

Hi Sayad,

I'm Nina and I'm 17 years old. I don't know how many Ninas you know, or if you've heard that name at all, but I'm sure I'm the first Nina from Armenia writing a letter to you.

I've always believed that peace is created by the nations. Please, pay attention, not the nation but the nations. So, the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the Karabakh conflict, should be solved by us. By saying "us," I mean I, you, my younger brother who hasn't served in the army yet; your friends who have already served in the army, and perhaps our friends and relatives, mine and yours, who fell during the war. I'm more than convinced that both Armenians and Azeris have cried too much. Enough!

During the April War, when we heard the stories – the unfinished stories of brave young men of 18–19 – we mourned as a nation, as the loss was irreversible. Seeing the pain of my relatives, friends, or even people I didn't know, I suffered too, and felt that something was wrong. That we, both Armenians and Azerbaijanis, were doing something wrong. You mention thousands of victims; now imagine that we have lost a similar number of young lives, too. So, how many thousands of people fell victim from both sides, just people regardless of nationality? What could these young men not do? So many good and kind deeds remained unaccomplished.

You're right when you say you're considered enemies here, too. I agree that going on this way is illogical, and I'm sure if our generation spreads the idea of peace, one day your and my children may discuss economic cooperation together.

I don't want the stories of my brother, future husband, son, close friends, or someone else to be left unfinished. I don't want anyone to become a POSTHUMOUS hero of war. I don't want any mom to lose her child any more, any wife to become a widow, any kid become an orphan. You see, I'm not saying an Armenian mother, an Armenian child. No; let your people never fall victim. Let them live peacefully. Let them smile.

I want a bit too much, like a wayward child, don't I? But we need to think like children. If we bring Armenian and Azeri kids together, they won't ask: "Who are you?" and "Where are you from?" They won't say: "You want to take our land" or "Give our lands back." They may argue, and take one another's toys, but they'll reconcile in the end.

We can't even reconcile as two kids do, stealing smiles from one another's faces.

Perhaps we just need to talk to each other more frequently; look into each other's eyes and then we – Armenians – will see that Azeris smile no worse than we do, and you will see that Armenians do know how to smile. When we value and appreciate those smiles, we won't dare take them away...

Ohh, I don't know... I'm talking too much, Sayad, aren't I? If you're not bored yet and are still reading, you may have already understood that with this long text, I just wanted to say that I

agree with your thoughts, almost all of them. I've never been able to cut it short, sorry for boring you :D.

OK, whatever, perhaps this is too much. I'd like you to respond, to have discussions with you, but even if we don't talk anymore and never see each other, I just want you to remember that you have a talkative, wayward but good contact (or friend if you like), with a beautiful smile who shares your ideas and awaits peace like you.

With love and a smile,

Nina ^-^

P.S. You smile, too ☺