

REPORTS

**of local and foreign NGOs on
international crimes committed
by Armenia during the Patriotic War
(September 27 - November 10, 2020)**

Baku-2020

Reports of local and foreign NGOs on international crimes committed by Armenia during the Patriotic War (September 27 - November 10, 2020)

Baku-2020. 364 pages.

The book contains 12 reports on international crimes committed by Armenia against Azerbaijan during the Patriotic War, including 9 reports by local non-governmental organizations and 3 reports by foreign non-governmental organizations.

The information is reflected in these reports on Armenia's use of weapons and ammunition prohibited by international conventions against civilians and civilian infrastructure in Azerbaijani towns and villages, deliberately killing people living far from the conflict zone, especially women and children, use terrorists and mercenaries in military operations, and involve children in hostilities, and facts about the pressure on the media and the constant suppression of freedom of speech, the destruction and appropriation of material, cultural, religious and natural monuments in the occupied territories, as well as looting of mineral resources, deforestation, deliberate encroachment on water bodies and the region to the brink of environmental disaster.

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INTERNATIONAL EURASIA PRESS FUND

*Member of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
with General Consultative Status*

**REPORT on
the Second Karabakh War:
reasons, consequences and
the crimes committed**

(September-October 2020)

INTERNATIONAL EURASIA PRESS FUND
Member of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
with General Consultative Status

This document reflects the assessment of the crimes committed against the civilian population of Azerbaijan, damage level, various opinions and the current situation during the Second Karabakh War.

The report was prepared by IEPF observation mission members:

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About the International Eurasia Press Fund

The International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF) is a non-governmental organisation registered in 1992. IEPF operates within the framework of joint cooperation with the UN agencies, the US Department of State, European Commission, World Bank, International Press Institute, International Federation of Journalists, foreign diplomatic missions in Azerbaijan, ministries, as well as various international organisations. "Peace at home, peace in the country, peace in the world" is the main motto of the IEPF.

In 2007, the IEPF became a member of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with Special Consultative Status, which was reclassified to the General Consultative Status in 2014. Since 2014, the IEPF has become a member of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), the Public-Private Partnerships – United States Department of State, International Peace Bureau and the International Press Institute. IEPF is one of the founders of the Azerbaijani Press Council and the NGO Forum, and its activity is included in the registry of organisations coordinated by the Republican Commission for International Humanitarian Aid. The International Eurasia Press Fund has great experience in implementing social and humanitarian programs to improve the living conditions of low-income people, increase their employee capabilities, peacekeeping operations, as well as the restoration of infrastructure in war-torn areas, mine clearance, and etc. The IEPF has been the author of research, monitoring and alternative reports on the settlement of ethnic conflicts in the CIS countries since the 1990s. Since 2000, the organisation has joined the Mine Action Programme jointly implemented by the National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) and the United Nations Development Programme. IEPF is a successful implementer of the First Level Assessment Survey in Hazardous Areas supported by the UNDP and ANAMA, the Study of the Socio-Economic Impact of Mines in Azerbaijan supported by the UNDP, European Commission, the American Research Operations Centre and Mine Action Assessment, Study of the needs of IDPs supported by ANAMA and UNDP, Azerbaijan Youth Support Programme and programmes to educate people in need of special care supported by UNICEF.

From the first days of its activity, the IEPF has organised visits of numerous representatives of foreign media, international organisations and civil society to the war-torn and devastated regions to convey the truth about Karabakh to the world. The IEPF, a member of the UN ECOSOC, has held various parallel sessions at the UN Headquarters in New York and Geneva, made efforts to contribute to the end of the occupation, refugees and internally displaced persons repatriation, and peace restoration.

According to the state instructions given by ANAMA and in accordance with the State Programme on Socio-Economic Development of the Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan, about 20 years ago, the IEPF "Community Mine Action" team has joined the Azerbaijan Mine Action Programme.

In total, more than 30,000 people were killed, 50,000 were disabled and more than 4,500 were missing during the First Karabakh War, which lasted from 1991 to 1994. A ceasefire agreement was signed in 1994 to resolve the conflict, and the OSCE Minsk Group was established under the co-chairmanship of the United States of America, Russia and France. Long time passed, but the negotiations on the settlement of the conflict through the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group and other international organizations gave no results.

In 1988-1994, in total 900 settlements, 150,000 houses, 7,000 public buildings, 693 schools, 855 kindergartens, 695 medical institutions, 927 libraries, 44 temples, 9 mosques, 473 historical monuments, palaces and museums in Karabakh, 40,000 museum exhibits, 6,000 industrial and agricultural enterprises, 160 bridges and other infrastructure facilities were destroyed.

For 30 years, all infrastructure in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region and 7 surrounding regions of Azerbaijan, material and natural resources have been destroyed. Environmental terrorism has been conducted constantly by the fascist regime of Armenia and its chauvinistic armed forces. During this period, the UN fact-finding mission was not allowed to visit the occupied territories, on the contrary, defence fortifications were established in the occupied territories, which required large expenditures, and the material, spiritual and historical heritage of Azerbaijani people was looted. The Armenian government relocated ethnic Armenians living in different countries to these vacant areas, inside the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan, under Armenian occupation.



According to the Azerbaijani side at the end of 2015, 8,500 people were relocated to Nagorno-Karabakh and a total of 23,000 to 7 other occupied regions. Of these, Lachin: 13,000 people, Kalbajar: 700 people, Zangilan: 520 people, Jabrayil: 280 people. According to international media outlets citing the Armenian central government, 6,000 Armenian families from Syria had been resettled in these areas even before 2012. The settlement policy and the establishment of deep defence fortifications have demonstrated the unwillingness of the Armenian side to withdraw its military forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Military operations in Karabakh and the Second Karabakh War

The First Karabakh War ended in 1994 with a ceasefire. Before the ceasefire, there were four resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian armed troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The terms of these resolutions and the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group to resolve the conflict peacefully did not give any results during the ceasefire period. Although, no military operations were carried out during this period of time, the ceasefire was regularly violated by Armenian military units. During the ceasefire until 2020, 1,436 Azerbaijani servicemen and civilians were injured, and 429 servicemen and civilians were killed.

As a result of the conflict escalation in April 2016, Azerbaijani Armed Forces liberated more than 2,000 hectares of territory in the direction of Fuzuli and Tartar regions and took control over the strategic heights in the territory of Nakhchivan.

Since 2018, control over the state border with Armenia in Gazakh, Agstafa, Tovuz, Gadabay and Dashkesan regions has been transferred from the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry to the State Border Service, and it has been confirmed that the Republic of Azerbaijan has no military goals on the border with Armenia.

Starting from July 12, 2020, the villages in Tovuz region of Azerbaijan have been fired with large-calibre weapons and artillery from the direction of the state border of Armenia. These operations aimed at involving other neighbouring countries in the conflict after possible involvement of Azerbaijani side in military operations along the state borders of Armenia. Nevertheless, the provocation was stopped after political and diplomatic interventions. Twelve Azerbaijani servicemen were killed during the military operations. After a while, the ceasefire was restored.

Although the Azerbaijani side has always demonstrated political will to resolve the conflict, the Armenian side continued its provocative actions, ignoring the accepted basic principles, declaring that "Karabakh is a part of Armenia", denying all legal and political documents, committing sabotage, provocations by targeting various cities and villages of Azerbaijan, as well as claiming the start of a war for new territories against Azerbaijan.

On September 27, 2020, the Armenian Armed Forces made another large-scale provocation and intensively fired at the positions of the Azerbaijani Army located in the frontline zone with large-calibre weapons and artillery. Armenia's military-political leadership continued its provocative actions, trying to involve third countries in the conflict, violating the obligations fixed in Geneva Conventions by targeting civilian areas with heavy weapons, and committing various crimes against civilians. Intensive shelling of Gapanli, Chiragli and Orta Garvand villages of Tartar region, Alkhanli and Shukurbeyli of Fuzuli region, Jojug Marjanli of Jabrayil region, Goranboy and several other villages of Dashkesan region, resulted in deaths and injuries among the civilian population. Numerous houses and civilian objects were badly damaged. The frontline units of the Azerbaijani Army took retaliatory measures to prevent this provocation and ensure the safety of the civilian population living in the areas close to the frontline. As a result, military operations intensified, and counterattacks of Azerbaijani Armed Forces began. Military operations along the line of contact with the occupied territories have intensified in the direction of Fuzuli, Khojavend, Agdam, Agjabadi, Tartar, Goranboy regions of Azerbaijan.



The words of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to Armenian leadership to prepare a road map with the exact dates of Armenia's withdrawal from occupied lands, to implement the requirements of the UN resolutions and to start peace talks were not accepted by the Armenian political establishment.

As a result of military operations started on September 27, 2020 until October 27, 2020, 182 villages, Jabrayil, Fizuli, Zangilan, Gubadli cities, Hadrut and Sugovushan settlements of Khojavend region, Minjivan settlement, strategically important Murov mountain range, and Zangilan region, located in the territory of occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and 7 adjacent regions of Azerbaijan, have been liberated from the occupation.

As a result of the military aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan, it was revealed that international humanitarian law was seriously violated, civilians were deliberately killed with hostile intent, and the crimes of deliberate destruction of property committed. The IEPF fact-finding mission observed damage to a large number of private properties, vehicles, social infrastructure, offices of civil society organizations, school buildings, kindergartens, and social and cultural facilities in Fizuli, Agdam, Tartar, Goranboy, Naftalan, and Ganja. As a result of the shelling of civilian areas, 398 civilian objects, 2174 houses and 90 apartment buildings became unusable. In total, 91 civilians were killed and 363 were injured in result of shelling of villages and towns inhabited by civilians. The IEPF received the following information on the damage caused to civilians by the war from executive bodies, the local population and municipalities:

Tartar region

The territory of the region has been subjected to rocket and artillery fire by Armenian military units since September 27. In total, about 15,500 shells were fired by Armenian military units from September 27 until the end of October in the region. As a result, 17 civilians were killed and 61 were injured. The district has a population of 104,000, and the vast majority of them have temporarily left their homes for security reasons. They are placed in schools, kindergartens, public catering facilities in different regions. Some of them have settled on relatively safe roadsides to irrigate their farms and to feed their cattle and small ruminants. 26 villages of the region are bordered by the contact line.



As a result of the shelling of the region by Armenian military units, 37 settlements (villages and city centres) were damaged. During the artillery fire of the Armenian military units, 133 houses were completely destroyed, 873 houses were partially destroyed, 47 shopping centres, 65 apartment buildings, 100 ancillary buildings, 18 administrative buildings, 14 schools, 1 vocational school, 1 music school, 3 medical centres, 3 cultural institutions were seriously damaged. A cotton plant, a bakery, public catering establishments and a market area were destroyed as a result of artillery fire. Cotton planted on 2,981 hectares is being lost in unharvested areas. It was planned to harvest 34.8 quintals of cotton per hectare.

Barda region

The centre of the region is the city of Barda. A total of 157,507 people live in Barda region. In addition, more than 30,000 IDPs from Nagorno-Karabakh and 7 surrounding regions settled in the IDP settlements built in the region during the First Karabakh War. After the conflict escalation, most people from Tartar and Aghdam regions moved to the Barda region in terms of security. Their total number is 20,130. 11,091 of them settled in private houses, and 7,096 in 83 schools located in the district. 1133 people were temporarily accommodated in public catering facilities and various enterprises operating in the district. Armenian military units fired more than 60 missiles at the Barda region, more than 25 kilometres away from the line of contact. 13 of them targeted the city of Barda, and the others targeted 5 villages of the region. Some of these missiles have been identified as SKAD / ELBRUS cassette missiles. The most tragic incident occurred as a result of the shelling of Garayusifli village of Barda region on October 27 and the city of Barda on October 28. 21 civilians were killed and 71 were injured when rocket-propelled grenades were fired at the city of Barda. There was a human tragedy. Many of the local citizens killed were women and children.

In total, 28 civilians were killed and 86 were injured in rocket attacks on Barda in September-October, 2020. More than 70 buildings were damaged by artillery fire. 27 individual residential buildings were severely damaged or destroyed; 3 of them were completely destroyed. 1 (one) apartment building, 5 (five) public catering facilities (Old Barda restaurant) were seriously damaged, 1 (one) school, 9 (nine) cattle were destroyed.

Ganja city

This is the second largest city in Azerbaijan. More than 350,000 people live in the city. There is an international airport in the city. Since October 4, 2020, Armenian military units have fired 13 ballistic missiles at the city. Some of them were neutralized by the Air Defence Systems. More than 200 apartments, individual and multi-apartment buildings were damaged as a result of the shelling of the city's civilian areas. The houses of 145 families were completely destroyed and they became homeless. As a result of the ballistic attack, 139 people were injured and 28 civilians were killed. 6 of them are children. 4 children lost both parents. There was a human tragedy as a result of the shelling of the city.



In total, the explosions severely damaged about 500 trade facilities, one of which was completely destroyed. 6 kindergartens, 8 secondary schools and the building of a higher education institution were severely damaged.

Goranboy district

This is mainly an agricultural region. It has a population of over 120,000 people. In September-October, 2020, Armenian military units fired 662 shells at 28 settlements in the region. According to ANAMA, 52 of them were long-range missiles. As a result of the artillery fire, 250 private houses and 6 social facilities were damaged. 6 of them were completely destroyed. 7 civilians were killed and 10 were injured. Garachinar and Safikurd villages of the region were seriously damaged as a result of Armenian artillery shells. Tap village of the region was especially damaged. More than 2848 people live in this village. 174 shells were fired by Armenian military units against the village of Tap. Clover fields, vegetable fields, pastures were damaged, 48 heads of cattle and cows were perished.



Fuzuli district

There are 75 villages in the region. 12 of them and the city of Horadiz were liberated in 1994 by the Azerbaijani army. More than 60,000 people settled in the region. The rest of the population (over 50,000) is dispersed to other regions of Azerbaijan and live as IDPs. As a result of recent military operations, Armenian military units have intensively fired on the villages, settlements,

Zobujug IDP settlements and the city of Horadiz. According to local people, three civilians were killed and more than 20 were injured. As a result of shells fired on the territory of the region, more than 300 residential buildings of the region were damaged, 10 houses in Horadiz were completely destroyed. The Youth House, Heydar Aliyev Centre and Mugam Centre in Horadiz were severely damaged. Kindergartens, buildings of financial institutions, schools, gas stations in the district were damaged. Residents of Horadiz city, Zobujug settlement, Gazakhlar, Alkhanli, Ahmadalilar and other settlements were evacuated. Due to the Armenian shelling of agricultural lands of Fuzuli, the fields were damaged and the harvest was not completed.

Along with these regions and cities, Naftalan, Beylagan, and Kurdamir, Gabala, Khizi, Absheron regions, located 200-300 kilometres from the line of contact (Front line where the armed clashes are taking place), were also damaged as a result of long-range missiles fired from Armenian regime, from inside the sovereign territory of Armenia.

Agdam district

73 percent of the region is under occupation. The remainder part of the region (27 percent) was settled by Azerbaijani IDPs. The region has a total population of 204,000. More than 93,000 people live in these occupied areas. During the military operations, 43 settlements of the region were shelled. By the end of October, about 9,000 shells were fired into the region. As a result, 7 people died and 42 were injured. 19 villages near the contact line of the region were evacuated due to the start of military operations. 679 buildings were damaged. Of these, 582 were private houses (67 of which were completely destroyed), 515 ancillary buildings (97 of which were completely destroyed), 231 heads of cattle and cows perished. 2,120 hectares of cotton fields were planted in the district, and 6,000 tons of cotton from those fields fell into disrepair. Almost half of the IDP population living near the contact line was evacuated to Agjabadi and Barda.

Military aggression, violations of international law and crimes against civilians

During the night of October 4-11-17, 2020, the Armenian Armed Forces fired rockets at civilians (and their residencies) in the central part of Ganja, killing and injuring many people, and causing extensive damage to civilian infrastructure and vehicles. Although the Armenian side stated that the military posts around Ganja were targeted, the bitter situation should be considered as another crime against humanity. All three rocket attacks on the city of Ganja were carried out in densely populated areas, resulting in killing and wounding the civilians. The fact that the attack took place at night, when people were mostly at home, also indicates the intent of the crime. In total, 25 civilians were killed and more than 100 civilians were injured as a result of the shelling of Ganja by Armenian forces. The IEPF investigation mission immediately visited the place, got acquainted with the scale of the destruction caused by explosion, met with the victims, attended the funerals of the dead, and talked to the wounded in hospitals. As a result of the investigation carried out by ANAMA, 8K14 SKAD / Elbrus operational-tactical ballistic missiles fired at Ganja were found on the fragments. According to a spokesman of the Defence Ministry:

"If the Elbrus ballistic missile is brought to the front, then it can have a flight distance to Baku. If it was brought to Nagorno-Karabakh, it is possible to imagine what kind of destruction it would cause. Based on the intelligence sources obtained, we know that there is no such military unit in the 1st General Army located in Nagorno-Karabakh. This weapon is part of the 71st missile regiment of Armenia. That military unit is located in Stepanavan", he said.

Another tragedy occurred on October 27th and October 28th when the city of Barda, 25-30 kilometres from the conflict zone, came under fire with Smerch-type cassette shells. As a result of the bombing of the city centre, 21 people were killed and 71 were injured. Numerous trade and commerce facilities and cars were damaged.

One of the missiles fired by the Armenian Armed Forces at the power plant in Mingachevir, a city of more than 100,000 people, more than 100 km away from the conflict zone, targeted the power plant and the houses where civilians lived. As a result of the rocket attack on a private house, 5 people were hospitalised with various injuries, and the house itself was severely damaged. Mingachevir, the industrial city of Azerbaijan, is strategically important and has the largest reservoir and power plant in the South Caucasus region. The targeting of this reservoir and power plant could have serious environmental consequences for the South Caucasus region.

IEPF investigators determined that some people were targeted during the funeral ceremony in Seydimli village cemetery of the Tartar region, 4 people were killed and 3 were seriously wounded as a result of artillery fire by Armenian troops. As a result of the fire in the city of Naftalan, 5 members of a family, including 2 children, were killed. There are dozens of such facts.

According to the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as a result of war crimes committed by the Armenian Armed Forces against the civilian population of Azerbaijan, as a result of targeting civilian settlements in Fuzuli, Beylagan, Agjabadi, Aghdam, Naftalan, Goranboy, Ganja from September 27th to October 22nd, as a result of shelling of the settlements, 63 civilians were killed and 292 were injured.

Destroyed cultural monuments and social infrastructure

Historical monuments, religious temples, cultural facilities, as well as educational institutions of national and local importance in Ganja were severely damaged. Thus, the Alexander Nevsky Russian Orthodox Church, built in 1887, the 14th-century Imamzadeh Religious-Architectural Monument Complex, a local historical monument that once served as a "Men's Gymnasium" and is now used by the Azerbaijan State Agrarian University, and The Nizami cinema were damaged. 5 schools and 6 kindergartens, as well as the building of Ganja Music College were severely damaged. As a result of the firing on the territory of Fizuli region, the tomb of Sheikh Babi, which dates back to the 13th century, was severely damaged.

As a result of the Armenian provocation, about 180 businesses were initially damaged in the military operations. Preliminary analysis of the appeals shows that entrepreneurs operating in Agdam, Ganja, Fizuli, Tartar, Beylagan, Naftalan, Barda, Jabrayil (Jojug Marjanli) and Agjabadi regions suffered the most from the Armenian provocation. Crops and public catering facilities were damaged, mostly livestock and trade facilities. At the same time, some farmers are currently unable to harvest their crops as Armenian Forces fire on civilian settlements. IEPF staff met with entrepreneurs, farmers and various traders. It was determined that the agricultural sector was severely damaged. A cotton factory in Azad Garagoyunlu village of Tartar, a market area in the centre of Tartar city, markets, gas stations, public catering facilities, trade places in Ganja, Barda, Aghdam and Fizuli regions were destroyed as a result of missile strikes.

The Azerbaijani government has appealed to the population to inform them about the damage caused to businesses as a result of the Armenian military aggression. Despite the military

operations, rapid work was observed in the area after the order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the restoration of the 29-kilometer section of the main road leading to the liberated Sugovushan village.

As a result of the aggression of the Armenian military, 420 schools were suspended in 14 regions. To date, about 50 general education institutions have been damaged by rocket fire by



the Armenian military. 10 schoolchildren were injured in the shelling of Ganja. As a result of the shelling of Naftalan and Agjabadi, 3 schoolchildren were killed. As a result of the Armenian terrorist attack on Ganja, 3 children lost both parents. In total, 9 schoolchildren were killed as a result of the shelling of civilians by the Armenian Armed Forces.

It is a clear violation of the educational rights of children which are stipulated at the articles 28 and 38 of the Child Rights Convention and also the principles stated at the Safe Schools Declaration.

According to the Article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), State undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child. State have obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, and shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.

It should also noted that according to the Safe Schools Declaration, it is prohibited to use educational facilities as basis bases, barracks or detention centres during the armed conflict. But it was used as a constantly method by the Armenian army. So, they choose either a house of culture, or a school, or a kindergarten as a military base. They use civilian objects, as a “human shields” which is prohibited in the context of armed conflicts. This rule is set forth in the Third Geneva Convention (with respect to prisoners of war), the Fourth Geneva Convention (with respect to protected civilians) and Additional Protocol I (with respect to civilians in general).

Targeted strategic facilities

During the military operation, which began on September 27, the Armenian military intends to expand the scale of the conflict by targeting several strategic objects of Azerbaijan, to create panic among the population, to involve third parties to the conflict.

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, said, “If the plans to dismantle the pipelines are implemented, the response will be very severe for them. We have already warned about this. I think that the European countries that will receive gas from TANAP next year should also warn them. Because TANAP is not only our project. TANAP has other shareholders, TAP has European shareholders. This is a project of exceptional importance for Europe's energy

security. Therefore, we should all be interested in this project not to be harmed in any way.” he said in an interview to foreign media.

At night of October 6, 2020, the Armenian Armed Forces fired rockets to the Yevlakh region, which is densely populated by civilians and far from the conflict zone, where the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan main export oil pipeline is passing. The missiles hit 10 meters of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline in Yevlakh region. Fragments of more than 300 cluster bombs were scattered around. This is a serious threat to the life and health of the civilian population. The fact of this action had been confirmed during the investigation carried out by ANAMA's special mobile team in the area, and the bombs scattered around were removed from the area and neutralized.

On October 18, at about 13:00, an explosion was heard in the Khizi region and the remains of an S-300 missile fell. ANAMA's special mobile operation team found the remains of an S-300 missile in the Sitalchay area in place. The missile was fired by the Azerbaijani Air Defence System. This missile is capable of detecting targets within a radius of 300 km. It has been determined that the missile has a range of 250-280 km.

The armed forces of the occupying Republic of Armenia deliberately violated the norms and principles of international law, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, as well as the requirements of the humanitarian ceasefire declared on October 10, 2020 at 12:00. Armenia continued to fire heavy artillery at settlements and strategic facilities.

On October 17, 2020, at around 01:00 pm, the Armenian armed forces fired missiles at the Mingachevir Hydroelectric Power Station, the largest thermal power plant in the South Caucasus, more than 100 km away from the conflict zone. The missiles were neutralized by the air defence forces of the Azerbaijani Army. During the humanitarian ceasefire, Armenian officials said that the targeting of cities outside the front line aimed at creating panic among the population in the depths of Azerbaijan territory.

On October 22, 2020, Armenian military units fired rockets at the Oguz-Gabala-Baku water pipeline, which supplies drinking water to the Absheron Peninsula and is of special strategic importance for our country. As a result of neutralization by the air defence forces of the Azerbaijani Army, parts

of the missile fell near the water pipeline. In late October, fires broke out in the forests of Goygol and Dashkesan districts outside the line of contact, and environmental terror was committed.



Violation of International Law

UN Security Council Resolutions (822,853,874,884), adopted in 1993, call for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian Armed Forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Despite the fact that 27 years have passed since the adoption of the resolutions, its provisions have not been implemented by Armenia. Illegal settlements were carried out in the occupied territories. The UN General Assembly's resolution on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, adopted on September 7, 2006, entitled "Situation in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan" condemned the fires committed by Armenia in the occupied territories. The next resolution of the same name, adopted by the General Assembly on March 14, 2008, covers the legal, political and humanitarian aspects of the conflict and reaffirms the principles of its settlement. These principles include respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the right of IDPs to return to their native lands, and the coexistence of both communities in Azerbaijan. It also covers the illegality of the situation created as a result of the occupation of the territories.

Despite the fact that the decisions of the Council of Europe mainly cover the field of political and legal reforms, this body has periodically expressed its position on the ongoing conflicts in Europe, including the South Caucasus. First, taking into account the severity of living conditions of refugees and internally displaced persons, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has prepared various reports calling for their unconditional return and for member states to be sensitive to this humanitarian tragedy. PACE supported the OSCE mediated political settlement of the conflict on the basis of the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter. Resolution No. 1119 "On Conflicts in the South Caucasus" adopted on April 22, 1997, provides for the settlement of the conflict, the inviolability of borders, the granting of broad autonomy for Nagorno-Karabakh, the right of return of refugees and internally displaced persons, and the security of all peoples, as well as the conditions for the deployment of multinational peacekeeping forces. PACE sees the resolution of conflicts in giving ethnic groups the status of autonomy, which allows them to express their characteristics. Ethnic groups must fully enjoy their rights and not cause to damage the territorial integrity of the state. PACE Resolution 1416 on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, settled by the OSCE Minsk Group, adopted on 25 January 2005, reaffirmed the occupation of Azerbaijani territories, expressed concern over ethnic cleansing on these territories, and referred to the UN Security Council Resolution 822, 853, 874 and it called for the observance of Resolutions 884 and the withdrawal of troops from the occupied territories. The organization also reaffirmed the right of IDPs to return to their lands and stressed the inadmissibility of occupation of the territory of a member state by another member state. In addition, the Sarsang Reservoir, built on the Tartar River in 1976 to provide irrigation water to about 100,000 hectares of land in six regions of Azerbaijan, fell into disrepair as a result of the occupation, depriving residents of irrigation water. The Committee on Sustainable Development has prepared a report. The resolution "Deliberate deprivation of water to residents of the border regions of Azerbaijan" adopted on January 26, 2016, calls for the withdrawal of Armenian troops from the region, considers the deliberate creation of an artificial ecological crisis as "environmental aggression" and reaffirms the occupation of part of it by Armenia.

