

Hi, Dear Neighbor.

My name is Javidan. I live in the largest city in the Caucasus, in Baku. It is very surprising but I have seen Armenians before. As far as I know, today more than 20,000 Armenians live in Azerbaijan. Most of them live in Baku and Sumgayit. In the past, I have seen Armenians in Turkey and Arabic countries. But I am writing a letter to someone living in Armenia; in other words, to you for the first time.

As you know, the conflict between us has been going on for more than 30 years. It is easy to start a war, and it is very difficult to finish it. I would like to ask you one question: is there a more terrible thing in the world than the loss of parents? Or what can be more horrible than living far from your homeland and missing it terribly? The famous Arab philosopher Ibn Khaldun has a famous saying: "Geography is the destiny of nations." Our people have lived side by side for centuries. The famous Armenian poet Sayat-Nova has written both in Armenian and Turkish.

Dear neighbor, I would like to ask you several questions. Isn't it time to put an end to this conflict, originated between our ancestors and transferred to us? Let's step aside for a second, and look who benefits from this conflict, and who loses. I am convinced that you also will see that this conflict harms both sides. And if it does, why do not we end it and reconcile? Certainly, the reconciliation of our nations will not be easy, but we have to start from somewhere for our children not to grow up without parents, for our countries not to be robbed, and for there to be peace. Should we not try firstly to greet each other, then to smile while meeting; to visit each other as guests, and again live in peace as before?

For example, my grandmother is from Sisian, a city in Syunik province of Armenia. She came to Azerbaijan at the age of 60. Many of my friends' grandparents are from Ghapan, Sisian, Masis. Every time they tell me about the beauty of Sevan and other places mentioned above. Of course, I really want to see those places. When I was abroad I often met Armenians who had previously lived in Azerbaijan. Every time they asked about Baku or Ganja, and said that they wanted to return.

At the end of my letter, I wish for a peaceful and progressive world without wars.

Javidan