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7. REAL
8. Azerbaijani speaking

I mostly get news from the internet, also social network has become a major news provider for us in recent years. However, I also try not to miss the official news, so I watch news at least once in a day in one of the TV channels.

Normally, I used to visit foreign countries often, but in last 2 years, number of travels that I make have declined dramatically. The reason for this is governmental restrictions. Because I was restricted to leave the country for a year, then I got arrested recently and now I am even not allowed to leave Baku. So, it is a problem now for me to go abroad. However, before these 2 years, I used to visit about 8-10 countries every year.

I am fluent in Russian. In fact, I have studied in Russian. I also understand English well, but when I speak in English, it is hard for me to talk with terminology about my specialty - Economics. So, I prefer to speak Russian.

Summary

Part I

In fact, they all are important. However, according to the rule of law, protection of fundamental right is more important, because it is foundation. Other issues can be built on this.

Elective bodies should take care of cleaning of the town. The Municipalities should be responsible for this. However, in Azerbaijan administrative bodies is not elective, it's assigned by the government. Generally, in Azerbaijan, municipalities are not functional. Even Baku Metropolitan Municipality has not been created, although Azerbaijan took responsibility about it when we became member of European Commission in 2001. We do not have any elective Metropolitan Municipality institutes in any big cities, including Baku. What is more, we have municipalities in Azerbaijan since 1999, and annual elections took place as formality, but they are not functional.

Yes, women should have right of abortion. Because banning it can cause various problems, such as illegal abortions which can lead to bigger health issues. At least, to prevent this kind of unpleasant cases, it should be legal. If we look at this as a spiritual case, it is women's or family's decision.

Every civil country should open its gates for the people who are in need of help. However, Azerbaijan itself is having hard times and, social consciousness and public relations are very basic. In fact, (Azerbaijani) government emphasizes tolerance of our people but we are

not tolerant at all. In case of massive immigration, every problem that country faces can be easily directed to the migrants by radical rightist and nationalist groups in hard economic situation.

In Azerbaijan, everybody's rights are violated including ethnic groups. In fact, ethnic groups have rights to study in their own language, creating their own radio or TV channels, publishing books or journals in their own languages. Let's say we can improve education in Talish or Lezgin language, even we can create university where they can study in their own languages. But the point is how are they going to use it? It will may cause problems in terms of integration in the country. So, I think their social and spiritual rights should be protected. There is no problem about it. They should know their languages; they should have their own cultural institutes. Also, if we can figure out how they can integrate to the rest of the country, we can create the universities. I do not see any problem about it.

I do not see ethnic and cultural diversity as a danger. Main danger is in government's policy. For me, "Azerbaijani" is determination of identity and citizenship. Everybody has a right to define himself/herself through ethnicity. And I see multinationalism as motley, as something advantageous. However, this can be turned to a treat by our neighboring countries – Russia and Iran. Because, sometimes they try to use this "card" against us. If we succeed to prevent these treats from the North (Russia) and the South (Iran) it would be much better in terms of integration in the country. What we (Azerbaijan) are lucky about that is Azerbaijan has never had ethnic conflicts in welfare level. I think, the reason behind it is we have many mixed families among these ethnicities and it can play an important role to prevent future problems.

There is no concrete response for this question. It is related to my specialty. Our country is heavily dependent on import. The main export of our country is oil. So, devaluation had very negative effect on people's lives; their income decreased while prices increased. However, if we could become exporter country, most of the people could be better-off as a result of devaluation. What I meant is it depends on country's economic model. Our country has a basic economic model, so it effected people badly.

Part II

Namig Jafarli is somebody who tries to be an honest person and good citizen. I have dual identity; one as economist, the other as politician. I identify myself as Azerbaijani. When I am asked about my identity, citizenship comes to my mind first. I think, understanding Azerbaijani identity as a citizenship is very important in our society. I'm not a cosmopolitan.

I'm a deist. So, I consider religion from a philosophical perspective and it creates questions in my mind rather than responding my questions. And also what I observe is educated people stands against religion. In my consideration, religion in global level aims to control people easily. Religion has been a tool for ruling people, throughout the history the political powers has used name of religion to rule the people.

I think, nation as a term is mostly related to area. Because, there are almost 5000 nations, but very few of them has its own country. From this perspective, area is the most important point.

European Union model proved that, borders can be formal. But it can be possible only in the case where people's welfare is continuously increasing. Even in EU whenever some problems happen, it can easily lead to ethnic and national radicalism in member states. So, I

believe and I hope, in the future, borders may lose its importance as they have today. Even I think turning borders into obstacles for people is a medieval way of thinking.

Internet had changed the world and it still does change. And I support that internet creates the world without borders.