According to the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development, countries must be aware of their responsibilities in their activities and respect international law that protects the environment during armed conflicts. However, the environmental terror in the occupied territories, as well as the recent shelling of the cities of Mingachevir, Gabala and Khizi by

Armenian military units with ballistic missiles, as well as phosphorous bombs of settlements and farms far from the conflict zone, are completely contrary to the provisions of the Declaration.

All this is in line with international instruments on the protection of civilians - children, women, elderly, people with disabilities in times of war, including the UN Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency Situations and Armed Conflict, the Law on the Rights of the Child, is a serious violation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. The continuation of such cases, creating numerous precedents of impunity, conditions for new crimes against humanity and endangers the civilian population.

Protection of civilians in international law

In international humanitarian law, the protection of civilians is not the same as the protection of combatants. This difference is particularly relevant in the conduct of hostilities: there is a fundamental distinction between civilians and combatants, and between military objectives and civilian objects. Combatants may be attacked until they surrender or are otherwise hors de combat, while civilians may not be targeted, unless and for such time as they directly participate in hostilities, and they are protected by the principles of proportionality and precaution against the incidental effects of attacks against military objectives and combatants.

Regarding the legal aspects of the protection of civilians, in accordance with the IV Geneva Convention the protection of civilians during armed conflict is a cornerstone of international humanitarian law. This protection extends to their public and private property. International Humanitarian Law (IHL) also identifies and protects particularly vulnerable civilian groups such as women, children and the displaced persons.

International human rights law and international humanitarian law share the goal of preserving the dignity and humanity of all. Over the years, the UN General Assembly, the Human Rights Council have considered that, in armed conflict, parties to the conflict have legally binding obligations concerning the rights of persons affected by the conflict.

Targeting civilians by Armenian military forces

According to the armament index of world countries released by the Bonn International Center for Conversion in February 2020, Armenia ranks third in the world and first in Europe for the number of servicemen per thousand people in Armenia, the cost of armaments in the gross domestic product (GDP), military spending, healthcare, number of troops and the quantity of heavy weaponry. The report says that the reason for Armenia's leading position in the arms race is the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and its militaristic policy over the past 30 years.

(Source: Armament index, Bonn International Center for Conversion in February 2020).

In an interview with TV show "Vesti" aired on the Russian TV channel Russia-1 on 8 October, Vagharshak Harutyunyan, the chief adviser to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, openly stated that Armenia is purposefully bombarding peaceful cities of Azerbaijan and targeting civilians to create panic among them. (Source: Caspian News, <https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/pashinyans-advisor-confirms-armenias-deliberate-attacks-on-azerbaijani-civilian-settlements-2020-10-9-0/>)

Since the deadly clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan broke out on September 27, Armenia's forces have continued to shell densely populated areas, strategically important civilian and energy infrastructure, which are far from the frontline. The skirmishes broke out after Armenia's forces deployed in the occupied Azerbaijani lands hit Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military positions along the front zone in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

Armenia's forces have so far launched intensive missile attacks against Azerbaijan's second-largest city of Ganja, which is more than 60 kilometers away from the conflict zone, the central Azerbaijani city of Mingachevir, which hosts the country's largest hydroelectric power and water reservoir, as well as Barda, Tartar and Beylagan. They also hit the Khizi-Absheron region near Azerbaijan's capital Baku with mid-range missiles.

Military experts expressed confidence that by shelling Azerbaijani cities, Yerevan is trying to provoke Baku into tit-for-tat response. If Yerevan can demonstrate that military activities are taking place not only in the territory of the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, but also in Armenia itself, then it can demand military support from Russia.

American Chamber of Commerce in Azerbaijan (AmCham Azerbaijan) issued a statement supporting territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. According to the statement, AmCham Azerbaijan is deeply concerned with the events developing in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other areas of Azerbaijan. The Chamber strongly condemns all attacks on Azerbaijan, especially recent large-scale shelling of civilian population and strategic infrastructure facilities carried out from the territory of Armenia.

Protection of women and children in armed conflicts in international law

If we talk about specific protection of children and women, international humanitarian law provides general protection for children and women as persons taking no part in hostilities, and special protection as persons who are particularly vulnerable.

Geneva Protocol II of 1977 also codifies the principles according to which the civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack. The Fourth Geneva Convention comprises a great many provisions in favour of children. They show that, already in 1949, it was felt that children should be especially protected against warfare.

Armenia is violating the principles stipulated by the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict and which calls for the strict observance of the Declaration by all Member States. Attacks and bombings on the civilian population, inflicting incalculable suffering, especially on women and children, who are the most vulnerable members of the population, shall be prohibited, and such acts shall be condemned.

The internally displaced children in Azerbaijan still cannot realize their right to voluntary return to their lands in safety and dignity. During the conflict, 224 children were taken hostage by Armenian military forces and were subsequently released, and 29 children are still considered to be in Armenian captivity. 73 Azerbaijani children are missing.

Children in Azerbaijan are the targets by Armenian aggressors even during the ceasefire time. During the ceasefire since 1994, 34 children became victims of the Armenian terror, 14 of them were killed and 20 were injured.

War crimes during the humanitarian ceasefire

According to the humanitarian ceasefire reached by the parties in Moscow, which was supposed to start on October 10, 2020 at 12.00, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia agreed on the exchange of the remains of the dead, the prisoners and other detainees and victims in accordance with the criteria of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group. A humanitarian ceasefire has been declared to begin substantive talks to resolve the conflict peacefully as soon as possible, based on the basic principles of settlement through the co-chairs.

However, despite the statement of the Presidents of the United States of America, the French Republic and the Russian Federation, representing the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, dated 1 October 2020, the statement of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs of 5 October and 10 October 2020, Armenia has not complied with the requirements of the humanitarian ceasefire adopted in ac-



cordance with the Moscow Declaration. Thus, although a ceasefire was felt in various directions of the front, Armenian military units made efforts to counterattack to return the territories liberated by Azerbaijan. As a result, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces liberated the settlement of Hadrut and several villages in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Uncompromising, the Armenian military fired SKAD / ELBRUS, TOCHKA-U long-range missiles at the cities of Ganja and Mingachevir, Barda and other regions, 80-100 km away from the conflict zone, in the Baird and Vardenis regions. As a result, many civilians, women and children were killed or injured.

Tragedy took place in Ganja and Barda, the largest economic cities of Azerbaijan. Ganja, Azerbaijan's second largest city came under rocket fire, killing 28 people, mostly women, and injuring a total of 139 people, including 10 women and five children. Long-range missiles hit the territory of Ganja city, destroying settlements and social infrastructure facilities within a radius of 500 meters. As a result of the shelling of Barda, 27 people were killed and 86 were injured.

A few hours after the ceasefire came in power, ambulances moving in the liberated territories were fired upon by the Armenian Armed Forces, killing and injuring Azerbaijani Army doctors.

The destructive power of the missile that hit the territory of Barda was recorded by ANAMA employees. As a result of the rocket's fall, a large hole was formed at a depth of 10 meters and a radius of 30 meters. During the ceasefire, a residential area built for IDPs in Shikharkh settlement of Tartar region was targeted, people were killed or injured. Talking with the civilians and military, the IEPF representatives revealed the followings committed during the humanitarian ceasefire:

- During the removal of the bodies from the battlefield, trap explosives were placed under the remains of the dead by the Armenian army soldiers;

- Azerbaijani soldiers were shot and hand grenades were thrown at them while handing over the bodies;
 - Military doctors who helped transport the bodies and the wounded were fired upon;
- There were deaths and injuries in all three cases.
- Soldiers who died on the Azerbaijani side were tortured and insulted, and these immoral acts were spread on social networks;
 - Pictures and information about soldiers chained to posts and cars in the trenches of the Armenian military units in the occupied territories have been identified.

Captives and missing persons

The information of the State Commission for Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons as a result of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was published on 01.10.2020. According to the report, captives and missing persons, including the first Karabakh conflict:

- a) servicemen - 3171 people
- b) civilians - 719 people (71 children, 267 women, 326 elderly people) of them: a) men - 3623 people b) women - 267 people were officially registered.

The provisions of the humanitarian ceasefire reached in Moscow on October 10, 2020 intended the exchange of bodies and prisoners of war. The execution of the prisoners with the participation of the Red Cross is noted. The positions of the parties on the issue were different.

Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department Hikmet Hajiyev "I would like to emphasise once again that the mechanism for exchanging bodies, as well as prisoners between Azerbaijan and Armenia, has been around for some time, is ready and working." he said.

Although the official statement stated that the Azerbaijani side was ready to hand over the bodies of the dead soldiers in accordance with the spirit of the humanitarian ceasefire, the Armenian side ignored the appeal.

Information on the treatment of wounded Armenian servicemen in hospital, as well as telephone conversations with their parents living in Armenia, was broadcast on television, and information was provided to the ICRC on the conditions of detention of prisoners of war.

Videos shared on social networks about the criminal acts committed by the Armenian military by insulting the bodies of the killed Azerbaijani servicemen have been spread on social networks. This is evidence of a serious violation of Articles 16 and 17 of the 1st Geneva Convention.

Illegal transportation of weapons to the occupied territories

After Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran banned the transportation of military cargo to Armenia, the Armenian government resorted to various tricks and illegalities to bring weapons to the country. It has been confirmed by various sources that civilian planes are also used for this purpose.

At the same time as the fighting was going on, it became clear that Armenian leaders were transporting military cargo by planes. Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, who returned from a meeting with Sergey Lavrov in Moscow on October 10, was found to have brought 300 Cornet anti-tank

missiles on a government plane. Deputy Prime Minister Mger Grigoryan and Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan, who had to visit Moscow for various reasons, tried to use similar methods.

It has been observed that Armenian Diaspora organizations in other countries have become more active in order to carry out arms talks with Armenia on civilian planes. There were reports that these groups were carrying weapons to Armenia under the guise of "humanitarian aid" or "charter flights."

In particular, arms shipments from Russia were curated by Armenian Defence Minister David Tonoyan, Pashkina's illegal business partner and well-known arms smuggler David Galstyan, and Russia's richest Armenian billionaire Samvel Karapetyan. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan expressed his views on these issues in an interview with international television and agencies, as well as those interested in the illegal arms smuggling in the Russian establishment.

Illegal armed groups in the occupied territories

"Before and after this battle, we had information that PKK terrorists had set up camps there. Because Nagorno-Karabakh was an uncontrolled territory," said President Ilham Aliyev. The president said in an interview with foreign media that among those killed were people with Canadian and Lebanese passports, as well as people who could not be identified.

The Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan has announced that the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan has credible evidence that Armenia has committed various crimes against the civilian population of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the involvement of foreign mercenaries in these crimes.

Armenian President Armen Sargsyan said in an interview with Al Jazeera that Armenians from different countries fought in Nagorno-Karabakh. "Although they are ethnic Armenians and citizens of different countries, there is nothing wrong with fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh. We accept the participation of Armenians from different countries in military operations," Sargsyan said, confirming the participation of various terrorist groups in military operations.

The concept of mercenary is enshrined in Article 47 of Additional Protocol I (1977) to the 1949 Geneva Convention for the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflict. According to this article, a mercenary has no right to receive the status of a combatant or prisoner of war.

The International Convention on the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, adopted by the 44th session of the UN General Assembly on 4 December 1989 (44/34), criminalizes their use and training.

Unlike Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan acceded to the Convention in 30 September 1997. In order to combat the involvement of mercenaries in military conflicts under the Convention, States Parties shall provide for criminal liability in national law for such offences.

Clearing the unexploded remnants of war

In total, the Agency carried out 829 operational and urgent operations in September-October 2020. As a result, in Aghdam, Aghdash, Aghjabadi, Barda, Beylagan, Bilasuvar, Jabrayil, Goranboy, Naftalan, Kurdamir, Fuzuli, Tartar, Tovuz, Shamkir, Hajigabul, Zardab, Khizi, Oguz,

Gabala regions, Ganja and Mingachevir cities, houses and yards, 301 unexploded ordnance (UXO), 1,627 anti-personnel mines, 276 tanks were inspected near the oil pipeline, the territory of Mingachevir TPP, near the South Caucasus Pipeline, arable lands and pastures, roadsides, forests, schools. anti-personnel mines, 460 anti-tank mine explosives (from recently liberated areas), 76 detonators, 1,150 9N235 bombs, 1,180 rounds of ammunition of various calibres, 1 gas grenade, 17 meteorological radio direction finders, 6 drones, 2 rocket chips and 550 exploded rocket parts were found and neutralized.



Prohibited military ammunition

The IEPF Community Mine Action Team, which was involved in clearing the unexploded remnants of the war on behalf of ANAMA, was involved in operations in Tartar, one of the main target areas of the enemy, as well as in Barda and Goranboy. The team found and neutralized phosphorous artillery shells in Duyerli and Askipara villages of Tartar region.

ANAMA specialists found and neutralized cluster bombs in a few meters of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, as well as in the areas of Goranboy and Barda.

Remains of an S 300 ballistic missile fired by Armenian military units and destroyed by the Azerbaijani Air Force were found in the Sitalchay area nearby the Baku-Novorossiysk oil pipeline.

Cassette shells were fired at SMERCH and ELBRUS missiles in Ganja, Gabala and Kurdamir. As a result of ANAMA's research, the facts about the banned ammunition were confirmed due to



the radius of the explosion area and the indicators on the identified remains. Ammunition, bombs and long-range missiles fired by Armenian forces at Azerbaijani civilians and settlements and major cities far from the front line are contrary to the Geneva Protocol on the Limitation and Prohibition of the Use of Weapons, adopted on October 10, 1980. "It is against the Oslo Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Weapons."

The use of prohibited military ammunition by the Armenian military has been approved and condemned by international organizations.

Amnesty International says "the use of cluster munitions against civilian areas is cruel and irresponsible. This causes many casualties," he said.

"The use of cluster munitions in all conditions is prohibited under international humanitarian law. Ballistic missiles and cluster bombs used by Armenia against civilians have been banned by international law. With this statement, we condemn such criminal acts of the Armenian Armed Forces. We condemn Armenia's rocket fire on civilian infrastructure in the Barda and Tartar regions of Azerbaijan on October 27-28" GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development said. The General Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries (TURKPA) strongly condemns the continuing inhumane actions of the Armenian Armed Forces against civilians in the Azerbaijani cities of Barda and Tartar.

"Armenia must immediately stop using cluster bombs or equipping Nagorno-Karabakh with military forces," Human Rights Watch said in its statement.

The result and outcomes

The ongoing large-scale military operations between Armenia and Azerbaijan in September-October 2020 can be considered as the failure of the Armenian leadership to implement the accepted international terms and principles, as well as provocative attempts of Armenian government to change international legal agreements and principles. Agreements on the liberation of the occupied territories, the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, the determination of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh have not been implemented by the Armenian political leadership, and the escalation has continued. As a result, large-scale military operations were launched, and a large number of military officials and civilians were killed and wounded. Various sectors of the economy and social infrastructure have been severely damaged. A difficult humanitarian situation has arisen. Azerbaijan, the executor of major infrastructure projects and transnational programs, has no choice but to carry out peacekeeping operations to resolve the conflict. We believe that no matter how difficult it is, the two peoples, who have lived together for hundreds of years, still have the opportunity to live together again, to maintain the principles of neighbourliness, peace and stability in the region, to establish mutual relations. Therefore, there is an urgent need to take decisions and reach agreements, such as strengthening the peacekeeping mission of the OSCE Co-chairing countries, liberating the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, to be in unconditional compliance with the agreed principles of international law.



**Muwakkil
Law Center**



**Azerbaijan Women
Press Association**

REPORT
on the use of prohibited weapons
by Armenian armed forces against
Azerbaijani civilians

Baku, November 12, 2020

Muwakkil Law Center

Muwakkil Law Center was officially registered in 2008. The organization is a specialized human rights institution. The chairman of the organization, Samad Vakilov, who participated in the preparation of the report, took a professional training on “Court Monitoring Program” of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. As a staff member of the Committee of Lawyers for Human Rights and the Independent Scientific-Practical Law Center, he participated as a legal expert in the preparation of reports on human rights and court monitoring to the Council of Europe and the United Nations. In 2003, he participated in the preparation of reports by the OSCE Office in Baku on the monitoring of Azerbaijan's commitments to the Council of Europe on “Ensuring an Independent Judiciary” (in connection with the events of October 16, 2003).

In particular, he participated as a legal expert in the preparation of international reports of the Monitoring Group of National Minorities operating in Georgia. Muwakkil Legal Center's power to conduct human rights research is affirmed in accordance with its Charter.

Azerbaijan Women Press Association

It was established in 1999 with the technical support of the United States International Eurasia Foundation. Up to date, the organization has monitored and prepared dozens of reports on human rights, violence against women, gender issues, and freedom of speech and the press.

In preparing the report, Association used the official information of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action, international human rights organizations (Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch), international news agencies' data, and local experts' opinions.

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History of the Armenia - Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

In 1987-89, more than 250,000 Azerbaijanis living in Armenia were forcibly expelled from their historical lands, 216 of them were brutally killed and 1,154 were injured.

On February 20, 1988, at the meeting of the Oblast Soviet of the People's Deputies of NKAO, representatives of the Oblast Armenian community appealed to the Supreme Councils of the Azerbaijan SSR and the Armenian SSR to separate NKAO from the Azerbaijan SSR and unite it with the Armenian SSR.

On February 22, 1988, the Armenians opened fire on a peaceful demonstration staged by Azerbaijanis near the town of Asgaran to protest the decision of the Soviet of People's Deputies of NKAO, which left two Azerbaijanis dead, and they became the first victims of the conflict.

On December 1, 1989, the Supreme Council of the Armenian SSR adopted a resolution on the unification of Nagorno-Karabakh with the Armenian SSR. On January 10, 1990, the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR adopted a resolution "On the inconsistency with the Constitution of the USSR of the decisions regarding Nagorno-Karabakh adopted by the Supreme Council of the Armenian SSR of December 1, 1989 and January 9, 1990". The resolution stated that the annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh to the Armenian SSR was illegal without the consent of the Azerbaijan SSR.

On August 30, 1991, the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan declared the restoration of its state independence. On October 18, 1991, the Constitutional Act "On State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan" was adopted.

On November 26, 1991, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted Law "On the abolition of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast of the Republic of Azerbaijan".

In the late 1991-early 1992, the conflict entered its military stage. During that time, taking the opportunity of the collapse of the Soviet Union and political instability in Azerbaijan caused by the internal standoff, Armenia began military operations in Nagorno-Karabakh with external military support. On February 26, 1992, Armenian forces committed an unprecedented massacre against the Azerbaijani population in the city of Khojali. This bloody tragedy, known as the Khojaly genocide, resulted in the destruction or captivity of thousands of Azerbaijanis, and the city was completely destroyed.

In May 1992, Shusha city and Lachin district, located between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, were occupied. In 1993, Armenian armed forces occupied six more provinces of Azerbaijan around Nagorno-Karabakh – Kalbajar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadly and Zangilan.

Since then, the UN Security Council has adopted four resolutions on the unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from the occupied territories. These Resolutions are based on the map of the Republic of Azerbaijan submitted to the UN during its candidacy for membership. These resolutions provide international legal guarantees for the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The chronology of the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council is as follows:

1) On April 30, 1993, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 822, calling for the immediate withdrawal of all the occupying forces from Kalbajar district and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

2) On July 29, 1993, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 853, calling for the complete, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from Aghdam district and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

3) On 14 October 1993, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 874, calling for immediate reciprocal and necessary steps, including the withdrawal from the most recently occupied territories, in accordance with the CSCE Minsk Group's timetable for settlement.

4) On November 11, 1993, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 884. The resolution condemned the occupation of Zangilan district and Horadiz settlement, the attack on the civilian population and the bombing of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the unilateral withdrawal of the occupying forces from Zangilan district and Horadiz settlement and the withdrawal of the occupying forces from the other most recently occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

As a result of the Armenian military aggression, 20 percent of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, namely the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent districts – Khankendi, Khojaly, Shusha, Lachin, Khojavend, Kalbajar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadly, Zangilan, as well as 13 villages of Tartar district, 7 villages of Gazakh district and 1 village of Sadarak district of Nakhchivan were occupied by Armenia's armed forces. As a result of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, more than 1 million Azerbaijanis were displaced, 20,000 died in military operations and 50,000 have been disabled. As a result of the conflict, about 4,000 Azerbaijanis went missing, including 67 children, 265 women and 326 elderly people. The fate of these persons is still unknown. More than two thousand Azerbaijanis were taken prisoner and hostage by Armenians.

In 1988-1993, a total of 900 settlements, 150,000 houses, 7,000 public buildings, 693 schools, 855 kindergartens, 695 medical institutions, 927 libraries, 44 temples, 9 mosques, 473 historical monuments, palaces and museums, 40,000 museum exhibits, 6,000 industrial and agricultural enterprises, 160 bridges and other infrastructure facilities were destroyed in Karabakh.

World-famous monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan include the medieval 11- and 15-arched Khudafarin bridges in Jabrayil and Bronze Age Niftali mounds, medieval Ganjasar and Khudavang monasteries in Kalbajar, the 14th-century Gutlu Musa oglu tomb in Aghdam and Bronze Age Uzerliktapa settlement, Azykh and Taglar caves of the Paleolithic period in Khojavend and Bronze and Iron Age mounds in Khojaly.

A mediation process for the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict began in February 1992 within the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). The additional meeting of the CSCE Council of Foreign Ministers in Helsinki on March 24, 1992 decided to convene a conference in Minsk, as soon as possible, on Nagorno-Karabakh under the auspices of the CSCE, which would provide a forum for negotiations on a peaceful solution to the crisis on the basis of the principles, commitments and provisions of the CSCE.

A ceasefire agreement was reached on May 12, 1994. The Summit Meeting of CSCE Heads of State and Government in Budapest on December 5-6, 1994, decided to establish Minsk Conference, an institution of co-chairmanship to coordinate all mediation efforts within the framework of the CSCE. The Budapest Summit instructed the CSCE Chairman-in-Office to negotiate a political agreement to end the armed conflict.

However, during the passed 27 years, the OSCE Minsk Group has not been able to do real work to resolve the conflict peacefully.

The occupying Armenian side tried to maintain the status quo and threatened the Azerbaijani side with the occupation of new territories. In April 2016, the occupying Armenia again attempted to commit military aggression. The armed forces of the Azerbaijani Army took defensive measures to repel the attack of the Armenian side and liberated 2,000 square kilometers of the occupied territory. On July 12, 2020, the Armenian side attempted to conduct military aggression from the territory of Tovuz province, where the international energy pipelines were located and which had nothing to do with the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. This attempt of Armenia was prevented, and as a result 12 servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces were martyred. The last large-scale aggression attempt by Armenia took place on September 27, 2020. In response, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces launched a counter-attack operation.

There is a specialized agency for mine clearance in Azerbaijan. The agency is involved in mine clearance, public education, as well as identifying the types of weapons thrown into the area.

Official information of Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action on urgent and emergency operations carried out in the frontline territories from September 27 to November 10

In total, from September 27 to November 10, 2020, the Agency had 1,105 urgent and emergency operational outputs based on 1,278 signals (operational calls), which resulted in the inspection of houses and living areas, proximity to the oil pipeline, the territory of Mingachevir TPP, proximity to the South Caucasus Pipeline, arable and pasture areas, roadsides, forests, schools in Aghdam, Aghdash, Aghjabadi, Barda, Beylagan, Bilasuvar, Jabrayil, Goranboy, Naftalan, Kurdamir, Fuzuli, Tartar, Tovuz, Shamkir, Hajigabul, Zardab, Khizi, Khojavend, Oghuz, Gabala districts, Ganja and Mingachevir cities and in the detection of 476 unexploded ordnance (UXO), 1,654 anti-personnel mines, 821 anti-tank mines, 733 anti-tank mine exploders, 76 detonators, 1,242 bomblets of 9N235, 10,730 cartridges of various calibers, 2 gas grenades, 168 grams of black gunpowder, 26 military meteorological radio direction finders, 7 drones (neutralized), 2 rocket chips and 877 exploded rocket parts.

On November 10, 2020, the Agency received eighteen (18) calls from “102” Service-Call Center of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and a (1) call from the Crisis Management Center of the Ministry of Emergency Situations regarding the detection of shells in the territory of Aghjabadi, Aghdam, Beylagan, Fuzuli, Imishli, and Tartar districts.

Based on the 19 calls received, the Agency's special mobile operational teams together with the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs carried out 32 urgent and emergency operational outputs in the territory of Goyuk, Hajilar, Yukhari Qiyamaddinli villages (Aghjabadi), Shukuraghali, Khindiristan, Zangishali villages (Aghdam), Milabad village (Beylagan), Alkhanly, Ahmadalilar, Ah-madbayli villages (Fuzuli), Khalfali village (Imishli), Azad Qaraqoyunlu, Duyarli, Seydimli, Yukhari Sarijali villages, Shikharkh settlement in the district of Tartar, and Akhundov and Javanshir streets in the city of Tartar. 131 unexploded ordnance (UXO), 65 bomblets, 249 anti-tank mines, 252 anti-tank mine exploders, 8,647 cartridges of various calibers, 1 military meteorological radio direction finder, 36 empty machine gun combs, 2 drones and 58 exploded shell remnants were found during the search operations.

The agency's explosive group defused 130 unexploded ordnance (UXO) and 65 bomblets, and Mine Awareness Specialists conducted mine safety awareness campaigns among 42,777 civilians.

Official information of Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action on the types of missiles used against civilians

On November 4, 2020, a (1) piece of smoke (D-4) with 122 mm (P-4) white phosphorus was detected in the village of Sahlabad, Tartar district, and was neutralized on the spot by the Agency's special mobile operational teams by blowing up.

In addition, on the same date, the Agency's specialists found a 9N235 submunitions (bomblets) of 9M525 missile in the Meshali village of Goranboy district.

At the same time, we would like to inform that on November 3, 2020, the Agency's special mobile operational teams detected 2 pieces of smoke (D-4) with 122 mm (P-4) white phosphorus by the Armenian armed forces near the village of Sahlabad in Tartar and neutralized on the spot by blowing up.

We would like to note that on October 27 and 28, 2020, 25 civilians were killed, more than 70 civilians were wounded of bodily injury of different degrees and the surrounding infrastructure was severely damaged as a result of the scattering of 288 pieces of 9N235 submunitions (bomblets) around following the explosion of 4 missiles of 9M525, fired by the Armenian armed forces into the densely populated areas of Barda City.

The use of the above-mentioned ammunition against civilians and civil objects is prohibited in accordance with the requirements and principles of humanitarian international law, Protocol III of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed To Be Excessively Injurious or To Have Indiscriminate Effects of 1980. This proves once again that the Armenian armed forces continue to commit war crimes against civilians.

