



SNIDER SOCIAL ACTION INSTITUTE

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Founder and Dean

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To His Excellency Allahshukur Pashazadeh

Dear Sheikh, my dear teacher and friend,

Thank you for the update on the current situation. We are heartbroken by the images of death and destruction, especially the innocent civilians who are suffering.

As you know, my first visit to Baku was in 1972 during the Soviet Union, when the religious expressions of Muslims, Christians and Jews were largely repressed.

It has been my honor to return to Baku in more recent years and to see how Azerbaijan has restored the rights and dignity of all the faiths, including our Jewish community. We will always be grateful for these policies.

In this regard, as a 96% Muslim majority nation, Azerbaijan has been a beacon of light for interfaith leaders and we all pray for a quick end to the hostilities and the recognition by all parties and nations of the recognized international borders of both Azerbaijan and Armenia.

It goes without saying that if and when Azerbaijan and Armenia indicate that there is a role for faith leaders to facilitate reconciliation, I would be prepared to travel with an Interfaith delegation to both nations.

Sheikh, I know that you played a courageous role in helping transition peacefully your nation from Communism to independence many years ago. I pray that you and I will yet witness a transition to a new era based on justice and mutual respect between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

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