

Our wishes and our action plans

The Manifesto of
The United Independent Azerbaijan Front



The Manifesto
Of
The United Independent
Azerbaijan Front

List of Contents

Our wishes and our action plans	i
The Manifesto	ii
Foreword.....	1
1. In Search of our Historic Roots.....	1
2. What sort of organization is the Front?	3
3. What is the manifesto of the Front?	4
3.1 What are Our Demands?.....	6
4. What is the national ideology of the Front?	10
4.1 Upholding Independence	11
4.2 Nation and Nationalism	11
4.3 Sovereign statesmanship.....	13
4.4 Unionism	14
4.5 Turkism-Azerbaijanism	15
4.6 Pluralism.....	17
4.7 Social and Communal Justice	19
4.8 Freedom.....	21
4.9 Secular Governance	23
5. What are symbolisms in the Front’s Logo?.....	25
6. Short- and Long-term action plan of the Front.....	28
6.1 Securing the independence of Southern Azerbaijan.....	28
6.2 Creating the Transitional Government.....	30
6.2.1 Creating National Army, Border Patrols and Preparing Appropriate Legislations.....	32
6.2.2 Creating the Council of Constitution.....	33
6.2.3 Composition of the National Governance	35
6.3 Creating Legal Azerbaijani Government	37
6.3.1 Creating Federal States.....	39
6.3.2 Creating Federal Parliaments in Federal States..	40
6.3.3 Election of the President of Azerbaijan.....	41
6.3.4 Forming Preparatory Commission for the Unification of Two Azerbaijan and Related Committees	41

7.	The Long-term Program of the Front.....	44
7.1	Education.....	44
7.1.1	The Educational and Pedagogical Program.....	44
7.1.2	Educational Program.....	46
7.2	Appraisal of Economic Program of the Front.....	47
7.2.1	Industry and Economy.....	50
7.2.2	Measures necessary to vitalize Economy.....	51
7.2.3	Co-operation between Employees and Employers.....	52
7.3	Villages, Rural Policies and Agriculture.....	53
7.4	Health System.....	57
7.5	Internal Politics.....	59
7.5.1	Parliamentary Democracy and Principle of Majority.....	59
7.5.2	Democratic State.....	62
7.5.3	Democratic Government and Community.....	63
7.5.4	Law and Politics.....	64
7.5.5	Law and Judgment.....	65
7.5.6	Civil Servants.....	67
7.5.7	Security System of Azerbaijan.....	67
7.5.8	Status of Woman in Azerbaijan.....	68
7.5.9	Minorities Living in Territories of Azerbaijan Proper ..	69
7.5.10	Social and Political Rights.....	70
7.5.11	Politics and Religion.....	72
7.6	Foreign Policies.....	75
7.6.1	Armenian Problem in our Foreign Policy.....	77
7.6.2	All we want is Peace.....	79
7.6.3	Our Common Security.....	81
7.6.4	House of Caucasia.....	84
7.6.5	International Cooperation.....	86
7.6.6	The East-West Policy of Azerbaijan.....	88
	Appendix.....	92
	A Cursory Overview of our Historical Roots.....	92

Foreword

*Supreme is the nation, and sacred is the motherland
And for us: Azerbaijan is both the nation and motherland*

1. In Search of our Historic Roots

Today, more than 40 million Turkic Azerbaijani people are engaged in the struggle for the determination of their own destiny. This is a vital struggle for our nation, exploited and suppressed by pan-Iranists, waging a campaign of disinformation against Azerbaijan on a scale that defies the imagination. Azerbaijani masses are bombarded relentlessly by propaganda, falsified facts and fabrications of history. Whilst Azerbaijanis try to forge a political solution for their struggle, a further task at hand is to combat arbitrarily this fabricated history. Emerging new insights into the history of Azerbaijan are presented in the Appendix¹.

Of the political dimensions of the struggle ahead, institutionalization is the foundation for an effective struggle and for delivering the target of liberty. In contrast, a position of strength is the only means by which our respectability can be defined and can penetrate

¹ The translation has mainly remained true to the original text and retained various elaborations and emphasis on terms and concepts, e.g. secularism, or pluralism, even though they may be taken for granted in more democratic countries.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

pan-Iranist frameworks. Liberty for Azerbaijan is only feasible through an organization operating efficiently like clockwork, mobilizing power through popular liberation movements. This emerging organization must learn from the modern history of Azerbaijan since 1812 and in turn, avoid empty promises and develop a proactive program articulating its plans and explaining difficulties faced by our liberation movements. It must enlighten the people. This emerging Organization must be founded on the principle that loss of life is wrong for the sake of an individual or an organization gaining governance but this ultimate act may only be justifiable for the sake of maintaining liberty, independence, sovereignty, and upholding honor and dignity.

The emerging Organization is not concerned with seizing power but rather, with the realization of a national struggle. As a custodian of governance during the period of struggle, its role will be the realization of a transition period until the election of a democratic government by the nation of Azerbaijan and in doing so, an elevation of the national consciousness of our people. Conversely, it is important to be proactive as well as to counteract the tactics instigated by colonial relics.

The above are the founding principles conceived by those Azerbaijanis who regard themselves as the fighting forces for Azerbaijan, resolved to gain liberty, independence and sovereignty for Southern Azerbaijan through forming **The Front for the United and Independent Azerbaijan** (the Front) or the United Independent Azerbaijan Front.

2. What sort of organization is the Front?

The Front is a clandestine organization fighting for the establishment of a democratic civil society². Its goal is to free Azerbaijan from the status of dependence, to facilitate a system of civil laws and to institute the state of Azerbaijan. One of the key aims of the Front is to maintain contacts with establishments and progressive Azerbaijani intellectuals both within and outside Azerbaijan, who are concerned with these goals.

The Front is an independent organization without any dependence on any government or institution. It only draws its support from the people of Azerbaijan. The Front respects all religious beliefs and their activities within the framework of the constitution. The Front strongly opposes the interplay of religion with politics, regardless of guise.

The Front adopts Azerbaijanism through a Turkic identity as its pivotal ideal and principle.

² A Note of translation: civil society is a philosophical concept and nowadays the term state used in democratic countries has connotations of classical civil societies. In the Azerbaijani context, it is referred to as legal state (hüquqi dövlət) and all these terms are assumed synonymous.

3. What is the manifesto of the Front?

In recent years, national liberation movements have been gathering momentum in the Southern Azerbaijan part of our motherland. The national consciousness of our people is increasing. A diversity of political organizations formed in Southern Azerbaijan is asserting the Azerbaijani “self” and national identity and reviving Azerbaijani aspirations and ideals. The majority of these organizations are fighting for freedom of the motherland from Persian chauvinism and from the rule of the Islamic fundamentalism of Iran towards securing independence for Azerbaijan. The Front is one of these active organizations. The Front represents all classes and social strata and does not affiliate with any particular class or creed. This is a political organization fighting for general interests of the citizens of Azerbaijan regardless of their religious beliefs, language, race or their worldview.

The Front was founded during the first days of the Islamic revolution, 1979. Many of the members of the Front participated actively in the movements of those days, expecting that they would secure their national rights after the collapse of the Shah’s regime.

Nonetheless, the necessity for forming an Azerbaijan-centric organization was conceived as the disinterest of the revolutionary forces became self-evident on Azerbaijani national rights even in those so-called days of revolution.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

Some of the active members of the Front took part in the activities of the “Popular Muslims,” hoping to secure Azerbaijani national rights (this was a movement in Southern Azerbaijan blending secular governance against a religious background). But Persian chauvinists, disguised by fundamentalist Islamist ideology brutally suppressed this movement. Soon afterwards, some of the members of the Front appraised the history of the past 200 years, concluding that only cessation from Iran will secure Azerbaijani ideals and proclaim our identity, culture, history and our very existence. These discussions took place in Tebriz and Tehran in 1979-80, culminating in the formation of the **United Independent Azerbaijan Front** (The Front). Since then, the Front has continued its activities in a clandestine fashion.

The emergence of Northern Azerbaijan (Republic of Azerbaijan) has intensified the national consciousness of our people. Following this, Front members increased the scale of their activities to found the organization. Finally, the Front announced formally its existence in 1994. To date, Front members are playing an active role in the mobilization of popular Azerbaijani movements.

As a democratic organization, the Front opposes dictatorships of any individual or ideology and in so doing, rejects totalitarianism. The Front is encouraging and leading the debate by preparing a draft constitution and other legislative codes. In this initiative, similar European codes have been reviewed and adapted to the existing situation in Azerbaijan.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

With the primary objective of securing independence and sovereignty for Southern Azerbaijan, the Front pursues the long-term goal of uniting an Azerbaijan fragmented by external powers in the past.

It should be noted that the Front is a peace-loving organization and does not want any bloodshed in the process of the cessation of Azerbaijan from Iran. The Front notes the precedents set by the Czech and Slovak Republics and promotes this model of cessation through peaceful engagement and dialogue. The uptake of this model respecting the wishes of the people of Azerbaijan is a test case for Iranian rulers; else they are exposed as Persian chauvinists with a deplorable colonial mentality.

The Front recognized the need for compiling and publishing a periodical organ to elucidate its goals, thoughts and other views to Azerbaijani citizens both within and outside Azerbaijan. According to a resolution accepted in Tebriz in February 1997, the Front is publishing 'Jarchi' (The messenger), as its organ.

3.1 What are Our Demands?

We aim to free ourselves from the ruling grip of Persian chauvinism through the creation of a civil society in Southern Azerbaijan enjoying independence, freedom and democracy; and the unification of both Azerbaijanians within legal frameworks.

The Front is striving to form a system conforming to currently accepted standards befitting mankind, striving

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

for social justice, respect of national values, and conservation of nature. The Front promotes peace and coexistence and does not accept any bloodshed during the cessation process from Iran. However, this good intention is not to be interpreted as willingness to compromise any Azerbaijani national interests.

We advocate mutual respect of our neighbors and promote co-operation, friendship and peace among nations of the world. We support the establishment of mutual security in the region, resolving prejudice and animosity among peoples and creating a co-operative spirit amongst them, whilst upholding Azerbaijani national interests. In supporting regional disarmament, we hold that the savings made should be re-channelled to peaceful development of the nations in the region.

We strive to create a classless society and proclaim that men and women have equal rights before the law. We promote equal opportunities for all Azerbaijani citizens and improvement of living standards by various means including creating programs of community self-help.

We promote the development and revival of Azerbaijani culture and regard it the right of every Azerbaijani to access this rich cultural heritage.

We pledge that the Azerbaijani society must be able to exercise its freedom in every sphere of life including economical activity and the choice of work and workplace.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

We hold that the prioritization of economical activities is best determined through democratic means. Our aim is to solve problems facing the country. Thus, the nation will be consulted towards shaping a new social and industrial outlook, with a focus on channeling its achievements to improve living standards and social security.

We are determined to establish a free and democratic state befitting contemporary times, the formation and protection of which stipulates the participation of every Azerbaijani individual. The nation has to play a role and fulfill duties towards meeting developmental challenges of current times. The relics of the past include despair, insecurity, apathy and phobia to politics. This must stop. Every individual should feel responsible to the motherland, be concerned with its destiny and play an active role.

We promote a progressive outlook as opposed to a reactive one. We seek this in substantive and qualitative terms avoiding verbalism. Our way of life must benefit mankind. The terms for this include free thinking, the right to election, creativity and seeking direction. Conversely, an insight into and skills in contemporary technology and economics are essential. Change management is essential for everyone.

We define the ideal of contemporariness in terms of adaptation to the conditions imposed by time not only through technological and economical perspective but through the awareness of the self, external security, the evolving way of life and conserving nature. We strive towards a system of law regarding every individual equal

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

and a society encouraging interdependence and reliability among its individuals. These building blocks are principles of modernism and modernity is not feasible without their holistic implementation. Reacting to these principles is not an option anymore but they must be embraced as a whole. Thus, the United Independent Azerbaijan Front pledges to communicate these principles and encourage debate among every Azerbaijani individual, or those affiliating to the Front, or those who uphold the above principles but affiliate to other organizations.

4. What is the national ideology of the Front?

The national ideology of the Turkic Azerbaijani people is Azerbaijanism. Emerging from a philosophical and sociological framework, this ideology stems from our national consciousness but we deplore fanatic and ultra-nationalistic (chauvinism/racism) sentiments. Azerbaijanism is the understanding of our national conscience and identity. It is a sense of belonging to national values, customs, tradition, culture, the ethics of being an Azerbaijani and an appreciation of our Turkic roots. Put differently, Azerbaijanism acknowledges the national values of Azerbaijan, owning national consciousness and self-reliance, understanding the concept of nationhood and being a representative of own national identity. It is a fact that any nation owning its nationhood and relying on own identity is taking an important step towards increasing its strength; enslaving such a nation is unimaginable while *those confused about their national identity remain victimized by other nations.*

The founding principles of Azerbaijanism comprise:

- 4.1 Upholding Independence
- 4.2 Nation and Nationhood
- 4.3 Sovereign statesmanship
- 4.4 Unionism
- 4.5 Azerbaijanism
- 4.6 Pluralism
- 4.7 Social Justice
- 4.8 Freedom
- 4.9 Secularism

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

4.1 Upholding Independence

A nation without independence is unable to protect its culture, rights and liberty. The basis of nationhood is independence. That is why, Sheikh Mehemed Khiyabani, (a vanguard of Azerbaijani nationalism) asserts that:

“I swear by my honor, a nation is in vain without independence.”

Also Memmed Emin Resulzade (another vanguard of Azerbaijani nationalism) expresses:

“It is not feasible to develop and protect culture and nationhood without having national freedom and independence.”

4.2 Nation and Nationalism

It may be that the terms nation and people have different connotations but they are often synonymous. For example, the French speak of the French nation while Germans speak of the German people. This has historical reasons and the tendency for this particular usage does not imply any sense of nationalism.

Nationalism is not chauvinism or racism; on the contrary, it promotes equality among nations.

Azerbaijanism is nationalism subject to acknowledging oneself as an Azerbaijani; any individual upholding

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

Azerbaijan is an Azerbaijani nationalist. It is a system of thought under which individuals care for their homeland, and for its people/nationhood; share the dignity of the homeland and feel for it. Our ancestors wisely state that: “together we are powerful”. Let us also be reminded by Zia Gök Alp stating that: “If you invade a country with powerful armies, penetration is in vain if the countrymen are nationally conscientious.”

The awakening of a conscientious nation must lead to a definition national identity. The definition is in terms of motherland, history, and culture, such that every individuals acknowledge it and proclaim its national consciousness; express affinity to own nationality; care for it; struggle for its savior; contributes to its prosperity; assert its nationhood; rely on self; and feel dignified by the virtue of the motherland and feel proud of it.