1	Exploded part of "Tochka-U" tactical missile	9M79	1	Exploded remains (Fuzuli district)
2	Exploded part of "Elbrus" tactical missile	9K72	13	Exploded remains (Ganja, Mingachevir, Barda, Kurdamir, Gabala Cities, Babi and Kand Horadiz of Fuzuli)
3	Remains of exploded missiles and shells	-	877	-
4	Submunitions (bomblets)	9N235	1242	-
5	Sub-machine gun magazine	-	36	-





Opinion of Rasim Mikayilov, PhD in Medical Sciences, on the effects of phosphorous weapons on the human body

Phosphorous weapons are a type of incendiary ammunition filled with white phosphorus or other white phosphorus-based incendiary substances. Phosphorus is the 15th element in Mendeleev's periodic table of elements. There are three allotropic types of phosphorus in nature: white, black and red phosphorus. When white phosphorus burns, heat is released up to 1300°C. Combustion is accompanied by large amounts of thick white smoke and continues until all phosphorus or oxygen is depleted. White phosphorus is toxic, the lethal dose for humans is 0.05 - 0.15 grams. This substance is well soluble in body fluids and is rapidly absorbed from the digestive system when ingested.

These properties of white phosphorus have led to its use in chemical and incendiary weapons of mass destruction.

The purpose of phosphorus bombs is to destroy manpower in open areas or shelters, to destroy military equipment, and to carry out massacres. The flammable shell fragments released by the explosion of phosphorus bombs cause extensive fires that impede movement and limit vision. The suffocating smoke and poisonous gases released by the fire deepen the damaging effects of the bomb.

It is almost impossible to rescue a wounded person during the explosion of white phosphorus bombs, because even fragments of shells that are not extinguished in water cause deep burns and wounds on the human body that do not heal as a result of the peeling of the skin and soft tissues. As it is quickly absorbed when it enters the body, it immediately destroys the gastrointestinal system and has a sharp effect on the functioning of the cardiovascular system. Breathing in the smoke of a fire has a suffocating effect on a person, causing weakness and shortness of breath. Therefore, the use of such a bomb leads to a massacre of civilians.



Reports of international organizations and foreign media on the use of prohibited weapons by Armenians against Azerbaijanis

The Armenian armed forces, by grossly violating the norms and principles of international humanitarian law, fired densely populated settlements, such as Ganja, Mingachevir, Barda, Aghjabadi, Naftalan, Beylagan etc., located far from the frontline, using large-caliber weapons and artillery of various calibers. The evidence of the fact that the Armenian armed forces fired on the cities of Azerbaijan located far from the frontline, using the cluster bombs prohibited by relevant international conventions, was reflected in the information of international organizations.

(“Amnesty International”, “Human Rights Watch”, “Vice News”, “The New York Times”, “Bild”, “la Repubblica” and so on). Many military experts and bloggers have also written on their personal Twitter and Telegram pages about the use of prohibited weapons by Armenians against civilians.

We bring to your attention some of the information provided by international organizations (links to sources and extracts from texts and translation into English)

Paul Rontsheimer, a journalist of famous German publication “Bild”, wrote about the shelling of the peaceful Ganja City by the Armenian armed forces on the night of October 10-11 and presents photos of children, women and destroyed buildings affected by the attack.

In the article, German expert on missile technology Fabian Hints analyzed for “Bild” the description of the place where the missile dropped. “It was a ballistic missile”, he said. “Ganja is in the range of Armenian jet artillery. The damage is so great that it was probably a large-caliber missile”.

The author writes that F.Hints is sure that the missile was launched from the territory located at least 60 kilometers from the Armenian frontline side. “Ballistic missiles have a huge destructive effect”, he said. “These missiles can really be used against densely populated areas”, said Rontsheimer according to Hints.

<https://www.bild.de/politik/ausland/politik-ausland/hunderte-tote-und-verletzte-erster-tag-der-waffenruhe-wird-zum-massaker-73358678.bild.html>

Немецкий ракетный эксперт Фабиан Хинц проанализировал изображения места падения для BILD. Он сказал: “Атака почти наверняка была вызвана баллистической ракетой. Гянджа будет в пределах досягаемости армянской реактивной артиллерии, но ущерб настолько велик, что должен был быть чем-то большего калибра”.

Для Хинца это ясно: за массированной атакой на город стоит Армения, более чем в 60 километрах от фронта.

Он сказал BILD: “Невозможно точно определить, просто армяне не били или преднамеренно атаковали мирных жителей. В целом, однако, баллистические ракеты обладают таким огромным разрушительным действием и часто настолько неточны и ненадежны, что их действительно можно использовать против военных целей в густонаселенных районах”.

“Amnesty International”

Both Armenia and Azerbaijan must immediately stop the use of heavy explosive weapons with wide-area effects in densely populated civilian areas, Amnesty International warned in its report, made on October 22, 2020.

Experts from Amnesty International’s Crisis Response team have examined available evidence, which strongly suggests the use of ballistic missiles, and notoriously inaccurate rocket artillery salvos that have caused civilian death, injuries and widespread damage in recent days, in apparent violation of international humanitarian law.

Civilian casualties and severe damage to civilian buildings were reported most notably in the city of Ganja in Azerbaijan that has repeatedly suffered from artillery shelling from the Armenian side in recent days.

“The evidence of the use of ballistic missiles and other explosive weapons with wide-area effects in civilian neighbourhoods tells a story of shocking disregard for life and the laws of

war,” said Denis Krivosheev, Amnesty International’s acting Head of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. “Civilians continue to be killed, injured and left homeless as reckless strikes ruin lives and reduce homes to rubble.

“Photo and video evidence show the devastating damage that these weapons can cause as hospitals and schools have been reportedly destroyed, and other vital civilian infrastructure, such as roads and communication networks damaged” – he said.

“Amnesty International”

Amnesty International notes in its report, made on October 29, 2020: “Yesterday at 1.30 p.m. local time, one or several Smerch rockets were fired into Barda, striking a residential neighbourhood close to a hospital. The Azerbaijani Prosecutor General’s Office has stated that at least 21 people were killed, with an estimated 70 more injured”.

It is noted that Amnesty International’s Crisis Response experts verified pictures of fragments of 9N235 cluster munitions from Russian-made 9M55 Smerch rockets that appear to have been fired into the city by Armenian forces.

Amnesty International’s experts have confirmed the accuracy of the photos taken by a reporter depicting fragments of 9N235 cassette ammunition.

“The firing of cluster munitions into civilian areas is cruel and reckless, and causes untold death, injury and misery,” said Marie Struthers, Amnesty International’s Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/10/armenia-azerbaijan-first-confirmed-use-of-cluster-munitions-by-armenia-cruel-and-reckless/>

29 October 2020, 16:07 UTC

Amnesty International has verified the use of banned cluster bombs by Armenia for the first time in the current Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, following an attack on the city of Barda in Azerbaijan.

Yesterday (October 28, 2020), at approximately 1.30 p.m. local time, one or several Smerch rockets were fired into Barda, striking a residential neighbourhood close to a hospital. The Azerbaijani Prosecutor General’s Office has stated that at least 21 people were killed, with an estimated 70 more injured.

Amnesty International’s Crisis Response experts verified pictures (taken by Vice News reporters in the city) of fragments of 9N235 cluster munitions from Russian-made 9M55 Smerch rockets, that appear to have been fired into the city by Armenian forces.

“The firing of cluster munitions into civilian areas is cruel and reckless, and causes untold death, injury and misery,” said Marie Struthers, Amnesty International’s Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

“As this conflict continues to escalate, Armenian, Armenian-backed and Azerbaijani forces have all been guilty of using of banned weapons that have endangered the lives of civilians caught in the middle.

“Cluster munitions are inherently indiscriminate weapons, and their use in any circumstances is banned under international humanitarian law. We are again calling on both sides to immediately stop using cluster munitions, and to prioritize the protection of civilians.

"Human Rights Watch has confirmed that internationally banned bombs have been used in an attack on Barda.

Armenian forces either fired or supplied internationally banned cluster munitions and at least one other type of long-range rocket used in an attack on Barda city, 230 kilometers west of Azerbaijan's capital, Baku on October 28, 2020, Human Rights Watch said in its report on occupying Armenian attacks on Barda city, Azerbaijan.



<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/10/23/azerbaijan-cluster-munitions-used-nagorno-karabakh>

"la Repubblica"

Italian newspaper "la Repubblica" published an article by Peitro Del Ren, the newspaper's special correspondent in Azerbaijan, entitled "Cry of Azerbaijanis: That is why we cannot accept the separation of Nagorno-Karabakh."

The author states that he visited the agricultural zone of Tartar city, located only 10 km from enemy artillery, and that the city has been under rocket fire and bombardment since September. The author emphasizes that Amnesty International has condemned the use of banned cluster bombs by Armenians against Azerbaijan, and that he has seen the remains of Russian-made 300 mm caliber missiles in the central square of Barda, as a result of the worst attack on civilians since the beginning of the war, which caused more than 20 deaths.

The article also touches on the history of the conflict and its bitter consequences, according to Human Rights Watch, which reported that the Armenian army committed genocide against the civilian population in Khojaly in 1992, and 613 civilians, including 106 women and 83 children were killed according to official figures.

The article is available at the following link:

https://www.repubblica.it/esteri/2020/11/01/news/nagorno-karabakh_guerra_azerbaijan_armenia-272562190/

"VICE News"

According to Vice News, the Armenian armed forces fired on the settlements of the Azerbaijani city of Barda with prohibited cassette ammunition.

Journalists conducted an investigation a few hours after the October 28 attack and found the remains of ammunition fired from a Smerch missile.

Amnesty International's military expert Brian Kastner and former EU military adviser Mark Garlasco have confirmed that the ammunition was released from Smerch.

<https://www.vice.com/en/topic/nagorno-karabakh>

“New York Times”

The New York Times reporting team has prepared a report on the rocket fire of the Armenian armed forces on Barda city.

NYT team was walking down the city's main street at the time of the incident: “The first explosion was loud enough to make us stop the car. It seemed close and sounded like a rocket, so we quickly jumped out and crouched down by a wall. If we hadn't stopped, I later realized, we might have driven straight into one of the blasts, a scant 20 yards up the road”.

It is noted the frontline was 20 miles away from Barda and life to that point was going on uneventfully in the area. It is stated that 21 people died and 70 people were wounded, adding that the rockets were fired from a Russian-made multiple-rocket system and unleashed cluster bomblets. “The next day we visited Garayusifli, a sleepy farming village just outside Barda, where people were burying victims of another rocket attack. Four people died, including a 7-year-old girl, and more than a dozen were wounded”.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/28/world/europe/azerbaijan-barda-armenia-rockets-karabakh.html>

NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT 29 October 2020 11:46 (UTC+04:00)

“In Azerbaijan, a String of Explosions, Screams and Then Blood”, the author writes that the first explosion was loud enough to make the reporters stop the car they were driving.

“At the time of the blast on Wednesday, we were driving along the main street of the provincial town of Barda, Azerbaijan, toward an intersection. Azerbaijan is at war with Armenia, but the frontline was 20 miles away and life to that point was going on uneventfully in the area. Women were out shopping, men were filling their cars at the gas station”

Haber Global TV

Sinan Ogan, head of the Turkish Center for International Relations and Strategic Analysis (TURKSAM), strongly condemned Armenia's attacks on Ganja, calling it as a crime against humanity, according to Haber Global in Turkey.

"The Armenian leadership, that was defeated in the framework of the operation, conducted by Baku to liberate the homeland, clearly seeing this, has been committing a great crime by attacking on civilian settlements in Azerbaijan," he said.





INTERNATIONAL LEGAL SAFEGUARDS AND SOURCES RELATED TO PROHIBITED WEAPONS

On April 21, 1993 (№573), the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted a resolution on the accession of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 on the Protection of Victims of War. According to the resolution, the Republic of Azerbaijan joins the following Conventions:

Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field;

Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea;

Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War;

Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

Both the Republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia are members of the Council of Europe, and they have harmonized their national legislation with European Conventions. How are conflicts between international agreements and national legislation resolved? The second paragraph of Article 148 of the Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic states the following: "International treaties to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party shall be an integral part of the legislative system of the Republic of Azerbaijan".

Article 151 of the Constitution of Azerbaijan Republic defines the legal effect of international acts. It states: "If a conflict arises between normative legal acts of the legislative system of the Republic of Azerbaijan (with the exception of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and

acts adopted by referendum) and inter-state treaties to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party, the international treaties shall apply". The above provisions apply to all member states of the Council of Europe.

In this regard, the failure of the Republic of Armenia to accede to the Conventions regarding the war victims and conduction of War and the Additional Protocols to them does not relieve Armenia of its international legal responsibility.

There are various international documents on the inclusion of weapons used by the Armenian armed forces against the Azerbaijani civilians from September 27, 2020 to November 10, 2020 in the group of prohibited weapons.

These documents include the St. Petersburg Declaration of 1868, the Geneva Conventions for the Protection of Victims of War of 1949 and the Additional Protocols adopted in 1977, and the Protocol to the Convention on Specific Types of Conventional Weapons (III) of 1980. Depending on the scope of the weapons and the scope of their application under the law, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed To Be Excessively Injurious or To Have Indiscriminate Effects of October 10, 1980 should be taken as a basis.

The Convention is based on two basic traditional rules of international humanitarian law:

- 1) The prohibition of the use of weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects;
- 2) the prohibition of the use of weapons which inflict excessive injury or suffering.

This Convention is a framework agreement supplemented by the Protocol. New protocols may be added if States Parties deem it necessary. The Convention, while ensuring the application of the rules applicable to specific weapons, does not relieve States of their obligation to refrain from using unregistered weapons in violation of international humanitarian law.

Taking into account the modern technological development trends of the arms industry, the point to be emphasized in the above provisions of the Convention is that these provisions ("does not relieve States of their obligation to refrain from using unregistered weapons in violation of international humanitarian law") preclude the use of modern weapons not mentioned in any of the protocols of the Convention or not invented at the time of the adoption of the Convention.

According to the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977, in the study, development, acquisition or adoption of a new weapon, means or method of warfare, a High Contracting Party is under an obligation to determine whether its employment would, in some or all circumstances, be prohibited by this Protocol or by any other rule of international law applicable to the High Contracting Party.

According to the above-mentioned official information, cluster and phosphorus bombs used by the Armenian armed forces against the civilian population, civilian objects, forests and vegetation of Azerbaijan are subject to the following Conventions and Protocols attached to them.

**CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS
ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS
WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS
OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS OF OCTOBER 10, 1980**

**PROTOCOL ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS
ON THE USE OF INCENDIARY WEAPONS**

(Protokol III)

Article 1. Definitions

For the purpose of this Protocol:

1. "Incendiary weapon" means any weapon or munition which is primarily designed to set fire to objects or to cause burn injury to persons through the action of flame, heat, or combination thereof, produced by a chemical reaction of a substance delivered on the target.

a) Incendiary weapons can take the form of, for example, flame throwers, fougasses, shells, rockets, grenades, mines, bombs and other containers of incendiary substances.

b) Incendiary weapons do not include:

i) munitions which may have incidental incendiary effects, such as illuminants, tracers, smoke or signalling systems;

ii) munitions designed to combine penetration, blast or fragmentation effects with an additional incendiary effect, such as armour-piercing projectiles, fragmentation shells, explosive bombs and similar combined-effects munitions in which the incendiary effect is not specifically designed to cause burn injury to persons, but to be used against military objectives, such as armoured vehicles, aircraft and installations or facilities.

2. "Concentration of civilians" means any concentration of civilians, be it permanent or temporary, such as in inhabited parts of cities, or inhabited towns or villages, or as in camps or columns of refugees or evacuees, or groups of nomads.

3. "Military objective" means, so far as objects are concerned, any object which by its nature, location, purpose or use makes an effective contribution to military action and whose total or partial destruction, capture or neutralization, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offers a definite military advantage.

4. "Civilian objects" are all objects which are not military objectives as defined in paragraph 3.

5. "Feasible precautions" are those precautions which are practicable or practically possible taking into account all circumstances ruling at the time, including humanitarian and military considerations.

Article 2. Protection of civilians and civilian objects

1. It is prohibited in all circumstances to make the civilian population as such, individual civilians or civilian objects the object of attack by incendiary weapons.

2. It is prohibited in all circumstances to make any military objective located within a concentration of civilians the object of attack by air-delivered incendiary weapons.

3. It is further prohibited to make any military objective located within a concentration of civilians the object of attack by means of incendiary weapons other than air-delivered incendiary weapons, except when such military objective is clearly separated from the concentration of civilians and all feasible precautions are taken with a view to limiting the incendiary effects to the military objective and to avoiding, and in any event to minimizing, incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects.

4. It is prohibited to make forests or other kinds of plant cover the object of attack by incendiary weapons except when such natural elements are used to cover, conceal or camouflage combatants or other military objectives, or are themselves military objectives.

According to the official information of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the following persons were injured during the reporting period as a result of the bombing of the civilian population of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Armenian armed forces

No	Region	Date	Surname, name, patronymic	Date of birth
1	Ganja	04.10.2020	Asadova Sakina Hasan gizi	1988
2			Aliyeva Matanat Fakhraddin gizi	1962
3			Abdullayeva Maleyka Tapdig gizi	2004
4			Gasimova Irada Jamil gizi	1958
5			Abdullayev Tapdig Amiraslan oglu	1973
6			Yolchuyeva Aytan Yolchu gizi	1993
7			Ibrahimov Farid Faig oglu	2011
8			Aliyeva Vusala Rza gizi	1984
9			Zargarova Rahila Meydan gizi	1958
10			Eyyubova Zahra Khayyam gizi	2019
11			Aliyeva Rana Gudrat gizi	1955
12			Ibrahimova Suheyra Sabir gizi	1976
13			Grikorenko Nina Romanovna	1943
14			Aliyev Turgay Azar oglu	2010
15			Aliyev Agil Azar oglu	1998
16			Mammadova Bayaz Mirza gizi	1936
17			Ibrahimova Banu Faig gizi	2013
18			Ibrahimova Afsana Ziyaddin gizi	1995
19			Ibrahimov Royal Ramiz oglu	1994
20			Ibrahimov Ramiz Ali oglu	1968
21			Gambarova Sevil Alakbar gizi	1944

22	Ganja		Ibrahimova Tarana Zulfugar gizi	1991
23			Taghiyeva Kamala Vahid gizi	1976
24			Alakbarova Kubra Majid gizi	1961
25			Alasgarova Rubaba Charkaz gizi	1971
26			Hajiyev Malik Amal oglu	2015
27			Naghiyev Irza Ahad oglu	1976
28			Ibrahimli Emil Elmir oglu	2019
29			Ismayilov Rashad Akif oglu	1981
30			Hasanova Lala Akif gizi	1981
31			Hasanli Nigar Abbas gizi	2003
32			Hasanbayli Ilyas Abbas oglu	2006
33			Gasimova Parvin Nursaddin gizi	1994
34		05.10.2020	Asgarov Amin Sahib oglu	1983
35			Aliyev Zaur Khosrov oglu	1964
36			Pashayev Janpolad Tofig oglu	1964
37		08.10.2020	Gurbanov Sarkhan Sadig oglu	1983
38			Rasulov Ruslan Fazli oglu	1987
39			Salmanov Taryel Bakhtiyar oglu	1975
40		11.10.2020	Ahmadli Ali Kamal oglu	1992
41			Allahverdiyev Nijat Vagif oglu	1989
42			Mehdiyeva Farida Mehdi gizi	1989
43			Mehdiyeva Yaghmur Nail gizi	2018
44			Mehdiyev Nail Rashid oglu	1987
45			Mehdiyev Omar Nail oglu	1983
46			Aliyev Zahid Adil oglu	1952
47			Bayramova Akifa Nadir gizi	1957
48			Gurbanov Emin Ramil oglu	2003
49			Rzayev Isa Tofig oglu	2000
50			Abbasov Yunis Yurik oglu	1974
51			Novruzov Vusal Firdovsi oglu	1977
52			Aliyeva Aysu Rahim gizi	2005
53			Allahverdiyev Rufat Vagif oglu	1988
54			Mustafayev Emin Yahya oglu	1968
55			Mustafazada Salim Emin oglu	2004
56			Movlayeva Shalala Nizami gizi	1975
57			Abbasov Elnur Aslan oglu	1984
58			Aliyeva Aynura Vilayat gizi	1984
59			Shirinova Aygul Kamal gizi	1989
60			Shirinova Shafa Safalan gizi	2006
61			Shirinov Shamiddin Safalan oglu	2005
62			Ahmadova Ofelya Aslan gizi	1959
63			Jafarov Elsevar Hilal oglu	1978
64			Aliyeva Amaliya Maharram gizi	1962
65			Hasanova Aylin Rauf gizi	2018
66			Kangarli Elsevar Rashid oglu	1965

67	Ganja		Kangarlinskaya Nazila Ismayil gizi	1976
68			Heydarli Bakhtiyar Elnur oglu	2016
69			Mirzayev Farid Ilgar oglu	1998
70			Hasanova Maryam Rauf gizi	2018
71			Imaniyeva Sona Jamal gizi	1954
72			Mammadova Rana Arif gizi	1990
73			Aliyeva Nilay Adil gizi	2018
74			Jafarov Eldaniz Akbar oglu	1978
75			Aliyeva Giyafat Hasan gizi	1975
76			Aliyeva Zeynab Gasim gizi	1950
77			Orujov Oruj Muslum oglu	2006
78			Mustafayeva Fatima Zaur gizi	2005
79			Allahverdiyeva Firuza Rasim gizi	1985
80			Allahverdiyeva Khadija Samir gizi	2005
81			Allahverdiyev Rasim Samir oglu	2008
82		17.10.2020	Aliyev Vagif Ali oglu	1999
83			Alakbarli Huseyn Ali oglu	2002
84			Beychatli Farid Parviz oglu	1988
85			Jafarova Basti Hamid gizi	1958
86			Jafarova Aytakin Mammad gizi	1979
87			Hasanova Rugayya Asif gizi	2014
88			Hasanov Huseyn Asif oglu	2007
89			Jafarov Azad Mammad oglu	1990
90			Asgarova Aytan Vasif gizi	1994
91			Jafarova Reyhan Azad gizi	2004
92			Jafarova Ayan Azad gizi	2016
93			Aghayeva Gulchin Ramiz gizi	2001
94			Ahmədov Samir Tanriverdi oglu	1988
95			Aliyeva Aysel Natig gizi	1999
96			Guliyeva Khayala Nizami gizi	1992
97			Aliyev Gazanfar Mustajab oglu	1956
98			Aghayev Vugar Ramiz oglu	1990
99			Aghayeva Madina Arif gizi	1980
100			Mammadaliyev Eyvaz Mahammad oglu	1965
101			Jafarov Arzu Mammad oglu	1980
102			Aghayev Ramiz Nuraddin oglu	1975
103			Bayramov Aladdin Asad oglu	1961
104			Mayilov Huseyn Kazim oglu	1943
105			Mayilova Firangiz Allahverdi gizi	1993
106			Aliyev Elkhan Rustam oglu	1982
107			Hasanova Khuraman Shahid gizi	1984
108			Aghayeva Aysu Etibar gizi	2003
109			Hasanov Asif Karim oglu	1974
110			Mammadov Eshgin Arastun oglu	1984
111			Imanova Yazgul Ajdar gizi	1967

112	Ganja		Imanova Gunel Ogtay gizi	1989
113			Sadigov Museyib Samir oglu	2002
114			Ismayilov Ismayil Mammad oglu	1954
115			Asgarov Rovshan Suliddin oglu	1979
116			Hasanova Tarana Amir gizi	1982
117			Mammadov Eldar Muslum oglu	1970
118			Mammadova Gumru Mahammad gizi	1976
119			Humbatova Fatima Meydan gizi	1953
120			Mammadova Aytaj Eldar gizi	1997
121			Mammadova Aytan Eldar gizi	2001
122			Hagverdiyeva Nahida Elman gizi	1996
123			Salimova Aylin Rafail gizi	2016
124			Ismayilov Ismayil Ali oglu	1985
125			Asgarov Amin Rovshan oglu	2005
126			Sadigova Dilbazi Ali gizi	1954
127			Sadigov Aftandil Jalil oglu	1954
128			Guliyeva Shaira Ali gizi	1995
129			Shahnazarli Khadija Royal gizi	2017
130			Valiyev Murad Alasgar oglu	1989
131			Rustamova Aygun Ramiz gizi	1987
132			Guliyeva Gulnara Ali gizi	1979
133			Guliyeva Ragiba Novruz gizi	1953
134			Asgarova Silduz Mashadihasan gizi	1954
135			Mammadov Emin Etibar oglu	1990
136			Gahramanov Ramin Khanlar oglu	1957
137			Abilov Ilham Mobil oglu	1978
138			Sadigova Tarlan Museyib gizi	1941
139			Rustamov Taleh Ramiz oglu	1991
140			Huseynov Abbasgulu Kazim oglu	1953
141			Kazimova Solmaz Aghali gizi	1955
142			Aliyeva Tamara Ismayil gizi	1974
143	Tartar	27.09.2020	Hasanov Royal Ilya oglu (policeman)	1987
144			Asadov Ganbar Asgar oglu	1968
145			Ibrahimov Tural Firdovsi oglu	1991
146		28.09.2020	Abbasov Imran Mehdi oglu	1979
147			Ismayilli Shahriyar Tahir oglu (policeman)	1995
148			Huseynov Fakhraddin Farman oglu	1994
149			Pirizada Tural Rabil oglu	1993
150			Guliyev Azad Musa oglu	1961
151			Mustafayev Asif Jamil oglu	1936
152			Mammadov Shukrat Azay oglu	1969
153			Bakhshaliyev Sabuhi Khanlar oglu	1987
154			Mammadov Seymur Fuzuli oglu	1984
155			Mahmudov Faig Malik oglu	1989
156			Kazimov Rahim Allahverdi oglu	1964

