

Reza DEGHATI, photos and Armenians

Reza Deghati is a French photographer and journalist. He is known throughout the world for his photos in different publications, such as the **Times**, **Newsweek** and **National Geographic**.

Reza uses his photos in his struggle against dictatorship and for humanitarian purpose. For his important work, he has been awarded by leaders of different countries throughout Asia, Europe and America.

The French Senate welcomed Reza on November 3, 2005. He received the “**Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite**” awarded by the French President **Jacques CHIRAC**. In his speech, the **Senate president** said that Reza's shots were “A lesson of solidarity and faith for humanity [...] they complete our understanding of the world. Compassion, human dignity, energy of despair, they also reveal an inexhaustible source of hope, a desire to live despite the worse.”



Reza recently organized a photographic exhibition at the **RER station “Luxembourg” in Paris** (27 February 2010 – 12 September 2010). Among the pictures one showed an old Azeri widow after the invasion of Agdam city by the Armenian fighters in 1992. She finds her husband and her son dead, their eyes being removed.



By the end of August, the Armenian leadership was made aware of the publicly exposed picture. The picture was reporting a part of the crimes committed by the Armenian fighters in Azerbaijan.

The Armenian leadership asked the picture to be removed. The request was rejected. Two days later the photo was torn by unknown people.

Armenian leaders believe that crimes committed by Armenian fighters in Azerbaijan will be forgotten if pictures witnessing inhuman behaviour are torn.

Reza was a reporter in **Nagorno-Karabakh**.

He reported shocking crimes committed by Armenian soldiers **during the Khojaly genocide** in **Nagorno-Karabakh**, on February 26, 1992. Thousands of Azerbaijanis were tortured and killed. When their bodies were found, eyes were missing. The Armenian fighters would torture civilians, remove their eyes and kill them. Armenian fighters often carried teaspoons in their pockets, and would proudly narrate their torture.

(Ref: "Le monde vu par **REZA**" written by **Mohammed Taj Dovlat** in Log "**Shahrvand**" No. 429 – 08 October 1999).



L'EXPRESS

A headless victim

In Khojaly, 26 February,
thousands of Azeri
civilians were massacred