

**POLITICAL, CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF DEPORTATION
OF GEORGIANS TO FEREYDAN AND
THEIR REPATRIATION TO GEORGIA**

ABSTRACT

Information on deportation of Georgians to Fereydan (the region of Iran) by Abbas I of Persia, the Safavid Shah of Iran in the 17th century attested in both Georgian and Persian, as well as foreign historical materials is extremely scarce. In 1871, Iotam Onikashvili's arrival in Tbilisi, the first Georgian from Fereydan, has become a starting point of acquaintance with the Fereydan Georgians and of cultural contacts and relations with them.

Since 1922 intensive relations emerge between Russia and Persia, which facilitates close contacts with the Fereydan Georgians. Books, magazines, newspapers, folk musical instruments, etc. were sent to this region. The delegation of the Fereydan Georgians visited Stalin who arrived to the Tehran Conference of 1943, asking the leader of the Soviet state for support.

Fereydan has become a leading theme in the Georgian society since the second half of the 20th century. Famous Georgian scholars, writers, literary figures and cinematographers have dedicated many of their scholarly or popular works to this topic.

At the end of 1960s, the project was prepared for the commencement of repatriation of approximately 300 Georgian families from Fereydan to Georgia. In 1970s, up to 20 families of the Fereydan Georgians settled in Sagarejo and Gurjaani regions. The aim of their repatriation was generous and beneficial to both parties, however, the lack of the relevant environment and psychological and physical unreadiness, this remarkable initiative, unfortunately, failed. Due to various reasons (both subjective and objective), the Fereydan Georgians were unable to get used to local conditions. Among those multiple reasons that contributed to the return of the Fereydan Georgians to Iran, religious fanaticism was the major one. Once devoted guardians of Christianity have become its uncompromising opponents

Keywords: Iran-Georgia relations, Fereydan, Resettlement of Fereydan Georgians, Deportation of Georgians.