157	Tartar	30.09.2020	Aliyev Mubariz Sadr oglu	1965
158			Ibrahimli Fuad Mazahir oglu	1994
159			Ibrahimov Mahmud Gachay oglu	1962
160			Ismayilli Ismayil Tavakkul oglu	1994
161			Sharifov Ilgar Bakhtiyar oglu	1998
162		01.10.2020	Mehdiyev Ismayil Rustam oglu	1978
163			Alishanov Telman Nariman oglu	2000
164			Ismayilov Arzu Ramiz oglu	1988
165			Mammadov Elman Muslum oglu	1958
166		02.10.2020	Rahimova Aybaniz Nizami gizi	1983
167			Rahimova Gulnara Sabir gizi	1974
168			Hasanov Ozal Mubariz oglu (investigator of the prosecutor's office)	1989
169			Huseynov Mirali Huseyn oglu	1962
170		03.10.2020	Guliyev Parviz Jafar oglu	1985
171			Guliyev Vasif Gasim oglu	1984
172			Orujov Sakit Shakarli oglu	1965
173			Alizada Tural Eldar oglu	1995
174			Mammadov Safar Ayyub oglu	1966
175			Guliyev Akif Yunis oglu	1966
176			Ajdarov Khosrov Tavakkul oglu	1982
177		05.10.2020	Novruzov Saleh Gaytaran oglu	1981
178			Suleymanzada Davud Elkhani oglu	1993
179			Maharramov Vidadi Niftali oglu	1965
180		06.10.2020	Hasanov Seyfulla Yagub oglu	1968
181			Aliyev Dayanat Ganimat oglu	1989
182		09.10.2020	Farajov Mushfig Tavakkul oglu	1968
183		12.10.2020	Baylarov Firudin Kamal oglu	1970
184		14.10.2020	Zeynalov Ramiz Surkhay oglu	1975
185			Ahmədov Kamran Valiyaddin oglu	1966
186			Aliyev Matlab Jamshid oglu	1976
187			Ahmədov Khayyam Mahammad oglu	1987
188			Ibrahimov Ilgar Ibrahim oglu	1965
189			Aghazada Firdovsi Alim oglu	1996
190			Suleymanov Agha Suleyman oglu	1960
191			Gambarov Namig Malik oglu	1983
192			Mammadov Elchin Arif oglu	1980
193		15.10.2020	Mammadov Fuzuli Ali oglu	1969
194			Allahverdiyev Elsevar Vali oglu	1979
195			Amirov Nofal Yelmar oglu	1968
196			Gazanfarli Rafael Gazanfar oglu	1986
197		19.10.2020	Salimov Niyaz Huseynali oglu	1962
198		20.10.2020	Shabanov Murov Rasul oglu	1972
199	Aghjabadi	27.09.2020	Bayramova Saliga Avaz gizi	1988
200			Guliyeva Zahra Isa gizi	1942
201			Musayev Niyamaddin Jasarat oglu	1998

202	Aghjabadi		Guluzada Mehman Alvan oglu	2009
203			Bayramov Shamistan Nazim oglu	1998
204			Namazova Tahira Gardashkhan gizi	1956
205			Ismayilov Dayanat Sehriman oglu	1982
206		02.10.2020	Muradov Abbas Muluk oglu	1957
207			Guliyev Sarkhan Elkhan oglu	1985
208		03.10.2020	Guliyeva Dilshad Shukur gizi	1963
209			Guliyev Edilman Sabir oglu	1981
210			Gasimov Faig Aslan oglu	1966
211			Taghiyev Natig Baloghlan oglu	1976
212		05.10.2020	Mammadov Ismayil Elshan oglu	2001
213			Ibrahimova Ayna Rovshan gizi	2015
214			Ibrahimov Elshan Mehdi oglu	1994
215		17.10.2020	Hajiyevev Rauf Nizami oglu	1991
216	Aghdam	27.09.2020	Mammadov Rahbar Akbar oglu	1966
217			Allahyarov Eshgin Elmir oglu	1997
218			Zeynalov Baykishi Misir oglu	1961
219			Adigozalov Taghi Alasgar oglu	1980
220			Mammadova Mahrug Alasgar gizi	1977
221			Dadashov Araz Gafar oglu	1992
222			Jafarli Lankaran Azar oglu (policeman)	1993
223			Bayramov Nijat Urfat oglu	1992
224		28.09.2020	Abdullayev Jamal Nizami oglu	1987
225		29.09.2020	Farajov Rahib Mirzamammad oglu	1989
226			Hasanov Ismayil Mahammad oglu	1942
227			Gasimov Fikrat Shura oglu	1967
228			Shukurov Shukur Shakir oglu	1992
229			Abishova Gulzara Eldaniz gizi	1983
230		02.10.2020	Huseynov Eyvaz Safar oglu	1988
231		03.10.2020	Mansumov Sattar Hazi oglu	1972
232		04.10.2020	Shukurov Alamdar Sabir oglu	1979
233			Ahmədov Sadig Tahib oglu	1974
234			Abbasov HajiaghaTofig oglu	1978
235			Jafarov Yelmar Rasim oglu	1985
236			Aliyev Orkhan Tahir oglu	1994
237			Abdullayev Ruslan Gasham oglu	1981
238		05.10.2020	Safarov Mehman Aghalar oglu	1971
239			Rustamov Sabir Bahram oglu	1961
240			Aslanov Shamistan Arif oglu	1993
241			Rahimov Tural Imran oglu	1995
242			Yusifov Ismat Ali oglu	1993
243		08.10.2020	Jabrayilli Sadi Babir oglu	1992
244			Guliyeva Huru Talish gizi	1977
245			Mammadov İlham Safar oglu	1973
246			Muradov Allahveran Bayram oglu	1955

247	Aghdam		Abishov Seymur Ali oğlu	1979
248		09.10.2020	Huseynov Alizamin Javid oğlu	1979
249			Zeynalov Elchin Ali oğlu	1978
250			Mammadova Lala Mahammad gizi	1984
251			Rzayev Elchin Hanifa oğlu	1992
252		14.10.2020	Soltanov Saleh Eldar oğlu	1964
253		15.10.2020	Valiyev Shahsuvar Millat oğlu	1969
254			Musayev Roman Yusif oğlu	1979
255		17.10.2020	Hasanov Ramil Kamal oğlu	1981
256		19.10.2020	Guliyeva Shamama Isa gizi	1955
257			Guliyeva Maya Mammad gizi	1976
258			Hasanov Anar Baybala oğlu	1982
259			Mahiyaddinli Chichak Ilyas gizi	1997
260	Fuzuli	27.09.2020	Mammadov Fuzuli Heydar oğlu	1960
261			Guliyev Vusal Vugar oğlu	1995
262		28.09.2020	Bayramov Samir Filman oğlu	1963
263		30.09.2020	Dargahov Rashad Avaz oğlu	1991
264			Abbaszada Khayyam Mutallim oğlu	1981
265		03.10.2020	Maharramov Rashad Vakil oğlu	1981
266		04.10.2020	Aghayev Sahib Jabrayil oğlu	1957
267			Atayev Duman Novruz oğlu	1978
268			Alasgarov Maarif Allahveran oğlu	1959
269		05.10.2020	Hasanov Khanhuseyn Hasan oğlu	1965
270		09.10.2020	Asadov Samir Hidayat oğlu	1982
271			Ibrahimov Nizami Jafar oğlu	1958
272			Abbasov Alman Anvar oğlu	1968
273			Rafiyev Elchin Mammad oğlu	1961
274			Aslanov Yashar Savalan oğlu	1969
275			Ahmədov Tahir Telman oğlu	1974
276			Shirinov Elshan Shahmar oğlu	1962
277	Mingachevir	04.10.2020	Baghirova Nabat Charkaz gizi	1957
278			Baghirov Elchin Yagub oğlu	1984
279			Safarov Atamoghlan Sabir oğlu	1958
280	Goranboy	27.09.2020	Sardarov Emin Nariman oğlu	1988
281		30.09.2020	Aliyev Shahvalad Musa oğlu	1965
282		03.10.2020	Garayeva Gumush Kanish gizi	1968
283		05.10.2020	Hasanov Eljan Elgun oğlu	2011
284			Hasanova Sevinj Mashdi gizi	1984
285			Alakbarov Rasim Nadir oğlu	1969
286			Hasanov Mashdi Ibrahim oğlu	1958
287			Mammadov Gabil Adil oğlu	1988
288		09.10.2020	Mehrajov Sanan Yusif oğlu	1984
289			Gahramanov Mahmud Yagub oğlu	1961
290		29.09.2020	Asgarov Hasan Abil oğlu	1968
291	Beylagan	03.10.2020	Balakishiyev Etibar Tavakkul oğlu	1982

292	Beylagan		Bashirova Sevda Yashar gizi	1969
293		04.10.2020	Zalova Yegana Hasan gizi	1970
294			Mammadova Sevinj Mayis gizi	2003
295			Mammadov Mayis Charkaz oglu	1970
296	Barda	05.10.2020	Abbasov Salim Mehdi oglu	1954
297			Ibrahimov Ibish Mahammad oglu	1990
298			Ibrahimov Shohrat Mahammad oglu	1994
299			Meydanov Panah Murshud oglu	1988
300			Meydanova Aygun Sardar gizi	1988
301			Farzaliyeva Sabina Ilgar gizi	1994
302		08.10.2020	Humbatov Parviz Matlab oglu	1987
303			Mammadov Aykhan Elchin oglu	1992
304			Jahangirli Mahammad Yashar oglu	1999
305			Musayev Ismayil Rafiq oglu	1996
306			Asadov Agil Adil oglu	1975
307			Mammadov Kamil Ali oglu	1951
308			Hasanov Vasif Elbrus oglu	1991
309			Guliyev Nurlan Ogtay oglu	1992
310		27.10.2020	Karimova Elnura Arif gizi	2003
311			Hajiyeve Ayisha Vilayat gizi	2009
312			Isgandarova Tehrana Vidadi gizi	1986
313			Alizada Elvin Asgar oglu	2013
314			Ismayilova Aysu Ehtiram gizi	2005
315			Gurbanova Khatira Bayram gizi	1981
316			Ismayilova Aytan Rasim gizi	1984
317			Akbarova Ayna Zahid gizi	1964
318			Khalilova Yegana Huseyn gizi	1964
319			Aliyeva Zargalam Alyar gizi	2002
320			Isgandarli Tahira Rovshan gizi	2017
321			Karimli Shukur Arif oglu	2005
322		28.10.2020	Hajiyeve Elgiz Vagif oglu	1983
323			Aghayev Intigam Yashar oglu	1998
324			Alasgarov Firdovsi Aliagha oglu	1963
325			Aghayev Javanshir Farhad oglu	1990
326			Aliyev Aydin Firuddin oglu	1999
327			Muradli Tanriverdi Suleyman oglu	2004
328			Hasanov Elchin Gulam oglu	1971
329			Ibrahimova Aynura Mohlat gizi	1986
330			Maharramova Nargiz Barat gizi	1993
331			Orujov Telman Ildirim oglu	1980
332			Ibadov Yolchu Bahlul oglu	1944
333			Jafarova Tahmina Shamil gizi	1991
334			Hummatov Museyib Elnur oglu	2009
335			Aliyev Rashad Rovshan oglu	1996
336			Karimov Faig Soltan oglu	1970

337	Barda	Mammadov Natig Mahiyaddin oğlu	1963
338		Shirinov Elchin Havaskar oğlu	1984
339		Aslanova Arzu Famil gızı	1967
340		Jabbarov Ahad Safiyar oğlu	1959
341		Zulfugarov Elnur Tofig oğlu	1992
342		Guliyev Rashad Aydin oğlu	1983
343		Nazarov Ismayil Huseyn oğlu	1942
344		Dilsuzlu Maharram Sardar oğlu	1995
345		Guliyeva Aygun Mukhtar gızı	1986
346		Mammadov Aykhan Firdovsi oğlu	2013
347		Sadikhov Tural Adalat oğlu	1986
348		Muradli Maharram Mahir oğlu	2003
349		Gurbanli Fuad Zohrab oğlu	2004
350		Aghalarova Shahnaz Shahlar gızı	2007
351		Aghalarov Shahlar Eldar oğlu	1977
352		Ahmədov İlham Karam oğlu	1968
353		Isgandarov Aydin Isgandar oğlu	1970
354		Mammadov Elyar Mahammad oğlu	1962
355		Adigozalov Anar Ismayil oğlu	1978
356		Aliyev Elvin Elgiz oğlu	2005
357		Kazimova Tofiga Jamal gızı	1966
358		Fataliyeva Tarana Huseyn gızı	1973
359		Movsumov Elgun Nasir oğlu	2000
360		Aliyev Rustam Mahammad oğlu	1992
361		Tahmazov Suraj Rashid oğlu	1974
362		Guliyeva Ramziyya Shamsaddin gızı	1971
363		Bandaliyev Zamin Nizami oğlu	1987
364		Shamilov Izzat Elchin oğlu	2002
365		Ganbarova Vafa Aydin gızı	1976
366		Tahmazova Saadat Muslum gızı	1974
367		Hasanli Elmin Vidadı oğlu	1998
368		Hasanli Elkan Hasan oğlu	1993
369		Mammadov Ramin Kamal oğlu	1989
370		Aghamirov İlgar Mirhashim oğlu	1966
371		Novruzov Sulhaddin Hasan oğlu	1962
372		Hasanova Kamila Bahram gızı	1971
373		Hagverdiyeva Sevinj Novruz gızı	1985
374		Jafarov Famil Gurban oğlu	1983
375		Mehdiyeva Gunay Arshad gızı	1989
376		Safaralizada Orkan Zaur oğlu	2002
377		Hasanaliyeva Gulzar Azar gızı	1996
378		Isayeva Narmina Gara gızı	1974
379		Seyidov Gabil Parviz oğlu	2001
380		Abbasova Gulshan Avaz gızı	1975
381		Ismayilov Sanan Fizuli oğlu	1999

382	Barda		Safarova Elnura Gardashkhan gizi	1979
383			Gasimov Bahram Anar oglu	2005
384			Jafarov Sadig Jalal oglu	1977
385			Guliyeva Gunay Gabil gizi	1988
386			Ismayilov Mazahir Masi oglu	1965
387			Hasanov Farhad Sahhat oglu	1972
388			Jafarov Teymur Bakhtiyar oglu	1996
389			Gasimov Samir Muzaffar oglu	1979
390			Bakhishov Nijat Arif oglu	1992
391			Rustamov Parviz Bakhtiyar oglu	1989
392			Mustafayev Fagan Suleyman oglu	1976
393			Suleymanov Nurlan Vagif oglu	1976
394			Mammadov Anar Vagif oglu	1986
395			Kazimov Tahir Dayanat oglu	2020
396			Safiyeva Aytakin Rasim gizi	1981
397			Guliyev Khalig Vagif oglu	1970
398			Huseynov Rahib Kamil oglu	1982
399			Hasanov Mahir Elshan oglu	1994
400	Dashkasan	27.09.2020	Zalov Jalal Ali oglu (FHN)	1982
401	Jabrayil	28.09.2020	Haziyeu Hilal Ilgar oglu	2006
402		02.11.2020	Zeynalov Telman Babir oglu (Anama)	1967
403	Khojali	29.09.2020	Ahmadov Ilyas Imran oglu	1973
404	Tovuz		Pashayev Bakir Salman oglu	1963

The number of injured civilians was 404.

According to the official information of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the following persons were killed during the reporting period as a result of the bombing of the civilian population of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Armenian armed forces

A total of 17 people in Tartar district:

1. Aliyev Mehman Sovet oglu, born on 04.09.1977, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling in front of Tartar District Court on 28.09.2020.
2. Asadov Sabit Usub oglu, born on 22.07.1981, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling in the street in Shikharkh settlement of Tartar district on 28.09.2020.
3. Abbasov Elshan Asif oglu, born on 04.10.1987, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling in the street in Shikharkh settlement of Tartar district on 28.09.2020.
4. Abbasov Khalig Asif oglu, born on 24.07.1981, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling in the street in Shikharkh settlement of Tartar district on 28.09.2020.
5. Mehtiyeva Ayna Mahammadali gizi, born on 20.06.1965, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling on her house in U.Hajibayov street of Tartar district on 29.09.2020.
6. Ibrahimov Shahin Mahmud oglu, born on 24.12.1987, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling in front of the administrative building of Tartar district Office of the State Service for Mobilization and Conscription of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Aliagha Vahid street of Tartar city on 30.09.2020 at about 8:00 a.m.
7. Aliyev Muzaffar Ali oglu, born on 27.08.1971, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling in front of the administrative building of Tartar district Office of the State Service for Mobilization and Conscription of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Aliagha Vahid street of Tartar city on 30.09.2020 at about 8:00 a.m.
8. Hasanov Zabil Mahammad oglu, born on 01.06.1983, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling on the administrative building of Tartar city Bus Station on 01.10.2020.
9. Mammadov Hasan Asif oglu, born on 01.02.1981, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling in Dordyol settlement of Tartar district on 06.10.2020.
10. Akhundov Adavat Zahid oglu, born on 01.05.1969, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling on his house in Narlig settlement of Tartar district on 14.10.2020 at about 8:00 a.m.
11. Rustamov Vasif Bahadur oglu, born on 07.03.1960, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling in front of city cemetery in Tartar city on 15.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
12. Orujov Parviz Novruz oglu, born on 10.06.1989, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling in front of city cemetery in Tartar city on 15.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
13. Zamanov Shakir Khasay oglu, born on 25.04.1988, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling in front of city cemetery in Tartar city on 15.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
14. Amirov Isgandar Yelmar oglu, born on 18.02.1967, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling in front of city cemetery in Tartar city on 15.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
15. Guliyev Anar Tofiq oglu, born on 23.05.1985, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling on his house in Jamilli village of Tartar district on 20.10.2020.
16. Isakhli Anar Rasul oglu, born on 30.05.1997, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling on his house in Jamilli village of Tartar district on 20.10.2020.
17. Ismayilzada Orkhan Rahbar oglu, born on 02.04.2004, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling in Kabirli village of Tartar district on 24.10.2020.

A total of 8 people in Goranboy district:

1. Gurbanov Shahriyar Nadir oglu, born on 30.11.2007, a secondary school student, was deliberately killed in his house on 28.09.2020 at about 6:00 p.m. as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces.
2. Gurbanova Fidan Elshan gizi, born on 01.03.2006, a secondary school student, was deliberately killed in her house on 28.09.2020 at about 6:00 p.m. as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces.
3. Amirova Afag Damir gizi, born on 12.01.1981, was deliberately killed in her house on 28.09.2020 at about 6:00 p.m. as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces.
4. Gurbanova Shafayat Novruz gizi, born on 22.02.1956, was deliberately killed in her house on 28.09.2020 at about 6:00 p.m. as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces.
5. Gurbanov Elbrus Isa oglu, born on 24.11.1951, was deliberately killed in his house on 28.09.2020 at about 6:00 p.m. as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces.
6. Abbasova Raziya Bayramali gizi, born on 18.01.1955, was deliberately killed in her house on 05.10.2020 as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces.

7. Guliyeva Turyan Tofiq gizi, born on 23.04.1957, was deliberately killed in her house on 08.10.2020 as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces in the direction of Shahmammadli village of Goranboy district .

8. Ziyadova Flora Garash gizi, born in 1967, was deliberately killed in her house on 29.10.2020 as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces in the direction of Tapgaragoyunlu village of Goranboy district .

A total of 3 people in Fuzuli district :

1. Safarov Ikhtiyar Ajdar oglu, born on 12.02.1971, was deliberately killed in the yard of his house on 29.09.2020.

2. Rustamov Murad Tahir oglu, born on 16.02.1990, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling nearby "Azpetrol" Petrol Station in Horadiz City on 30.09.2020 at about 4:00 p.m.

3. Guliyev Emil Elshad oglu, born on 14.02.2000, was deliberately killed as a result of a shell falling nearby "Azpetrol" Petrol Station in Horadiz City on 30.09.2020 at about 4:00 p.m.

A total of 7 people in Aghdam district:

1. Sariyev Elmaddin Humbat oglu, born on 05.03.1997, was deliberately killed as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces in the yard of his house in Garadaghli village of Aghdam district on 29.09.2020 at about 12 p.m.

2. Pashayev Joshgun Anvar oglu, born on 01.01.1979, was deliberately killed as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces in the yard of his fellow villager Ibadov Nariman Najaf oglu in Garadaghli village of Aghdam district on 29.09.2020.

3. Mammadov Murshud Rashid oglu, born on 16.03.1966, was deliberately killed as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces in his house in Hajimammadli village of Aghdam district on 01.10.2020.

4. Mammadov Samir Murshud oglu, born on 15.04.1996, was deliberately killed as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces in his house in Hajimammadli village of Aghdam district on 01.10.2020.

5. Rahimov Eyvaz Musa oglu, born on 07.07.1954, was deliberately killed as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces in his house in Safarli village of Aghdam district on 05.10.2020.

6. Aliyeva Zarifa Gamboy gizi, born on 27.03.1945, was deliberately killed as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces in her house in Khindiristan village of Aghdam district on 07.10.2020.

7. Huseynov Gunduz Taryel oglu, born on 08.01.1974, was deliberately killed as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces in his house in Chamanli village of Aghdam district on 10.10.2020.

A total of 2 people in Beylagan district:

1. Ismayilova Zulfiyya Isgandar gizi, born on 04.12.1976, was deliberately killed as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces in the territory of Beylagan city on 04.10.2020.

2. Asadova Arzu Isgandar gizi, born on 15.12.1998, was deliberately killed as a result of fire by Armenian armed forces in the territory of Beylagan city on 04.10.2020

A total of 1 people in Aghjabadi district:

1. Iskandarov Farid Dilafat oglu, born on 11.08.2006, was deliberately killed as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces near the cafe in the village where he lived on 04.10.2020.

A total of 26 people in Ganja city:

1. Aliyev Tunar Goshgar oglu, born on 22.05.1999, was deliberately killed as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces in Ganja city on 04.10.2020.

2. Jafarova Durra Hilal gizi, born on 17.04.1967, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to residential building located at 4 A.Rafibayli Street, Kapaz District, Ganja, on 11.10.2020 at about 2:00-3:00 a.m.

3. Alasgarova Tarana Pasha gizi, born on 28.01.1965, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to residential building located at 4 A.Rafibayli Street, Kapaz District, Ganja, on 11.10.2020 at about 2:00-3:00 a.m.

4. Aliyev Adil Hamza oglu, born on 14.04.1992, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to residential building located at 4 A.Rafibayli Street, Kapaz District, Ganja, on 11.10.2020 at about 2:00-3:00 a.m.
5. Baghirov Ramiz Yusif oglu, born on 26.04.1958, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to residential building located at 4 A.Rafibayli Street, Kapaz District, Ganja, on 11.10.2020 at about 2:00-3:00 a.m.
6. Alasgarov Ulvi Jeyhun oglu, born on 23.07.1990, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to residential building located at 4 A.Rafibayli Street, Kapaz District, Ganja, on 11.10.2020 at about 2:00-3:00 a.m.
7. Aliyeva Afag Aziz gizi, born on 27.09.1957, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to residential building located at 4 A.Rafibayli Street, Kapaz District, Ganja, on 11.10.2020 at about 2:00-3:00 a.m.
8. Alasgarov Jeyhun Jamal oglu, born on 01.12.1958, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to residential building located at 4 A.Rafibayli Street, Kapaz District, Ganja, on 11.10.2020 at about 2:00-3:00 a.m.
9. Aliyev Anar Adil oglu, born on 31.07.1982, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to residential building located at 4 A.Rafibayli Street, Kapaz District, Ganja, on 11.10.2020 at about 2:00-3:00 a.m.
10. Aliyeva Nurchin Emin gizi, born on 06.03.1987, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to residential building located at 4 A.Rafibayli Street, Kapaz District, Ganja, on 11.10.2020 at about 2:00-3:00 a.m.
11. Aliyeva Gunay Zahid gizi, born on 31.01.1992, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to residential building located at 4 A.Rafibayli Street, Kapaz District, Ganja, on 11.10.2020 at about 2:00-3:00 a.m.
12. Aghayev Nuraddin Polad oglu, born on 01.01.1943, was deliberately killed as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m.
13. Asgarova Sevil Suliddin gizi, born on 22.11.1982, was deliberately killed as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m.
14. Asgarova Nazrin Teymur gizi, born on 05.12.2014, was deliberately killed as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m.
15. Asgarov Bakhtiyar Suliddin oglu, born on 28.12.1980, was deliberately killed as a result of missile strikes by Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m.
16. Asgarova Nigar Azar gizi, born on 18.10.2005, was deliberately killed as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m.
17. Shahnazarov Royal Yusif oglu, born on 18.01.1986, was deliberately killed as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m.
18. Shahnazarova Zuleykha Nizami gizi, born on 19.02.1996, was deliberately killed as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m.
19. Asgarov Suliddin Ismayil oglu, born on 25.12.1948, was deliberately killed as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m.
20. Shahnazarli Madina Royal gizi, born on 02.06.2019, was deliberately killed as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m.
21. Yusibova Maral Yunis gizi, born in 1963, was deliberately killed as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m.
22. Gahramanova Laman Ramin gizi, born on 16.04.2002, was deliberately killed as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m.
23. Khalilova (Gahramanova) Khatira Ramiz gizi, born on 02.08.1986, was deliberately killed as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m.
24. Khalilli Orkhan Goshgar oglu, born on 29.04.2009, was deliberately killed as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m.
25. Khalilli Maryam Goshgar gizi, born on 03.08.2014, was deliberately killed as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m.
26. Mayakov Artur Ramiz oglu, born on 09.01.2007, was injured as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces to Ganja city on 17.10.2020 at about 1:00 a.m. and died on 24.10.2020.

