

# AFSHARI

## OF IRAN

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### QUICK FACTS

People Name: Afshari

People Cluster: Azerbaijani

Language: South Azerbaijani

Trade Language: Farsi

Population: 1,230,000

### POSSIBLE WAYS TO HELP

Pray that more information will be known about the Afshari people so that workers can be sent to them more effectively.

Pray that God will reveal Himself to the Afshari Muslims through dreams and visions.

Pray for workers who will devote long-term service to the Afshari people.

### ABOUT THE PEOPLE

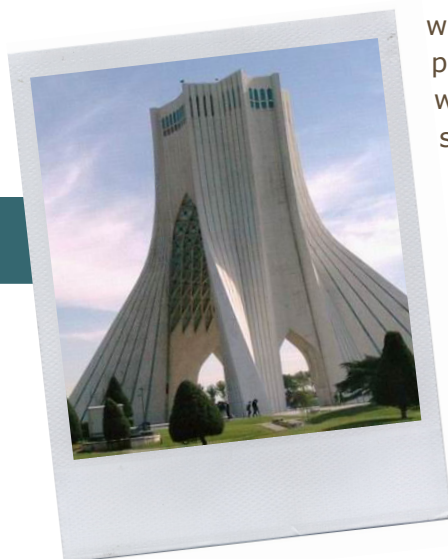
The Afshari are a people group that descends from the larger Azerbaijani people cluster, who occupy a wide area from the Caucasus to the Iranian plateau.

There are an estimated 24 to 33 million Azerbaijanis in the world, but census figures are difficult to verify. Azerbaijanis in Iran are mainly found in the northwest provinces: East Azerbaijan, West Azerbaijan, Ardabil, Zanjan, Kordestan, Qazvin, Hamedan, and Markazi. Many others live in Tehran, Fars Province, and other regions.

The Afshari speak Azerbaijani, a Turkic language that is mutually intelligible with Turkish, despite minor variations. Generally, Azerbaijanis in Iran seem to have become a well-integrated minority and even hold high positions of authority.

The majority of Azerbaijanis are Shi'a Muslims, though some Azeris from rural regions retain pre-Islamic animist beliefs, such as the reverence of specific sites and the worship of certain trees and rocks. Many would describe themselves as simply cultural Muslims.

In Iran, the continued unequal treatment of women has been met with increasingly vocal protests, including that of Shirin Ebadi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her strong advocacy for women's rights.



### CONTACT

#### FRONTIERS

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