



Iran in the Early Days of the Karabakh Conflict 2: Reflections, Corrections and Explanations

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In my (Rezvani 2013) article, entitled “Iran in the Early Days of the Karabakh Conflict”, I wrongly wrote that that article is a reaction to an Armenian article. In reality, that article, entitled “Iranian Official: We Helped Azerbaijan In Karabakh War”, was not written by an Armenian author but by Joshua Kucera (2013). I would like to rectify this mistake here. This mistake has unleashed angry reactions from a few people. I was already harassed and received different kinds of threats by some members of extreme-nationalist Armenian movements.

I have expressed myself in positive terms about Armenian culture and the Armenian people's achievements and will continue to do so. These incidents (misunderstandings, threats) are counterproductive, merely creating an atmosphere of hostility and distrust, and may easily deter more analysts to work on the Karabakh conflict and hence will delay a fair solution to this conflict for all parties concerned. As I know I am not the only one, and I know many colleagues who receive similar threats from members of different extreme-nationalist groups. This is a truly sad situation, but should not discourage the scholars of peace and conflict studies; they still have much work to do.

After having said this I would like to elaborate more about this mistake. The article was first sent to me by an Armenian contact, without mentioning the direct source. My Armenian contact had sent me an angry reaction, stating that Iran actually supports the republic of Azerbaijan in the Karabakh conflict. First, I assumed that it was written by him or a close contact of his. Later, I checked the source and mentioned it, but unfortunately not my last, but penultimate draft of the text went into publication.

Nevertheless, I want to stress that I hold for true all the other observations I have made in my previous article. Iran can have normal relations with Armenia, but cannot remain indifferent towards the fate of Karabakh refugees and the territorial integrity of a neighboring state.

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References

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