A total of 27 people in Barda district:

1. Mehdiyeva Shariyar Isa gizi, born on 26.03.1961, was deliberately killed as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces on 05.10.2020.
2. Rustamov Javid Ali oglu, born on 14.03.1975, was injured as a result of fire by the Armenian armed forces on 05.10.2020 and died on 07.10.2020 in hospital in Nasimi district of Baku City.
3. Iskandarli Aysu Rovshan gizi, born on 11.06.2013, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to Garayusifli village of Barda district on 27.10.2020 at about 4:00 p.m.
4. Jafarova Ofelya Majid gizi, born on 10.03.1970, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to Garayusifli village of Barda district on 27.10.2020 at about 4:00 p.m.
5. Ahmadova Aybaniz Ashraf gizi, born on 08.01.1959, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to Garayusifli village of Barda district on 27.10.2020 at about 4:00 p.m.
6. Ismayilov Ehtiram Khalil oglu, born on 11.10.1980, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to Garayusifli village of Barda district on 27.10.2020 at about 4:00 p.m.
7. Aliyeva Almaz Salah gizi, born on 18.12.1960, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to Garayusifli village of Barda district on 27.10.2020 at about 4:00 p.m.
8. Ismayilli Vasif Vagif oglu, born on 08.12.1990, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
9. Shafiyev Rashad Vagif oglu, born on 13.10.1991, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
10. Hajiyevev Fazil Haji oglu, born on 01.09.1969, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
11. Ahmadov Mirsahir Yusuf oglu, born on 09.04.1980, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
12. Kazimov Dayanat Tahir oglu, born on 30.04.1990, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
13. Aliyev Sadig Sahib oglu, born on 18.01.1993, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
14. Abbasov Ruslan Mahammad oglu, born on 01.11.1984, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
15. Khidirov Intigam Alamdar oglu, born on 25.12.1977, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
16. Gasimova Solmaz Sadraddin gizi, born on 21.01.1961, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
17. Mirzaliyev Charkaz Khanlar oglu, born on 15.03.1972, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
18. Mirzaliyeva Tukazban Charkaz gizi, born on 01.10.1995, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
19. Huseynova Gulshan Mehrab gizi, born on 07.01.1972, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
20. Allahverdiyev Asgar Mahir oglu, born on 04.02.1983, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
21. Mustafayeva Leyla Elmir gizi, born on 21.09.1969, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
22. Jafarov Amil Fazil oglu, born on 04.02.1983, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
23. Guliyev Aghamoghlan Baylar oglu, born on 26.03.1947, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
24. Suleymanov Hummat Suleyman oglu, born on 23.09.1955, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
25. Isgandarov Yalchin Rizvan oglu, born on 19.05.1984, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
26. Ismayilov Fuad Isa oglu, born on 29.12.1988, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.
27. Mustafayev Maharram Anvar oglu, born on 26.02.1971, was deliberately killed as a result of missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces to the central streets of Barda city on 28.10.2020 at about 1:00 p.m.

28. Pashayev Niftali Salim oglu, born in 1995, was deliberately killed as a result of a cluster bomb attack in Barda on 05.11.2020.

29. Rahimov Shahmali Atraf oglu, born in 2004, was deliberately killed by a missile fragment while grazing cattle in the field in Barda on 07.11.2020.

Totally 93 people were killed (including 11 children (1 infant), 27 women, 55 men).

CONCLUSIONS

From September 27, 2020 to November 10, 2020, the use of prohibited weapons by the Armenian armed forces against the civilian population of Azerbaijan resulted in numerous losses and mass casualties. Thus, as a result of the use of prohibited weapons, 93 civilians (11 children (1 infant), 27 women, 55 men) were killed and 404 were injured.

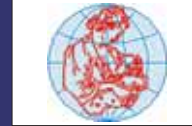
There are infants, children, secondary school students, middle-aged people and the elderly among the injured and killed people.

Thus, the provisions of Protocol III (1980) to the Convention on Specific Types of Conventional Weapons of 1980, and Convention on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects of October 10, 1980 have been violated. Legal acts related to the payment of compensation for violations of international humanitarian law should be implemented, compensation should be provided by the Republic of Armenia for the violation, and it should be the precedent for the subjects of other armed conflicts.





**Solidarity Among Women
Public Union**



**“Saglam Hayat” Mother and
Child Care Public Union**

REPORT
on the deliberate killing and
wounding of women and children
and the gross violation of their
rights as a result of military
aggression of Armenia
against Azerbaijan

Baku-2020

Reporting organizations

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OVERVIEW

Armenia's military aggression that lasted for more than 30 years, has resulted in the occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory, and the policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide against Azerbaijanis, the displacement of more than a million of our compatriots from their native lands and mass violation of their human rights.

Women and children, whose fundamental rights were violated, became one of the groups affected by the conflict.

Innocent women and children were killed, wounded, tortured, taken hostage, became refugees and internally displaced persons, or lost their parents as a result of Armenian aggression and genocide against Azerbaijan.

Armenia has grossly violated the norms and principles stipulated by international humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions, especially The Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of August 12, 1949, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, The Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, as well as the relevant provisions of other human rights instruments.

Armenia is not only committing crimes by grossly violating the rights of Azerbaijani women and children, but also applies these criminal acts to its own society, grossly violating the rights of Armenian children and depriving them of their rights to life.

Armenia uses children in the war against Azerbaijan, includes children into military hostilities by arming them, and conducts military propaganda among children. All these acts are gross violation of international humanitarian law.

The present report reflects the issues, related to the international legal assessment of war crimes, committed by Armenia, such as the killing of Azerbaijani women and children, the violation of their rights, as well as the involvement of children in military operations, the use of kindergartens and schools as a military command centers and ammunition depots.

Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan: causes and severe consequences

Historical facts show that the resettlement of a large number of Armenians from Iran and Turkey to the mountainous part of the strategically important Karabakh region of Azerbaijan began in the early 19th century. This process of resettlement, which was an integral part of Russian Tsarist colonial policy, continued throughout the nineteenth century and, as a result, affected the demographic situation in the region. Armenians, whose number artificially increased in the region, had begun pressing territorial claims against Azerbaijan since the early twentieth century¹.

Living with the idea of "Great Armenia", the Armenians, in order to achieve their goals, pursued a policy of ethnic cleansing, carrying out horrific terror and genocide against Azerbaijanis at various times, with the help of their foreign patrons.

The people of Azerbaijan have been expelled from their historical lands, become refugees and internally displaced persons for the last 200 years, subjected to constant ethnic cleansing, genocide and aggression policy conducted by Armenian nationalists.

Taking advantage of the weakening of the Government of the Soviet Union since the early 1980s, Armenians, represented in the Leadership of the Soviet Union, as well as the leaders of the Armenian SSR, and the Armenian Diaspora abroad, took purposeful action to separate the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO), established in 1923 as a part of the Azerbaijan SSR, and unite it with the Armenia SSR.

In late 1987, the process of brutal deportation of Azerbaijanis from their historical lands began in Gafan province of the Armenian SSR. The fate of Azerbaijanis living in other areas (Amasya, Ararat, Ijevan, Yegegnadzor, Megri, Sisyan, Gorus, Gugark, Vardenis, Masis, Azizbayov, Artashat, Hoktemberyan, Noyemberyan, etc.) and cities (Yerevan, Kirovakan, Hrazdan, Stepanavan, Spitak, Jermuk, Gyumri, etc.) of Armenia was the same in 1988-1989. More than 250,000 Azerbaijanis living in Armenia were forcibly expelled from their historical lands, 216 of them were brutally killed and 1,154 were injured. They took refuge in Azerbaijan to save their lives in the face of Armenian violence².

Azerbaijanis were purposefully driven out and deported from present-day territory of Armenia in 1905-1906, 1918-1920, and 1948-1953. Only in 1948-1953, more than 150,000 Azerbaijanis were forcibly sent into exile from the territory of the Armenian SSR, which was their historical homes. Thousands of people, including elderly and infants, died as a result of severe displacement, extreme climate change, physical shocks and mental anguish.

The Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is one of the most tragic conflicts in the history of the twentieth century, and its consequences have had a serious impact on the fate of millions of people.

The conflict which began in 1988 with Armenia's open territorial claims to Azerbaijan's historical lands and ethnic provocations resulted in Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan.

As a result of Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan, the Armenian army brutally killed Azerbaijani civilians in the occupied districts and cities without any distinction between military persons and civilians. Azerbaijanis have been subjected to both ethnic cleansing and real genocide.

Contrary to all the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, the Armenian armed forces purposefully chose the civilian population as their main target. The Armenian military-political leadership, committing a ruthless, systematic and mass genocide of civilians in Meshali village of Askeran, Malibeyli and Gushchular villages of Shusha, Garadagli village of Khojavend, Khojaly city, Aghdaban village of Kalbajar and other places, aimed to physically and biologically destroy a part of

¹ <http://anl.az/down/meqale/xalqgazeti/2011/fevral/159937.htm>

² <http://www.justice.gov.az/categories/22>

the Azerbaijani civilian population living in Nagorno-Karabakh, and to break the resistance of the rest and in this way to clear the region from them.

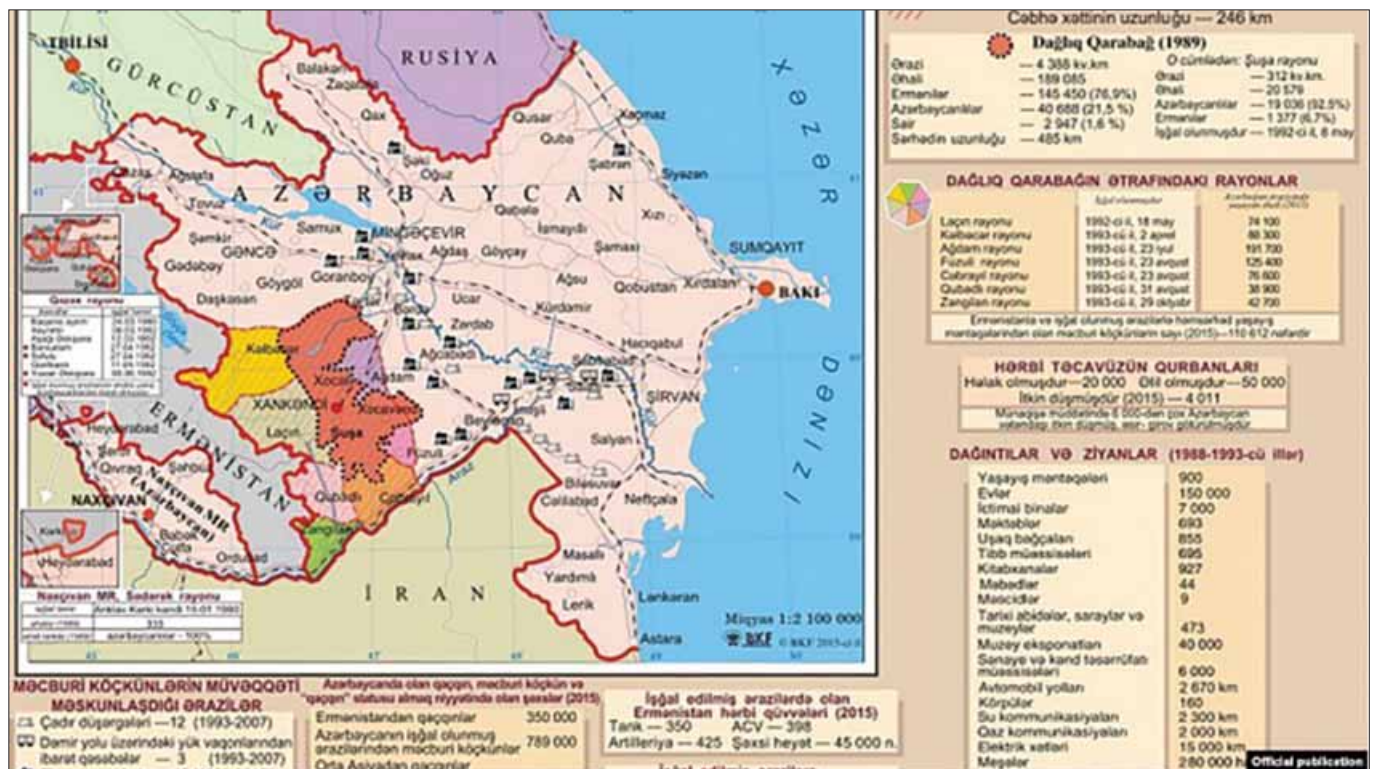
Significant damage was inflicted on Azerbaijan by Armenia as a result of the military conflict which started in 1988 due to the territorial claims of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan. In the first phase of the conflict, which lasted from 1988 to 1994, 20% of the territory of Azerbaijan was occupied, billions of manats of material and moral damage was inflicted on the state and its citizens, and about 10% of the country's population became refugees and internally displaced persons. During the conflict, 20,000 Azerbaijanis were martyred, 100,000 were injured and 50,000 became disabled. 4,852 Azerbaijanis, including 323 women, 54 children and 410 elderly people were taken prisoner and held hostage by the Armenian occupiers.

As a result of the conflict, about 4,000 Azerbaijanis went missing, including 67 children, 265 women and 326 elderly people. The fate of these persons is still unknown. More than 2,000 Azerbaijanis were taken prisoner and held hostage by Armenians.³

As a result of the Armenian military aggression, 20 percent of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan – Khankendi city, Khojaly, Shusha, Lachin, Khojavend, Kalbajar, Aghdam, Fizuli, Jabrayil, Gubadly, and Zangilan districts, as well as 13 villages of Tartar district, 7 villages of Gazakh district, and a village in Sadarak district of Nakhchivan, were occupied by Armenian armed forces.

In 1988-1993, a total of 900 settlements, 150,000 houses, 7,000 public buildings, 693 schools, 855 kindergartens, 695 medical institutions, 927 libraries, 44 temples, 9 mosques, 473 historical monuments, palaces and museums, 40,000 museum exhibits, 6,000 industrial and agricultural enterprises, 160 bridges and other infrastructure facilities were destroyed.

International law recognizes the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent districts to be an integral part of Azerbaijan Republic, which are also reflected in UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 of 1993, UN General Assembly Resolution of March 14, 2008 titled "Situation in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan", Resolution No. 1416 and Recommendation No. 1690 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe of 2005, Resolution of the European Parliament on Nagorno-Karabakh dated October 23, 2013.



³ <http://www.justice.gov.az/categories/22>

Genocide policy of Armenia against the Azerbaijani civilians, especially women and children

International humanitarian law, especially the main documents of international humanitarian law, as The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the three Protocols of 1977 and 2005 amended to them, the UN General Assembly Resolution of 14 December 1974, and other international conventions, prohibit attacks on civilians during war.

In addition to the normative legal acts, which should be applied in any war, there are also unwritten laws of war, a moral approach to it, which do not allow the touching of civilians during wars, especially women and children.

However, Armenia has always violated the red line, which includes the written and unwritten laws of war, as well as the concept of honor, and has shown it through war crimes, disrespecting the norms of international law and moral values.

The purpose of the policy of genocide, ethnic cleansing and deportation carried out by the Armenian nationalists and their supporters against the Azerbaijanis for more than two centuries was to expel our compatriots from their historical lands and establish a mythical "Great Armenia" state in these territories. Since the beginning of the 19th century, thousands of Armenian families have been relocated from Iran and Turkey to Karabakh, Nakhchivan, Zangazur, Iravan provinces and other regions of the historical lands of Azerbaijan.

One of the bloodiest parts of that policy was the genocide of Azerbaijanis in 1918. From March 1918, armed Dashnak-Bolshevik groups and Armenian nationalists massacred the Azerbaijani civilian population, including children and women, with special cruelty, only because of their national and religious affiliation, and people were burned alive, and rare historical and cultural monuments, hospitals, schools, mosques and cemeteries were destroyed by them.

History has shown that the Armenian nationalists did not give up their ugly intentions, brutally massacring our peaceful compatriots, and falsified the events in order to cover up their crimes.

As a result of the policy of ethnic cleansing and aggression launched by Armenia in 1988, Armenia has occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent districts, which are an integral part of Azerbaijan. Thus, 20 percent of our lands has been occupied, 20,000 Azerbaijanis have lost their lives, more than a million of our compatriots have become refugees and internally displaced persons, and their rights have been grossly violated.

The expulsion of the Azerbaijani population from their legal places of residence, looting and destruction of material resources, cultural monuments in settlements and state facilities, horrific torture of Azerbaijani captives and hostages, cruel treatment of civilians and other persons protected by international humanitarian law, crimes against peace and humanity like genocide, deportation, torture, etc. by killing members of Azerbaijani national group in order to completely or partially destroy the Azerbaijanis as a national group, as well as premeditated murder, sabotage, terrorism and other particularly serious crimes were committed by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia.

We would like to note below some facts of the genocide committed by Armenians against civilians, especially children:

On September 8, 1991, a bus operating on the Aghdam-Garadaghli route was blown up by Armenian terrorists, killing six people, including children, and injuring the remaining 36. Prior to that, 9 such terrorist acts had been committed, 68 people - especially women, children and the elderly - had been victims of terrorism, and 132 people had suffered various injuries.

On November 20, 1991, civilians were killed when a MI-8 helicopter was shot down by Armenian terrorists near the village of Qarakand.

1992-ci il aprel ayının 8-də səhərə yaxın erməni silahlı qüvvələri Kəlbəcər rayonunun Ağdaban kəndinə hücum etmişdilər. Nəticədə Kəlbəcər rayonunun 130 evdən ibarət Ağdaban kəndi tamamilə

erməni seperatçıları tərəfindən yandırılmış, kəndin 779 nəfər dinc sakininə qeyri-insani işgəncələr verilmişdir. 67 nəfər qətlə yetirilmiş, 8 nəfər 90-100 yaşlı qoca, 2 nəfər azyaşlı uşaq, 7 nəfər qadın diri-diri odda yandırılmış, 2 nəfər itkin düşmüş, 12 nəfərə ağır bədən xəsarəti yetirilmişdir.

On January 8, 1992, a bomb blast on the Krasnovodsk-Baku ferry killed 25 people, including women and children, and seriously injured 88 others.

On January 28, 1992, a civilian helicopter carrying passengers on the Aghdam-Shusha route near the city of Shusha was shot down by Armenian terrorists, killing 41 passengers, mostly women and children and three crew members. A total of 176 people were killed as a result of terrorist acts committed by Armenian terrorists in air transport.

The Armenian fascists carried out an act of genocide against civilians in the Khojavend district with special cruelty. As a result of the occupation, 1,723 houses were destroyed in 10 Azerbaijani villages in Khojavend. 145 residents were martyred, more than 300 people lost their health and became disabled, 243 children lost one of their parents, 3 children lost both parents and 68 women lost their spouses.

As a result of the genocide committed by the Armenian armed forces and the 366th Regiment of the Soviet Union on February 17, 1992, the villagers, innocent children, women and the elderly were ruthlessly tortured and killed in the village of Garadagly, Khojavend district. Nearly 80 of 118 hostages taken in this ancient Azerbaijani village were brutally murdered and 33 were shot dead. Armenians threw dead and wounded villagers into a farm well and covered it with soil⁴.

18 people, including 5 women out of 50 villagers, released from captivity with great difficulty, died as a result of untreatable wounds. The brutal treatment of captives, vandalism, beheadings, burying alive, teeth extractions, starvation, murder through beatings are crimes against humanity.

As a result of the tragedy, 4 people from each of the two families and 2-3 people from each of the 6 families were killed. In addition, the heads of 43 families were killed, both parents of the children in each family were killed, and 146 children were orphaned. In Garadagli village, 91 people - one out of every 10 villagers - were killed. 21 of killed villagers were elderly and old, 10 were women and 8 of them were schoolchildren.

On the night of 25-26 February, the Armenian armed forces supported by the former Soviet 366th regiment committed a crime of genocide against Azerbaijanis in the Azerbaijani city of Khojali. Numerous heavy vehicles of this regiment were driven into the city, and criminals brutally killed civilians who were forced to flee Khojali in panic, the city was swept away, houses and social infrastructure were destroyed and burnt.

During the Khojaly genocide, 613 people were killed, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people, hundreds of civilians were seriously wounded, and 1,275 people were taken hostage. During the massacre, 8 families were completely destroyed, 25 children lost both parents, whereas 130 children lost one of their parents, and captives and hostages were brutally tortured. At the same time, the basic human rights of our compatriots, and the most important and fundamental right to life were violated en masse. To this day, 150 captives including 68 women and 26 children from Khojali remain missing⁵.

Armenian armed groups tore the abdomen of Humbatova Sudaba Rashid gizi, who was 7-8 months pregnant, with a knife in front of the eyes of other hostages, including her husband Humbatov Mughan Jalil oglu in Khojali, knocked the fetus to the ground and hit it in the head.

⁴ https://az.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qarada%C4%9FI%C4%B1_soyq%C4%B1r%C4%B1m%C4%B1

⁵ <https://ombudsman.az/az/view/news/476/azerbaycan-respublikasinin-insan-huquqlari-uzre-muvekkilinin-ombudsmanin-xocali-soyqiriminin-25-ci-ildonumu-ile-elaqedar-b-e-y-a-n-a-t-i>



The Armenian armed forces attacked on the morning of April 8, 1992, the village of Aghdaban, Kalbajar district. As a result, the village of Aghdaban, consisting of 130 houses, was completely burned down by Armenian separatists, and 779 civilians were subjected to inhumane torture. 67 people were killed, 8 people aged 90-100, 2 young children, 7 women were burnt alive, 2 people were missing, and 12 people were seriously injured.



One of the distinctive characters of the Armenian terror is to commit a terrorist act against young children by various means. In 1994, by installing an explosive device in a children's toy and releasing it into a river flowing through the province of Tovuz, the Armenians committed a terrorist act that resulted in the death of two children.

In 2011, Armenian terrorists again used a children's toy containing explosives. Shahmaliyeva Aygun Ziraddin gizi, born in 1998, died, her mother Shahmaliyeva Elnara Mammadtaghi gizi, born in 1979, was seriously injured.

On April 02-05, 2016, Armenian military units rudely violated the ceasefire and fired from heavy weapons both populated areas of Goranboy, Tartar, Aghdam and Fizuli districts, including schools, hospitals and places of worship and Azerbaijani military units, along the line of contact. As a result of the Armenian attacks, 6 people were killed, including children, and 33 were seriously injured among the civilian population of Azerbaijan.



On July 4, 2017, the Armenian Armed Forces fired from 82 mm and 120 mm mortars and machine grenades at the Alkhanly settlement, Fizuli district. As a result of this provocation by Armenia, 14-month-old Zahra Guliyeva and her grandmother Sahiba Guliyeva, born in 1967, were killed and Sarvinaz Guliyeva was seriously injured.



Starting from July 12, 2020, the units of the Armenian Armed Forces once again rudely violated the ceasefire by using the large-caliber artillery and tried to attack in order to seize positions on the Azerbaijani-Armenian state border in the direction of Tovuz district. Demonstrating its aggressive and terrorist nature, Armenia once again fired the civilian areas by artillery. As a result, a resident of Aghdam village (Tovuz), located along the frontline area, was killed and the civilian population suffered significant damage.



Women's and children's human rights, violated as a result of military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan between September 27, 2020 and November 9, 2020

Occupant Armenia has been continuing its military provocations, war crimes, crimes against peace, humanity since September 27, 2020 in order to occupy new territories of Azerbaijan and kill civilians.



The first victims of war crimes were the civilian population. On September 27, 2020, as a result of the shelling of our settlements by the Armenian armed forces, in the village of Gashalti in the city of Naftalan, which has no frontline territory, a whole family were killed (2 children, 2 elderly, one teenager) (Gurbanov Elbrus Isa oglu, his wife Gurbanova Shafayat Novruz gizi, daughter-in-law Amirova Afag Damir gizi, his grandchildren, schoolchildren of secondary schools Gurbanova Fidan Elshan gizi, born in 2006 and Gurbanov Shahriyar Nadir oglu, born in 2007).



Later, mainly at night, the Armenian criminals fired from the territory of Armenia densely populated settlements, such as Ganja, Mingachevir, Yevlakh, Barda, Gabala, Kurdamir, Khizi, Absheron, located far from the frontline, using weapons prohibited by international law, in order to inflict mass casualties and create a sense of alarm among the population.

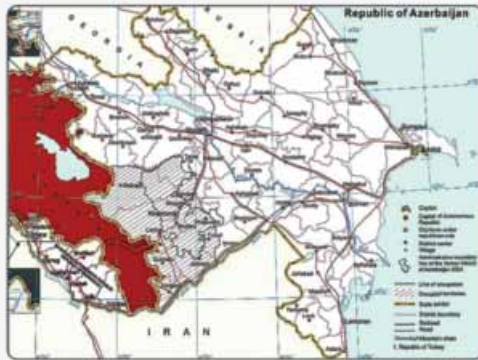


According to official information, dated 27.09.2020-09.11.2020, 93 civilians, including children, women, persons with disabilities and the elderly were killed, 407 were seriously wounded, 3326 private houses, 120 apartment blocks and 504 civilian objects were destroyed and rendered unusable as a result of terrorist acts committed by Armenia against the civilian population of Azerbaijan.⁶



⁶ <https://genprosecutor.gov.az/az>

27.09.2020-09.11.2020 tarixləri ərzində Ermənistan silahlı qüvvələri tərəfindən Azərbaycan Respublikasının dinc əhəlisinə qarşı törədilmiş cinayətlərin statistikasi



Helak olmuş
dinc sakinlərin sayı

93



Yaralanmış
dinc sakinlərin sayı

407



Yararsız vəziyyətə düşmüş yaşayış evlərinin sayı

3326



Yararsız vəziyyətə düşmüş mülki obyektlərin sayı

504



Yararsız vəziyyətə düşmüş çoxmənzilli yaşayış binalarının sayı

120



Azərbaycan Respublikası Baş Prokurorluğunun
Mətbuat xidmətinin məlumatı

The requirements of the ceasefire declared for humanitarian purposes on October 10, 18 and 26, 2020 were violated by Armenia using ballistic missile fire on settlements outside the war zone, thus clearly demonstrating disrespect for international humanitarian and human rights norms.

The nature of the war was changed by the Armenian armed forces firing on Azerbaijani civilians at night, killing innocent families and children. Three minor children from two families were orphaned after losing both parents. Many families were completely destroyed. There is a foreign citizen among the dead children. According to official information, 11 children, including 8 schoolchildren, were killed, 50 were injured and more than 70 schools and kindergartens were severely damaged in the rocket attacks.

Immediately after the next humanitarian ceasefire announced on October 26, 2020, Armenia fired on the civilian population of Azerbaijan's Barda district on October 27 and 28, 2020, with cluster missiles, killing 70 civilians, including two young children, and 84 people, including children, were seriously injured.

In connection with the above-mentioned facts, the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan has instituted criminal proceedings under the articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including, but not limited to the conducting of aggressive war, infringement of norms of the international humanitarian right during confrontations, deliberate murder by organized group or criminal community, deliberate murder committed with special cruelty or in publicly dangers way, deliberate attempt at a murder on motive of national, racial, religious hatred or enmity, deliberate destruction or damage of property and other relevant articles.

The consequences of these war crimes against civilians, including children, have been documented by foreign media too. Even representatives of some foreign embassies in Azerbaijan and international organizations have witnessed such atrocities.

Even “Euronews” employees were able to escape a missile strike by Armenia while filming in Azerbaijani settlements, and this fact was recorded on video.



Armenian armed forces killed Azerbaijani civilians, including women and children, using weapons prohibited by international law.

Deliberate and targeted firing of Azerbaijani settlements from a distance, from the territory of the Republic of Armenia, using operational-tactical ballistic missile systems resulted in numerous casualties and destruction.

The evidence of the fact that the Armenian armed forces fired on the cities and districts of Azerbaijan in gross violation of international humanitarian law, used weapons against the civilian population, prohibited by international law, and deliberately targeted civilians for their complete or partial destruction, used war techniques that could cause significant destruction, attacked on non-military education, health and social services, confirms once again that Armenia has committed war crimes, as well as crimes against peace, humanity and public security.