The need for nationhood stems from the need for interacting among the nations. It is therefore natural that every nation assumes the right for determining own destiny and for constituting own national government; conversely, this leads to the emergence of national consciousness. On this basis, a new context emerges for motherland, language, culture, tradition and protecting own history, collectively contributing to the establishment of nationhood. These are some of the characteristics of every nation and together they make up its spiritual outlook; such nationalism is commendable; and we take all these as the definition of active Azerbaijanism or patriotism.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

Nationalism constitutes a core for democracy and internationalism. This is because, every nation developing the skills to protect own rights and identity is also developing skills to interact with others. In other words, a nation devoid of care for own people and not upholding own rights, would fail to care for other nations or respect their rights. In summary, nationalism is patriotism and a respect for the self and others. No respect for the self is tantamount for disrespect to others. Our collective view of the above is tantamount to Azerbaijani nationalism.

4.3 Sovereign statesmanship

Azerbaijanism is tantamount to the Azerbaijani sovereignty through statesmanship.

Peoples lacking sovereign states will be transformed to bureaucratic regimes unable to protect their independence, identity and territory; will inevitably be subjugated by foreigners; will be overrun by them denying the means to meet the needs of their homelands; and a state not meeting the needs of its people will inevitably defy own people and turn against them. We are reminded by Jefer Pisheveri (the outstanding national leader of Azerbaijan) that: “A bureaucratic regime breaking its ties with own people and nation will inevitably tend towards vulgar dictatorship; will turn the people against the regime and in time will collapse. This is a natural order of human societies.” Or: “A government losing touch with own people is regarded as

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

the enemy of the people, which will collapse sooner or later. This is a natural order of human societies.”

Sovereign statesmanship complements independence and as Memmed Emin Resulzade states: “It is not possible to function as a nation without statehood. This is why today’s generation must uphold the ultimate mission for the Azerbaijani state. If we purport the will for conscious living and determined for it as a nation, as a Türk, as an Azerbaijani, we cannot spare even our souls before realizing our liberty, independence and a national sovereign state.

The state upholding its national interests and relying on its people and their power, will be the servant of own people and nation and sooner or later will gain their respect.

4.4 Unionism

One of the undisputable principles and indispensable norms of Azerbaijanism is once again to work towards the unification of this divided land of Azerbaijanis and achieving the long-term goal of unity of all Azerbaijani territories. We have to create resources for the revival of national identity, national consciousness, and national conscientiousness (self-perception and self-conception) and preservation of our national heritage, national culture and the education of our Turkic Azerbaijani language within Azerbaijan. Any denial of this unionism, the acceptance of the fragmentation of our motherland instigated by aliens, and shrugging off any due

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

responsibility to this issue is tantamount to a betrayal of the Azerbaijani nation and its history.

Another of essential principles of Azerbaijanism is unity and a duty of care. Regardless of language, religion, race, place of birth, region of residence, Azerbaijanism is: upholding the attributes of the nation and exercising mutual duty of care; supporting one another; sharing each others joys and sorrows; wiping out the relics of propaganda, discord and discrimination implanted by colonialists of the colonial era. There is no supremacy of one Azerbaijani city over another, of one village over another, or of one region over another. People living in this or that village, city or region are all citizens of Azerbaijan. Variations among them in terms of language, dialect and mannerism are the beauty and ornaments of our motherland; and a part of Azerbaijan's rich cultural heritage. It is the duty of every citizen to preserve them. This is a symbol of the unity and the wholeness of a nation. In nature too, diversity is the spice of nature.

4.5 Turkism-Azerbaijanism

Turkism is interchangeable with Azerbaijanism and both are contained in Azerbaijani nationalism. As more than 95 per cent of the population living in Azerbaijan is speaking in Turkic Azerbaijani, there is no conflict between Azerbaijanism and Turkism. Similarly, Azerbaijanism covers non-Turkic minorities living in the territories of Azerbaijan proper (historic Azerbaijan).

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

The relationship between Azerbaijanism and Turkism is the same as that between the Azerbaijani and Turkic languages. Just like in any other nation, our people often refer to our language as, Azerbaijani, the Azerbaijan language, the language of homeland or the national language.

The above is also true in the cases of the following examples: German (the language) and Germany (the country), French (the language) and France (the country), English (the language) and England (the country), and Russian (the language) and Russia (the country). Here, the terms are not representative of race, the relationship between race and language, or grouping of languages; there is no denial of any thing either. In relation to the relationship between the Azerbaijani language and Turkic languages, naturally Azerbaijani is a branch of Turkic languages. The Azerbaijani nation has no doubt in being a Turkic nation with a Turkic language but Azerbaijan is the symbol of our sovereignty. On the other hand, it is counterproductive to deify the term Azerbaijan and use it as holy words such as those Muslims use, e.g. “There is no god but Allah” as a criteria to judge if one is a Muslim. Such a criterion can lead to racism and can prolong the ongoing fragmentation and contrary to Azerbaijanism.

In accordance to our concept of Turkism, the borrowed words in Azerbaijani should be phased out, be it in every day language or every discipline of science covering the words from Russian, Persian, Arabic, Latin, or others; they should be replaced with original words of Turkic roots. The regeneration of native words should also make

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

use of other Turkic languages. In regenerating new words, preference should be given to the words with native Azerbaijani roots. Root words of other Turkic languages are preferred for the reason of re-establishing the ties between the Turkic nations. At the same time the collective effort will contribute towards the development and revival of our mother tongue, meeting the needs of modern science, technology and economics.

Interactions and co-operations with other Turkic nations should be promoted including exchanges in higher educations. Rather than the fantasy of Pan-Turkism, there is a need for active co-operations and developing a common Turkic language.

4.6 Pluralism

Pluralism is the foundation of all democratic societies and the principle of democracy. This is because the individuals in every society hold diverse views, have different preferences and align to political views of their choice. This is precisely why everyone treats problems and social processes through their own views and ideas. In other words this is human nature. Diversity is inherent both in man's physical features as well as his/her inner world. Having considered these attributes of man, it is necessary to accept pluralism as a natural process in the society. Pluralism is well captured in one of our proverb that clashing ideas is the wellspring of new ideas.

In Azerbaijan governed with a democratic civil society through a multi-party system the party forming the

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

government with the majority votes shall protect the rights of opposition parties and dissident groups and respect them. This is the only way to claim the attainment of democracy or pluralism in Azerbaijan or any other place for that matter. All these have been reflected in the draft constitution of the Front.

Whilst the Front supports the democratic civil society and struggles for our liberty, we hold that the guarantee for our independent Azerbaijan is liberty, democracy and pluralism. The Front considers pluralism and respect to different creeds as the two fundamental principles for the national unity and solidarity.

Whilst pluralism must not be mistaken with chaos and anarchism, the variations in opinions and pluralism must be exercised within the framework of the constitution and without undermining the state.

In a pluralist society, each party is empowered to solve prevailing problems within the framework of their own views. Indeed, debating differences in views and opinions in one platform is the key for seeking effective solutions for social problems; else one-party systems are doomed with dogmatism and dictatorship.

The Front holds that the solution to social problems of our time is feasible only and only through the diversification of parties and political groupings but subject to their co-operations and a culture of debate. This is also true in solving the social problems existing in Azerbaijan. In democratic societies, it is feasible to seek collectively solutions to problems, as always national

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

interests and the capabilities and interests of the country take precedence over the interests of individuals, parties and organizations. Conversely, the above is true in protecting democratic civil societies and its evolution and maintenance.

4.7 Social and Communal Justice

Impoverished is the society deprived of social and communal justice even if endowed with riches beneath or above the ground.

A lack of social justice in a society can disillusion the middle and lower classes, leading to unrest and instability.

The purpose of creating social justice is to bridge the economical, political and cultural gaps among the people in the society and to establish a relative balance and harmony among the people. This has been the goal of the humanists throughout the history. Even, this ideal has been the wellspring of many religions and ideologies to the extent that some were inspired through their immense efforts and sacrifices.

Historical experiences suggest that any country subject to excessive differences in economy among the people and the status or hegemony of one race over another, the development of that society will suffer from bias, disorder and stagnation to the detriment of peace in the society.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

To prevent disillusionment, secure peace in the society and maintain a proper development, the program and the draft constitution of the Front promotes the transformation of social justice in Azerbaijan to a natural process.

Presently, there are three social groups in Southern Azerbaijan:

- The wealthy, (capital owners)
- Middle classes
- Lower classes and poor people

It is outside the scope of this document to analyze substrata formations of the above classes.

The goal of the Front is to create the minimum standard of living for the poor and take into account their needs, similar to the developed countries of the world. Equally, our goal encompasses meeting and maintaining the needs, education and health of every person as necessitated by the modern way of life. Conversely, our goals encompass reaching out our youth to secure the means for developing their talents and open up the doors of higher education to them.

Naturally, to provide and maintain the expenditure for the above pledges, the state has to create an appropriate taxation system. Obviously, if the people are not prepared to finance the expenditure of their state, they cannot expect the state to carry out its duties.

Without overburdening the wealthy and middle classes, the revenue raised within the legal framework and spent

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

for securing social justice will give rise to the development of the society and the narrowing of the gap in the social strata. This is because, there is no tangible source of income for the development of the society, although some of the income from natural resources can be channeled to such initiatives. The reason is that these initiatives are inherently long-term and therefore investments of this nature are inevitably of a long-term nature to facilitate the general progress of economics of the country.

The Front holds that social justice is not exclusive to the economics. On the contrary, social justice must be all-round and all-encompassing.

4.8 Freedom

The foundation of democratic civil societies is constituted by human rights and freedom. Even if democratic civil societies maintain these rights of freedoms through appropriate laws, their execution must be guaranteed by the executive organs of the government.

Establishing a just society requires that its men and women recognize the supremacy of the law and accept this. Every act and affair must be within the legal framework.

As in any society, in Azerbaijan too the law should guarantee the rights of all the citizens irrespective of their status and should be capable of securing their rights and maintain justice.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

In the meantime, freedom of expression is the necessary condition for the protection of the democratic system within the legal framework and for its evolution and development.

The Front holds that the character, identity and even national consciousness is best develops and evolves in a free environment. On the contrary, in a despotic environment or a country gripped with dictatorship, the citizens live in a constant fear, lack security and lose self-esteem. The complexities stemming from such environments will overburden them lifelong.

We hold that culture and fine arts will only flourish in open and free environments.

Pisheveri states that:

“He who opposes freedom and progress is a ruthless enemy of our nation. We have to wage a relentless struggle against such a person. ...

The key to the nobility of our homeland and our nation is in freedom.”

The Front holds that democracy and freedom are the foundations of Azerbaijanism, our Turkic roots and the statesmanship of Azerbaijan. We follow the lead of the article of the Universal Declaration of the United Nations on human rights. Also Pisheveri states that:

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

“The history has entrusted on us a great duty. We have to establish an impregnable cathedral of freedom in Azerbaijan.”

4.9 Secular Governance

The Front believes in secularism and secular statesmanship. Secularism is the freedom for religion and conscience. Everyone is free in the choice of own faith. Religious faith is a matter between the believer and the god of the choice of the believer. Faith must not interfere with the administration of the country. In a secular system, politics is separate from religion. No intervention is allowed in the name of religion for the interference of politics with religion, the influence of religion on political affairs, or the determination of the way life by the religion.

In a secular system and order, the state and the policies are free from religion. This means that administration of the country is based on the framework of the constitution and the ensuing legal codes but never on religious orders or conventions. Whilst the secular system does not interfere with religion, at the same time there is a process of institutionalization catering for religion to prevent disorder in religion and to put a halt on religious exploitations. This Institution shall take on the responsibility for religious education, training religious clergies, and for administering their own salaries and religious taxations (known as Khums and Zekat). Other responsibilities shall include the protection and maintenance of places of worship and the construction of

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

news units. The Institution shall also take on itself to be viable economically. This Institution too has no right to interfere in the affairs of the state. The above are in the spirit of Article 12 of the draft Constitution of the Front covering secularism, creation of religious institutions and their management and religious education programs.

Just as the Front upholds secularism, superstition and demagoguery are rejected. Exploitation of simplistic beliefs of people and reactionary trends shall not be sanctioned. One of key duties of clergies ought to be the repelling from religion any superstition undermining religion and to deter harmful aspects undermining morality. Research on religious matters means seeking the codes to adapt to contemporary conditions. Clergies can interact with the organs of the state but only in the capacity of a citizen and never in a religious capacity.

The secular system being upheld by the Front allows all citizens to exercise the freedom of choice on religion, god and worship. No right is granted to anybody to interfere with one another's religious beliefs.

5. What are symbolisms in the Front's Logo?

The Logo of the Front comprises three symbols: 'Fire', 'hand' and 9 stars.

Fire

'Fire', is the symbol of the Azerbaijani nation. The very word Azerbaijan means the, land of fire. Fire signifies ecstasy, happiness, vividness, freedom, independence and sovereignty. Owing to its warmth, blessing tempo and attraction, fire has the quality to assemble people together and this serves the symbol for unity.

Our great ancestors regarded fire as the symbol of the might of God and thus worshipped with a sacred status. They maintained flaming fires. Extinguished holy fire was seen as disrespect to god and the onset of calamity. In Azerbaijani, the word 'ojaq' synonymously means furnace and sanctuary, a tradition that still persists.

By its nature, fire burns and turns everything into ashes, restoring every creature to its source and thus it is a mean of regeneration. This has a reflection on the national character of the Azerbaijani people. The Azerbaijani people love friendship, hospitality, freedom, morality, spirituality and science. They are frank, hospitable, and charitable. At the same time, they neither compromise when faced with injustice nor give in to aggression. Having taken the analogy into account, the Front has selected fire as its defining symbol.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

If our three-colored flag, moon-and-star is the symbol of our independence and sovereignty, fire is our selected expression of consciousness towards our homeland.

Hand

The ‘hand’ in our logo is the home of the ideals of Azerbaijanism, symbolizing our people and its national organization, the Front.

The Front enriched with the radiating light of our national conscience, makes up the Azerbaijani patriots, who within their palms bear our ideals of independence, sovereignty and statesmanship, like emotions flowing out of hearts and minds of our people, like the sacred flame.

The Stars

The Front has taken upon itself to restore the administration districts within Azerbaijan in its program and draft Constitution but adapting to modern governance. In this governance model, Azerbaijan is composed of 9 federal states. Each federal state will have its own parliament and autonomy in its internal decision-making. The Azerbaijan Parliament (referred to as ‘El Ojaghi’) will overarch these Federal Parliaments. It will be the legislative organ of the country. The Azerbaijan Parliament draws its delegates from each and all of the federal states. The statutes or acts legislated here shall be scrutinized for approval by the council of federal states or the Federal Council (similar to a Senate House). The Federal Council draws its members from the delegates of the nine federal states. They make their representations within the legislative

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

organ and in this way they make sure that the rights of their constituents are observed. The rights of the national government of federal states in every sector have been reflected in the constitution drafted by the Front. This constitution is gradually published in ‘Jarchi’.

The 9 federal states shown as stars in logo of the Front are (in the alphabetic order) as follows:

- The state of Erak
- The state of Erdebil
- The state of Hemedan
- The state of Qezvin
- The state of Maragha
- The state of Sulduz
- The state of Tebriz
- The state of Urmu
- The state of Zenjan

Note: The federal system of governance is akin to traditional governance in Azerbaijan established since the Elkhanides in the middle Ages. However, in modern times the Iranian and Russian Empires terminated this system after partitioning Azerbaijan in 1812.

