

# CAN AZERBAIJANI REFUGEES RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND IN ARMENIA?

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After Azerbaijan almost completely liberated its territory from Armenian occupation as a result of the military events of 2020 and 2023, the relations with this country remain in the spotlight for the Azerbaijani public and also attract international attention. This issue of the magazine contains an article on the very acute problem of hundreds of thousands of refugees from the territory of present-day Armenia and their return to their native homeland. After prevailing in the struggle for its territorial integrity, Azerbaijan is currently taking steps to reintegrate the Armenian population in liberated Karabakh, while Armenia's leaders seem to be totally unprepared for discussing the return of Azerbaijanis to the country they had historically lived in.

In the same context, an article by British journalist Ian Peart, who shares his impressions of visiting Karabakh and especially Shusha this summer to participate in the International Media Forum, is also worthy of note. The author draws a connection between the magnificent nature of Shusha and its surroundings with the special significance of the city in the history of Azerbaijani culture, the fact that many prominent figures of literature, science and most of all musical art come from these places. The article notes the destructive effects of the Armenian occupation on the historical and cultural heritage of Shusha and the measures being taken to restore monuments.

This story is thematically related to an article about one of the most important historical and architectural monuments of Shusha, the house of the Mehmandarovs. The Mehmandarov family of Shusha is one of the most prominent and respected families in Azerbaijan, which has given the country prominent political, public and military figures. The article provides a comprehensive description of the palace complex, the devastating consequences of Armenian occupation, as well as the restoration work that began after the liberation of Shusha in 2020.

In addition, this issue contains articles about Christian monuments of Caucasian Albania on the territory of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, the medieval Azerbaijani art of miniature painting, and the Heydar Aliyev Center in Baku, one of the significant examples of modern architecture. We look forward to this issue helping our readers expand their knowledge about Azerbaijan, so do stay with us!