



Promoting a Lasting Partnership Between Azerbaijan and America

1101 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20004 • T +1 202.756.4544 • F +1 202.756.7554
info@azerbaijanamericaalliance.org • www.azerbaijanamericaalliance.org

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BURTON: Making mischief in the Middle East

Former Rep. Dan Burton, Indiana Republican, was a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and chairman of its Europe, Eurasia and emerging threats subcommittee

Washington, DC — September 23, 2013 — In an op-ed published today in The Washington Times, former U.S. Representative for Indiana's 5th congressional district and senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and chairman of its Europe, Eurasia and emerging threats subcommittee, Dan Burton, called for a full accounting of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's hearing on the Sept. 11, 2012, terrorist attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi.

Burton also emphasized how the hours of political theater, partisan crosstalk and bureaucratic flackery on display at the hearing proved to him that the event was the direct result of the weak and misguided policies of an administration completely out of touch with the realities of an unpredictable and violent world.

Burton presented a thoughtful recourse of U.S. influence in the Caucasus by increasing engagement with Azerbaijan, the only country in the world directly bordering both Russia and Iran. He acknowledged Azerbaijan as a valuable and tested ally of the United States, and as a stabilizing force in Afghanistan.

To read the op-ed in its entirety, visit www.washingtontimes.com website at <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/sep/23/burton-making-mischief-in-the-middle-east/>

Excerpt appears below:

“...I warned my colleagues at the time that President Obama and his advisers have a dangerous obsession with viewing the world as Mr. Obama wants it to be, instead of how it really is, and that if this continued, the results for the United States would be disastrous. The recent bungling of the chemical weapons crisis in Syria just reinforces my conviction. Although no Americans have died in the Syrian conflict, American influence and prestige have suffered a terrible blow. Our enemies are emboldened, and our allies are no longer confident that they can count on the United States to say what it means and mean what it says.”

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Contact:
Algirde Pipikaite
Info@azerbaijanamericaalliance.com
+1 (202) 756-4546