6. Short- and Long-term action plan of the Front

6.1 Securing the independence of Southern Azerbaijan

The main objective in founding the Front is to free our homeland from the hegemony of Persian chauvinism and create a democratic civil society in Azerbaijan based on social freedom. Also, included is to unite our homeland, which has been divided by non-Azerbaijani or foreigners. These objectives make up the reasons for the existence of the Front. Equally, the Front has no intention of reprisal to any group or to any country.

The founders, members and supporters of the Front hold that a nation without independence has nothing. That is why this has been chosen as the key slogan of the Front.

The Front affirms that the Azerbaijani Nation is a civilized people. The Front owes to the nation the right conduct for the sake of bearing its flag. In the name of the nation of Azerbaijan, we announce that as much as we have no intention of land grabbing from any nation, we will not allow any other nation to carry on with the occupation of any part of the land belonging to Azerbaijan proper. We are determined to establish our national independent government within the framework of territories of Azerbaijan proper. We wish a peaceful and friendly cessation from the colonial yoke of Iran. In this process, it is not our desire to witness any bloodshed or damage to any person. Thus, we are against the repeat of the experience similar in Yugoslavia. On the contrary, we do not want to cease our relations with Persians and

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

other nations, much similar to the example of the Czechs and Slovaks, who went through a peaceful and friendly cessation process.

The boundaries set by the Front for Azerbaijan proper and accepted by other active Azerbaijani political organizations, is deemed to be recognized officially by Iran.

We are determined to secure our rights. We reiterate that we are not contended with any bloodshed in vain and with entrenching animosity between the Persian and Azerbaijani nations. However, this does not depend on us alone.

Persian chauvinists, Pan-Iranists and power-monger regimes in Tehran must understand that it is not possible to maintain slavery over a nation in the long-run. Bygone is the era for such a mentality and time. Now is the time to end any sort of slavery mentality and secure national freedom and independence.

Should the regime in Tehran dare to oppose rightful demands of our nation and resort to coerce to appropriate Azerbaijan or any part of it to maintains its colonial rule, the nation of Azerbaijan shall call upon our every resources to secure our national demands and territorial integrity. The nation of Azerbaijan, its national organizations, and in particular, the Front, have appropriate resources to defend our nation and our homeland.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

Of course, under this condition, only the responsibility for such damages and bloodsheds shall be borne by the regime in Tehran, Persian chauvinists and pan-Iranists but not by the nation of Azerbaijan.

In the process of the struggle for the national liberation, it is of the paramount importance to be careful of any initiative and any statement issued. In particular, the organizations taking part in the national liberation struggle must understand this responsibility by disallowing fundamentalism; preventing ultra-nationalist slogans and not taking any step without thinking. This is because any such move would undermine the determination of our citizens living within Azerbaijan and diminish their confidence. Evidently, our enemies will take advantage of this situation.

6.2 Creating the Transitional Government

The Front holds that waging the struggle against colonial rulers is the first stage in the national liberation movement. In spite of the immense sacrifices and leaving behind the desire for good life, this stage is the easy episode in the process of the national liberation movement. The true stage in the national liberation movement is the second stage.

Securing independence and sovereignty and the end of the war for the national struggle by the nation of Southern Azerbaijan does not signify the end of the struggle for national liberation and removing colonial influences. The most sensitive and critical stage is the

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

period of creating the Azerbaijani national state with its own legal government and its various organs. This transition period is a period of austerity. It is highly probable to be confronted with economical, political and social crises. Naturally, there will be opportunities for the interests of colonial relics, and for foreign forces concerned with their regional interests. It is possible to live another experience similar to that we faced with the problem of Qarabagh. The dilemma is that allocating part of the budget or energy for such preventive actions would be at the expense of the care needed for the creation of statehood. One should even not ignore the risk of suffering from acts of terrors or provoked chaos within the boundaries of the country. Thus, it is simply for this reason that whilst we strive to deliver our goals through the various stages, a communication policy is of the paramount importance to enlighten the nation of Azerbaijan against such risks. Naturally, the implementation of this communication policy must be owned by the active members of the liberation movement whilst the process for the elected government is taking shape. These vanguard organizations have to take upon themselves such responsibilities until the elected legal government commences its governance. Until such times and during this transition period, the vanguard organizations have to form a provisional government of national unity for collective governance.

The most important duty of the provisional government is to found legally-binding governance whilst guarding the country. Thus, in the first place the priorities include organizing the national army to patrol the borders, and police forces to maintain law and order, whilst the

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

legislative process is going ahead. Along with these processes, the Council of Constitution must be created.

The emergence of the legally-binding government in Azerbaijan is an integration of the Azerbaijani Constitution confirmed through referendum; and the creation of the legislative organs through the Azerbaijan Parliament.

Intensely believing in our nation and on its creative powers and initiatives, from the very first day there must be bondage between the governance and the nation and at no time must this bondage be broken.

The members and supporters of the Front must strive in every sector and create model roles on aesthetics, morality, honesty, mannerism, sensitivity and dedication. There must be avoidance from any demeaning acts. The Front must be purged from any such culprits from our circles and punish them regardless of their position.

**6.2.1 Creating National Army, Border Patrols
and Preparing Appropriate Legislations**

One of the most important responsibilities of the provisional government is to create the national army, border patrols, the civic police network and appropriate security forces; and prepare appropriate legislations for each of these organs. The recruitment of personnel for these organizations should not overlook their past behaviors, particularly give attention to the deeds and actions of potential recruitments during the national liberation struggle at the reign of colonial rules. In the

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

first place, crash course must be arranged for their education. We will resort to the experience available in the European countries to organize appropriate training for the personnel of these organizations. The personnel responsible for the recruitment, themselves must be scrutinized for achieving high standards in their mannerism and sensitivities in their social conducts. They have to earn people's confidence and respect. The recruiters must have higher education and conversant with one or two foreign languages. In their early days of duties, they have to be verbally competent.

During the transitional government, all weapons must be collected from people and nobody will be allowed to carry weapons other than those of the armed forces. Those legally holding weapon must be actively registered and checked. During the first five-year period of gaining independence, all young boys and girls should attend the military service without any exception. In the following periods, the provisions of the Constitution must prevail. For instance, Articles 13, 20, 97, and 98 of the draft Constitution have been allocated to the military service and the exceptions, also determining the rights of those working in this relation.

6.2.2 Creating the Council of Constitution

The creation of the Council of Constitution is one of the national ideological duties of the Front. In this way, the Front shows its faith on the supremacy of law and on democratic civil state based on libertarian principles. The primary duty of the Council of Constitution shall be the

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

review of the draft Constitution, bring it to its completion, and take it to the ballot box.

The above shall take place within three months as soon as the Azerbaijani people seize power, and at the wake of putting an end to the colonial rule. For this purpose, the Council of Constitution shall draw its members from lawyers, experts, the leaders of the Front, and experts of other liberation movements. The Council shall review the draft constitution; edit them in line with law; bring it to its completion; communicate them to the people through radio, television and the press; and refer to the public through the ballot box. Upon the conclusion of these processes, the Constitution shall be unchangeable. It should be noted that the substance and the contents of the draft Constitution are not expected to be heavily amended in the first place but as mentioned above the bulk of activities should be strengthening its legal aspects and treating its shortfalls. Whilst the process of referendum is being prepared, parliamentary elections shall also be organized.

The Constitution must be well communicated to the people; they have to be very clear on their rights and places as granted by the Constitution; the administration of the country as determined by the Constitution shall be understood; the people must be clear on the supremacy of civil society; and they have to be able to discern between the colonial rule and the governance by civil society. These are the conditions required to live under a civil society system. This is why the press and mass media have to communicate the Constitution and the common people have to be very clear on the Constitution.

6.2.3 Composition of the National Governance

In Azerbaijan, the active participation of the members of public is essential for the creation of civil society, for its prevalence and its protection. For this reason, it is necessary to form federal states and their parliaments (Federal Parliaments), as they form pillars of our legal systems. This federal administration system would be a devolution in Azerbaijan, as it was an important feature of governance in our past centuries; its revival would benefit our modern times and the key for all-round development; and makes the conditions uniform for the progress of the all federal states. In this way, the people are able to solve their regional problems; select appropriate development programs and apply appropriate scientific and economical tools. They shall make their own regional decisions in relation to agriculture, cultural matters, etc; these are rights to be guaranteed by the Azerbaijani Constitution. Only in this way it becomes feasible to safeguard and maintain our traditions in every corner of our homeland, Azerbaijan. Above all, fraternal co-operation and a healthy competition among these states shall flourish. In short, every federal state shall be masters of their own affairs; raise the standard of living in their region making it attractive for living; and shall work towards the common goal of all-round progress and development within the whole Azerbaijan. This approach also facilitates the establishment of democracy and libertarianism in the whole country. It is a mechanism to prevent the emergence of dictatorship in the central government or one measure against enforcing despotic decisions without the legal basis.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

The Front has envisaged nine federal states and these provisions have been reflected in its logo in the form of nine stars.

Every federal state shall enjoy its own internal parliament (Federal Parliament) and government mandated by elections within the framework of the draft Constitution. These parliaments shall operate within the all-Azerbaijani legislative system, and legislate in accordance with proposed Articles 77, 79, and 81 of the draft Constitution.

The federal states shall not interfere with the foreign policies. They shall align their internal and economical policies with those of the central Azerbaijani government. The heads of government in these federal states shall be engaged with the central council of federal states, **the Federal Council**, through their representatives, the number of whom shall be proportional to the population of each federal state. In this way, they take part in the legislative system of the country. The leader of the Federal Council shall alternate every year among the leading representatives of the federal states.

The duties of the Federal Council have been presented in the Constitution. One of the key duties of the Federal Council is to scrutinize the acts of parliament set by the Azerbaijan Parliament, either to ratify them by a majority vote or to return them back to the parliament with suggested amendments. Thus, any approved parliamentary acts shall only be ratified through the

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

Federal Council. This signifies that the ratified acts shall prevail over the whole of Azerbaijan.

Upon securing the independence of our homeland and upon the commencement of the Azerbaijan Parliament, the first legal government of Azerbaijan shall start its function. Within one year, the first Azerbaijani government shall take upon itself to facilitate the first elections for each and all of the Federal Parliaments and they shall be up and running. Subsequently, the formation of the Federal Council shall conclude the endeavor to institutionalize the legislative system of the country, taking all the necessary steps towards the administration of the country. Until such times, all the acts approved by the Azerbaijan Parliament and adopted as provisional laws shall be submitted to the Federal Council for ratification.

It should be noted that each and every federal state shall be administered through a further internal subdivision of provinces, regions and districts, delineating cities, towns and villages.

6.3 Creating Legal Azerbaijani Government

Upon the approval of the Azerbaijani Constitution by the people, the first general election shall be called within three months.

The Azerbaijan Parliament shall commence its functions. In the first place, the parliamentary leader, the deputy and

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

the cabinet shall be elected with the parliament and adopt its own regulatory codes.

The first session of the Azerbaijan Parliament shall be convened with 30 days after the election.

They shall be guided by Articles 43, 44, 45, and 46, as envisaged in the draft Constitution.

In this Premier session of the parliament, there is an exception due to the absence of the President, so that provisional head of the government shall call the party holding the majority of the seats to form the government. In the absence of a clear majority, the coalition government shall be called and presented to the parliament. The parliament shall consider that the list of the cabinet members presented by the candidate head of the government and if approved by the majority vote, then the oath-taking ceremony shall be in front of the head of the provisional government, the parliament and the nation of Azerbaijan; the official government of the Azerbaijan state shall commence its function, and the provisional government shall hand over its mandate. At this point, the function of the provisional government comes to its conclusion. The new government working towards the affairs of the state shall collectively work with the parliament and carry out the following:

- Confirm the official currency of the government, being Tumen (Tümen) and determine the framework for the national bank;
- Confirm the Azerbaijani passport and introduce it to world organizations;

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

- Prepare the temporary plan for a 4-year budget based on high-level policies of the country for the administration of the country and seek approval from the Azerbaijan Parliament.
- Create the Constitutional Court involving the members of the Council of the Constitution and experts, according to the decision of the Azerbaijani government undertaken by the Azerbaijan parliament;
- Form a delegation Committee to oversee the election of the parliaments for the federal states and the federal government under the auspice of the government of Azerbaijan and as envisaged by the Azerbaijani Constitution and within the framework of Federal Parliaments.

6.3.1 Creating Federal States

Federal Parliaments and federal governments together make up one of the pillars of the Azerbaijani legislative and administration system. Having prepared and issued the necessary laws by the Azerbaijan Parliament and the Constitution Council, elections shall be called in the federal states and federal governments shall be formed under the supervision of the Azerbaijan Parliament and the Azerbaijani government. As in the Azerbaijan Parliament, a diversity of parties shall be able to take part in the elections of the federal states; entrance to a Federal Parliament shall require holding 5% of the votes; the government shall be formed for a term of 4 years by the party securing the majority of the seats, else a coalition government shall be formed; the head of the party (the head of party of the federal state) forming the

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

government shall also be the head of the government of the federal state if approved by the majority vote of the Federal Parliament. Together with these elections, similar elections shall take place for the city, town and district councils. If not successful in the first round of voting, similar outcomes shall prevail in following stages. Having considered the conditions of the particular federal state, the head of that state together with the cabinet shall prepare a program and action plan for that state and submit it to the Federal Parliament for approval. These shall also consider the program and action plans of the central government. When the ideas are taking shape, consultation with the central government is deemed useful.

The head of the federal state shall appoint delegations to take part in the Federal Council in accordance with the guidance given in the Constitution, the number of whom shall be proportional to the population of each federal state.

6.3.2 Creating Federal Parliaments in Federal States

According to the draft Constitution, having considered regional variations and economical needs, the legislative body of Azerbaijan shall include Federal Parliaments empowered to legislate within the framework determined by the Constitution to safeguard their regional identities including language, culture and tradition. Federal governments shall submit legislative resolutions to the Federal Parliament for debate and approval through majority voting. Naturally, these legislations cannot be

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

in conflict to the laws of Azerbaijan and of the Constitution of Azerbaijan.

The federal states shall play their roles towards resolutions of the bills submitted to the Azerbaijan Parliament by the Azerbaijan government and the Federal Council shall be formed through their participations. These are covered by Articles 3, 4 and 7 of the draft Constitution. The members of the Federal Council shall comprise the heads of the Federal States and a number of deputies designated by each state from their constituent governments, the number of which shall be proportionate to their populations.

6.3.3 Election of the President of Azerbaijan

The candidates for the Presidency of Azerbaijan shall be persons with the appropriate esteem for this post, who gain the confidence of the people; and the elected one shall be by majority vote of the combined Azerbaijan Parliament and the Federal Council. The president would not directly interfere with the policies of the country and would represent the whole Azerbaijan as the president of Azerbaijan. The draft Azerbaijan Constitution addresses these issues under Article 60, 61 and 62.