The videos and photos, demonstrating the fact that Armenian armed forces fired on the civilian population in the cities of Ganja and Barda and other districts of Azerbaijan, using the weapons prohibited by international law, prove once again that Armenia has committed war crimes.⁷



⁷ <http://www.anama.gov.az/en/news/156>



The remains of a 300 mm 9M525 missile and remnants of 72 submunitions (bomblets) of 9N235 were found in the territory Barda during the inspection, undertaken by the special mobile operational teams of Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA). This fact once again proves that the Armenian armed forces continue to use prohibited cluster ammunition against the civilian population of Azerbaijan.⁸

The above photos show the remains of submunitions (bomblets) and cluster missiles found by ANAMA in the Barda district of Azerbaijan, as a result of fires, opened by the Armenian armed forces, using ballistic missiles, prohibited under the international conventions.⁹

Amnesty International has already confirmed on its official website that Armenia used banned weapons against civilians during the conflict.¹⁰

Organization's anti-crisis experts confirmed, based on photos (photos taken by Vice News in Barda), that the remains of missiles fired by Armenia to Barda are the remains of Russian-made 9M55 "Smerch" cluster missiles.

Marie Struthers, the organization's regional director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, said in a statement that "the use of cluster missiles against civilian areas is cruel and irresponsible. This leads to many casualties and injuries. The use of cluster munitions under any circumstances is prohibited under international humanitarian law. We urge both sides to refrain from the use of cluster munitions and to give priority to the protection of civilians".

The fact that the Armenian armed forces fired on the city of Barda, the using of internationally prohibited weapons was reflected in the report of Human Rights Watch. The report also said that the use of weapons prohibited by international conventions was a gross disrespect to civilians and international law.¹¹

⁸ <https://ombudsman.az/en/view/news/2134/ombudsman-sabina-aliyeva-conducts-fact-finding-mission-to-ganja-city>

⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aJ5JzOvyq0>

¹⁰ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/10/armenia-azerbaijan-first-confirmed-use-of-cluster-munitions-by-armenia-cruel-and-reckless/>

¹¹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/10/30/armenia-cluster-munitions-kill-civilians-azerbaijan?fbclid=IwAR3xekKv0YE1LkcpoOh-o6NbINEUYMbxG76MQ27QmvXIEa5mpwwLvCb8YH8>

International legal assessment of the killing of Azerbaijani civilians by Armenia

In the capacity of main guarantor of international peace and security, UN Security Council's Resolutions 822¹², 853¹³, 874¹⁴ and 884¹⁵, adopted in 1993, defined the legal framework of political process to resolve the conflicts, related to the military aggression of Armenia in the territories of Azerbaijan, on the basis of norms and principles of international law.¹⁶

These resolutions clearly state that the occupation of Azerbaijani territories is condemned, the realization of territorial claims by force is not accepted, the territorial integrity, sovereignty and inviolability of the borders of Azerbaijan are reaffirmed, and the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan is required.

The next military provocations committed by the occupying Republic of Armenia, which does not comply with the requirements of UN Security Council resolutions, are another war crime and terrorist act aimed at the civilian population of Azerbaijan, and therefore creates international legal responsibility as a crime against peace and humanity.

"Respect and support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders" are repeated in UN General Assembly Resolution 62243, adopted at the 86th plenary session on March 14, 2008, entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan", and "immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Armenian armed forces from all occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan" is required, as well as "no state should recognize the legal situation resulting from the occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and support or assist in protecting this situation" is stated thereof.

However, the aggressor Armenian state continues to routinely violate norms and principles of UN Charter, international law, including international humanitarian law, in particular the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, provisions of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As one of the member states of the United Nations, the Republic of Armenia does not fulfil its obligations under the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and Geneva Conventions¹⁷ of 1949, which provide important guarantees for the protection of women and children, and obligations under other international legal instruments relating to respect for human rights in times of armed conflicts.

The Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergencies and Armed Conflict, proclaimed by UN General Assembly Resolution of 14 December 1974, also emphasizes that attacks on the civilian population, inflicting incalculable suffering, especially on women and children, who are the most vulnerable members of the population, shall be prohibited, and such acts shall be condemned.¹⁸

¹² <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/822>

¹³ <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/853>

¹⁴ <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/874>

¹⁵ <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/884>

¹⁶ <https://www.mfa.gov.az/en/content/110/munaqisenin-huquqi-aspektleri>

¹⁷ <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/publications/icrc-002-0173.pdf>

¹⁸ https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.19_declaration%20protection%20women%20armed%20conflict.pdf

Armenia uses children in the war against Azerbaijan

Armenia not only commits crimes against the people of Azerbaijan, roughly violating the rights of women and children, but also applies these criminal acts to its society, grossly violates the rights of children and deprives them of the right to life.

It is also clear from the information spread by the Armenian side on social networks and in the mass media that Armenia uses children in the war against Azerbaijan. By arming children, the Armenian side began to involve them in military operations and to carry out military propaganda among children.

Armenia's involvement of children in the military conflict may also be the basis for future provocative statements against Azerbaijan. Thus, children, involved in the Armenian military operations, may also be harmed during military operations and destruction of enemy military equipment and manpower. This fact demonstrates once again the hostile attitude of Armenia towards its people, especially towards the most vulnerable segments of the population, and its indifference to their lives and health in order to carry out their despicable intentions.

In addition, media reports show that the Armenian military uses kindergartens and schools as military command centers.

Article 51 of Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War¹⁹ of 12 August 1949 prohibits the use of persons under the age of 18 in armed and auxiliary groups, their coercion in any form of military operation, or even the propaganda of voluntary mobilization.

According to Article 38 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child²⁰ of 1989, States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that persons who have not attained the age of fifteen years do not take a direct part in hostilities during armed conflicts and refrain from recruiting any person who has not attained the age of fifteen years into their armed forces. In accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.

At the same time, all mentioned facts demonstrate gross violation of Resolutions 1261 (1999), 1314 (2000), 1379 (2001), 1460 (2003), 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009), adopted by UN Security Council, which strongly condemn the use or exploitation of children in hostilities during the armed conflict, violence against children, killing, injuring or targeting children.

According to Article 8 of Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court²¹, the following acts mean "war crimes": conscripting or enlisting children under the age of fifteen years into armed forces or groups or using them to participate actively.

Armenia, which continues to deliberately violate the Geneva Conventions, their 1977 Additional Protocols and the Hague Conventions, which are the main components of international humanitarian law, by targeting Azerbaijani civilian population and children, makes them the object of the conflict, and by involving children in military hostilities also makes them the direct subject of it.

¹⁹ https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.33_GC-IV-EN.pdf

²⁰ <https://www.ohchr.org/documents/professionalinterest/crc.pdf>

²¹ <https://www.icc-cpi.int/nr/rdonlyres/add16852-ae9-4757-abe7-9cdc7cf02886/283503/romestatuteng1.pdf>



CONCLUSIONS

The recent atrocities committed by Armenians against the civilian population of Azerbaijan, the helpless elderly, women and children, as well as the war crimes committed by Armenia against its own children, do not comply with any norms of international law and humanitarian law.

The aggressor Armenia, with its provocative actions, has made clear intentions against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan by creating a sharp escalation and gross violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law, and all these have been accompanied by severe violations of international humanitarian law and national legislation in respect of civilians.

These military provocations of Armenia against our country, which pose a serious threat to the life and health of the civilian population of Azerbaijan, make people not only physically and materially, but also spiritually and psychologically live in a difficult and risky environment and cause a gross violation against other fundamental rights and liberties.

Parties of the armed conflicts should respect the humanitarian responsibilities they have assumed at the international level and which play an important role in the preservation of human life and universal values, including other international legal norms. Otherwise, they must be held accountable.

Such inhumane war crimes, conducted by Armenia, are a serious threat to the life and health of the population, and this act of aggression should seriously concern international organizations, world powers and national human rights institutions, and make an effort to take concrete measures to impose legal sanctions against the occupying Republic of Armenia.

But the current reality is that the international organizations have not yet taken any measures to impose concrete legal responsibility on Armenia in response to its military aggression against Azerbaijani territories.

In a statement issued on October 28, 2020 regarding the month-long hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh and beyond, UNICEF released information on killed 12 children (without noting their last names) as a result of military operations by Armenia against Azerbaijani civilians living far from the frontline, and stated that more than 130,000 people had been evacuated and 76 schools and kindergartens had been damaged. However, the statement did not cover the fact that 32 children had been seriously injured in the recent terrorist attacks by Armenia against the civilian population of Azerbaijan, three children of two families had been orphaned by losing both parents, and thousands of civilians, including children, had been deprived of their homes. Thus, the current situation is not fully reflected in the statement.

Armenia's expansive and aggressive policy towards Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis poses a serious threat not only to Azerbaijan, but also to the region and the world. In order to prevent the recurrence of such crimes and to ensure human justice, the perpetrators of inhuman and war crimes against Azerbaijanis should never be exempted from responsibility and should be punished in accordance with the provisions of international law.

That is why we urge the relevant international organizations:

1. To demand from the occupying Armenia the fulfillment of the norms of international humanitarian law and the obligations arising from the international agreements to which it is a party;
2. To provide international legal assessment to the cases of gross violation by Armenia of the requirements of the UN Security Council's relevant resolutions on the protection of children in time of conflict;
3. To take necessary steps to establish international legal responsibility for war crimes committed, in violation of international humanitarian norms, against the civilian population of the Republic of Azerbaijan, especially women and children;
4. Especially UNICEF, to protest in accordance with its mandate²², against the acts of Armenian armed forces, which targets children, and to comment together with other competent international organizations on the gross violations of the international agreements, committed by Armenia, to which it is a party, especially the Geneva Conventions and the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

²² <https://www.unicef.org/eca/our-mandate-no-child-left-behind>

*Society for the Protection of Women's Rights named after Dilara Aliyeva
Bureau for the Protection of Human Rights and the Rule of Law
International Society for Human Rights Azerbaijan National Section
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Humanitarian Research Public Union
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CIVILIANS ARE UNDER FIRE!!!

REPORT Of the Monitoring Group of Human Rights Organizations of Azerbaijan about targeting civilians during the Patriotic war for Karabakh

Baku, October 2020

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SEPTEMBER 27 2020: AZERBAIJANI SETTLEMENTS ARE TARGETED

On September 27, 2020, at around 6 am, the Armenian armed forces intensively fired on the positions of the Azerbaijani Army and settlements in the direction of Tartar, Aghdam, Fizuli and Jabrayil regions with large-caliber weapons, mortars and artillery of various calibers. This aggression initiated by the Armenian side forces the Azerbaijani government to respond in a short time and prevent the Armenian armed forces from targeting the civilian population.

Shelling of the Azerbaijani settlements and armed forces by the Armenian army, death and injury of the civilians and soldiers made Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan Republic and Commander-in-chief to sign decree about declaring the martial law and starting counter-attack to prevent the aggression of the Armenian Army. The state of martial law came into force on September 28 at 00:00 throughout Azerbaijan. During the martial law the curfew was applied from 9 p.m. till 6 a.m. in Baku, Ganja, Sumgayit, Yevlakh, Mingachevir, Naftalan, Absheron, Jabrayil, Fuzuli, Agjabadi, Beylagan, Aghdam, Barda, Tartar, Goranboy, Goygol, Dashkasan, Gadabay, Tovuz, Shamkir, Gazakh and Agstafa regions.

In response to the aggression of Armenian army, the Azerbaijani troops counterattacked the villages of Garakhanbeyli, Garvand, Kand Horadiz, Yukhari Abdurrahmanli, Boyuk Marjanli and Nuzgar in the Fuzuli region, destroyed enemy posts in the Agdara region and Murovdagh, and took control of the ruling heights. Thus, in response to the provocation of the Armenian side, a counter attack operation was launched, and the opposite side targets the cities of Azerbaijan located along the front line and far away to cover up their failures on the front. The weapons fired by the Armenian side mainly hit the homes of civilians at night. In addition to artillery and grenade launchers used by the Armenian side in the combat zone, the weapons fired at the regions of Azerbaijan far from the front line are the following:

R-17 Elbrus, (“Scud”)

It is a tactical ballistic missile produced by the USSR in 1961-1987. The circle of deviation from the target of R-17 “ELBRUS” (“SCUD-B” is Code name of the missile in NATO) missile complex is about 450 meter. If we take into account that the last such a missile was produced in 1987 and they are very old and lost the accuracy of strike, the range of target is much bigger. For this reason it is not effective to use SCUD for destroying military objects. The missile weighs 6,900 kg and has a range of 300 kilometers



9K58 “Smerch” (BM-30)

It is a Katyusha descendant rocket launcher. This system was produced in the USSR at the end of 1970 years and has been used in the arsenal of the USSR army since 1987. Smerch has replaced the short-range ballistic missile system FROG-7. The maximum range of the missile is 90-124 km, and the maximum distance is 200 km. The missile, which consists of 12 barrels, has a destruction range of 672,000 m² and a target accuracy of 0.3%.

Both weapons are prohibited from being fired at settlements or crowded places.

More than 20 9M528 missiles (SMERCH) fired by the Armenian armed forces were found by the operational groups of the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA). 9M525 bombs were found in 9 of these missiles, which also belong to the class of ammunition prohibited under the Convention on Cassette Ammunition. Also, during the search operations in the area, the discovery of a "bomb container and distribution pipes" of the 9M525 cassette missile was one of the factors confirming the use of this type of missile.



In general during September 27 – October 27, 2020 ANAMA found out 298 unexploded ordnance, 1627 anti-personnel mines, 51 anti-tank mines, 236 exploders of the anti-tank mines, 76 detonators, 1149 units of 9N235 bombs, 1180 different caliber cartridges, 1 gas grenade, 17 military meteorological radio direction finders, 6 drones (neutralized), 2 missile chips and 506 exploded missile parts near houses and yards, oil pipeline, Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, Mingachevir TPP and territories of Aghdam, Agdash, Agjabadi, Barda, Beylagan, Bilasuvar, Jabrayil, Goranboy, Naftalan, Kurdamir, Fuzuli, Tartar, Tovuz, Shamkir, Hajigabul, Zardab, Khizi, Oguz, Gabala regions and Ganja and Mingachevir cities.¹



¹ <https://news.milli.az/incident/892844.html>

*Remains of missiles collected by the Azerbaijan National Agency
for Mine Action (ANAMA) from different regions*



TARTAR TOWN: 300 MISSILES ARE FIRED A DAY

Tartar region is located in the North-Eastern foothills of the Lesser Caucasus, in the Karabakh plain, one of the regions close to the front line. Area of the region is 957 km², population 104,200 persons and center is Tartar town. As the regional center and several villages are close to the front line, they were constantly sniped by Armenians. In 1994, during the Karabakh war, the territory of the region was severely damaged. 307 people from Tartar region were killed during the war.



During the escalation in April 2016, hundreds of missiles, especially phosphorus missiles, were fired by Armenians into the region. At the same time, over the past 5 years, 15 residents of the region fell into mines buried by Armenians while working in their fields and were seriously injured.

Tartar region is one of the regions where IDPs live compactly. As the nature of this place is close to the nature of Nagorno-Karabakh and the occupied regions, IDPs preferred to settle in this region.



Destruction in Shikharkh settlement of Tartar region, in the settlement built for IDPs. Author Seymur Kazimov

Heavy artillery shelling of Tartar by Armenian armed forces continues since September 27. One of the worst-hit areas since September 27 is Tartar town and the residential area in the Shikharkh settlement of Tartar. Built in 2017 for IDPs, this settlement is home to 1,170 IDP families, mainly from Kalbajar, Aghdam, Lachin, Jabrayil and Shusha regions. Three civilians were killed and 34 residential buildings, a music school, a secondary school and other administrative buildings were destroyed as a result of shelling.²

The territories of the region intensively fired by the Armenians were Tartar city, Shikharkh settlement, Husanli, Qaynaq, Seydimli, Gazyan, Yukhari Gapanli, Gapanli, Yukhari Garadagli, Garaagaji, Askipara, Sahlabad, Borsunlu, Azad Garagoyunlu, Ilkhichi, Demirchilar, Ashaghy Gapanly, Evoghlu, Ismayilbeyli, Jamilli, Bala Kangarli, Duyarli, Yukhari Sarijali, Agkend, Yenikend, Bayandurlu, Soyulan, Iravanli, Kangarli, Hajigarvand, Khoruzlu, Buruj, Bayandur, Garadagli and Kocharli villages.³

² <https://pressklub.az/ekskluziv/dinc-%c9%99haliy%c9%99-qarsi-erm%c9%99ni-ordusunun-cinay%c9%99tl%c9%99ri-1-ci-reportaj-sixarx-q%c9%99s%c9%99b%c9%99si/>

³ <http://anama.gov.az/news/154>

As a result of the rocket fire, 118 houses were completely destroyed, 646 private houses and 64 multi-store residential buildings were damaged, 30 ancillary buildings were completely destroyed and 50 buildings were damaged. During this period, as a result of Armenian provocations, 19 social facilities, 8 production facilities, 44 shopping centers and 18 office buildings were damaged in Tartar.

According to the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 14,000 rockets of different calibers have been fired at Tartar town and 36 villages and settlements of the region.



THE HOUSES OF CIVILIANS IN REMOTE REGIONS ARE BEING DESTROYED

Starting from September 27, the Armenian side fired intensive rockets at various regions and cities of Azerbaijan, targeting civilians and their private homes in those regions. Despite the fact that the Azerbaijani side has proved its readiness to comply with the declared ceasefire, it has suspended operations that led to the violation of the regime. Violating the requirements of the humanitarian ceasefire declared on October 10, 2020 at 12:00, the Armenian side continued to fire on settlements and strategic facilities with heavy artillery, deliberately targeting the civilian population of Azerbaijan. Thus, on October 11, 2020, at around 04:00, missiles were fired at Mingachevir, a large industrial city located more than 100 km away from the frontline. The main target of the Armenians was the Azerbaijan Thermal Power Plant. The missiles were neutralized by the Azerbaijani air defense forces. However, several missiles landed in the yard of the Azerbaijan Thermal Power Plant and did not explode.



The city of Mingachevir was built in connection with the construction of a hydroelectric power plant on the Kura River. On November 11, 1948 it got the city status. Mingachevir is the fourth biggest industrial city. Industrial production is one of the most important sectors of the economy of the city. The activity of this field is a key indicator of stability and social development. The main part of the population works in energy, electrical engineering, chemistry and mechanical engineering. Mingachevir situates 110 km far from the front line and 323 km distance from Baku. Mingachevir Hydroelectric Power Station is the largest hydropower plant in the South Caucasus, located on the Kura River, near the city of Mingachevir. Mingachevir reservoir is located 3 km northwest of the city. The reservoir has a volume of 15.7 billion cubic meters and a length of 70 km.

The population of Mingachevir city is 105,139 people, and 20,199 IDP families have settled in the city.⁴

On October 18, 2020, at about 1 pm, the Armenian Armed Forces fired missiles in the direction of Khizi region, 300 kilometers away from the territory where the military operations are conducted. As a result of neutralization of the missile in the air by the air defense forces of the Azerbaijani Army, some of the explosive particles inside the missile were scattered 250 meters from the part of the Baku-Novorossiysk oil pipeline passing through Sitalchay village of Khizi region. Neutralization of the missile by the Azerbaijani Army prevented the threat to high-capacity crude oil and condensate export pipeline.⁵

⁴ <https://heydaraliyev-centers.az/mingachavir/about-region>

⁵ <https://oxu.az/war/432249>

Khizi region of Azerbaijan situates in more than 300 km from the front line. Located in the Guba-Khachmaz region, on the shores of the Caspian Sea and mostly forested, it is the closest mountainous region of Azerbaijan to Baku. The distance between Khizi and Baku is 70 km.

Starting from the morning of 08.10.2020 Goranboy region was fired upon by Armenians from different directions from missiles and artillery shells targeting the civilian population. Due to artillery shells falling on Ashagi Agjakend settlement of the region from 06.00 in the morning, the administrative building of Khojaly District Police Department, as well as numerous civil infrastructure facilities and houses, Garachinar high school were severely damaged.

Goranboy region is located in the north-eastern foothills of the Lesser Caucasus. Area of the region is 1791 square km and population is 91.5 thousand people. One of the largest settlements built for IDPs from Nagorno-Karabakh is located in Ashagi Agjakend settlement of the region.

Ballistic missiles were fired from Armenian operational-tactical missile complex from the territory of Armenia on October 22 in the morning. Three missiles are fired in the direction of Siyazan region. Remains of missiles neutralized in the air by the Azerbaijani Air Defense Units fall into the Caspian Sea, injuring five people, damaging people's homes and crops.⁶

Siyazan region is located in the northern part of Azerbaijan, on the shores of the Caspian Sea. Area of the region is 703 square km and population is 40 489 persons. The distance from the region center to Baku is 103 km and to front line is 339 km.

On October 22, at 09.00, two missiles were fired in the direction of Gabala region. The missile hit the empty space near the village of Mamayli in Gabala. The roofs and windows of some houses were damaged. As a result of the missile strikes, a resident of Gabala region, Amirbayov Murad Jeyhun oglu, born in 2003, received various injuries, 5 houses in the village were severely damaged. The Armenian armed forces also targeted the Oguz-Gabala-Baku water pipeline, which supplies drinking water to Baku and the Absheron Peninsula and is of special strategic importance.⁷ As a result of the neutralization of the missile by the Azerbaijani air defense forces, parts of the missile fell near the water pipeline.

Gabala region is located in the North-Western part of Azerbaijan, as part of the Sheki-Zagatala economic region. The region is considered to be the largest tourist zone in Azerbaijan. The region is located 270 km from Baku and 348 km from the frontline.

Starting from the morning of October 22, the Armenian armed forces used war methods that could cause significant destruction and fired "Scud" ballistic missile at the Kurdamir region, which situates more than 150 kilometers from the frontline.⁸ The missile created a large hole in the area where it landed and did not damage the environment.

⁶ <https://report.az/dagliq-qarabag-munaqishesi/dusmenin-siyezene-atdigi-raketlerin-qaliqlari-denize-dusdu/>

⁸ <https://report.az/dagliq-qarabag-munaqishesi/ermenistan-erazisinden-azerbaycan-erazileri-raket-atesine-tutulub/>

⁹ https://azertag.az/xeber/Ermenistanin_Kurdemire_atdigi_ballistik_raket_yasayis_menteqesinin_yaxinligina_dusub_FOTO_VIDEO-1621145

The region situates on the way of Baku-Gazakh highway. Kurdamir situates 120 km far from frontline.

As reported, on the morning of October 5, 2020, the Armenian armed forces fired heavy artillery at the densely populated areas of Beylagan region. At the same time, one of the two missiles fired at the city of Beylagan hit the yard of a kindergarten, and the other hit an empty area in the city.

Beylagan is situated in border with Iran Islamic Republic in the South. It is also has borders with Fuzuli and Agjabadi region of Aran Karabakh. Population of 98.7 thousand persons. The region situates in the distance of 265 km from Baku.

On October 6, 2020, at about 6:30 p.m., the Armenian armed forces fired a 9M525 Smerch rocket containing 300 9N235 bombs into the Aran settlement of the Yevlakh region, which is 50 km away from the military operations area.⁹ As a result of this parts of the missile were scattered near the 42-inch-diameter South Caucasus Expanded Pipeline passing through the Aran settlement, the Western Export Pipeline transporting crude oil to the Black Sea coast (missiles scattered 120 meters) and about 100 meters from the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) Oil Pipeline.

Yevlakh region situates between Tartar, Goranboy, and Barda regions. Population is 128.7 thousand people. The region is big transport hub of Azerbaijan. The distance from Baku is 293 km.



⁹ <https://www.turan.az/ext/news/2020/10/free/politics%20news/az/128435.html>

BARDA TRAGEDY

Since the beginning of the escalation Armenian armed forces have fired rockets at Barda several times.

For the first time, the city of Barda came under heavy artillery fire from the Armenian armed forces on October 5 at 13:35. The rocket hit the central streets of Barda and near the central hospital, damaging infrastructure. Mehdiyeva Shahriyar Isa gizi was killed by shrapnel, and three city residents were hospitalized with various injuries.¹⁰

The next missile strike was fired by Armenia on October 27 at 16:00, in gross violation of the requirements of the humanitarian ceasefire declared on October 26, 2020 at 08:00. As a result of the rocket attack on Garayusifli village of Barda region, five residents, including a child, were killed and thirteen civilians were injured.

For the third time, the Armenian armed forces fired the Smerch missiles to Barda on October 28 at 13.00. A rocket hit the central street, where main trade objects situate and this part is mainly crowded. An explosion of Smerch cassette rockets in the city center killed 21 people and injured 70 others. Civilian infrastructure and many vehicles in the city were seriously damaged. Barda City Central Hospital, City Polyclinic, Fire Service, Diagnostic Center, a nine-store residential building and the so-called "Fresh Market" area of the city were targeted and severely damaged.

As a result of a rocket hit the "Ancient Barda" restaurant in the center of Barda, two people who were there at the time were hospitalized with various injuries. At the same time, rockets hit near the Barda secondary school No. 5, injuring five people, as well as the school building and damaging numerous vehicles.

The missile strikes damaged more than 30 civilian infrastructure facilities, more than 20 civilian homes and 22 vehicles.

Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) determined that Armenia had fired a 9M525 Smerch missile at Barda, and the remains of the missile were presented to representatives of foreign embassies and journalists visiting Barda.



¹⁰ <https://www.xeberoxu.az/Berdeye-atilan-raket-mermisinin-qelpelerinden-1-nefer-helak-olub-3-nefer-yaralanib/20201005132617626>

Barda region is located in the north-western part of the Kur-Araz lowland. The administrative center of the region is the city of Barda, located in the center of the Karabakh plain, on the banks of the Tartar River. Area of the region is 957 square km and population is 160 000 persons. Barda is one of the regions with the mass settlement of the IDPs. Barda situates 40 km far from frontline.



GANJA CITY UNDER BALLISTIC MISSILE STRIKE

Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan and located 80 km from the war zone, was hit by ballistic missiles by the Armenian armed forces on October 4. One person was killed and 30 others were injured in a missile attack on Sunday morning. The Armenian side stated that the target was a military airfield in the city with a missile strike.

However, the mentioned military airfield was constructed during the Soviet era and did not operate due to obsolete infrastructure. There is only one operating airport in Ganja and this is for civil aviation.



