

# WHO IS ILHAM ALIYEV



**Ilham Aliyev is the authoritarian President of Azerbaijan and presides over one of the world's most corrupt governments according to Transparency Int'l and other watch groups.**

Although he draws only a modest government salary, he is worth billions of dollars, holds vast hidden assets overseas, and controls, along with his family, most of the economy of Azerbaijan, a country whose citizens are still plagued by extreme poverty. The financial dealings of the Aliyev family, including the President's wife, children and sister, are one of the main focal points in the disclosures known as the "Panama Papers" released by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, citing at least half a billion dollars in hidden assets.

Ilham's father, Geidar, was a KGB general who sat on the Soviet Politburo in Moscow before serving as Azerbaijan's president. Between Geidar and Ilham, an Aliyev has ruled Azerbaijan for roughly 38 of the past 44 years.

Aliyev's presidency has been tainted by his authoritarian rule over his own people. He has imprisoned dozens of journalists, writers, and human rights activists who are critical of his policies or who call for peace with Armenia. He sends his military to attack peaceful protesters. His government is routinely cited by Amnesty International and other human rights watch groups for blatant and broad human rights violations.

In April 2016, one day after Aliyev's meeting with Vice-President Joseph Biden and Secretary of State John Kerry where they discussed finding a peaceful resolution to the issue of Nagorno Karabakh, Aliyev did the exact opposite by ordering a massive military incursion and attack along the entire Line of Contact between Azerbaijan and Nagorno Karabakh, resulting in dozens of military and civilian deaths, including innocent children and elderly residents. War crimes were committed by the Azeri military against the innocent civilian population of Nagorno Karabakh, including execution-style murders, mutilation of corpses, and beheadings.

Azerbaijan, along with its ally Turkey, supports and facilitates ISIS in its operations against Western civilization and interests. Foreign fighters are housed, trained and transported from Azerbaijan and Turkey into Syria and other areas of the Middle East where ISIS is committing genocide against Christians, including Armenians and Assyrians, and other non-Muslim ethnic groups.

Aliyev continuously orders his military to violate a long-standing cease-fire agreement with Armenia, inciting hatred against Armenians, positioning snipers on the border, amassing a huge buildup of military weaponry and equipment at the rate of \$3 billion per year, and routinely threatening the very existence of both Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh.

Aliyev not only orders military attacks across the Line of Contact with Nagorno Karabakh, but also across the border with the sovereign Republic of Armenia, threatening that the Azeri flag will fly not only over Stepanakert (capital of Nagorno Karabakh) but also over Yerevan (capital of Armenia).

Despite universal agreement by international mediators, Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh to implement a peace proposal adding international observers to the Line of Contact and positioning gunfire locator equipment to monitor the origins of daily cease-fire violations, Aliyev flatly refuses to take any reasonable steps toward a peaceful resolution.



**Armenian National Committee of America | Western Region**

104 N. Belmont St., Suite 200, Glendale, CA 91206 | 818.500.1918 | info@ancawr.org

**ANCAWR.org**

# WHO IS ILHAM ALIYEV



In December 2014, the Azeri government raided and shut down the U.S.-funded offices of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and imprisoned its staff members.

In August of 2012, in an act condemned by President Obama and leaders worldwide, Aliyev pardoned, praised, and promoted an unrepentant axe-murderer, Ramil Safarov, who was convicted in a Hungarian court for murdering an Armenian NATO Partnership for Peace participant in his sleep in Budapest.

In February of 2012, Aliyev - in a sweeping and hateful indictment of an entire ethnic group, chillingly similar to Hitler's attempts to demonize all Jews publicly announced "Our main enemies are Armenians of the world," and said that: "Armenia is a country of no value."

In a blatant terror threat against civilians, Azeri officials have prevented the opening of a newly constructed airport in Nagorno Karabakh by threatening to shoot down any civilian aircraft which attempt to utilize it.

In December of 2005, Aliyev's armed forces were caught committing cultural genocide when they were video-taped demolishing thousands of intricately carved stone-crosses in a 1,300 year old sacred Christian cemetery in Djulfa. Niachichevan in order to erase any evidence of Armenian history or presence on that land. The U.S. condemned this desecration, and Aliyev has barred U.S. Ambassadors and other international observers from visiting the site.

Ilham Aliyev presides over an intolerant regime that abuses the rights of its own citizens, even as he seeks, without legal or moral basis to extend his control over the freedom-loving people of Nagorno Karabakh who simply wish to exercise their universal right to self-determination.

Learn More about Azerbaijan and Ilham Aliyev at [ANCAWR.org](http://ANCAWR.org)  Resources

Educate | Motivate | Activate



**Armenian National Committee of America | Western Region**

104 N. Belmont St., Suite 200, Glendale, CA 91206 | 818.500.1918 | [info@ancawr.org](mailto:info@ancawr.org)

[ANCAWR.org](http://ANCAWR.org)