6.3.4 Forming Preparatory Commission for the Unification of Two Azerbaijanians and Related Committees

The peaceful and free unification of two Azerbaijanians is not a wishful thinking but a historical necessity.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

The Front holds that the nation of Azerbaijan and Azerbaijani territories are one whole. Upon securing the independence of Southern Azerbaijan the sole goal is to unify our homeland that partitioned by foreign forces. This unification process shall avoid spontaneity and sentimentalism but shall solve the problems stemming since 1812 of the partitioning date of Azerbaijan. Naturally, upon securing the independence of Southern Azerbaijan, the boundary between Northern and Southern Azerbaijan shall lose its significance. This is a reality but there are other realities too. Northern Azerbaijan is already an independent country; has an appropriate governance system. The program implemented by the Front is different than that in Northern Azerbaijan. The Front is neither in favor of a governance system concentrated at the centre (of the control from the centre) nor the right of determination by the President. The Front takes a wide view of freedom and democracy; and aims to trap any potential for any emergence of despotism through legal systems. The government of Southern Azerbaijan shall be with the mandate of protecting the Constitution and the form of the government for 30 million Azerbaijanis.

Having considered all the above, the move towards unification and the formation of the Azerbaijan government; there shall be an analysis and synthesis of all the problems; there shall be an assessment of the shape of the unification and the roadmap of the transition; the Unification Commission of both Azerbaijanis shall be formed, drawing its memberships from the expert lawyers of both Azerbaijanis and from the

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

Council of Constitution. The Commission shall develop its recommendations to both parliaments and both are coming up with their determinations.

It should be noted that this commission shall determine the flag of Azerbaijan. Until that date the flag of Northern Azerbaijan shall serve as the symbol of our unity, which is already adopted by the Front.

The Front holds that the substance of the Constitution drafted by the Front and endorsed by the Azerbaijan Parliament of Southern Azerbaijan through a referendum is not anymore amenable to substantive amendments but of course all the positive aspects of the Constitution adopted in Northern Azerbaijan shall be transferred to that of Southern Azerbaijan. The unification shall prevail by the virtue of all these preparations with full bilateral consents within one go or within 5 years. This shall put an end to despair and partitions since 1812 and shall restore the unity of our homeland. This unification shall be marked as the true festivity of the nation of Azerbaijan.

7. The Long-term Program of the Front

7.1 *Education*

7.1.1 The Educational and Pedagogical Program

1. According to the draft Constitution by the Front, Turkic Azerbaijani shall be the official language in Azerbaijan. The language of public education, from kindergarten to the higher education shall be in this language. Relevant commissions shall be formed by the ministry of education to prepare appropriate books in this language. This Commission shall also prepare appropriate books for fellow Azerbaijanis speaking in other languages.
2. The educational system in Azerbaijani, from Kindergarten to Universities, shall undergo radical changes, adapting to contemporary world conditions.
3. University research shall be promoted with a high status. Scientists shall be invited from diversity of countries to work in our educational institutes. Academic endeavors shall be channeled to the benefit of economical, political and social development and progress.
4. Much attention shall be given to teach foreign languages in our schools with new methods. To this end, we will even call upon resources of foreign language teachers from their native countries. The target shall be competency in two languages upon graduation of each student. Thus, the authorities have

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

to encourage all students to put much importance on research studies. In this regard, the scientific communities must work hard with the government to achieve this goal.

5. For students not interested in continuing their education in higher institutions, vocational and various courses should be designed. We can also benefit from the experiences of European countries.
6. We have to take on board contemporary education media. Included is the provision of computers accessible to all students in schools. Students shall be encouraged to make use of the Internet; and they will be taught ways of accessing information sources through the Internet. Facilities shall be provided to use the Internet and interact with students of foreign countries. The Azerbaijani state shall be helpful for students taking part in the various web learning initiatives.

In relation to education, Article 34 of the draft Southern Azerbaijan Constitution states:

Article 34 – Learning, Education and Study

1. Education is a state responsibility. The Azerbaijani state government and federal states are in charge of education.
2. Compulsory education is for nine years.
3. Private centers of elementary, secondary and higher educations selecting their own methodologies shall be institutions regulated by the state. The system of these institutions shall not be different than the system generally recommended by the state.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

4. Foreign specialists and scientists can be invited to the country to enhance the knowledge-base and the learning of new sciences; or resources can be facilitated for them to set higher learning institutes.

7.1.2 Educational Program

“In Azerbaijan, The prime duty of the Azerbaijani state and government is to widen the national education in Azerbaijan.” Pisheveri.

Whilst Turkic Azerbaijani is the official language of Azerbaijan, this language shall be developed and non-native words shall be replaced.

1. The compulsory education in Azerbaijan is 9 years.
2. Fundamental changes shall take place in the education and teaching systems; the relics of colonial era shall be wiped out; new methods of learning shall be applied; learning shall be linked with research.
3. There shall be close co-operations between higher education centers (universities) and industry.
4. Azerbaijani research centers shall be founded to work in partnership with centers of science to clear our language from colonial relics and foreign words, and at the same time prepare dictionaries for diversities of scientific endeavors with appropriate terminology; also co-operating with similar institutes of other Turkic countries.
5. Public libraries shall be proliferated country-wide.
6. Audio-visual and computer facilities shall be used in the education system.
7. Literature, music, fine arts and other creative endeavors shall be encouraged.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

8. Appropriate resources shall be allocated to cultural activities at schools and in radio-television.
9. In this period, the Azerbaijani Radio-television media shall care for the prevalence of our civilization and enhance general and scientific knowledge-base of our people. These media have to serve our people. In other words, they must not be the mouthpiece for the propagation of one political ideology.
10. The fulfillment of the role of radio and television system can benefit from the European experience.

7.2 Appraisal of Economic Program of the Front

In order to appraise economical, political and educational problems in Southern Azerbaijan, we are compelled to overview these problems in Iran. That is because colonized Southern Azerbaijan is made dependent on Iranian policies. Conversely, before this overview, we have to have an insight into the world economy. Now we are witnessing a rapid process of globalization of economics. Stock markets reflect this process in real time. These countries are continually refining their progress towards order, determination, regulation using the knowledge-base of their expert economists while tapping on the resources of their emerging methods, research and technology. In general, developed countries maintain their economy through short- and long-term plans. The causes of inflation are investigated in a scientific manner through micro and macro economical analysis and their solutions are identified.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

As opposed to the above model, the so called Islamic Republic of Iran is imposing a system rooted in reaction, fanaticism and chauvinism. They neither make sense of knowledge-base, the global dimension of economics, nor consult with knowledge owners.

Production in Iran is the industry of component assembly. On the whole, the system of investment suffers from fundamental ills. As Iran is unable to treat the ills of its economy, its development is steadfastly falling behind; and therefore the gap with the developed countries in scientific disciplines is also growing fast.

Regarding Southern Azerbaijan, we are clear that in order to alleviate the disaster inflicted on us, the way forward is to plan our economy in a scientific manner, to determine the sustainable level of production and to create a healthy climate between working forces and their management.

It is natural that the prerequisite of carrying out such programs are the independence of Southern Azerbaijan from Iran. The national forces of Azerbaijan are now engaged in our struggle towards our independence. They are preparing appropriate programs towards the flourishing of our homeland. The Front has taken a formidable task upon itself. The Front is now preparing all-round plans covering the vitalization and the development of small and large industries and our agriculture and industries; the allocation of funds and capitals to the realization of such plans; the preparation of programs with the helps from an envisaged banking system; and the problem-solving by experts.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

The fundamental responsibilities of the Front include the strengthening of the national economy, modernization of production to world standards, the organization of the banking and monetary system upholding best interests of Azerbaijan and making it compatible with world systems.

The Front holds that the realization of the envisaged economical program makes it necessary to tap on the expertise of our specialists, practitioners and advisers, living both in Southern Azerbaijan and outside it. Fortunately, the number of Azerbaijani scientists, advisers and experts are sufficiently high to meet the needs. Therefore, it is only right to call upon their contribution. In this way, a great deal can be pooled together in a short length of time.

Thus, our bank system and economy should be remodeled and overhauled to be compatible with the world economy.

The Front holds that, Azerbaijan can be modernized in a short length of time, the standard of living can be improved and prosperity can be guaranteed if Southern Azerbaijan can (i) run a progressive and sovereign politics, (ii) plan its economy in modern style, and (iii) seek appropriate measures for its educational system.

Prosperity and affluence of our people is underpinned by the economical balance between our exports and imports to keep inflation under control and our program paves the way towards our ideals.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

7.2.1 Industry and Economy

The capitalist system has been maturing since the 20th century and since the collapse of the socialist system, it has been displaying an upper hand. Privatization, merged companies and cartels are playing a determining role. Even, various cartels have been merging together to form higher cartels controlling various world economic sectors. This is not peculiar to the production or to industry sectors but it also covers marketing and banking systems. Thus, the bank and industrial cartels are controlling the world economy. In this connection, a significant issue is the hidden competition between USA and European countries. This is in a background where the banking system and the economy of Europe and of the USA are effectively integrated. The Euro currency is a simple manifestation of this competition. At the same time, they are trying to capture new markets and make them dependent.

Having considering such an international scenario on economics and technology, the Front envisages the realization of a chain of policies on supporting small industries using all of its means, securing the environment for the development of large industries, through the sale of shares, reinvesting any such gains within those particular industrial sectors to raise them to world standards, and eventually making them competitive in the world market. Co-operation between employees and employers is the prime condition for the efficiency in particular industrial sectors and improvements in production. The employees should not regard their work place as a place to work but of their own and feel responsible for it. They should be engaged

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

in the exchange of ideas for the progress of their work, for the improvement of the products. It serves the purpose to issue shares for the employees in such a sensitive working system. Undoubtedly, employees shall not regard themselves as workers but develop chemistry towards their working place.

7.2.2 Measures necessary to vitalize Economy

1. Our national industries shall be modernized and adapted to market and marketing systems, and managed by experts appointed by the state.
2. Our banking system shall be adapted to world norms.
3. The Azerbaijan National Bank shall be created, protecting the value of the Azerbaijani currency (Tumen), and allowing autonomous decision making by the experts of the bank.
4. We shall facilitate meeting the needs of the organization responsible to road and transportation.
5. Appropriate legislations shall be prepared for foreign trade while local industries shall be protected, facilitating partnership and cooperation with world industries.
6. All production corporations shall be syndicated in the Azerbaijan Enterprise of Industries to smoothen the performance of our industries by eliminating its excesses and shortfalls.
7. The creation of modern industries shall be expedited.
8. The national interests of Azerbaijan shall be given priority in all protocols concluded with foreign countries.
9. The general tax system shall be overhauled. It shall be communicated to our people that tax is not a

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

penalty but a necessary source of distributing the wealth of the nation.

10. Small and medium industries shall be encouraged.
11. Resources shall be made available to create large-scale industries, and increase their competitiveness.
12. Foreign investment in Azerbaijan shall be encouraged.
13. Cooperation and partnership of foreign capitals with native industries and enterprises shall be encouraged.
14. The Azerbaijani citizens shall be encouraged to own shares to be partners of large industries and new national industries, where they shall be managed by modern management systems.
15. Centralized energy production shall be discouraged but the national energy grid shall be more reliant on renewable energy production methods.
16. The tax system shall be radically remodeled.

7.2.3 Co-operation between Employees and Employers

1. Regulating Week-time working hours and annual holidays and similar leaves shall be regulated with the mutual participation of employees and employers.
2. Special rights shall be recognized for tough working conditions.
3. Productivity shall be agreed through co-operation among the employees and employers at each workplace.
4. Employees should be able to buy shares of their own workplace.
5. The limits of overtime working shall be regulated including the overtime benefits.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

6. Night shifts shall be regulated.
7. Permanent employment of workforce of less than 16 years olds shall be prevented.
8. The rights of workforces in workplaces shall be protected and discrimination shall be uprooted.
9. The right for maternity leave of female workforces shall be systematized and the resumption of their work shall be guaranteed.
10. Daycare centre shall be encouraged at large workplaces for babies and children.
11. Child benefits shall be set up
12. Provisions shall be set up for the employees on national health services, old age pensions and insurance against damage and accident; insurance policies shall be created for hazards stemming at workplaces.
13. Labor Relations offices shall be set up to secure work for employed persons or retrain them for different skills.
14. The rights of agricultural workers shall be regulated within the labor law.
15. Co-operation shall be encouraged between employees and employers; the rights of employees shall be protected; and labor laws shall be prepared by the participation of both parties.

7.3 Villages, Rural Policies and Agriculture

Whilst Azerbaijan has been one of the experienced countries of the region throughout history, it has also been regarded as the grain store of the region. It has

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

inspired other countries by its methods of agriculture and irrigation. Regrettably, after the imposed partition of Azerbaijan, traditional agricultural infrastructure of Northern Azerbaijan disappeared; people became oblivious of their past traditions; and subsequent to planned socialist mode of production, arable lands were poisoned by ill-considered fertilizers. In Southern Azerbaijan too, the rural way of life was undermined with the arrival of the Pahlavi regimes operating a discrimination policy leading to the disappearance of its rural way of life; villages were neglected; incomes of Azerbaijani villagers were reduced to below poverty lines, as they were denied of all the new resources; at the end they had to leave behind their native lands, migrating to cities in particular to Tehran or some other Persian cities and bearing the burden of intolerable low paid jobs to support their families. These migrating populations were subjected to humiliation by Persian chauvinists in the foreign lands. Today, Azerbaijani villages have been reduced to derelicts, reminiscent of unoccupied houses. Thus, the Front regards as a high priority to revitalize the rural way of life in Azerbaijan. Its key policy issues include the revitalization of the villages, restoration of the rural way of life, compete with the way of life compatible with the 21st century, making agricultural systems viable once again, increasing productivity, and increasing villagers' incomes. Devolution is our intention. This is also a measure to prevent unplanned growth of cities and a resolution to conflicts and problems. To make villages prosper is to make the whole country prosper and this is the way for the development of our economy. This shall lead to peace in the society. The Front regards the villages as the source.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

1. The Front holds self-sufficiency in food-product to be feasible and this goal can be realized by the state support for villages and village industries. But this does not mean the state takeover of everything.
2. Extension training services shall be provided to villagers on new agricultural and animal husbandry. For this we will resort to tapping on local experience, foreign expertise and modern methods of education.
3. The Front holds that progress is as much important as to meet the local need and export the surplus.
4. The Front envisages a plan to be realized by the close co-operation among the federal states and executed over a 20 year time horizon delivering sewerage systems for the villages, as well water supply systems, paved roads and supply of electricity and other modern needs meeting the needs of contemporary standards. Construction of the appropriate buildings shall make use of the experience on classic buildings adapting to local conditions. It is also necessary to provide schools, library, sport and leisure amenities for the public and village youth.
5. The Front shall restore the lost image of Azerbaijan regarding forestry through an envisaged program of forestation. Within the time horizon of 20 years, Azerbaijan shall be reforested by both national and foreign expertise; and this initiative shall be transformed into a traditional and national character or consciousness, i.e. people will be proactive on these initiatives. The state shall also play its facilitating role. Conversely, the restoration of the

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

flora and fauna of Azerbaijan shall be facilitated and blood sports shall be prevented.