The next missile attack of the Armenian armed forces took place on October 11 at 02.00. Seven people, including three women, were killed, 16 women and 34 children, including six minors, were injured in the wreckage, and more than 10 apartment buildings and more than 100 facilities were damaged.

Three civilians were hospitalized with various injuries as a result of rockets fired at Ganja International Hospital, secondary school No. 34, furniture factory on Shah Ismayil Khatai Street, and the area called "Yevlakh bus station" and the Central Market. Civil infrastructure was destroyed. 8K14 missile of 9K72 operational-tactical missile complex (OTZK) was fired at Ganja, which is designed to destroy manpower and control points.¹¹

The missile has a hit range of 50-300 kilometers, a maximum flying range of 5 minutes, a launch weight of 5,862 kilograms and an unloaded missile weighs 2,076 kilograms. It is 11 meters 164 centimeters long and 881 meters in diameter. The total weight of the complex is 37 tons, the combat staff consists of 8 people.



¹¹ <https://news.milli.az/politics/889396.html>

The rocket fired by Armenia was sent from the starting position near the settlement of Ballyja near Khankendi.



DAMAGE TO CIVILIANS DURING MILITARY OPERATIONS

According to the Azerbaijani Prosecutor General Office 87 civilians were killed and 400 were injured in the attack by the Armenian armed forces during a month.

The Prosecutor Office informed that 2,338 houses, 92 apartment buildings and 415 civil facilities were damaged. As a result of the fire, 2,072 houses, 90 high-rise residential buildings and 388 civil infrastructure facilities were severely damaged.



CIVILIANS KILLED AND INJURED AS A RESULT OF THE MISSILE ATTACK

According to the Prosecutor General of Azerbaijan republic the regional statistics of civilians killed by the Armenian army is the following: 85 civilians have been killed and 370 injured in Azerbaijan since the beginning of the fighting on September 27, including 18 women and 8 children. In addition 370 civilians have been injured so far, including 69 women and 32 children.

Most of the cities and settlements targeted by the Armenian armed forces are located 50-350 kilometers away from the area where the military operations took place. Of course, the Armenian side used long-range missiles to hit those areas.



Ümumi statistika:

- As a result of the shelling Ganja on 3 different dates 26 persons were killed and 142 injured in Ganja;
- 7 persons were killed and 10 injured in Goranboy region;
- As a result of shelling his house resident of Gashalti-Garagoyunlu village of Naftalan region Gurbanov Elbrus Isa oghlu and his 5 family members were killed;
- 17 persons killed and 56 injured in Tartar region;
- 27 killed and 95 injured in Barda;
- 2 killed and 2 injured in Beylagan;
- 1 killed and 19 injured in Agjabadi;
- 3 killed and 17 injured in Fuzuli;
- 7 killed and 40 injured in Aghdam;
- 5 injured in Mingachevir;
- 1 injured in Dashkasan;
- 1 injured in Gabala region.



Gurbanovs family:

- **Gurbanov Elbrus Isa oghlu**
(24.11.1951)
- **Gurbanova Shafayat Novruz gizi**
(22.02.1956) – his wife
- **Amirova Afag Damir gizi**
(12.01.1981) – daughter-in-law
- **Gurbanova Fidan Elshan gizi**
(01.03.2006)¹² – Grand-daughter
- **Gurbanov Shahriyar Nadir oghlu**
(30.11.2007)¹³ – Grand-son



On September 27, 2020, at around 06:00, the Armenian armed forces fired on the settlements of the non-frontline city of Naftalan with artillery shells and hit the yard of a private house in Gashalti Garagoyunlu village of the same region. As a result of this 5 members of one family, including 2 children and 2 elderly people and 1 young woman were killed;

Pashayev Joshgun Anvar oghlu (born in 1979)

On September 28, 2020, at about 07:00, as a result of a shell falling on the territory of Evoglu village of Aghdam region, Pashayev Joshgun Anvar oghlu was taken to the central hospital of Aghdam region with shrapnel wounds on the head and died despite the provided medical assistance;¹⁴

Abbasov Khalig Asif oghlu (1981)

Abbasov Elshan Asif oghlu (1987)

Residents of Tartar region died as a result of artillery shelling in the yard of an apartment building built for people with disabilities and IDPs in Shikharkh settlement of Tartar region on September 28, 2020 at about 19:00;



Sariyev Elmaddin Humbat oghlu (1997)

A resident of Garadagli village, Aghdam region, was killed by artillery shells falling on a medical center as a result of heavy artillery fire of the Armenian armed forces on September 29, 2020 at about 13:00.;¹⁵

Mehtiyeva Ayna Mahammadali gizi

She was killed by the shelling of the living building at Uzeyir Hajibayov Street in Tartar town by the Armenian Army on September 29, 2020;¹⁶

¹² <http://mct.gov.az/az/umumi-xeberler/13228>

¹³ <https://sputnik.az/video/20200928/425051810/Naftalanda-butun-ailenin-telefonu-eyden-deh.html>

¹⁴ <https://report.az/daglig-qarabag-munaqishesi/bas-prokurorluq-cebhedeki-veziyyetle-bagli-yeni-melumat-yayib/>

¹⁵ <https://qafqazinfo.az/news/detail/agdamda-ermentiler-tibb-menteqesini-vurdu-mulki-seks-helak-oldu-299871>

¹⁶ <https://azerforum.com/az/criminal/746270/terterde-daha-bir-ermeni-vehsililyi-tibb-bacisi-lduruldu-fotolar>

Safarov Ikhtiyar Azhdar oghlu (12.02.1971)

Was killed in the yard of his apartment on September 29, 2020 as a result of the shelling building in Tartar town;

Ibrahimov Shahin Mahmud oghlu (24.12.1987)

Aliyev Muzaffar Ali oghlu (27.08.1971)

They were killed on September 30, 2020, at about 08:00, a shell exploded in front of the administrative building of the Tartar regional branch of the State Service for Mobilization and Conscription of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Aliaga Vahid Street, Tartar;

Rustamov Murad Tahir oghlu (16.02.1990)

Died as a result of a shell explosion near "Azpetrol" gas station in Horadiz city of Fuzuli region on September 30, 2020 at 16.00;

Mammadov Murshud Rashid oghlu (16.03.1966)

Mammadov Samir Murshud oghlu (15.04.1996)

Residents of Hajimammadli village of Aghdam region died as a result of fire opened by Armenian armed forces on October 1, 2020;¹⁷

Alasgarov Jeyhun Jamal oghlu (1958)

Alasgarova Tarana Pasha gizi (1965)

Alasgarov Ulvi Jeyhun oghlu (1990)

Jeyhun Jamal oglu Alasgarov and his family members were killed as a result of rocket fire of apartment buildings located in the central part of Ganja city on October 11, 2020 at around 02.00 by the Armenian Armed Forces. He worked as a shift supervisor in the field of repair of electrolysis baths and other metallurgical equipment of Ganja Aluminum Complex (Azeraluminum LLC) belonging to Azerbaijan Industrial Corporation.;



Jafarova Durra Hilal gizi (1967)

Aliyeva Afag Aziz gizi (1957)

Baghirov Ramiz Yusif oghlu (1958)

Aliyev Adil Hamza oghlu (1992)

Alizada Anar Asif oghlu (1982)

Alizada Nurchin Emin gizi (1987)

All of them were killed as a result of rocket fire of apartment buildings located in the central part of Ganja city on October 11, 2020 at around 02.00 by the Armenian Armed Forces;¹⁸

Aliyeva Gunay Zahid gizi (1992)

She was injured as a result of the attack of the apartment building by Armenian Armed Forces and died on 12.10.2020 in the hospital where she was taken after injury;

¹⁷ <https://oxu.az/war/426643>

¹⁸ <https://telegraf.com/news/toplum/264556.html>

Mayakov Artur Vladimir oghlu (2007)

Student of the 7-th class of Ganja city Secondary School number 29 after K.D.Ushinski. He was wounded as a result of a rocket fired at Ganja on October 17 and died on October 24 despite being treated in hospital;

Orujov Parviz Novrus oghlu (1989)**Rustamov Vasif Bahadur oghlu (1962)****Zamanov Shakir Khasay oghlu (1988)****Amirov Isgandar Yelmar oghlu (1988)**

These people, residents of Tartar town, were killed by heavy artillery fire on October 15, 2020 at about 13.00 by the Armenian Armed Forces during the funeral ceremony in the cemetery of Tartar town;

Akhundov Adavat Zahid oghlu (1969)

At 09.00 a.m. on 14.10.2020 Armenian Armed Forces started intensive fire of the missiles and heavy artillery to Tartar region. He was killed as a result of shelling his house in Narlig settlement of Tartar region;

Ismayilova Zulfiyya Isgandar gizi (1976)**Asadova Arzu Isgandar gizi (1998)**

On 03.10.2020, at about 19:00, as a result of heavy artillery fire in the city of Beylagan, they were killed by numerous artillery shells falling on their house.

People killed as a result of the missile attacks of the Armenian Armed Forces to Barda town on October 28, 2020:

1. Gasimova Solmaz Sadraddin gizi (1961) – resident of Barda region, Lanbaran village;
2. Suleymanov Humbat Suleyman oghlu (1950) - resident of Barda region, Lanbaran village;
3. Mustafayeva Leyla Elmir gizi (1969) – Barda town resident;
4. Mirzaliyev Charkaz Khanlar oghlu (1972) – resident of Barda region, Chalabilar village;
5. Huseynova Gulshan Mehrab gizi (1972) – resident of Aghdam town;
6. Mirzaliyeva Tukazban Charkaz gizi (1995) - resident of Barda region, Chalabilar village;
7. Allahverdiyev Asgar Mahir oghlu (1983) - Barda town resident;
8. Jafarova Amil Fazil oghlu (1990) - Barda town resident;
9. Hajiyevev Fazil Haji oghlu (1969) - Barda region, Nifchi village resident;
10. Ahmadow Mirsagi Yusif oghlu (1975) - Barda town resident;
11. Kazimov Dayanat Tahir oghlu (1990) - Barda town resident;
12. Aliyev Sadig Sahib oghlu (1986) – Barda region, Kurdboraki village resident;
13. Abbasov Ruslan Mahammad oghlu (1984) - Barda town resident;
14. Khidirov Intigam Alamdar oghlu (1977) - Barda town resident;
15. Shafiyev Rashad Vagif oghlu (1991) – Ganja city resident;
16. Ismayilli Vasif Vagif oghlu (1990) – resident of Aghdam region, Guzanli settlement;
17. Isgandarov Yalchin Rizvan oghlu (1940) - Barda town resident;
18. Guliyev Aghamoghlan Baylar oghlu (1947) - Barda town resident;
19. Ismayilov Fuad Isa oghlu (1988) - Barda town resident;
20. Mustafayev Maharram Anvar oghlu (1971) - Barda town resident;
21. Aliyeva Almaz Salah gizi (1960) - (was injured on October 27, 2020 and died on October 28, 2020).

On October 28, 2020, at about 13:00, the Armenian Armed Forces attacked crowded part of Barda town where civilians are active and trading objects are widely spread with 2 operation-tactical purpose high damaging ballistic cluster type “Smerch” missiles and each missile contained 72 bombs of 9M525 and 9N235 type, totally 144 bombs. As a result of this totally 21 persons were killed, as well as 5 women and 70 were injured, including 15 women and 8 children.

REACTIONS TO TARGETING CIVILIANS

The Greek Foreign Ministry issued a statement at the start of the military operation by revealing their attitude. It is mentioned in the statement that "We are watching with particular concern the escalation of tensions in the Nagorno-Karabakh region that resulted with killing civilians. We call on all parties to exercise restraint, immediately cease hostilities and return to the negotiating table within the Minsk Group."

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has expressed concern over the humanitarian impact of the escalation of the conflict along the line of contact, which began on September 27. Noting that civilians were among the killed on both sides, the ICRC called on the parties to take all necessary measures to protect civilian life and infrastructure.

Pope Francis has called for peace in the Caucasus and the renunciation of force in resolving any confrontation and differences in position over the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Azerbaijan has sharply condemned the Armenian rocket attack on the Azerbaijani city of Barda, resulting in killing and wounding of many civilians.¹⁹ The embassy called for an immediate end to war crimes such as attacks on cities and innocent people in accordance with international law.

In connection with the missile attacks and shelling of the civilians Prosecutors Office of Azerbaijan Republic started criminal cases in accordance with the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan Republic – Article 100.2 (aggressive warfare)²⁰, Article 120.2.1 (premediated murder by a criminal organization), Article 120.2.4 (intentional homicide with special cruelty or in a generally dangerous manner), Article 120.2.12 (intentional homicide with national, racial, religious hatred or hostility), Article 120.2.7 (intentionally attempting to kill two or more individuals) and other Articles of the Criminal Code.



¹⁹ <http://www.serqqapisi.az/index.php/ictimai-siaysi/27488-iran-baerdaeyae-hudzumu-kaeskin-shaekildae-pislaedi-zhundaem.html>

²⁰ Read more: <https://sputnik.az/karabakh/20200928/425055740/Terterde-iki-qardas-helak-oldu-2-nfr-is-yaralandi.html>

CONCLUSION

The military operations going on since September 27, 2020 and the shelling of settlements outside the frontline by the Armenian side are one of the gravest crimes of the current war. The Armenian side violated the principles of paragraph 3 of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949 by violating the requirements of the Convention and committing prohibited missile strikes on settlements outside the frontline of Azerbaijan and committed crimes against humanity.

As a result of the aggression of the Armenian side, the following crimes were committed against civilians:

1. Smerch and Grad missiles were fired at different times at 13 cities of Azerbaijan outside the front line;
2. Tartar town and 36 settlement and villages of the regions were severely damaged;
3. Energy projects and oil pipelines of Azerbaijan aimed at ensuring the energy security of the European Union are targeted;
4. School buildings, hospitals and other social facilities were targeted and damaged by missile attacks on peaceful cities.
5. 87 civilians were killed and 18 out of them are women and 14 children; 400 persons were injured, including 69 women and 32 children.

SUGGESTIONS

It is recommended that local and international organizations and institutions take the following steps to analyze war crimes committed against civilians in Azerbaijan and to assess its recognition as a crime against humanity:

1. As the main moderators of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs should demand a report from Armenia on the motives of these war crimes committed by Armenia;
2. The OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, together with the Azerbaijani side, should discuss and document all the details of these war crimes.
3. International human rights organizations and think tanks should send their missions to investigate crimes against civilians;
4. The UN institutions operating in Azerbaijan should strengthen cooperation with Azerbaijani authorities to investigate the situation of civilians killed as a result of the missile strikes;
5. Azerbaijani NGOs and human rights organizations should be active in investigating crimes against civilians.





“CIVILIANS ARE UNDER ATTACK!”

The Report

**This report covers the factual and legal aspects
of the deliberate and indiscriminate attacks
on civilians in Azerbaijan, by the Armenian armed forces
in Nagorno-Karabakh armed conflict**

The report covers the period of 27.09.2020 – 10.11.2020

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SUMMARY

During the 44-days war, 94 civilians have been killed, 414 injured and more than 4000 houses and other civilian facilities were seriously damaged as a result of Armenia's heavy artillery attacks on Azerbaijan's densely populated areas since September 27, the Prosecutor General's Office has reported.

Protection of civilians in international law

In international humanitarian law, the protection of civilians is not the same as the protection of combatants. This difference is particularly relevant in the conduct of hostilities: there is a fundamental distinction between civilians and combatants, and between military objectives and civilian objects. Combatants may be attacked until they surrender or are otherwise hors de combat, while civilians may not be targeted, unless and for such time as they directly participate in hostilities, and they are protected by the principles of proportionality and precaution against the incidental effects of attacks against military objectives and combatants.

Regarding the legal aspects of the protection of civilians, in accordance with the IV Geneva Convention the protection of civilians during armed conflict is a cornerstone of international humanitarian law. This protection extends to their public and private property. International Humanitarian Law (IHL) also identifies and protects particularly vulnerable civilian groups such as women, children and the displaced persons.

International human rights law and international humanitarian law share the goal of preserving the dignity and humanity of all. Over the years, the UN General Assembly, the Human Rights Council have considered that, in armed conflict, parties to the conflict have legally binding obligations concerning the rights of persons affected by the conflict.

Escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

From September 27, the armed forces of Armenia have launched another act of aggression against Azerbaijan, by intensively attacking the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan as well as residential areas along the frontline, with the use of large-caliber weapons, mortar launchers and artillery of different calibers. Having openly and purposefully targeted the civilian population and civilian objects, in addition to military servicemen Armenia has killed a number of civilians, among them elderly, women and children, and inflicted serious damage on numerous houses and civilian objects.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan operate in the sovereign territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan which recognized by your countries and all international community and organize the defense of Azerbaijan. These are counter-offensive military operations with the aim of enforcing Armenia to peace. The main goal is to ensure the security of the Azerbaijani civilian population living close to the line of contact and to implement counter-offensive peace enforcement operations to prevent such provocations by Armenia.

According to our observations, Armenia is committing war crimes and other violations of the humanitarian law, human rights law, customary law by killing civilians, by using child soldiers, mercenaries and terrorists, and organizing illegal resettlement the ethnic Armenian population from some Middle Eastern countries to Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent districts, which are internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan, and using them and local population as a human shield in armed conflict.



Some facts that we need to know about the Karabakh conflict

Nagorno-Karabakh is not a "disputed" territory. It is an integral part of sovereign territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan recognized by the UN, other international organizations and states.

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It's internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan...

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Ros Atkins on...

Armenia has occupied not only Nagorno Karabakh region, but also 7 adjacent regions - in total more than 20% of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. As a result, nearly one million IDPs - citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan – ethnically expelled from Nagorno Karabakh

and other occupied territories between 1988 and 1994 (during the first Karabakh War). The undergoing war is not on the territories of Armenia. Azerbaijan, currently, is using his right under the UN Resolution Article 51 to prevent aggression against its civil population and to liberate its territories from the occupying forces of the Republic of Armenia. On September 27, 2020, when the current aggressive offensive actions by the Armenian Army started, Azerbaijan responded with counter-offensive military operations. The Azerbaijani Government repeatedly stated, "The Republic of Azerbaijan does not have military targets in the territory of the Republic of Armenia." (Source: AUKAA)

From 27.09.2020 to 04.11.2020, the total number of civilian casualties in Azerbaijan are as the following:

Number of Civilians Killed: 94

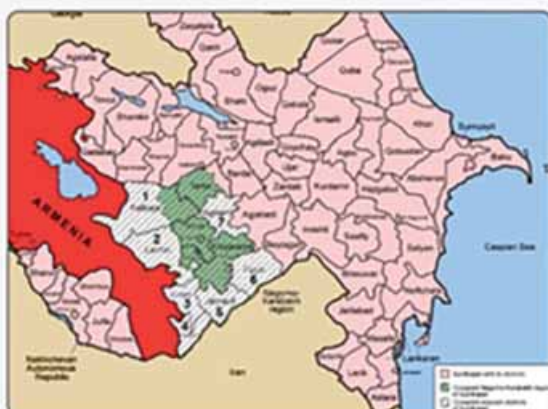
Number of Injured Civilians: 414

Number of Houses Fallen into Disrepair: 3410

Number of Residential Buildings Falling into Disrepair: 120

Number of Damaged Civil Facilities: 512 (Source: The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan)

The statistics of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan on crimes committed by the Armenian Armed Forces against the civilians from 27.09.2020 to 04.11.2020



Number of civilians killed

91



Number of injured civilians

405



Number of houses fallen into disrepair

2734



Number of damaged civil facilities

500



Number of multi-apartment residential buildings fallen into disrepair

98



press release of the Prosecutor
General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Aggression by Armenia. 1992-1994

Armenia that occupied in 1992-1993 one fifth of the internationally recognized territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, has been refusing to liberate them despite a clear call for the unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in the UN Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874, 884 adopted in 1993, as well as Azerbaijan's good-will and dedication to the peaceful resolution of the conflict. For decades, Azerbaijan struggled with the consequences of unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe which made every 7th person in the country forcefully displaced. Most of our cities under the Armenian occupation turned to ghost cities with totally destroyed and plundered infrastructure.

Armenia has been using acts of genocide as a means to instill fear and to terrorize the entire population and force them to flee. Only in Khojaly massacre 613 civilians of whom 63 were children were brutally killed and many were maimed by the armed forces of Armenia in 1992. One million Azerbaijanis, one thirds of whom are children were forcefully expelled and driven away from their homes, and for almost 15 years the larger part of the forcefully displaced children in Azerbaijan had to live in tent camps and villages consisting of luggage vans on railways which were subsequently abolished as a result of the tremendous efforts and budget resources allocated by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The internally displaced children in Azerbaijan still cannot realize their right to voluntary return to their lands in safety and dignity. During the conflict, 224 children were taken hostage by Armenia and were subsequently released, and 29 children are still considered to be in Armenian captivity. 73 Azerbaijani children are missing.

Armenia is responsible for total destruction of 1145 educational facilities and 855 kindergartens in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Tens of thousands of Azerbaijani children continue to realize their right to education under serious challenges stemming from their continued displacement. Many others along the line of confrontation attend their classes under the constant threat of being attacked by the indiscriminate bombing of the armed forces of Armenia.

Attacks on civilians by Armenia

According to the armament index of world countries released by the Bonn International Center for Conversion in February 2020, Armenia ranks third in the world and first in Europe for the number of servicemen per thousand people in Armenia, the cost of armaments in the gross domestic product (GDP), military spending, healthcare, number of troops and the quantity of heavy weaponry. The report says that the reason for Armenia's leading position in the arms race is the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and its militaristic policy over the past 30 years.

(Source: Armament index, Bonn International Center for Conversion in February 2020).

In an interview with TV show "Vesti" aired on the Russian TV channel Russia-1 on 8 October, Vagharshak Harutyunyan, the chief adviser to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, openly stated that Armenia is purposefully bombarding peaceful cities of Azerbaijan and targeting civilians to create panic among them. (Source: Caspian News, <https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/pashinyans-advisor-confirms-armenias-deliberate-attacks-on-azerbaijani-civilian-settlements-2020-10-9-0/>)

Since the deadly clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan broke out on September 27, Armenia's forces have continued to shell densely populated areas, strategically important civilian and energy infrastructure, which are far from the frontline. The skirmishes broke out after Armenia's forces deployed in the occupied Azerbaijani lands hit Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military positions along the front zone in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

Armenia's forces have so far launched intensive missile attacks against Azerbaijan's second-largest city of Ganja, which is more than 60 kilometers away from the conflict zone, the central

Azerbaijani city of Mingachevir, which hosts the country's largest hydroelectric power and water reservoir, as well as Barda, Tartar and Beylagan. They also hit the Khizi-Absheron region near Azerbaijan's capital Baku with mid-range missiles.

Russian military expert Igor Korotchenko expressed confidence that by shelling Azerbaijani cities, Yerevan is trying to provoke Baku into tit-for-tat response. If Yerevan can demonstrate that military activities are taking place not only in the territory of the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, but also in Armenia itself, then it can demand military support from Russia.

Pashinyan's tactics: To make an attack on Azerbaijani cities, provoke Baku to retaliate against targets in Armenia, and then seek for help from Russia and the CSTO acting as "a victim of aggression," Korotchenko said, commenting on the Armenia's attacks on residential areas of Azerbaijan, according to Armiya.az citing APA.

Emboldened by the 30 years impunity for its war crimes and crimes against humanity, Armenia has started another aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan since September 27, 2020. Armenia continues shelling Azerbaijan's densely populated areas using heavy artillery.

65 civilians have been killed and 297 others have been injured since the outbreak of large-scale hostilities on September 27, after Armenia launched another attack along the line of contact, the Prosecutor General's Office has reported.

Among the civilians are ten children.

As a result of the shelling of civilian infrastructure facilities by the occupying country's armed forces, 2,243 houses and 90 multi-apartment residential buildings, as well as 402 civilian facilities were severely damaged.

Vehicles belonging to civilians became unserviceable, and numerous small and large horned animals and haystacks were destroyed as well.

Moreover, as a consequence of rocket and heavy artillery attacks on October 4, 11 and 17, a total of 25 civilians were killed and 139 were injured in Ganja city. The city's civil infrastructure facilities and vehicles were inflicted extensive damage.

Mass killings of civilians in Barda

As of morning of October 28, as a result of the shelling of civilian infrastructure facilities by the occupying country's armed forces, 2,338 houses and 92 multi-apartment residential buildings, as well as 415 civilian facilities were severely damaged.

Vehicles belonging to civilians became unserviceable, and numerous small and large horned animals and haystacks were destroyed as well.

On October 27, Armenia launched a missile attack at Barda region, as a result of which 5 civilians, including child, were killed and 13 civilians, including women and children, seriously wounded. In addition, on October 28, Armenian launched another missile attack at Barda region, as a result of which 21 civilians were killed and about 70 wounded.

The missile attack on civilian population came after US-mediated cease-fire agreement that was announced on October 25. Thus, Armenia grossly violated the humanitarian ceasefire already for third time.

Moreover, as of October 23, as a consequence of rocket and heavy artillery attacks on October 4, 11 and 17, a total of 25 civilians were killed and 139 were injured in Ganja city. The city's civil infrastructure facilities and vehicles were inflicted extensive damage.

Furthermore, 7 civilians were killed and 10 were injured in Goranboy region. On September 27, as a result of shrapnel hitting the yard of a private house in Naftalan region, all members of one family (5 civilians) were killed.



Likewise, 16 civilians were killed and 50 were injured in Tartar region, 6 civilians were killed and 25 were injured in Barda region, 2 civilians were killed and 2 were injured in Beylagan region, one civilian was killed and 19 were injured in Aghjabadi region, 3 civilians were killed and 17 were injured in Fuzuli region, 7 civilians were killed and 40 were injured in Aghdam region and 5 civilians were injured in Mingachevir region. In addition, in Dasheksan, Jabrayil, Khojali and Gabala regions one civilian was injured in each.

Amnesty International has verified the use of banned cluster bombs by Armenia, following an attack on the city of Barda in Azerbaijan, media reported quoting the statement released by Amnesty International. The statement says, at approximately 1.30pm local time, one or several



Smerch rockets were fired into Barda, striking a residential neighbourhood close to a hospital. The Azerbaijani Prosecutor General's Office has stated that at least 21 people were killed, with an estimated 70 more injured. Amnesty International's Crisis Response experts verified pictures (taken by Vice News reporters in the city) of fragments of 9N235 cluster munitions from Russian-made 9M55 Smerch rockets, that appear to have been fired into the city by Armenian forces.

"The firing of cluster munitions into civilian areas is cruel and reckless, and causes untold death, injury and misery." The organization noted that use of cluster munitions in any circumstances is banned under international humanitarian law.