I do not absolutely accept war and killing people as a way of solving a problem. If we are talking about restoration of historical borders what period of time do we implement? Time of The British Empire or Ottoman Empire? Or we are talking about near past? If we mean near past, it is very difficult, even sometimes impossible. Personally, I think the best way of resolving territorial dispute is Alsace – Lorraine model. Once upon a time, it was a great problem. France and Germany had many wars because of this territory. But, today it does not matter for people where borders are. So, people's welfare is the respond to all these problems. However, I think if in near past some territories occupied with bloody war, it is injustice against people and justice must be restored. I think the same thing about Azerbaijan case. But what is important in Azerbaijan case is, government should understand that, people living in Nagorna Karabagh are Azerbaijani citizens. They are also Azerbaijani and Azerbaijan must be transferred into an attractive country for them, so that, they may wish to become an Azerbaijani citizen. They should realize that, being an Azerbaijani citizen is an advantage for them. You cannot attract them with treating, revenge or ethnic cleaning. Azerbaijan should be attractive for them, so they would not want to break away from us. what is more about that, the only way for resolving occupation problems is negotiations. And Azerbaijan should never forget that Armenians who live in Nagorna Karabagh are Azerbaijani citizens.

Part III

The reason which blocks resolving of Nagorna Karabagh conflict is because people's feeling got hurt badly. There is a clear occupation here. I'm specially talking about 7 districts surrounding Nagorna Karabagh. Armenians most of the time call the war in Nagorna Karabagh as a liberation movement not an occupation. It is very debatable, but they cannot tell the same thing about those 7 districts. Those territories belong to Azerbaijan and those are occupied. So, justice should be restored.

There are a lot of responsible parties in this conflict. The main culprit is Stalin. Because many "little mines" were put with creation of these little autonomous regions. Those mines did not just boom in Azerbaijan. A lot of other post-soviet regions also suffered from it. From this perspective, generally soviet system is the main culprit. What is more, as a person who have participated in a lot of international conferences and met a lot of people from Armenia, I can say that, without Nagorna Karabagh conflict, this region could integrate to Europe and the world rapidly as Baltic countries. Even more rapidly than Baltic countries. With Azerbaijan's oil resources, Armenia's diaspora and Georgians' European spirit, we could be much better. Even we could be member of NATO and EU. Unfortunately, it did not happen because of Nagorna Karabagh conflict. Another thing that I would like to mention is, sometimes I ask Armenians about what did you get if you consider yourselves as a winner. They respond as "territory". But I say them that, you have lost more than that in throughout Azerbaijan. More than 300000 Armenians fled away from Baku, Ganja, Sumgait. Even I joke them as "if you stayed in Baku, now most of BP employees were Armenians, banks were owned by Armenians etc.". I even think that, if Armenians stayed in Azerbaijan, we could be more democratic. Probably we would

have Armenian parliamentary fraction. Just like in previous parliaments that we had in Baku Duma or in Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. So, I tell them, you (Armenians) lost Baku, Ganja, Sumgait. You lost Azerbaijan. What you got in return? Some territory. And I was also telling them that, territory belongs to you in whole cases. It is a matter of property. You always are the owner of your property. From these perspectives, this conflict made a lot of troubles for us. It created a hence in front of our region's integration to the world. And we still suffer from it.

I see the resolution of this conflict in the 80% of Azerbaijan as we consider 20% as occupied territories. Resolution will come with the creation of progressive state (government) in Azerbaijan.

In the beginning, it will be difficult, because people have wounds. But we have Georgia as a model. What I mean by that is in some parts of Georgia, Azerbaijanis and Armenians are living together, side by side and they have close business relations. Even I know that some Armenians who come from Armenia, come to Azerbaijani villages there and they trade with Azerbaijanis. I am originally from that area, so I know this. Generally, I think that, Azerbaijanis are forgiving nation so we can rebuild the peace again. Just we need to restore justice first. After creating business relations, people will get satisfaction from these relations and it will help people to forgive each other. But it can take up to 100 years. Some generations should change for this.

I think internal administrative system is Azerbaijan's main enemy. But if we consider foreign affairs, I would not call it enemy, it is very brutal term, but I think main source of danger for Azerbaijan is in the north. Russia is the main treat for Azerbaijan. As we observed in Georgia case in 2008, Russia can take military actions against Azerbaijan. Because Russia considers South Caucasus as its back yard.

Nagorna Karabagh belong to the people who live there. I think, it is very important that, de jure Nagorna Karabagh should remain as a part of Azerbaijan. It is important, because, only this can be a bridge for future relations. If we cannot succeed it, there always be a danger of radical nationalism for Azerbaijani society. From this perspective, de jure, it should be under Azerbaijan's control. However, I think owning a territory is a matter of property. Whoever lives there, owns the territory he/she lives.

If both Azerbaijan and Armenia can archive to create democratic system and government, resolution of NG conflict is possible. Because, democracies do not fight, they try to negotiate. In current situation, governments, both in Azerbaijan and Armenia use this conflict as an ace to maintain their system. And this is very bad. In both sides, enemy vision is created in the example of nations. Specially in schools, enemy vision is popularly promoted in both sides. Even, after long discussions, I convinced my junior school student son that, Armenians as a nation are not our enemy. The person who kills you in your home, is enemy, but not the nation.

From my perspective, the best model for resolving our territorial dispute is Alsace – Lorraine. If we can resolve it and if we integrate to EU and Eurozone, then borders will lose its importance and the dispute will be solved automatically.