6. During the realization of all these initiatives, efforts shall be directed to the protection of the environment and preservation of nature, also people shall share their ownership of natural resources with other species, and the culture of protecting the environment shall be built into our culture.

Any underground and surface natural resources not within private ownership shall be nationalized including forests and woods

- Those interested in working in the field of forestry shall be provided with land and means through a long-term system for reforestation. It is an important condition that there is an all-round development of consciousness and proactive initiatives.
- Whilst modernization of agricultural technology is taking place, benefits will be reaped of the experience gained from traditional agricultural sectors.
- The state shall support those active in agricultural sectors through loans towards the self-sufficiency of Azerbaijan in meeting its food.
- Agricultural tools will be manufactured within Azerbaijan and their supplies to farmers will be facilitated.
- A systematic study shall be carried out to develop a masterplan of the water grid for the country, identify new water resources, develop strategies for saving water, implement environmentally-

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

friendly water reservoirs and utilize seawater for both water supply purposes and for irrigation.

7.4 Health System

One of the main objectives of the Front is to set up a national health system, to make it a public service, and secure that every citizen can benefit from the system. Thus it is an important condition to implement radical measures through the short- and long-term program within the country.

Achieving this goal inevitably depends on implementing public and private health insurance plans. The insurance system is for distributing risks. Subsequently, it creates a system of mutual help within the country, so that the poor enjoys a health system that cannot otherwise afford it.

The insurance companies are not commercial centers but they follow free market systems. Their administration is under self-governing institutes, responsible for the government and under the supervision of the state.

The Front is envisaging a national health service to be functioning as clockwork and to be emerged through a short- and long-term program. Admittedly, the desired health service cannot be realized by the imposition of a top-down program. In stead, the realization of such a service is a painstaking process through legislation together with the establishment of appropriate institutions facilitating material resources, securing professional staff

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

and providing appropriate medicine. That is why the Front is envisaging a short- and long-term program.

A) The Short-term Program

Upon securing the independence of Azerbaijan, at the very early days, a census shall be carried out within each federal state. This census shall contribute into a database at the disposal of appropriate ministries including the number of villages, their health resources, statistics on their number of staff, hospitals, beds, medicine, as well as other statistics including the population.

The Azerbaijan Health Minister shall prepare a short- and long-term program together with the federal health ministries and appropriate experts.

The short-term health program would envisage the setting up of a health centre for each of several villages throughout the federal states. The villagers shall have at least one channel of telecommunication with these centers. Each center shall be responsible for its own catchment. Conversely, any of these villages needing emergence medical care shall be in touch with its own health center. In case, the appropriate treatment is not possible within the center, the patient shall be transferred to the hospital (holding the center as a satellite). Therefore, the hospital or a number of centers should have helicopter for urgent transfers. Ambulances shall be used under less urgent conditions. Health centers shall also share facilities with each other.

Supply of medicine is another issue concerning both the short- and long-term items of activities. Our doctors shall

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

prepare a list of medicines, and those which cannot be manufactured within the country shall be imported. In the long-run these medicines will be produced within the country through co-operation with other countries.

B) Long-term Program

In the long-term, the number of hospitals and their staff shall be regulated proportional to their population:

- Health Centers shall play their inspection role for the babies, children and student in nurseries and schools.
- The number of medical doctors and specialists shall be increased by increasing the number of medical students, co-operating with academies of other countries.

The Front envisages a time horizon of 20 years for the implementation of its long-term policies on the implementation of its national health service.

7.5 Internal Politics

7.5.1 Parliamentary Democracy and Principle of Majority

The Front believes in freedom, civil society, and in a Parliamentary democracy. The Parliament of Azerbaijan, elected following a free and unbiased election, shall condition the political governance for a certain length of time. The party holding majority should also recognize its boundaries and operate within the bounds. The ruling party must be in engaged in a continual dialog with the criticism and encourage debate both within the parliament and outside. Since, the majority can also be

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

wrong, there must be provisions for rectifying decisions that delivering wrong outcomes. This is particularly important on issues concerning the fundamentals of our existence and those which can undermine the future generations.

A system of freedom, based on parliamentary democracy, does not assume upon itself the responsibilities that are due to the citizens but facilitates them. It is for this reason that two things go hand-in-hand, active participation of the citizens for making them counted through being heard and facilitating appropriate legislations. Ballot box voting will take place within legal frameworks. The people's decisions shall be reflected in the laws legislated by the Azerbaijan Parliament, Federal Councils and District Councils. Limitations imposed on the ruling party by the virtue of its majority shall also be applicable to the direct participation of the citizens in politics.

Members of Parliament shall declare any of their incomes and their roles in industry of other institutes in order to gain the trust and respect of the public. In the process of enhancing national consciousness, the number of Members of Parliament should be proportional to both genders.

It is inconceivable and impracticable to create the parliamentary democracy without parties and continual enhancement of democratic consciousness. The effectiveness of the citizens in politics is dependent on the prevalence of democracy and enhancing consciousness within parties.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

Maintaining a course of action aligned with popular demands stems from a collection of measures including enhancing the consciousness within the party through monitoring public perception, conditions of life and shortfalls in every day business of the parties, as well as encouraging debate for a better policymaking or the refinements of policies.

The Front holds that various associations are institutions articulating their ideals. We shall co-operate with them when working for the benefit of the masses (people). On the contrary, we will resist an association waging reactionary slogans.

The pillars of democracy, freedom and civil society in our motherland, Azerbaijan, shall be founded upon the Azerbaijan Parliament, the Federal Council and multi-party politics. The members of Parliament elected for their constituency are their representative and empowered with the duty of protecting their constituency and articulating their interests. Members of Parliament are the servants of the people but not their masters. That is way their attitude must be based on the provision of a service.

The emergence of democratic consciousness is a reflection of the emergence of solidarity, social movements and political and cultural maturity among the citizens. Often the case is that the debate on certain ideals and interests of the society could be bugged down by absurd non-productive topics. In spite of such problem, debates vitalize democracy and give rise to the

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

enhancement of consciousness and enrichment of the political culture. Such debates challenge the parties for innovative arguments. Even if the problems of the above nature may be of local consequences but the enrichment of the culture should go beyond.

7.5.2 Democratic State

A reflection of a democratic state is the conferment of equal rights on all the citizens. The prime duties of the civil society is to guarantee the traditional and moral value systems of the society, the protection of basic rights and freedom, securing the universality of freedom and safeguarding these values from pitfalls.

The Front holds that a civil society is empowered to secure social and economical justice and should explain any relevant legislations and decisions and ensure that they are enforced.

It is not quite possible that a state solves the entire social problems. Every citizen should play their own roles in solving inherent problems and show their devotion.

With every individual looking after own interests and seeking their furtherance is often at the expense of undermining social justice and of diminishing love and amplifying egoism that gives rise to bureaucratic orders. Such bureaucratic orders encourage poor administrations.

The Front promotes solidarity and de-bureaucratization among Azerbaijanis. That is, we are against leaving everything to the state. We hold that such societies are

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

unable to develop both in politics and economy. The state has to implement those appropriate duties. Individuals and groups have also to undertake appropriate duties but be accountable to the state. Conversely, the state must not be overtaken by the interests of such individuals or groups.

7.5.3 Democratic Government and Community

The Front is fighting for freedom and democracy. Freedom is the foundation of independence. The personality of human beings only takes shape and develops under a free environment. The Front holds that without democracy and freedom the independence will be fruitless. That is why democracy and freedom should be total. These attributes do not cover just respecting the personalities of the individuals but the individuals are engaged in a mutual relationship and undertake and fulfill their own responsibilities.

Democracy and freedom is a way of life. Such a freedom relies on the capacity of individuals to take on responsibilities. In a democratic society, it is not permissible for an individual to share or remove the freedom of any other individual. Each single citizen of Azerbaijan must treat others in the manner desired for her/him.

The Front holds that the state and the nation are not separate institutions. The state is empowered to protect democracy and freedom and to make these the property of the masses.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

In a democratic society, the affluent classes should not undermine the rights of other people. This is also true for other capital-owners and media institutes.

Democracy and freedom acquire their power from cultural politics of the society. That is why it is difficult to establish democracy in societies under long-spells of dictatorship, to the extent that democracy can be mistaken with anarchy. Free-for-self and lawlessness do not lead to democracy and freedom. Often the case is that the new power-holders after a dictatorship cannot free themselves from the influences of the past. Thus, in our motherland Azerbaijan, our nation and the government have to co-operate to respect the law, to safeguard freedom as the greatest achievement of humanity and to proclaim our independence.

7.5.4 Law and Politics

In a civil society, law is supreme. Constitution overarches all the laws. Subsequent legislations are derivatives of the constitution and must not lead to conflicts. This is why there is a Constitutional court. This court is empowered to appraise the conformation of subsequent legislations to the Constitution. According to the proposed Constitution of Azerbaijan all individuals are equal before the law. The civil society makes it necessary that everyone treats seriously the law and comply with them. In other words, laws of land and their compliance are indicators of the workability of civil society.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

The Front holds that civil society must exercise its authority; undertake its duties as empowered; implement the system of law; communicate the system to the acceptance of the citizens; and demonstrate its adherence to the Constitution which is in its monopoly. The compliance with laws equally apply to the mutual control of the various governmental institutes.

Civil society can be undermined by both citizens bending the laws and the ruling echelons misinterpreting the laws.

The Front holds that democratization is not feasible unless civil society is guaranteed and security is safeguarded.

The Front respects all laws and holds that any unacceptable law has to be refined within the parliament through a majority vote and this procedure is a necessity of civil society.

In legal systems there is also the concept of prioritization. Thus, the implementation of a high priority law takes precedence over low priority ones. In this way, holding back the low priority law is not the same as its violation. On the contrary, it just expedites the implementation of a high priority law.

7.5.5 Law and Judgment

The Front holds that in a democratic civil society the governance is determined by the legislation and constrained by the subsequent laws. Thus, the rule of law takes precedence over any thing else. Legal codes are

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

pre-requisite for safeguarding justice. The very existence of the democratic system of civil society is tantamount to the implementation of laws and equality of every individual before the law.

Judgment delineates between right and wrong. We will implement all basic rights in the Azerbaijani society. In particular, we aim to secure resources to the weak members and prevent the violation of their rights.

The doors of the courts have to be open to every citizen. No obstacle has to be created for securing their rights. The verdicts of courts of law must be equally applicable to every individual. The employees of judiciary system have to be independent in order to be able to exercise their judgments free of any influence. It is appropriate to take benefit of the experience of veteran judges and honorary judges providing services free-of charge.

The supreme judges and governors serving in the Azerbaijan Constitution Court, the Supreme Azerbaijan Court and the high courts of the federal states have to be elected by the appropriate experts of the institutions of the Azerbaijan Parliament, the Federal Council and the Federal Parliaments, and in accordance with the laws of the democratic civil society through the open voting system on the basis of the majority vote.

The Front holds that as much as the function of guarding forces (the police and the security) is necessary so is the role of the citizens in helping the state and criticizing it towards the state fulfilling its duties, safeguarding the citizens, persecuting the guilty ones and protecting its

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

civil society, all within the system of democratic civil society. These guarding forces in civil societies are not counted as instruments of suppression of the ruler against the common people, as the case is in dictatorial systems; on the contrary, these forces are regarded as the most trusted citizens and institutes of the commoners. They are also the most esteemed individuals. Thus, they are not involved in political conflicts.

The Front holds that judicial systems, correctional institutions and justice system are contributing towards the protection of democratic civil society. Their main aim is to safeguard the citizens; to return the wrongdoers back to the society after their rehabilitation; to enhance the popular trust to law and order. Revenge is counterproductive and rejected. The views of the victims of crimes have to be matured reflecting the humanitarian sentiments of the society.

7.5.6 Civil Servants

Speaking of civil servants in the composition of the state, everyone is the servant of the Azerbaijani state and the nation, be it the president or any simple worker. They have to conduct themselves in this manner and they must neither bear any supremacy nor any privilege.

7.5.7 Security System of Azerbaijan

The Security system of Azerbaijan shall consist of the followings forces:

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

7.5.7.1 The Army

7.5.7.2 Security Agencies of Azerbaijan

7.5.7.3 The Police

7.5.7.4 Federal Forces

The Front holds that the republic of Azerbaijan shall be a civil society upholding freedom and a state with the mandate to represent the will of the Azerbaijani nation under the auspices of human rights. The Constitution lays down the attributes of this state, the duties of the state and the rights of the people and their limitations. The guarding forces and army members shall not be involved with politics. They shall only exercise their rights by taking part in the elections as individuals.

The Constitution envisages certain rights to the Army, troops, the border guards; the police and other intelligence agencies. These forces do not have any other privileges compared to the other common citizens. These forces cannot interfere with politics owing to their duties. In other words, they have to be neutral to whichever political party is holding the power.

7.5.8 Status of Woman in Azerbaijan

The status of women in the course of our 7 thousand years of history has always been important. They have never been degraded so much as in our recent history. In the Azerbaijani society, their status shall be restored and in every sphere of life they shall enjoy equal rights with men.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

7.5.9 Minorities Living in Territories of Azerbaijan Proper

There is no denial that other than Turkic Azerbaijanis, today minorities are also living in the territories of Azerbaijan proper territories. Over the time, a small proportion of these people have settled voluntarily in Azerbaijan, but large proportions have also been residing here following the chauvinistic policies of Reza Pahlavi and this process still in force. Their aim was to upset the ethnical composition of these regions in the long-run and implement their assimilation plans. Conversely, Tehran chauvinists are seeding conflicts among people, they want to reap the benefits by prolonging their rule.

The policymaking of the Front is only based on the ethnic composition reality of Azerbaijan as it is now and in order to prevent seeded conflicts of the past there are provisions both in this Manifesto and the draft Constitution through the proposed federal administration system. In this way, the minorities shall be able to preserve their mother tongues, cultures and traditions with the legislation system of their federal state and within the Constitution. They can take part in the administration of their federal state and the country. A mindset outside this framework can create the symptom of Qarabagh, a friction that shall not be entertained anymore, where foreign forces interfered with internal affairs creating footholds for their interests. In Southern Azerbaijan any boundary change shall comply with the Constitution. Most emphatically, we shall not allow for the mistakes as committed in Northern Azerbaijan, which still lingers.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

Those who have been displaced or migrated to another land cannot be recognized as native residents. But they can be considered as citizens of their adopted home. For instance, in Southern parts of the United States, those people who speak Spanish or other languages are considered as US citizens. Likewise, nearly two million Turks have been living in Germany, of whom 120 thousands alone live in the capital Berlin. Some of these populations were born in Germany but the cities in which they live are considered as part of Turkey. That is to say, today those living in Azerbaijan shall be the Azerbaijani citizens and enjoy the same rights as those of native Azerbaijanis and both citizenship and rights are irrespective of language, religion, and nationality.

