



AUSTRALIAN AZERBAIJANIAN ASSOCIATION (AAA)

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The Hon. Marise Payne
Minister of foreign affairs
Via email: Foreign.minister@dfat.gov.au

Dear Minister,

We write to you on behalf of the Australian Azerbaijanian Association Inc with regards to the upcoming Warsaw Summit and would like you to carefully consider the inevitable outcome of the South Azerbaijanian Independence movement from Iran.

By way of background information, the South Azerbaijanian people are native to our ancestral home lands in the Provence of Azerbaijan in Iran. The people of South Azerbaijan compile of approximately half of Iran's population and are considered the largest ethnic group living in Iran. For this reason, the South Azerbaijanian people have long endured the systematic racist assimilation policy initially implemented under the first Pahlavi Shah regime and continued into the present day by the religious extremists governing Iran.

Since the first Pahlavi Shah's regime, the South Azerbaijanian people have been subjected to disproportionate and heavy handed policing with oppressive and destructive governance of our culture, language, history, music and more. The Farci ruling regimes have uninterruptedly applied systematic policies to convince the Azerbaijanian people and our children that the Azerbaijanian language is an inferior and shameful language and which is forbidden from being spoken in schools. Similarly, our people have endured years of oppressive ranting which have aimed to recategorize the Azerbaijani people as simply Iranian and not ethnic Turks. Moreover, the regimes shamelessly target and imposed harsher penalties upon Azerbaijanian civilians and activists who protest the utter lack of human rights and lack of freedom of cultural expression in Iran.

Minister, as you can imagine an oppressed people can only endure so much discrimination and human rights violations until we begin to take positive action to demand freedom from cruel and oppressive treatment. The people of South Azerbaijan refuse to tolerate or accept further Iranian-Persian rule which neglects the needs and human rights of the native Azerbaijanian-Turkic population in our ancestral homelands. Over the past fifteen years there has been a significant and ongoing increase of vocal and active support for the



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Peaceful Independence Movement of South Azerbaijan. We are confident that we will attain independence of South Azerbaijan and we hope that the international community will be supporting us at that time.

It is in the interest of the Azerbaijanian-Turkic community and the global community that the people of South Azerbaijan actuate their right of self-determination and independence from Iran. In doing so an independent South Azerbaijan will bring peace and stability to the region while enabling the people of South Azerbaijan to live free from religious, cultural and political oppression while working closely with the world community to create mutually beneficial relationships.

We courteously ask that you consider the plight and oppression in which the South Azerbaijanian people have endured over the past century when discussing the matters of Iran at the Warsaw Summit. As such, we courteously request that you stand behind us to advocate for the independence and freedom of the South Azerbaijanian people in Iran.

Sincerely,

Michael Oyta

President of Australian Azerbaijanian Association Inc

