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# Georgia Benefits From Dispute Between Armenia And Azerbaijan

Lragir.am - 18/6/2007

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On June 18 the Hayeli Club hosted the leader of the Javakheti Union of Compatriots, the deputy leader of the Hzor Hayrenik Party, Member of Parliament Shirak Torosyan and the director of Mkhitar Sebastatsi School Ashot Bleyan for a debate on the issues of Javakheti and the Armenian and Georgian relations in general.

The first thinks the Georgian government is to blame for the problems the Armenians of Javakheti are facing; the second blames the Armenian government. Shirak Torosyan thinks the poor state of Javakheti is the consequence of the behavior of the Georgian government; Georgia has joined the European declaration on the rights of ethnic minorities but with reservations. On signing the declaration the country commits to creating conditions for preserving the language and culture of ethnic minorities, and if the ethnic minority is from the neighboring country, it must sign an agreement with the neighboring country. Georgia does not honor this point of the declaration. "Roads and schools are not repaired and are ruined," Shirak Torosyan said. According to him, if these problems aggravate, the 150 thousand Armenians of Javakheti will leave their homes.

"They are already leaving."

Ashot Bleyan thinks the government should attend to the problems of the issues of Javakheti, not the unions of compatriots, we should have the biggest embassy to Georgia, the Armenians of Javakheti must learn Georgian fast to integrate with life in Georgia, enjoy the freedoms, take part in solving their problems. Shirak Torosyan said it is not their fault that the Armenians of Javakheti do not speak Georgian. The Georgian government does not send specialists and as a result "there is no confidence between the government and the Armenians of Javakheti, the government reinforces the security agencies, the Armenians of Javakheti have no anticipations from the government." Ashot Bleyan suggests that Armenia Foundation fund classes of Georgian for the Armenians of Javakheti.

Ashot Bleyan thinks Javakheti is part of the Armenian Diaspora. Shirak Torosyan disagrees. Javakheti is not Diaspora, in Javakheti the Armenians live in their historical territory. Ashot Bleyan thinks if our government is against the construction of the Kars-Akhalkalaki railroad, the implementation of this project will be the failure of the Armenian government. But the railroad will benefit the Armenians of Javakheti.

"They will get infrastructures, jobs." "It is good that the Russian military bases were pulled out of Georgia, Georgia controls its border. It is bad that Armenia does not control its border. It is good that the Armenians of Javakheti reject the ARF Dashnaktsutyun's or the Javakheti Armenian messages from Armenia."

Ashot Bleyan who criticizes the Armenian government for making no efforts regarding the issue of Javakheti stated that for 15 years the Georgian government did not have a possibility to attend to the problems of Javakheti, and has just started to attend. Ashot Bleyan believes that Armenia and Georgia are objectively economic rivals like Armenia and Azerbaijan are objectively partners. "And as long as Armenia and Azerbaijan have not settled their problems, Georgia will benefit."

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