7.5.10 Social and Political Rights

(Parties, Associations and Trade Unions)

The Front holds that there is no democracy without parties, associations-societies, and free trade unions. These groupings are the other companies of the same struggle. They make their own policies and arrive at their own decisions. We cannot interfere with their decisions. We believe in the sensibility of these groupings and their perception of duties towards the protection of peace in the society. We respect the framework in which trade union groupings and employers would be engaged in negotiations to solve their problems without being dependent on political organizations.

We support our workers to take shares, contributing towards the enhancement of the strength of our society, meeting its need, and the efficiency of production. We

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

also support the democratization of our economy and society.

The Front holds that the success of our society will be linked to the trade unions recognizing their responsibilities towards our society.

Adjusting pension incomes of the pensioners is an inseparable part of democracy. We will always take their sides. We cannot do away with labor agreements, defending the rights of every single worker, trade unions engaged in negotiations, institutionalization and the right to strike.

The Front holds that the workforce should actively take part in the administration of their own trade union activities in their workplaces.

In our contemporary world the new computerized tools of production and the introduction of robots in the production lines have altered the meaning of worker, as we used to understand it. Today, the role of intellectual activities is increasing. The competitive environment prevailing in workplaces and production is demanding the workforce to be a lifelong student of information and a better understanding. In other words, the survival of the workplace also depends on these very facts, i.e. what was learned before can rapidly become obsolete. The responsibility of the workforce is ever more than before and this is why trade unions of today bear more responsibilities than those of the past. Thus, trade unions of today not only uphold the interests of their workforce but also take interest in the efficiency of their production

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

and forging new working relationships with the employers. Conversely, sharing profits may change from one workplace to another. One workplace may have a greater resource than others. Workers and their trade unions have to consider the modern realities.

The Front will be with trade unions towards securing lasting peace, preventing unnecessary conflicts, achieving welfare and securing the development of our society.

7.5.11 Politics and Religion

Basing our Azerbaijani governance on secular principles is one of the major foci in this manifesto. The Koran is clear that “there is no compulsion (loath or aversion, the original word is *ikrah*) in religion”. Therefore, religion is a voluntary contract between an individual and his/her god. One may select a religion by one’s free choice. No one has the right to interfere with anyone’s choice of religion. This is one of the fundamental principles of secularism. As there are different religions and differences in the way individuals may develop their relationships with their god of choice, religion cannot play a role in politics. Secularism is not naïve to uproot religion (as communists aimed to) but seeks to institutionalize it, as in many democratic countries.

Religion in democratic countries has been integrated to their social fabric by adapting to ongoing modern developments. Thus, religion does not interfere with politics and equally politics is steered without religion; and likewise, religion keeps pace with the modern way of life and in this way it gains respect of both believers and

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

nonbelievers. Generally, religious functions are transformed into helping morality in the society and taking a moral lead on regulating charities but hardly interfering with political affairs.

By and large, Muslims are yet to institutionalize their faith of Islam and therefore there is ample room for extremism and abuse. It is not surprising that the various regimes in, the so called, Iran have used religion as a mean towards their interests and stoked the fire of fanaticism. Naturally, our nation has been suffering from the onslaught of the abused Islam for 26 years. The Front holds that Islam in Azerbaijan is floating around in *ad hoc* ways and needs to be brought to the norms worthy of the 21st century through institutionalization.

According to the proposed Constitution, religion shall be reduced to a viable and self financing institution called “the Trust for Religion and Bequeathed Properties (övqaf) – the Trust” and as an institution it should be capable of self-organization within a certain limit. These institutionalization initiatives shall apply to other religions too. Institutionalized religions in Azerbaijan shall play their roles towards uprooting superstition and fanaticism. An Assembly shall be formed to congregate higher religious authorities under the auspices of the Ministry of Education. The Assembly shall be an integral part of the Trust and shall evaluate matters related to religion in Azerbaijan.

Naturally, the institutionalization of such an Assembly requires a program of works. They shall be responsible for the elections of “Imam-Jume” (lead priests in cities)

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

and high-ranking lead experts, known as “Mujtehid” by a ballot box.

The Assembly shall be responsible for determining the salaries of religious personnel, who are regarded as people’s servants. As they are salaried, they are not entitled to accept any payment for their religious services, just as any civil servant for their public services. Religious personnel can also work in any other organization but without any religious uniform; and if interested in politics, he/she has to abandon his/her religious occupation to pursue politics.

The contributions on accounts of religious taxes such as “Khoms and Zakat” or other similar taxes shall only be payable to public Charity Accounts administered by the Trust. This Trust shall oversee the expenditure of these funds according to appropriate legislations.

The Assembly shall play its role in preparing materials for higher education in association with the Ministry of Education. Higher educational establishments concerned with religion shall be organized according to modern methodologies. They shall teach religion as well as sciences. Their graduates shall have proficiency in, at least, two or three foreign languages. Also their syllabi shall not conflict with democracy, civil society and liberty but contribute towards reinforcing these attributes and securing peace in the society.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

7.6 Foreign Policies

The Front holds that the foreign policy of Azerbaijan shall be based on peace. The policy of peace is only feasible within the environment fermenting peace and cooperation. This policy makes it necessary for the people to cooperate on economics, protect the environment, encourage cultural diversity and safeguard human rights. Naturally, securing peace in the world depends on the right of self determination of the nations, the minorities preserving their existence and cultures. It is not acceptable anymore to regard human rights as internal affairs of a country, depending on their economical and political power.

The Front promotes friendship, fraternity and cooperation with all countries; and self aware of the strategic importance of our homeland where the interests of other countries may conflict. Having considered this, the Front promotes stability within the country and the region. Whilst recognizing the need for an effective army, our population will be encouraged to take part in safeguarding our security.

The Front is supporting the normalization of our relationship with Russia and Iran as our neighboring countries. The main condition for this shall be their recognition of our independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty; and avoiding incitation of others against our interests.

Our relationship with Turkey will have the substance of good neighborhood, kinship and brothers of equal right.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

Naturally, national interests of each country will take precedence and this is respectful.

Whilst Kurds are our neighbors at south and southwest, owing to historic events a chunk of Kurdish population has settled in Azerbaijani territories. We treat these Kurdish brothers and sisters as the Azerbaijani citizens and count them as of our own. All the rights due to Turkic Azerbaijanis are also due to these Kurdish-Azerbaijani citizens. As in our past history, we regard these Kurdish people as our close friends and our allies. Naturally, some of the Kurds disregard this fraternity and have their eye on our historic territories of Azerbaijan and they seek to exploit our Kurdish-Azerbaijani brothers and sisters. In this way, they seed animosity among us and they play the games of our enemies. Considering the aims of our enemies, we have to be extra sensitive and take additional precautions. The existence of powerful independent Azerbaijan is by and large in the long-term interests of the Kurdish people.

Georgians, Daghistanians and Chechen peoples have lived side-by-side with Azerbaijanis and we have shared with each other the ups and downs of the same history. We are promoting the forming of the House of Caucasia towards strengthening our historic ties, securing welfare, raising the standard of living in our countries, and establishing social justice. In this way, we would be serving towards the establishment and maintenance of peace in the region.

The Front not only seeks peace outside the country but works towards peace within the country too. This

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

mitigates the struggle for governance and creates multi-faceted interests and equilibriums. Our national interests must take precedence on which party holds the power within Azerbaijan.

7.6.1 Armenian Problem in our Foreign Policy

As it is well known, today's Armenia comprises the Khanate of Irevan (Yerevan) and the regions of Goyje and Zengezur situated in the territories of Azerbaijan proper. The historic homeland of the Armenians was situated south and southwest of the Lake Van in Turkey. Under the 1828 Turkmenchay Treaty, Czarist Russia occupied all of Caucasia and Northern Azerbaijan and annexed them into its imperial domain.

Following the Turkmenchay Treaty, waves of Armenians migrated to Northern Azerbaijan. They were settled in Qarabagh. Along with these events, according to the formal understanding between Russians and the Armenian Priest, Nerssis, in 1828 in Tbilisi, the Russian state promised to grant the Khanates of Irevan, Nakhjivan and Qarabagh to Armenians if they sided and supported Russia in the war waged against the Ottomans (Reference: p.371 History of Great Armenia-Pasdarmachian).

Armenians together with Russians then waged war against the Ottoman Empire both in the territories of Ottomans at large and in their own homelands in accordance with this understanding. By the end of this war, Russia had effected the immigration of around 100,000 Armenians into Azerbaijan promising them

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

prosperity. Allowance was made for the migration of Armenians into Russia under the Agreement of Aderyapool, signed in 1829. In this, hundreds of thousands of Armenians started their migration into Azerbaijan. The Khanate of Irevan was handed to Armenians against the wishes of Azerbaijanis by the decree issued by the Tsar, Nicolas I, in 1829 (G.A. Burnootian, 1982).

The territorial disruption of Azerbaijan resulted in an area wrongly referred to as Armenia. This process continued into this century with the destruction of the nascent democratic republic of Azerbaijan in 28 April 1920 by a decree from Lenin and transfer of the regions of Goyje and Zengezur to the Khanate of Irevan to Armenian control. The Khanate of Irevan until then was referred to as Armenia and was an autonomous region within Azerbaijan. In addition, the region of Mountainous Qarabagh was also given autonomous status within Azerbaijan. In 1991, when Azerbaijan regained its independence, Russians and Armenians once again inflamed local tensions by occupying Qarabagh and its surrounding regions. These areas remain under military occupation.

Having considered these historic facts, the Front cannot formally recognize a Russian-propped Armenia. This is because, these Azerbaijani territories were granted to Armenians by Russians but not by Azerbaijanis. They have uprooted indigenous Azerbaijani populations and inflicted several genocides on Azerbaijanis. If Armenians want to carry on living in these territories of Azerbaijan, they have to withdraw

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

unconditionally from these territories, apologize for their crimes; the return of refugees to these territories has to be facilitated, and damages paid to the victims. Afterwards, these Armenians can enter into negotiations with the state of Azerbaijan to where they want to reside in Azerbaijan and under what terms.

It is noteworthy that the Front and the nation of Azerbaijan are not aiming to turn history back. Even if Armenians are not living in their homelands, nonetheless they need a territory to live in. They too have to accept historic realities and give up their land-grab claims and instead be engaged with Azerbaijanis in improving their economic prosperity. They have to learn to cooperate instead of waging hatred. We are ready to welcome them, as we have done in the past. Else, the losers will be the Armenian people in the long-run. The Azerbaijani proverb has it that “it is not sensible to harm a sailor while on board.” Their intransigence is counterproductive for both sides.

7.6.2 All we want is Peace

The fate of humanity is rooted in the wisdom of: living together else vanishing together. History puts on us the responsibility of avoiding the prospect of destruction and guaranteeing peace.

War must not be transformed into an instrument of politics. The cause of peace is ever more serious while the threat of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons hovers over us. The silence at the wake of the past arm race does not mean peace. Conversely, living with each

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

other is the solution but without one nation exerting force on another and without exploiting the others.

The policy of peace also covers cooperation of people in economics, the environment, culture and human rights. Securing peace in the world is inevitably related to the right of self-determination of the nations.

The policy of peace is endowed with mitigating governance, creating equality and reaching the goals in partnership. Peace is also endowed with transforming the race of superpower states for gaining advantage into playing a progressive role in the region through cooperation and of ideological and religious supremacies into political and cultural competition and debate.

The policy of peace is also tantamount to a demand on goods are needed but not produced, rather than weapons that are not needed but produced.

The policy of peace is the development of the very thought of peace; and the encouragement to a better insight into peace. It is only the governments empowered with securing peace. Instead, it consists of all the nations of the world reaching mutual understanding and avoiding animosity.

Weapons capable of annihilation of human beings are also capable of annihilating our very existence but then what use will they be for? This is why we emphasize on encouraging the culture of mutual security, trust and cooperation but not of threatening or deterring one

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

another by armaments or powerful armies. Thus, we have to keep our planet clear of space armory.

We pledge our support to the destruction of any arsenal capable of destroying mankind and we will play our role to this end.

We must not allow the development or depositing of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons in the Republic of Azerbaijan, neither through a unilateral production nor in collaboration with others. Our homeland must be a place free of weapons of mass destruction. This should be registered in our Constitution.

We will be changing into a driving force of disarmament not only in our region but also in the world.

Our objective is to oppose the export weapon industries.

7.6.3 Our Common Security

A cursory overview of the recent past indicates that the competition of two superpowers led the world to more armament. At that time, the sphere of influence of both power blocks was transformed into as if highly explosive arsenals. Even if the Soviet block collapsed, a true collapse of arm race is yet to emerge. Thus, the 70 years old prejudice still lingers. Regional collaboration is one way of uprooting the symptoms of the past and for the establishment of mutual trust. The prerequisite of such cooperation is upholding and respecting the interests of stakeholders, as opposed to the old win/lose culture. Likewise, mutual security is another issue. Thus, it is

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

necessary to set up common security policies. In the circumstances, common coexistence and the good intention of peacefulness are pivotal.

Common security reduces tension and can remove it. This, as a strategy, also reduces the fear of danger and can contribute to putting behind the remnants of the past cold war.

Our objective is to put an end to armed confrontations in our region and secure a system of lasting peace. In order to reach these aims, Azerbaijan has to enter negotiations with superpowers concerned with their own regional interests and communicate the resolving role of the proposed common security towards the peace in the region and in the world. This is because the policy allows to resolve conflicts, remove the differences in the thoughts and to maintain mutual interests.

In this distant corner of Europe and at its juncture with Asia, the establishment of security and stability will be an outcome of this common security policy. This will facilitate the army of these foreign states to leave the region.

In this policy of common security, the sovereignty of every stakeholder must be protected. Yet they are entitled to the right of defending themselves. But this policy should not be stretched towards rearmament, revitalization of armament industries, and the depletion of revenues by spending on arm races. Peace must be reached through negotiations but not from the position of strength.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

Whilst the policy of common security strives to destroy the destructive armament arsenals in our regions and our world, there is also a demand to generally reduce weapons and army units, and in this way to alleviate the risk of mutual aggression. This process also requires unilateral actions. Therefore initiatives should be worked out by reducing the revenue wasted on arms race and on proportionately reducing the army units. Also opposition should be expressed against the proliferation of nuclear armaments and nuclear tests.

Nuclear powers should guarantee that they shall not use their nuclear might against non-nuclear countries. Therefore, we should campaign toward creating regions of countries free of nuclear and chemical weapons. The policy of common security should prevail in these regions creating a regional association and cooperating with other associations including the European Union. This is the essence of the policy of Front in relation to common security in our region.

The Front holds that the Azerbaijan Army is only responsible to protect our borders and secure our territories. Thus, it has to have an effective defense capability, as well carry out its duties in safeguarding the policy of common security and repel any interference against our motherland. The army also has to be in a state of readiness to undertake its duties.

