK, France and Germany. He enjoys farming and has three sons and a daughter.

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**Senator Muhammad Ali Durrani**  
(PML - Punjab)  
Member

Senator Muhammad Ali Durrani, former Minister for Information and Broadcasting, is a leading political activist and grass roots organizer of his party who founded the youth movement "Pasban". He was Secretary General of the National Alliance, a coalition partner of the ruling party. He is also the President of the Wise Education Society and Women Welfare Society. He is the Founder of the Institute of Afghan Affairs (1985) and Education for All (EFA). He has launched campaigns for the Kashmir cause, free employment (1997), Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust Hospital, collective marriage ceremony, true freedom (2000), and for relief on foreign debt (2001). He played a leading role in the establishment of IJI (1988), Millat Party, National Alliance and the Grand National Alliance. Senator Durrani has visited Europe, Asia and Africa and is married with three sons and a daughter.

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Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmad  
(MMA - NWFP)  
Member

A world renowned research scholar, an educationist, an economist, a versatile writer and a preacher of Islam, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad was born on March 23, 1932 at Delhi, India. He holds a Bachelors degree in Law and Jurisprudence, Masters degrees in Economics and Islamic Studies and an Honorary Doctorate (Ph.D) in Education. Prof. Khurshid Ahmad has held the portfolio of the Federal Minister of Planning and Development and has been Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission in the Government of Pakistan from 1978 to 1979. He has written around 30 books in English, over 20 in Urdu and contributed to a large number of magazines. Senator Ahmed was elected as member of the Senate in February, 2003, and is a member of the Senate's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Affairs. He previously served as member of the Senate from March 1985 till March 1997. During that tenure he was also Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs from 1991 till March, 1997. He is Vice President (Naib Ameer) of Jama'at-e-Islami Pakistan and Founder and Chairman of both Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad and the Islamic Foundation, Leicestershire, UK.

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Senator Nisar A. Memon  
(PML - Sindh)  
Member

Senator Nisar A. Memon is the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defence & Defence Production. He is also the former Chief Executive of the IBM Pakistan. Mr. Nisar Memon previously served as Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting three times (1993, 2002 and 2007); as President of the Overseas investors chamber of Commerce & Industry Pakistan (1994); and as Chairman Board of Directors, Engro Chemicals Limited, Pakistan (2001-2002). He is a Syndicate member of Karachi University and President of The Reformers. Senator Memon has visited Europe, USA, Canada, Middle East, Africa and Central Asia. He is married with two daughters and enjoys reading and playing Golf.

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**Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq**  
(MMA - NWFP)  
Member

Senator Sami-ul-Haq completed education from Jamia Darul Uloom Haqqania Akora Khattak, and received a degree in Tafseer from spiritual leader Maulana Ahmad Ali Lahori. He was awarded an honorary degree from Darululoom Deoband India and Jamia Makka Muazzama, serving as Chancellor and Teacher of Hadith. Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq is a central leader of MMA and runs Dar ul Uloom Haqqania, a religious seminary at Akora Khattak, NWFP. He is also the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Religious Affairs and Minorities Affairs, and has been serving in the Senate of Pakistan since 1985. Senator Sami-ul-Haq is the Secretary General of the JUI-S, and Senior Vice President of the Islamic Democratic Alliance. He is Founder and Secretary General of the National Uniformity Council (A common council of all religious political parties). He is also the founder of the monthly Jamia Haqqania Al-Haq, and has authored several religio-political books in Urdu.

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**Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood Aryan**  
(MMA - NWFP)  
Member

**Membership of the Senate Committees:**

- Standing Committee on Interior (Chairman).
- Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Resources.
- Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas.
- Functional Committee on Government Assurances.

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Senator Sardar M. Latif Khan Khosa  
(PPPP - Punjab)  
Member

Senator Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa, Attorney General of Pakistan, is one of the country's leading lawyers who has actively defended constitutional and political cases of his party leadership. He was President of the High Court Bar Association thrice (1981-82, 1987-88, 1995-96), Member Pakistan Bar Council since 1995, Chairman Executive Committee P.B.C. (1995-96), Chairman Appeal Committee Punjab-1 (1996-2000) and Member Tribunal P.B.C. (1995-2000). He is a Lifetime Member of the High Court Bars of Lahore, Multan and Rawalpindi. He is also lifetime Member of the Supreme Court Bar Association, and Chairman of Khosa Law Chambers. Senator Khosa has visited the USA, Canada, France, UK, China, Ireland, Dubai and Saudi Arabia. He is married with four sons and two daughters and enjoys cricket, and music.

