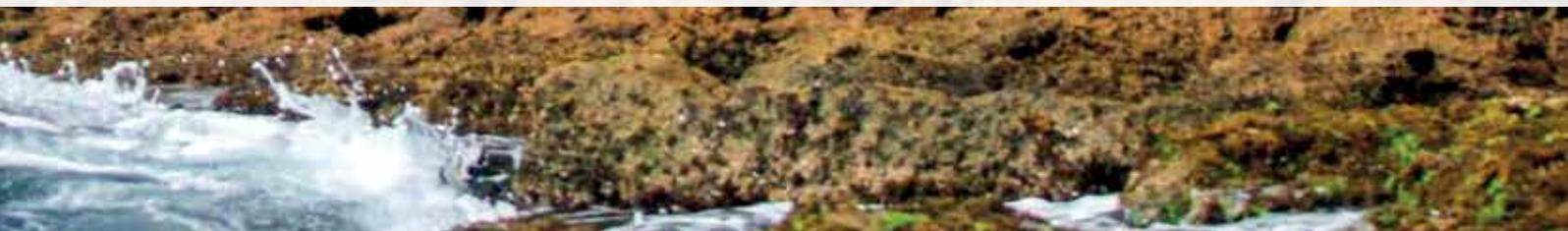


IRS Friendship Bridges





**MAYOR OF ISRAELI ACRE CITY
SHIMON LANKRI: “ I AM A
TRUE AND TRUSTFUL FRIEND
OF AZERBAIJAN IN ISRAEL”**



I have repeatedly said that in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, I am on the side of the Azerbaijani people. The last April events of 2016 proved once again that Azerbaijan will not tolerate an indefinite status quo, and therefore I consider Azerbaijan's position to be fair and compliant with international standards the rights".

27 years ago, in the Azerbaijani city of Khojaly, the innocent population of Azerbaijan, including old people, women and children, was cruelly and inhumanly massacred only because they were Azerbaijani. The whole world must know about the brutality and barbarity of Armenians, and the criminals must answer before an international court. The Jewish people can better understand Armenian fascism, which ended in an act of genocide in Khojaly.

We Israelis know perfectly well what the war and terror are. Six months ago, in the framework of the international campaign "Justice for Khojaly", with the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, we conducted documentary photo exhibition dedicated to the act of genocide in the Azerbaijani city of Khojaly.

For me personally, this photo exhibition and event



about the atrocities and vandalism of Armenians committed against the Azerbaijani people were shocked. I hope that the occupied lands will be liberated and Azerbaijani refugees will be able to return to their homes.

I am a true friend of Azerbaijan in Israel. Along with support to Azerbaijan, I am implementing ambitious projects for the benefit of our Azerbaijani community. Thanks to my initiative, the Coordination Center of Mountain Jews-immigrants from Azerbaijan and the



*Khojaly Memorial Day at the building
of Akko municipal council*

Azerbaijan House in Acre appeared for the first time in Israel, which is a real bridge of strategic cooperation between Azerbaijan and Israel.

During the historical and successful my visit to Azerbaijan, arriving and seeing such a warm and sincere attitude towards Jews by the Azerbaijani people and the state, and personally by the President of Azerbaijan, I have decided that there was a need for the construction and operation of the Azerbaijan House. This house is the modern symbol of the ancient and multicultural city of Acre, which is home to the largest community of immigrants from Azerbaijan.

I should be emphasized that my brother, President of the International Charity Foundation for Mountain Jews "STMEGI" German Zakharyayev and me who have initiated the construction and creation of a new multifunctional equipped building of the Coordination Center for Mountain Jews from Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan House in Acre, where the representative office Baku International Center for Multiculturalism in the State of Israel also operates today.

I know that in the ancient land of Azerbaijan, Judaism and Islam, fire worship and Christianity existed. This land continues to show an incredible aspiration for tolerance. The village of Red Town is the only and unique place of mountain living in the world for Jews, this is the real pride of Azerbaijan. Here Jews and Azerbaijanis live for centuries, feel like brothers, here they are bound by a common destiny and a common history.

The President of the Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, shows a caring and warm attitude to the traditions and lives of national minorities, including the country's Jewish community, which has no precedent in the world. I know and I have seen that under the patronage of the President of the country, two synagogues and the largest Jewish educational center in the South Caucasus were built. This year will be planned to open the first Jewish museum in Azerbaijan, which will be the first such museum in the South Caucasus. There is practically no other country in the Islamic world, except Azerbaijan, which has such deep, close and comprehensive relations with Israel. The relations of the Azerbaijani state with the Jewish community are magnificent and wonderful.

The mayor of Israeli Acre city noted that having visited Azerbaijan, he personally felt the warmth and hospitality, tolerance and multiculturalism of the



Azerbaijani people.

It was immigrants from Azerbaijan and my close friends, Nehemiah Shirin Michaeli and Arye Gut, who opened a country called Azerbaijan to me. They always in Israel say with pride that there has never been anti-Semitism in Azerbaijan and the Jews have never felt themselves, foreigners. Having arrived and personally saw such a warm and sincere attitude towards Jews, I was inspired and proud to be a friend of Azerbaijan.

Israel has repeatedly stated that it respects the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and I share this point of view. Today, the State of Israel and the Mayor's Office of Akko are together with Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani people. ✨