According to our draft constitution, the political administration of the Azerbaijani Army is by the

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

Azerbaijani government and under the command of the Azerbaijani Parliament.

The Azerbaijani soldier shall be esteemed member of the nation of Azerbaijan. The Front holds that it is the duty of every individual to undergo such a national duty. Whilst we aim to secure peace in our region and campaign for cooperation in our region, we envisage that there will be a shift in attitudes towards army after the prevalence of the policy of common security.

The Front welcomes the apparently fictional view of the countries without armies. Some of the members of the Front actually hold this view. As specified in our draft Constitution, any member of our society holding such a view shall be entitled to serve charity organizations in lieu of military services after the brief compulsory period of military education. This is also a useful initiative for the army. In our region, a common security system can be formed under the name of ‘House of Caucasia.’

7.6.4 House of Caucasia

The Front hold that after securing the independence of Southern Azerbaijan and restoring its territorial integrity, one of the first steps to be taken is to form a system of common security and cooperation in the region. Branding this as the House of Caucasia, this new institution can function similar to European Union but with respect to the characteristics of the region. On the one hand, this new institution can conform to democracy and freedom for maximizing their synergy and securing mutual trust and on the other hand it can aspire to meet their national

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

interests, economical, social and other needs. The process of globalization makes these aspirations a necessity.

Our idea of creating the House of Caucasia has its origin in distant past. The idea emerged in the beginning of the 20th century and the first Parliament of the House of Caucasia was formed by the election in 1918. At that time Lenin's Soviet regime restoring the Tsarist Russian rule obstructed the function of this House. This is because Russian interests did not fit this Caucasian institute. Therefore they conspired by confronting the migrant Armenian populations with native Azerbaijanis. Whilst they granted the Irevan Khanate to Armenians, the policymakers of Moscow had the goal of carving out an Armenian government in the region. This is because Moscow regarded Armenians as their trustworthy allies. Of course Armenian Dashnaks would not complain of this outcome. Thus, Shaumyan's culprits of Dashnaks and local Bolsheviks inflicted bloodshed all over Azerbaijan. Russians continued their colonial rule in Azerbaijan after the establishment of the new Soviet and the imposition of their bayonet rule. This was not all but they resorted to arbitrary changes of boundaries all against Azerbaijan and seeded waves of conflict and tension among the peoples of the region. Needless to say that, the most losing nation under the Soviet empire was the nation of Azerbaijan, as Russian feasted away our lands granting them to Armenians, Georgians and Daghistanians.

The policy of Russian colonialism has continued after the collapse of the Soviet imperialism. The Russians are still stoking the fire of conflicts and do not refrain from a

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

direct military intervention, as in Chechnya; and they create hurdles hindering the economical and political progress of the nations of the region. Moscow is still poised with the restoration of their colonial supremacy.

The Front holds that it is feasible to resolve the potential conflicts of the nations of the region in the long-run within the House of Caucasia. This is because under this common house the roots of fraternity can spring up and conflicts of religious and ideological origins can be transformed into peaceful competitions and political debates. Thus, the House of Caucasia will be an impetus to the economical and social development of the stakeholder countries as well the prevalence of social justice in the region. Thus, the creation of the House of Caucasia is an important issue.

The world community can regard the House of Caucasia as a cornerstone for the peace, democracy and freedom in our region. This house must be the source of peace in this area and no nation should be threatened by it.

The Front has prepared a draft in this matter, comprising an expression of our aspirations towards forming such an institute, its role, scope and worldview. We are inspired to submit it to our Parliament and government of Azerbaijan in due course.

7.6.5 International Cooperation

What is the new order?

In order to secure peace in the world, the world community has to regulate economical systems through

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

political means, i.e. make a sensible use of raw materials, technology and knowledge and likewise promote the revival of more natural ways of life.

The United Nations can also play an auxiliary role to this end. That is why its role should be enhanced. The UN has to be encouraged towards forming and implementing a world policy and resist any coercion, i.e. this organization should not be biased towards the policies of powerful countries. Azerbaijan should campaign towards such ideals within its means.

The UN should be proactive in resolving conflicts and upon the realization of conflicts it should react towards a resolution. The credibility of the organization will be enhanced when the resolutions are implemented. For instance, the UN should be empowered to set up an organization to regulate the prices of internationally transacted products (e.g. petrol, cotton, copper, gold, silver, grain, ...) as opposed to the current situation of the prices being determined by powerful multinationals and cartels.

The following factors can contribute towards the implementation of the above ideas by the United Nations:

1. The nations and their governments should transfer some of their authorities to the UN or similar international organizations.
2. The international tribunal of the UN must be enhanced.
3. The Security Council must be more accountable be modernized, the ongoing regime of monopoly should be stopped, the right of veto must be revoked, and

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

decisions should be arrived through democratic channels but not underhand dealings.

4. International Disarmament should be one of the prime responsibilities of the UN and this organization should be empowered to destruct all weapons of mass destruction.
5. Arms deals should be brought to under the supervision of the UN.

7.6.6 The East-West Policy of Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is situated at the juncture of Europe and Asia. If Northern Azerbaijan is located at the eastern corner of Europe, Southern Azerbaijan is situated at the gate of Asia. Thus, Azerbaijan can play a due role between Asia and Europe, as in its past history.

Azerbaijan is obliged to play its role by raising its welfare and culture to a comparable level of progressive parts of the world, as it is necessary for the establishment of the regional security. Failing this will mean that the crisis will persist and the economical, political and social development will not be realized anymore. This shall give rise to increased poverty, imbalanced development and dissent among the population. This will pave the opportunity for swindlers to operate appropriate leverages making rife undemocratic activities. This in turn will derail democracy and freedom, will undermine the establishment of civil society, dissident will leave the country and encourage waves of brain-drain and a loss of skilled forces.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

The Front envisages a balanced policy to be established with the Western countries or other developed and less developed countries; to put an end to the dependence on the west with redressed colonialism; to work towards the universal proclamation of equality; the prevalence of the rights of the individuals and their way of life everywhere. In the long-run this shall be to the benefit of the west. This is because they have to deal with the difficult problem of the influx of economical refugees as long as the gap between the developed west and underdeveloped countries is widening. Failing this, it is naivety to indulge with the thought of peace and security in the world.

The Front is determined to run its policy with its neighboring countries. Our prosperity will not be at the expense of others. Even if Azerbaijan is a developing country, it has sufficient resources to achieve its goals. Nonetheless we have to follow the right procedure.

We are determined to establish social justice in our society; everyone shall be a responsible individual; our industries shall be modernized; and we shall introduce new industries into our countries.

Until quite recent times, our motherland was renowned for being the storehouse of grains and dairy products. Our agriculture is now next to none. We pledge to revive this sector and be self sufficient once again. We aim to benefit from the experience of other countries both in their scientific and traditional techniques and refrain from making the mistakes they have done.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

We shall pave the way towards reaching the world market for our product and deal with obstacle of tariff and other bureaucratic hurdles. We hope to cooperate with other countries in sectors of the environment, grain production, energy, technology, security and politics.

The Front shall expedite the development of new technology in our country and the removal of their hurdles. The introduction of new technologies and exporting them to our neighboring countries can be beneficial to our own economy and we can play a wider role. The academic institutions and other educational agencies would cooperate with appropriate research and technological institutes of developed countries. We shall also encourage the exchange of research units with developed countries.

7.6.7 The World of Internationals and the Independence of Southern Azerbaijan

Regarding the world community approach to the independence of Southern Azerbaijan, it is certainly the case that the Front has absolutely no intention of destabilizing the region. On the contrary, we support a true state of regional security that as opposed to political underhand dealings. This will only be possible with the independence of Southern Azerbaijan and its unification with Northern Azerbaijan.

The Front holds that the 40 million Azerbaijani state, drawing on the wisdom of democratic civil societies and supremacy of law, is a permanent guarantee for security.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

The 30 million Southern Azerbaijanis are capable of determining their own destiny and exercise the right for self-determination. Disregarding this right and imposing an artificial security is tantamount to freezing the existing situation with precedence of Ireland and the Basque country undergoing waves of terror and reprisals. This is neither beneficial to the nation of Azerbaijan nor to the world community, the countries supporting human rights nor the companies operating in these countries. In other words, our case poses a challenge for these countries to prove that their claim of human rights is true and support the cause of Southern Azerbaijan.

The Front supports cooperation with any country under the terms of equal status, in particular with the USA and western countries while respecting bilateral interests. Failing this, their good intentions will be questioned.

The underground resources of Azerbaijan, such as oil, gold, copper, are considered as the national wealth of the Azerbaijani nation. The Azerbaijani nation shall not consent to any international company to appropriate any portion of our national wealth at the expense of violating the rights of our 30 million people.

The Front holds that the emergence of a single, independent, sovereign and able Azerbaijan embracing democracy shall be the key for the establishment of security and stability in the Caspian region and shall expedite the unhindered transfer of petroleum to the west.

The End

Appendix

A Cursory Overview of our Historical Roots

The history of the people of Azerbaijan goes back seven thousand years. Our ancient Azerbaijani ancestors had created the first civilization in the North and South of Azerbaijan and modern Iraqi territories. In the first 3500 years, our ancestors set up the very first civilizations in human history in territories extending from north and south of Azerbaijan to its west and to the modern Iraq. These civilizations are known as Arattas, Ilamis, kassis, Hurris, Quttis, Gilezens, Emreds, Lullabies, Mannas, Urtos, Albanians and other Turkic speaking peoples or their relatives. Historical evidences indicate that only 2500 years ago ten tribes belonging to the Indo-European Pars people migrated to the plateau of Iran, as referred to in modern times, and settled in the modern provinces of Fars and Kerman, under the kingdom of the Ilam dynasty. (See: the Ancient History of Iranian Turks, Dr. Zehtabi)

Before the imposition of the so called the rule of shahs in Iran, the ancient Azerbaijani government had resisted Assyrian aggressions for about three centuries. Finally, the Mede civilization defeated them in 612 B.C. and put an end to the kingdom of Assyrians by capturing the city of Nineveh. Later, on the eastern territories of today's Iran, Achamenedes, who had been dreaming of creating their imperial kingdom, attacked Azerbaijan but were

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

defeated decisively owing to the heroic Azerbaijani people under the leadership of Mother “Tumrus”.

In the fourth century B.C., Alexander attacked Iran and subjugating the Achaemenids territories. At this juncture, the Atropatens of Azerbaijan ceased their support of Achaemenids and avoided a war with Alexander. Thus, Alexander was obliged to recognize the government of Atropatane and its ruler, Atropat. So Atropat managed to protect the independence of Azerbaijan. A historical monument in Northern Azerbaijan still commemorates this event.

In spite of waves of changes in the region over time, Azerbaijan maintained a status for her identity as a satrap state to the extent that during the Arab invasion Azerbaijan was considered as a factor. While the Sasanide dynasty in, so called, the plateau of Iran was crushed in the first attack, the Azerbaijani government maintained her strategic status for 20 years. Our forbearer Babek, impressing his mark upon history by the virtue of his heroism and gallantry, preserved the Azerbaijani identity whilst boosting on Azerbaijani Turkic roots and identity. Motesem, the Arab ruler (the Caliph), only assumed power over Azerbaijan after arresting Babek accused for treason and conspiracy and brutally executing him. Whilst the Azerbaijani people accepted Islam, they also succeeded to exert their identity and given half the chance they challenged the ruling Arab powers. The Azerbaijani people not only fought against Arabs but also rebelled against aggressions by Mongols, Ottomans and Russians.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

Azerbaijanis influenced the world of Arab and Islamic civilization through culture and the science of the time; left their impressions on architectural monuments from the East to Spain including North Africa. Today, the relics of this influence are detectable in Islamic countries even in south Spain through fine arts and architecture.

Although the Azerbaijani nation ruled Iran for centuries, they never imposed discriminatory policies. Mutual respect to other peoples has been one of the characteristics of Turkic Azerbaijanis. Our nation has never undermined their subordinates. Azerbaijanis have always promoted language, culture and traditions of the subordinate nations and even helped their preservation and development. For instance, consider the evolution of the Persian language, whose speakers often lived a nomadic life style. It reached the status of a language in a modern sense by benefiting from generous helps of their Turkic rulers and endeavors of Azerbaijanis; as a result it is one of the live languages of the region. The care shown over hundreds of years enhanced this language to the level of a state language. More than 80 per cent of Azerbaijani writers and poets composed their works in Persian and expressed their philosophy, thoughts and creative works in this language.

In the history of Azerbaijan, one of the great kings is King Ismail Khatai, who founded an Azerbaijani state and developed Azerbaijan through founding the Safavide dynasty. It is true that he proclaimed Azerbaijani as the official state language but did not marginalize the languages and cultures of other peoples. He succeeded to establish order and friendship among other rulers in his

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

territories and to create the united single Azerbaijan. In his last testament, King Ismail entrusted Azerbaijanis with three important wishes: the land of Azerbaijan, the language of Azerbaijan and the care for Azerbaijan.

It is worth noting that on those days, the Ottoman Empire was expanding its territory towards east Europe. Naturally, the Ottoman Empire was concerned with the emergence of a new Turkic power and perhaps in the same way, European powers were concerned too. Not surprisingly, the two Turkic powers were soon in conflict leading to confrontations and their weakening. King Ismail's descendants transferred the capital from Tebriz to Isfahan, i.e. they sought a harbor in an alien city. This decision defied the wishes of King Ismail, his lifelong philosophy and his ideals; and now with the benefit of the hindsight clearly it was a disastrous decision for Azerbaijani interests. Naturally, leaving behind own homeland deranges the sense of belongingness to the own homeland and builds up a sense of estrangement from it. This was the case for the Safavides. The adverse impact on the development of Azerbaijan was beyond measure. This is because the Safavide palaces attracted the thinkers, artists and civil servants from Azerbaijan and caused its impoverishments. Today, Isfahan inherits their creativity in the form of an impressive range of monuments from this very period. Even, today's handicraft tradition of Isfahan is a heritage rooted in the Safavide era.

With the decline of the Safavide dynasty and the eventual emergence of the Qajar dynasty, Tebriz was chosen as the city of crown prince. This decision did not prevent

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

the decline in the Azerbaijani identity either. Owing to the incompetence of the Qajar kings, the decline was not arrested in time and Azerbaijan was in the wake of an irreparable catastrophe that lingers to date.

In the nineteenth century, the British and Russian colonial powers were competing to expand their spheres of influence and emerged together as new players in Azerbaijan and Iran. First, Britain chopped out Afghanistan from Iran and the Russians descended down from both sides of Caspian Sea. They took all northern Caucasia, that is, Astrakhan, and began to expand their occupation towards the south. The outcome was that with the apparent mediation of Britain, Russians imposed the Gulustan Protocol signed in February 1812 and then the Turkmenchay agreement in February 12th 1828. This was the disaster in waiting, as discussed above; this ended with chopping Azerbaijan into two parts; this inflicted the split of one people into two halves; this seeded the coinage of the expression “north-bank and south-bank³”. Since then our homelands, our wealth, our dignity and our identity is being plundered. In spite of this instigated split, the people of Azerbaijan have maintained their close ties and kept up their morale through springing up a new folklore and written culture that-side and this-side, signifying and immortalizing the split.