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Senator Gulshan Saeed  
(PML - Punjab)  
Member

Senator Gulshan Saeed, Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping, is a long-standing political activist and she runs an NGO called Roshan Pakistan. She is currently the Vice President of the Women's Wing of Pakistan Muslim League, and member of its General Council. She has held assignments of Punjab Social Welfare Board, Bait-ul-Mal Punjab and Chairman Zakat Committee Lahore. Senator Gulshan Saeed has visited the UK, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, France, Holland and USA. She is married with two sons and two daughters.

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Senator Col (R) Syed Tahir Hussan Mash'hadil  
(MQM - Sindh)  
Member

**Education:**

- BSC (Hons)
- PSC (Command and Staff Course Quetta)

**Achievements:**

- Ex-Chairman, District Karachi East.
- Ex-Town Nazim, Jamshed Town, Karachi.
- Columnist, Political Analyst, articles frequently appear in leading English language newspapers and periodicals.
- Retired Army Officer.

**Membership of Senate Committees:**

- Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges. **(Chairman Committee)**
- Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas.
- Standing Committee on Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs and Tourism.
- Standing Committee on Education and Science and Technology.
- Standing Committee on Interior.
- Special Committee of the Parliament on Kashmir.

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Senator Saadia Abbasi  
(PML-N - Punjab)  
Member

**Membership of the Senate Committees:**

- Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas.
- Standing Committee on Industries & Production and Special Initiatives.
- Standing Committee on Interior..
- Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping.
- Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges.
- Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production.

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# Profiles of the Committee Officials

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Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar  
Secretary Committee

Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar is Additional Secretary at the Senate of Pakistan and is currently working with the Parliamentary Committees of the Senate.

Mr. Babar completed his Secondary School and Higher Secondary School from Burn Hall School Abbottabad and Abbottabad Public School respectively. He attended Edwardes College Peshawar for his Bachelor's Degree and University of Peshawar for a Master's Degree in Economics. He also holds a Master's Degree in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Mr. Babar attended the 13<sup>th</sup> Advance Management and Development course at the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) Peshawar and the 76<sup>th</sup> National Management Course at the Pakistan Administrative Staff College (PASC) Lahore.

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**Mr. Tayyab Siddiqui**  
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Mr. Tayyab Siddiqui joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1967 and served as Ambassador of Pakistan to Zimbabwe (1986-1990), with concurrent accreditation to Zambia, Botswana and Namibia; to Indonesia (1992-1996), with concurrent accreditation to Papua New Guinea; to Egypt (1997-1999); and to Switzerland (1999-2003), and also to the Holy See and Liechtenstein.

In a 35 - year career as a diplomat, he also served in Pakistan missions in Amman, Beirut, Colombo, Berlin (GDR), Athens, Dhaka and Washington D.C. He was a member of Pakistan delegation to the UNGA for four years (1977-1980).

Ambassador Siddiqui is currently a regular analyst on international affairs with Radio Pakistan and PTV and other private channels. He is a regular contributor to English dailies - 'Dawn', 'The Nation' and 'The Post' on current international issues. He also contributes a regular column entitled "Harf-e-Haq" to the Urdu daily, 'Ausaf'. The selection of his columns was published in March, 2005.

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Mr. Muhammad Imtiaz, Private Secretary, Senate Secretariat has been associated with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee since 1995. He holds Bachelors Degree in Arts with majors in Journalism and English (University of the Punjab - 2003) as well as a one year Diploma in Information Technology (Skill Development Council, Govt. of Pakistan - 2003). The main area of his activity is related to preparation of the reports of the Committee in the book form which involves proof reading, editing, acquiring certain information related to the report and finally designing, printing and dissemination of the report to various quarters in public and private sector. Additionally, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee website, which was developed under his supervision, is also administered and updated by him.

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