

22 November 2012

Letter to the attention of Mr Ban Ki-moon,  
Secretary- General of the United Nations

Copy: *Dr Ahmed Shaheed, Special Rapporteur  
Mr Naveed Ahmad – Geneva (OHCHR)  
Comité international de la Croix-Rouge  
- Geneva*

RE: After the earthquake 150,000 people in eastern Azerbaijan are suffering in snow and freezing cold. They need International help.

Dear Secretary-General,

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012 an earthquake destroyed 300 villages in the mountainous region of Arasbaran (Ahar, Heris and Varzeghan towns) in eastern Azerbaijan, Iran. Unfortunately, the Iranian government refused international help, leaving 30, 000 families with no house. Since then, the population has tents for shelter<sup>i</sup>, which are now covered by snow<sup>ii</sup>. The population is in real distress, lives in freezing temperature, with no water and no help from the local or national authorities (see attached documentary).

Iranian authorities' agenda does not include the well-being of its own citizens, Propaganda, false reports and lies through the official mass media is common in Iran, but reconstruction is still not on the way.

We would like the United Nations Humanitarian Agency to send an investigation team to this devastated region in Iran. The situation needs to be assessed and help is greatly needed by 150000 people during this cold winter.

Best regards,

Azerbaijani Human Rights Activists in Iran

- Arc Culture - arculturelle@gmail.com
- Guney-France - guney.france2012@gmail.com

---

<sup>i</sup> See the report of Mr. Gorban Mohammadi, Head of Housing Foundation of East Azerbaijan, - Baztab

News Agency, 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 2012

Baztab 1 Novembre-300 deh taxrib 100%.mht

<sup>ii</sup> See the attached Video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7z5cN0mIPkU&list=UUrEWzMm0cIikNkxV8xp08Aw&index=3&feature=plcp>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2012/11/121126\\_193\\_earthquake.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/iran/2012/11/121126_193_earthquake.shtml)