³ The River Araxes is called Araz in Azerbaijani. It has acquired a mythical outlook in Azerbaijan since its partition in 1812. It is now a genre in the Azerbaijani literature; culminated in the establishment of the Day of Solidarity (Hemreylik günü) – Now we are commemorating the 31st of December of every year.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

In the 19th century, the people of Azerbaijan was inspired by the notion of Nation (millet) emerging in Europe along with democratic ideas of French Revolution. On the one hand, our people were engaged on the liberation movement against colonialism, to terminate injustice, and as a nation, on restoring our statesmanship, nationhood and sovereignty and on the other hand our people were seeking to benefit from the new thinking. In the south, our people's struggle took the shape of Constitutional revolution. Our people have shown incredible sacrifices, devotion and gallantry. Due to inadequacy of national ideology and its poor penetration, we fell victim of our honesty by trusting non-Azerbaijanis and propped up the interests of domineering forces, rather than enduring our self interests and protecting our costly gains.

Frankly, owing to the naivety and simplemindedness of the leaders of the Constitutional revolution, they turned their back to their people and left their trench towards Tehran and this rendered all the efforts and sacrifices in vain. Once again this fact was verified that to cut off from own roots is to vanish without trace. Although the leaders of the constitutional revolution were repressed by despotic forces, i.e. Persian chauvinists in Tehran and Russian empire operating in Tebriz, they failed to stop the Azerbaijani libertarian movements and the escalating movement toward self-determination. Defying the repressions were Azerbaijanis preparing for new movements and uprisings. These coincided with the weakening of governments in Tehran and Moscow. With the help from Russians, England facilitated a coup and removed the legally reigning Ehmed Shah from power, who was apparently being influenced by the democratic

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

movements in Azerbaijan, much to the anxiety of England. This was followed by installing a simple soldier to the kingship of Iran, who was widely known as Quldur Rza (bandit Reza, later came to be known as King Reza Pahlavi). By his reign, Persian chauvinism emerged as the official policy. Following this policy, our national rights in Southern Azerbaijan were violated, our mother tongue was outlawed and they started applying the policy of humiliating the nation of Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile, amid the turmoil and turbulence in Russian territories, Northern Azerbaijanis were able to take their destiny into their own hands and establish the independent democratic Republic of Azerbaijan on **May 28, 1918**. The republic was recognized officially by many world countries led by European countries. Encouraged by these developments, democratic forces of Southern Azerbaijan and constitutional revolutionaries proclaimed the independence of Southern Azerbaijan under the leadership of Sheikh Mehemed Khiyabani and named it Azerstan (April 6, 1920). Khiyabani firmly remarked that “a nation without independence has nothing.” Thus, he articulated expressly the popular demand of our people. One of the issues of the day was the unification of our divided homeland. Before long, domineering regimes in Tehran suppressed this movement; brutally executed the leader, Khiyabani and jailed other leaders; and attempted to destroy any aspect of our culture. They either arrested Azerbaijani intellectuals or exiled them.

In the north, despite the motto of freedom, equality and the right of self determination, our republic in Northern

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

Azerbaijan was occupied for the second time on 28 April 1920 by the Army of the Red Empire (Red Army) under a decree by Lenin; they overthrew the legal government of Azerbaijan and installed a government subservient to Moscow. Subsequently, they killed the noblest of our fellow Azerbaijanis, and many were exiled including the head of the government, Memmed Emin Resulzade. However, he impressed for ever into the memory of our people by stating that **“A flag raised once cannot be pulled down again”**. He was verified almost after 70 years of Russian occupation of Northern Azerbaijan.

Unfortunately, these were not the end of tragic sequence of events experienced by our people. With the onset of the second World War, a new movement emerged in Southern Azerbaijan, as the British deposed Rza Shah (fired him the way they had hired him), released the jailed Azerbaijani leaders, and returned those who were exiled. Our people restored the Democratic Party being inspired of, and gained the experience from the Khiyabani movement and constitutional revolution. The national government was formed by the direction of this party and under the leadership of Jefer Pischeveri in 1945. Once again the Azerbaijani culture flourished. Hundreds of newspapers and books resumed their publications in our mother tongue, Azerbaijani. The Tebriz University was resumed its activities. Theatres, philharmonic orchestras inaugurated their activities and hospitals were opened. The Azerbaijani radio services were established ... and the university of Tebriz was inaugurated. Morris Hindrus, a reporter from US Herald Tribune, wrote that the achievement of the Democratic Party in Azerbaijan in

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

one year would overwhelm 10 years of best achievements in other countries.

The reforms and the national movement of the south were inevitably had a reflection on Northern Azerbaijan. On the surface, perhaps the Democratic Party was supported by the dictatorial regime of Stalin but beneath the roll-out of the events was considered against the interests of the Russian Empire for the following reasons:

- The leader of the national government was running a sovereign policy;
- The national government refused to be tuned by Moscow and determined not to betray own people;
- A determination not to conform to Moscow;
- Unfeasibility for the local red subservient agents to infiltrate the Democratic Party and undermine it from inside
- The emerging synergy between the governments of Southern and Northern Azerbaijan.

Thus, behind the scene, they conspired with Tehran and joined the forces to plan the overthrow of the government of Southern Azerbaijan. This also suited the Mohammad Reza's regime in Tehran. This is because he also sensed similar threats stemming from reforms implemented by the Democratic Party, and the spread of democratic ideals. For the second time, two colonial powers conspired to the same decision against the destiny of our people, repeating the Gulustan and Turkmenchay treaties. Russians even sought rewards of economical concessions from Iran. Subsequently, the regime in Tehran invaded Southern Azerbaijan and Russians arrested the leaders and withdrew the midnight of the day before. The

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

criminal Army of the Tehran regime marched to Azerbaijan with a free hand to massacre; they killed more 30 thousand of our brothers and sisters; tens of thousands were jailed and subjected to torture; many more were exiled or went underground to escape persecution. The leaders of the national government, including Pisheveri, the most dedicated son of Azerbaijan, were murdered in a setting by agents like Qulam Yehya; thousands of Southern Azerbaijanis seeking refuge on the north-bank of Araxes but instead were exiled to Siberia or to other hostile camps and thereby lost their lives; culprits and subservient agents were rewarded by a welfare; a few elected silence to live their lives.

After suppressing the national government, Imperial regimes in Tehran intensified their repressive campaigns against the nation of Azerbaijan; burnt the books in Azerbaijani, and officially banned any education and publication in the Azerbaijani Turkic language. Humiliating our people became the policy issue of Tehran.

Ever since then, the domineering Persian chauvinists began the policy of assimilation to estrange Azerbaijanis of being Azerbaijani and Turkic and to do away with their own identity; they paved the way to disperse Azerbaijanis in Persian regions, particularly in Tehran, by undermining our national economy and social framework and by dispersing our national, political and intellectual activists. Conversely, they began plundering natural resources of Azerbaijan, and transformed the motherland of our nation into a prison, stripped of our rights and deprived of our language.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

In spite of all these events, our people resorted to passive resistance both in relation to our love of independence and liberty as well as hatred towards the enemy. This libertarian spirit sprang in 1952 and in 1987. Reminiscent of the constitution movement, Azerbaijani Turkic people pioneered turning against the regime of Shah; played the lead role in the toppling the regime; but soon perceived the substance of new Islamic regimes and formed the movement of “Popular Muslims” opposing the regime in Tehran. **Regrettably, this movement suffered a defeat due to poor national ideology, emotional acts of our people, a lack of strong national organization dedicated to the forming and developing our national demands, and mistakes of the left fronts of the movement.**

The fundamentalist Islamic regime, just replaced the Shah regime and barely capable of governance, applied ruthlessly its colonial policy poised with animosity towards the Turkic Azerbaijani nation. This reactionary regime not only determined to eradicate our language but also assaulted whatever remained of our culture to uproot our customs towards harsh implementation of their assimilation policies. Since the establishment of the independence of Northern Azerbaijan, this policy of animosity and terror was intensified.

The Islamist regime has resorted to the fragmentation of Azerbaijani territories and seeding animosity and divisions among the fragments; in other words pursuing the policy of “divide and rule.” Still in the grip of colonial mentality of the Middle Ages and having

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

transformed Islamism into an instrument, the regime is uprooting the very word of Azerbaijan and any concept related to being Azerbaijani. Fearing of the revival of the national consciousness of Turkic Azerbaijani and the inherent self-perception, the regime is wiping out the name of Azerbaijan from Azerbaijani territories and encouraging tribalism.

A new era emerged in the world owing to a range of event to the end of the 20th century, including the collapse of the Russian Empire. This may be referred to as the new era of national liberation movements. Whilst this era was being established in the world, Southern Azerbaijan was still in the coma of its darkest stage, but the rays of liberty shone over Northern Azerbaijan. Mass protests took off in 1988 until October 18th, 1991, at which date the parliament of Northern Azerbaijan proclaimed its independence. This was a testimony to the word of wisdom of Memmed Emin Resulzade: “A flag raised once cannot be pulled down again.” At last, here is the opportunity to put an end to 70 years of Russian red dictatorship and hegemony, a golden chapter was inaugurated in the history of Azerbaijan. The independence of Northern Azerbaijan also revived self-perception and national consciousness and transformed the idea of one whole Azerbaijan into an issue. The independence also caused joy and excitement among Turkic nations.

Let us be reminded that in the course of 70 years of red dictatorship and hegemony, our northern brothers and sisters suffered more than one million four hundred thousand death; thus, this independence was never easy.

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

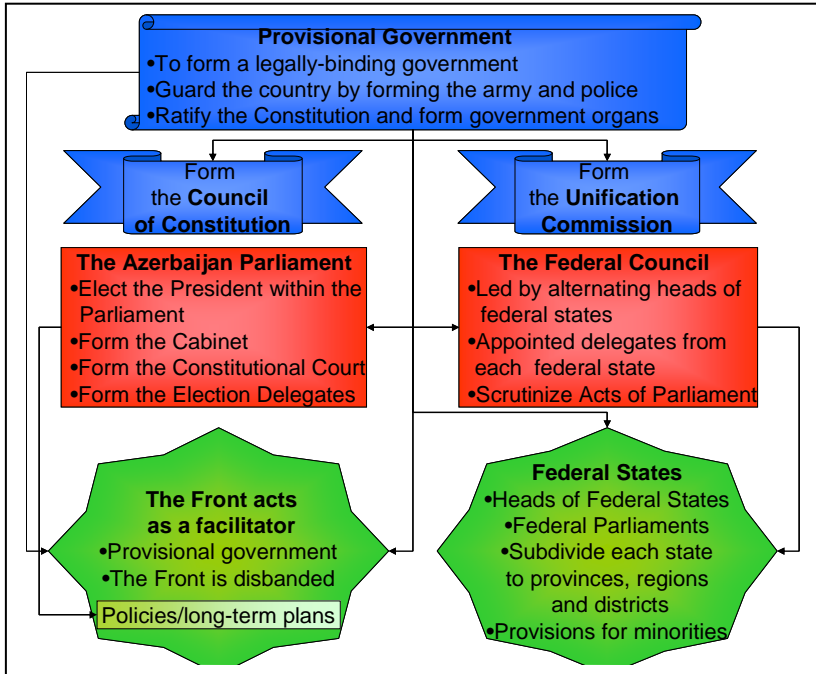
The collapse of soviet imperialism opened up new possibilities for the peoples under its hegemony to use their right of self-determination. Many peoples in east Europe and in the former Soviet Union have secured their independence and others are fighting for it.

Like all hegemonies, Russians could not come to terms with the emerging reality. To reinstate their hegemony, they used all their might to create conflicts within the former Soviet republics as well as among them. Clear examples of this are evident in the Caucasian countries including Northern Azerbaijan. They collaborated with Tehran in relation to the problem of Azerbaijan and against Azerbaijan. Clear evidences for this unholy pact include inciting and arming of Armenian Dashnags against Azerbaijanis by Moscow and the support of Armenia by Tehran whilst claiming Islamic solidarity with Islamic nations.

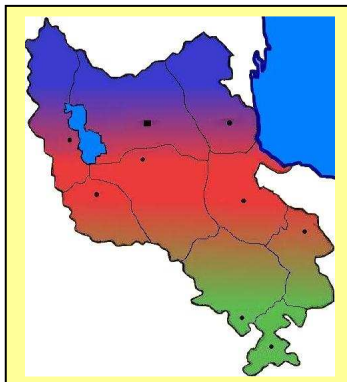
The Russians still regard Northern Azerbaijan as of their own, much the same as the last 160 years. They have no intention of losing it so easily. Likewise, the chauvinists of Tehran regarded Southern Azerbaijan as their “inheritance from a father that they never had;” they too are not anticipating the loss of Southern Azerbaijan. However, history cannot be turned back. It is not possible anymore to prevent our national liberty and independence movements. Sooner or later, Moscow and Tehran will come to terms with this determination of history. **Today, more than 40 million Turkic Azerbaijani nation is waging its war of national liberation to determine their destiny. This is a just war for the Azerbaijani nation rising against the imposed humiliation, exploitation and violation of all of their rights.**

The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

The United Independent Azerbaijan Front (The Front)



The Front will restore federalism in Azerbaijan and this is devolution to our past forms of governance to a modern outlook as illustrated above and detailed in the Manifesto. The federal subdivision of Azerbaijan is shown below.



The Manifesto of the United Independent Azerbaijan Front

The United Independent Azerbaijan Front (The Front)

The tide has turned in Southern Azerbaijan against colonial mentality of Iranian hegemony over our motherland. As a general rule, colonial powers do not feel obliged to the desires of their subjugated colonies and this is also true in the case of regimes in Tehran. Thus, guided by democratic principles, the Front is to facilitate the cessation of Southern Azerbaijan from Iran.

The model of cessation of the Czech and Slovak Republics will be promoted in the first place through direct negotiations or by inputs from international institutions including the UN to prevent bloodshed. As recorded in our Draft Constitution, the Front is not contented with any bloodshed. However, if the regimes in Tehran fail to oblige in this civilized manner and are allured with continuing their policy of enslaving Southern Azerbaijanis, then the people of Azerbaijan will not be responsible for the consequences. The Front will be engaged in our struggle toward our independence and sovereignty. Our people will ensure our independence and sovereignty at any price.

The people of Azerbaijan and our popular movement are neither entertained with the ideologists of regimes of Tehran, nor allured with these colonialists anymore, nor with their fabricated theories and nor with their falsified histories.

The Front strives to establish a civil society in Azerbaijan based on social freedom and democracy and uphold the UN Charters. Founding principles of the Front include secularism and pluralism and therefore opposes dictatorship. The Front holds that the state and the nation are not separate institutions, but the state is empowered to protect democracy and freedom. It also condemns torture and death penalty and seeks to safeguard the citizens through proclaiming their rights.