GANJA AFTER ARMENIAN MISSILE ATTACKS (60 km away from conflict zone)



Furthermore, 7 civilians were killed and 10 were injured in Goranboy region. On September 27, as a result of shrapnel hitting the yard of a private house in Naftalan region, all members of one family (5 civilians) were killed.

Likewise, 16 civilians were killed and 50 were injured in Tartar region, 25 civilians were killed and around 70 were injured in Barda region, 2 civilians were killed and 2 were injured in Beylagan region, one civilian was killed and 19 were injured in Aghjabadi region, 3 civilians were killed and 17 were injured in Fuzuli region, 7 civilians were killed and 40 were injured in Aghdam region and 5 civilians were injured in Mingachevir region. In addition, in Dasheksan, Jabrayil, Khojali and Gabala regions one civilian was injured in each.

Armenian armed forces launched a large-scale operation in the front-line zone on September 27 at 6 am, shelling the positions of the Azerbaijani army from large-calibre weapons, mortars, and artillery installations of various calibres. Armenia has been targeting Azerbaijan's densely populated areas and infrastructure projects.

The conflict we can't ignore

Opinion by Michael Bociurkiw

Updated 0147 GMT (0947 HKT) October 14, 2020



A man brings out his belongings after his house was shelled in Gyandzha, Azerbaijan.

Ganja massive bombings – acts against humanity

Article 18 of the 1949 “Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War” states that under no circumstances should the parties to a conflict throw shells or artillery at civilian gatherings. The military-political leadership of the aggressor state of Armenia continues to target civilians, houses, civilian sites and settlements, and commit crimes against civilians in violation of all international norms and principles, in gross violation of its obligations under the Geneva Conventions. Population centers, district and village centers, civil infrastructure facilities, hospitals, medical centers, school buildings and kindergartens are targeted deliberately.

Despite the agreement reached on ceasefire on October 10, 2020, Armenia once again demonstrated stubborn negligence of its obligations and spitefully attacked on the night of October 11, the second biggest city in Azerbaijan, Ganja situated far beyond the frontline. 10 civilians were killed and 34, including minors, were seriously injured. As a result of rocket fire on residential buildings 3 children lost their both parents. This nefarious attack was repeated on the night of October 17, taking the life of 13 civilians, including 3 minors, and injuring 48 civilians, including 5 children. Two children are missing in Ganja.



Violation of humanitarian truce

According to the Article 15 of the Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field. Geneva, 12 August 1949, at all times, and particularly after an engagement, Parties to the conflict shall, without delay, take all possible measures to search for and collect the wounded and sick, to protect them against pillage and ill-treatment, to ensure their adequate care, and to search for the dead and prevent their being despoiled.

Whenever circumstances permit, an armistice or a suspension of fire shall be arranged, or local arrangements made, to permit the removal, exchange and transport of the wounded left on the battlefield.

Likewise, local arrangements may be concluded between Parties to the conflict for the removal or exchange of wounded and sick from a besieged or encircled area, and for the passage of medical and religious personnel and equipment on their way to that area.

Armenia violated such humanitarian truce agreements there times in a row. As known, a trilateral meeting of the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov, the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov and the Foreign Minister of Armenia Zohrab Mnatsakanyan was held in Moscow on October 9, 2020 on the initiative of Russian President Vladimir Putin to declare a humanitarian ceasefire," the appeal said.

"After a meeting that lasted about 11 hours, an agreement was reached consisting of following 4 points:

1. To declare a ceasefire for humanitarian purposes starting from 12 p.m. on October 10 for the exchange of the prisoners of war, other people detained and bodies of those killed, with the mediation and in accordance with the criteria of the International Committee of the Red Cross;
2. Further parameters of the ceasefire will be agreed upon additionally;
3. The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, with the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, on the basis of the fundamental principles of the settlement, are launching substantive negotiations with the aim of achieving early peaceful resolution;
4. The sides reiterate the inalterability of the format of the peace process," the appeal said.

However, unfortunately, the Armenian side, in violation of all the provisions of the agreement signed, in accordance with its hypocritical and aggressive nature, continues to subject the frontline regions and villages, as well as the cities of Azerbaijan situated far away from the conflict zone, to heavy artillery and missile fire, grossly violating the ceasefire agreement.

The most regrettable is that on October 11, at around 4 AM, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, Ganja, with a population of more than 500,000 people, located 80 km from the frontline, was shelled by the order of the political-military leadership of Armenia. As a result of this barbaric and atrocious attack of Armenia, 3 residential buildings were destroyed, more than 9 civilians, including 4 women, were killed and 34 were wounded, including 16 women and 6 children.

Second violation of humanitarian truce, 17 October 2020

In October 17, Armenia once again attacked Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, firing a SCUD / Elbrus ballistic missile on the densely populated block of the city, killing 13 people and injuring more than 40. Among the dead and injured were the children, women and the elderly people.

This was the third time in the last two weeks that the city of Ganja has come under heavy rocket fire of Armenia, and so far 27 civilians have been killed and more than 100 injured.

The bombing of the Ganja, the city with a population of more than 500,000 people situated far from the conflict zone, without any military necessity by the Armenian political-military leadership,

the deliberate and indiscriminate use of powerful destructive missiles such as SCUDs to kill innocent civilians will be included in the history books as the bloodiest war crime committed against humanity in the XXI century.

It is not only this act of savagery, barbarism and terrorism committed by Armenia in the eyes of the whole world that worries and deeply concerns the Azerbaijani public, it is also seriously infuriated and disturbed by the silence about the human tragedy, genocide and war crimes committed in Ganja of the UN Security Council, which must stop and punish the aggressors around the globe and was established for this purpose by the world community.

Third violation of the humanitarian truce by Armenia (October 26, 2020)

Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry issued statement, saying that Armenia has blatantly ignored and violated the ceasefire regime with Azerbaijan for a third time in a row. "In a gross violation of the new humanitarian ceasefire, on October 26, Armenian armed forces subjected to artillery fire the units of Azerbaijani Army located in the Lachin's region Safiyan village. Later, the Tartar city and villages of the region were under intensive shelling by the Armenian armed forces," the ministry stated.

As reported on October 28th, at around 1 pm, again, after first attack, the hostile armed forces using cluster bombs prohibited by international law launched missile attacks massively for the second at densely populated areas of Barda district, where trade facilities are located. As a result, 21 civilians were killed and up to 70 wounded. Civil infrastructure facilities and vehicles were extensively damaged.

Thus, it was underlined that Armenia grossly violates all the humanitarian ceasefire reached - first on October 10 Moscow joint statement, then on October 18 reaffirmed commitments by the mediation efforts of Paris and now on October 24 after meeting in Washington and agreeing on implementing the immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

It was noted that this is another demonstration of willful ignorance by Armenia of its commitments and open disrespect to the tireless endeavors of international mediators.

Humanitarian help to civilians in Ganja city

Along with the Azerbaijani government, other friendly countries, such as Israel has sent humanitarian and medical aid to the residents of Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, which came under missile attacks by Armenia, the Israeli Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper said, Trend reported citing TASS.

According to the newspaper, Israel, as a humanitarian and medical aid for dozens of civilians who suffered from the shelling in Ganja city, supplied heaters, warm clothes, blankets, first aid kits, and basic necessities. The second batch of Israeli aid with consumables for medical supplies was delivered to Ganja on October 24, noting that "Israel is ready to supply medical equipment if necessary". On October 23, Ambassador of Israel to Azerbaijan George Dick visited Ganja, Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper added.

"I came [to Ganja] to express my condolences and the condolences of the State of Israel to the victims and wish a speedy recovery to the wounded," the ambassador said upon his arrival. "I met some of the victims and I will meet more later, their stories are heartbreaking. As Israelis, we know the destructive effect of war, especially when innocent civilians are under attack. Violence against civilians, no matter what nationality or religion, is unacceptable. No one should lose loved ones, friends or neighbors while they sleep peacefully at night."

(Yedioth Ahronoth, 25.10.2020, [YNEhttps://www.ynetnews.com/article/Sk11bDGm00P](https://www.ynetnews.com/article/Sk11bDGm00P))

“During my visit yesterday to Ganja, I saw at firsthand the situation of children. I was saddened to hear the reports that more children had been injured over the weekend and extend my condolences to those affected.

Media reported that UNICEF Representative to Azerbaijan Edward Carwardine stated this. Edward Carwardine noted that UNICEF repeats its urgent call for the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and reiterates that a cessation of hostilities is in the best interest of all children: "I spoke in Ganja with Mr Hikmat Hajiyev, Assistant to the President, to offer UNICEF's support for children and families, particularly in responding to psychological trauma and keeping children safe from unexploded ordnance, and we agreed to implement this assistance urgently." (<https://en.axar.az/news/society/506910.html>).



Missile attack on oil pipeline from Armenia

Azerbaijan is a developing country and it is a big hub for multi-billions of investments. Azerbaijan also plays an important role in Europe's energy security through several significant energy projects such as Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline, the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) and the Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP). Not surprisingly, as a part of their terror policy, Armenian forces launched a missile attack on last Tuesday on the BTC oil pipeline amid the conflict, that was successfully prevented by the Azerbaijani army, on the part of pipeline in Yevlah city. Azerbaijan described the attack as a "terrorist act" and highlighted the pipeline's important role in Europe's energy security.

Armenia has shelled Azerbaijani power plants and pipelines of strategic importance, which threatens not only the security of Azerbaijan, but also the region, Azerbaijani Energy Minister Parviz Shahbazov said in October 28, 2020.

Shahbazov made the remark at the Baku International Energy Charter Forum on "Transition to renewable energy sources in electricity production, transport, heating and cooling: modern challenges and trends," Trend reports.

"The Armenian side continues to shell the peaceful cities of our country. We have already faced Armenian aggression. Since the beginning of hostilities, Armenia has repeatedly struck the strategic pipeline, which is part of the Southern Gas Corridor," the minister said.

These are just few evidences of the ongoing Armenian aggression towards Azerbaijan and its territorial integrity. This aggression can escalate to its highest point in any time, putting whole population and infrastructure of the country in danger. Simultaneously, Armenia's policy of terrorism threatens security and stability not only of Azerbaijan but also the whole region, as well as the business and investment climate too.

American Chamber of Commerce in Azerbaijan (AmCham Azerbaijan) issued a statement supporting territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. According to the statement, AmCham Azerbaijan is deeply concerned with the events developing in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other areas of Azerbaijan. The Chamber strongly condemns all attacks on Azerbaijan, especially recent large-scale shelling of civilian population and strategic infrastructure facilities carried out from the territory of Armenia.

AmCham Azerbaijan unequivocally supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and calls for the resolution of the conflict within the framework of international law and in line with the UN

Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 which demand immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all the occupying forces from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In the statement it was also emphasized that, the liberation of several occupied territories in the past days from the Armenian occupation gives hope, first time in 30 years, for more than one million of Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons to return to their homes and sustainable peace and stability in the region.



(Rashid Mammadov, The London Watch Legal E-Digest , October 11, 2020

<http://thelondonwatch.com/2020/10/11/rashid-mammadov-american-chamber-of-commerce-in-azerbaijan-issued-a-statement-supporting-territorial-integrity-of-azerbaijan/>)

Azerbaijan strikes only at military facilities

Azerbaijan strikes only at military facilities stationed by the Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories, all possible precautionary measures in accordance with the convention have been taken in order not to damage the civilians and civilian facilities.

At present, Azerbaijan is exercising the right to self-defense enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter within the framework of these resolutions, as well as the use peace enforcement operations provided for in Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

In order to prevent Armenian military aggression and ensure protection of the civil population, the Azerbaijani Army took counter-attack measures to repel the assault.

According to the Article 51 of UN Charter, nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defence shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security.”

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, as a rule, with the use of elements of coercive action, in order to prevent aggression or threats to international peace and security by any state, or by the parties to the conflict or the state in conflict. These are peace enforcement operations carried out by the without the consent of the international community. These operations can be carried out only on the basis of a UN Security Council resolution. As we know, 4 UN Security Council resolutions have been adopted on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The resolutions noted that stability and peace in the region were under threat, expressed concern over the growing number of IDPs and stressed the need to address the problems caused by the state of emergency in the occupied territories. The UN Security Council called for an end to the occupation in order to achieve a permanent ceasefire and the withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. According to the Paragraph 138 of the Resolution on the Outcomes of the World Summit, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 September 2005, at the World Summit of the Heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005, the Heads of States reaffirmed that each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility entails

the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means. Azerbaijan is acting in accordance with it. The international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility. The international community, through the United Nations, also has the responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapters VI and VIII of the UN Charter, to help to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Protection of women and children in armed conflicts in international law

If we talk about specific protection of children and women, international humanitarian law provides general protection for children and women as persons taking no part in hostilities, and special protection as persons who are particularly vulnerable.

Protocol II of 1977 also codifies the principles according to which the civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack. The Fourth Geneva Convention comprises a great many provisions in favour of children. They show that, already in 1949, it was felt that children should be especially protected against warfare.

Armenia is violated the principles stipulated by the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict and which calls for the strict observance of the Declaration by all Member States. Attacks and bombings on the civilian population, inflicting incalculable suffering, especially on women and children, who are the most vulnerable members of the population, shall be prohibited, and such acts shall be condemned.

The Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict calls for the strict observance of the Declaration by all Member States:

1. Attacks and bombings on the civilian population, inflicting incalculable suffering, especially on women and children, who are the most vulnerable members of the population, shall be prohibited, and such acts shall be condemned.

2. The use of chemical and bacteriological weapons in the course of military operations constitutes one of the most flagrant violations of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the principles of international humanitarian law and inflicts heavy losses on civilian populations, including defenceless women and children, and shall be severely condemned.

3. All States shall abide fully by their obligations under the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949, as well as other instruments of international law relative to respect for human rights in armed conflicts, which offer important guarantees for the protection of women and children.

4. All efforts shall be made by States involved in armed conflicts, military operations in foreign territories or military operations in territories still under colonial domination to spare women and children from the ravages of war. All the necessary steps shall be taken to ensure the prohibition of measures such as persecution, torture, punitive measures, degrading treatment and violence, particularly against that part of the civilian population that consists of women and children.

5. All forms of repression and cruel and inhuman treatment of women and children, including imprisonment, torture, shooting, mass arrests, collective punishment, destruction of dwellings and forcible eviction, committed by belligerents in the course of military operations or in occupied territories shall be considered criminal.

6. Women and children belonging to the civilian population and finding themselves in circumstances of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, or who live in occupied territories, shall not be deprived of shelter, food, medical aid or other inalienable rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child or other instruments of international law.

Unfortunately, this does not mean that the international community will react immediately to Armenia's actions. We have been witnesses for many times, that international community were closed their eyes to unlawful actions of Armenia in regards to Azerbaijan. The only right way in such a situation is to continue the peace enforcement operations of the Azerbaijani army to force Armenia to withdraw the occupying forces from the territories of Azerbaijan as required by the UN Security Council 4 resolutions on Karabakh.

During 30 years of conflict, Armenia has not stop to surprise the international community by the level of its barbarism and cruelty. Attacking innocent children sleeping at night in the cities that do not contain any military objects is an immoral practice of conducting war invented by Armenia. Our hearts are bleeding when we look at 3 years old Khadija lying on a hospital bed, and who lost her both parents and one year old sister. This is not the way that innocent children should be behaved.

The internally displaced children in Azerbaijan still cannot realize their right to voluntary return to their lands in safety and dignity. During the conflict, 224 children were taken hostage by Armenia and were subsequently released, and 29 children are still considered to be in Armenian captivity. 73 Azerbaijani children are missing.



Children in Azerbaijan are the targets by Armenian aggressors even during the ceasefire time. During the ceasefire since 1994, 34 children became victims of the Armenian terror, 14 of them were killed and 20 were injured. Another murder that got away with Armenian extremists happened in 2017, when the Armenian Armed Forces fired from 82- and 120-mm mortars and heavy grenade launchers at the village of Alkhanly, Fizuli region, as a result of which 18-month-old girl Zakhra Guliyeva and her 50-year-old grandmother Sahiba Guliyev died. This murder shook the whole world, by showing the Armenia's true colors, however, the Armenians still got away with it due to the world community's unresponsiveness! In total, over the years, about 350 thousand innocent children have suffered from an unjust war.

Over the years of the conflict, Armenian armed groups have purposefully targeted civilians and civilian facilities of Azerbaijan, including schools, hospitals, and administrative buildings.

The Presidential aide Hikmat Hajiyeu noted that the Armenian armed forces once again fired missiles from Armenia's territory on residential settlements in the direction of Azerbaijan's Fuzuli and Jabrayil districts, which resulted in fatalities and injuries among civilians. "During the recent days, over 10,000 pieces of projectiles and missiles of various types were launched on Azerbaijan's densely populated settlements. Over 500 private houses were completely destroyed or seriously damaged.

Azerbaijani Prosecutor General Kamran Aliyev has made a statement on the Armenian armed forces' shelling of the city of Ganja: "October 4, 2020, at about 10 am, Ganja, the second largest city of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with a population of more than five hundred thousand civilians, was subjected to rocket and artillery shelling which is a blatant violation of the requirements of the Geneva Conventions.

Funeral service for 13-year-old Arthur

A funeral service for 13-year-old Artur Mayakov, who died due to the Armenian terror, is being held at the Russian Orthodox Church in Azerbaijan's Ganja city, Trend reports.

The leadership of the Mayor's Office of Ganja city, representatives of the Russian community, and other residents of the city are taking part in the farewell ceremony.

Russian citizen Artur Mayakov, who was wounded due to Armenia's missile strike on Ganja on Oct. 17, died on Oct. 24.



Child soldiers in Armenian army

"Video shows that Armenia employs child-soldiers. Needs to be investigated", Assistant of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmet Hajiyeu wrote on his Twitter page. He also added that,



"Recruiting and using children under the age of 15 as a soldier is prohibited under international humanitarian law – treaty and customs – and is defined as a war crime by ICC".

It is not the first time, Armenia commits a war crimes in relation to children. According to the "Child Soldiers Report 2001- Armenia", "Recruitment of children has been reported to occur in practice. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, at its January 2000 session, raised questions regarding reports of refugee children from Azerbaijan being forced to join the Armenian army. The delegation responded that Armenian children in Nagorno-Karabakh had been known to take up arms against Azerbaijan "in defence of their territory". The Committee recommended that Armenia should refrain from conscripting children into the armed forces and should take special protection and rehabilitation measures for children affected by armed conflict" (see the UN press release, UN CRC concluding observations on the status of children's rights in Armenia, 20/1/00, HR/CRC/00/15 and also UN document reference CRC7C794).

Absolutely no actions have been taken by Armenia in regard to the recommendations of the report. Furthermore, they keep repeating to commit this war crime. Now, in 2020, again in Karabakh armed conflict.

International legal framework for prohibition using child soldiers

UN Secretary General in its report titled "Children and Armed Conflict" at the 74th session in June 2020, called upon Member States to respect the rights of the child, including through accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and the endorsement and implementation of the Paris Principles and Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers.

International Humanitarian Law prohibits the recruitment and use of children in hostilities. The article 50 of the IV Geneva Convention, stated that, an Occupying Power must not enlist children on the occupied territory (GC IV, Art. 50). This provision is understood to relate only to children below the age of 15 years.

The prohibition is applicable in both international and non-international armed conflicts (such as a current Karabakh armed conflict, between Armenia and Azerbaijan). The bans on recruitment of children below the age of 15 enshrined in Article 77 of Additional Protocol I, and in Article 4 of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 are also considered to prohibit accepting voluntary enlistment (P I, Art. 77 (2); P II, Art. 4(3)(c)).

Article 77 states that, the Parties to the conflict shall take all feasible measures in order that children who have not attained the age of fifteen years do not take a direct part in hostilities and, in particular, they shall refrain from recruiting them into their armed forces. Paragraph 3 of the Article 4, of Additional Protocol II is devoted more particularly to the protection of children and reiterates some principles contained in the fourth Convention. Provisions of the protocol includes protection from the effects of hostilities (sanitary zones, evacuation), provision of special care and aid (medicine, food, clothing), protection of personal status, family and community ties (identity, registration, reunification, news), cultural environment, education, or limits to the death penalty. Other provisions specifically regulate the treatment of detained or interned children.

Children are protected also by general human rights instruments. In addition, they are entitled to the protection provided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which has been ratified by all states in the world, apart from Somalia and the United States of America. Article 38(3) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child prohibiting the recruitment of children below the age of 15 is similarly interpreted as banning voluntary enlistment of such children and, hence, completely outlawing child soldiers.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child differentiates between States and non-State armed groups in setting the age-limit for recruitment and use in hostilities.

Armed groups that are distinct from the armed forces of a State should not, under any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18 years.

States Parties shall take all feasible measures to prevent such recruitment and use, including the adoption of legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practices.

Under the Statute of the International Criminal Court, conscripting or enlisting children into armed forces or groups constitutes a war crime in both international and non-international armed conflicts (ICC Statute, Article 8(2)(b)(xxvi) and (e)(vii)).

Paris and Vancouver principles

Another important documents in the sphere of protection of child soldiers are the Paris Principles and the Vancouver Principles.

Paris Principles were adopted in 2007 at the "Free Children from War" conference organized by France and UNICEF. In the last 10 years, 105 states have endorsed these Principles. The signatory States have declared that they are prepared to identify and implement durable solutions to combat the unlawful use and recruitment of child soldiers in conflicts. The Paris Principles has the priority to put an end to the use or recruitment of child soldiers and one the goal is to release children enlisted into armed groups and achieve sanctions against people having unlawfully recruited children. I have a big doubts that Paris Principles will achieve its goals in relation to Armenia.

In November 2017, Canada launched the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers at the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Vancouver Principles are a set of political commitments focused on child protection, including all stages of a conflict cycle. They comprise 17 principles that focus on preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers by armed forces and armed groups.

In 2017, 54 UN Member States were founding endorsers of the Vancouver Principles. The number of endorsing countries is now close to 100. Armenia is among the states which had endorsed the Vancouver Principles. However, as we can see from the practice, their acts in Karabakh are not in line with those principles.

Use of the educational facilities for military purposes by Armenia

Recently, the Armenian media outlets informed that, Karabakh, separatists' leader Arayik Harutyunyan discussed the fighting situation with militaries in the kindergarden.

Harutyunyan's photo from the discussion of the "state of war" was rightly criticized on social networks.

It was also revealed that the place where Harutyunyan held a "meeting" was not "the south-eastern direction of the front", but in fact the kindergarden No. 3 in Khankendi.

It should be noted that this is a method constantly used by the Armenian army. So, they choose either a house of culture, or a school, or a kindergarden as a military base. When the Azerbaijani Army strikes the area, it is rumored that Azerbaijan is firing on civilian targets. However, Azerbaijan strikes only the



legitimate military facilities. They use civilian objects, as a “human shields” which is prohibited in the context of armed conflicts. This rule is set forth in the Third Geneva Convention (with respect to prisoners of war), the Fourth Geneva Convention (with respect to protected civilians) and Additional Protocol I (with respect to civilians in general).

Under the Statute of the International Criminal Court, “utilizing the presence of a civilian or other protected person to render certain points, areas or military forces immune from military operations” constitutes a war crime in international armed conflicts.

It is a clear violation of the educational rights of children which are stipulated at the articles 28 and 38 of the Child Rights Convention and also the principles stated at the Safe Schools Declaration.

According to the Article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), State undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child. State have obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, and shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.

It should also noted that according to the Safe Schools Declaration, it is prohibited to use educational facilities as basis bases, barracks or detention centres during the armed conflict. Such actions expose students and education personnel to harm, deny large numbers of children and students their right to education and so deprive communities of the foundations on which to build their future. Where educational facilities are used for military purposes it can increase the risk of the recruitment and use of children by armed actors or may leave children and youth vulnerable to sexual abuse or exploitation. In particular, it may increase the likelihood that education institutions are attacked.

The Safe Schools Declaration is an inter-governmental political commitment that was opened for endorsement by countries at an international conference held in Oslo, Norway, on 28–29 May 2015. The Declaration provides countries the opportunity to express political support for the protection of students, teachers, and schools during times of armed conflict; the importance of the continuation of education during armed conflict; and the implementation of the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict.

International law aspects of the special protection of children

In non-international armed conflicts, children are protected by the fundamental guarantees relating to the treatment of persons taking no active part in the hostilities, set forth in article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions. Under this article, children have at least the right, during these conflicts which are often very cruel, to be treated humanely. There should not be any violence to their lives and persons or their dignity.

The principle of the special protection of children during non- international armed conflicts is thus explicitly laid down. Protocol II of the Geneva Conventions, Article 4, entitled "Fundamental guarantees", comprises a paragraph devoted exclusively to children. It stipulates that: "Children shall be provided with the care and aid they require". This article then enumerates special measures relative to children, giving substance to the general rule stated above. The structure of article 4 shows how important the authors of Protocol II considered the protection of children during non-international armed conflicts, and it enables us to maintain that the principle of special protection of children during these conflicts is thereby affirmed.

The protection of children in armed conflict demands to be at the center of the global agenda. The laws, rights and norms governing the protection of civilians in conflict were drafted in response to 20th century wars that illustrate the worst of humanity. Even though international community falling short in their moral duty of protecting children adequately, in increasingly

fractured world children can serve as a unifying force. Their rights and their claim on international protection transcend national borders, cultures and faiths.

As Eglantyne Jebb, the founder of Save the Children, once put it: 'Every generation of children offers mankind the possibility of rebuilding his ruin of a world.' If humanity cannot come together to protect children from the horror of war, what hope is there for international cooperation in other areas?


Children are protected not only by the International humanitarian law, but also by the International human rights law. According to the Article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), State undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child. State have obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, and shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.

Thus, by targeting the civilian population, the Armenian armed forces are not only committing war crimes under humanitarian law, but also grossly violating the principles and provisions of international human rights.

UNICEF statement on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

Recently, UNICEF is made a public statement on the conflict, by saying that, "the ongoing conflict in and beyond Nagorno-Karabakh is inflicting an appalling and unacceptable toll on children. In addition to the mounting number of child fatalities and injuries, dozens of homes and schools have been damaged or destroyed. Countless children and families have endured extreme psychological trauma and distress for weeks.

UNICEF appeals, in the strongest possible terms, for an immediate implementation of the humanitarian ceasefire which both parties agreed to on 9 October. Children, families and the civilian facilities that they depend upon must be protected, in line with international human rights and humanitarian law. A complete cessation of hostilities is in the best interest of all children".




Genel

Güncel

Ermənistan Tərəfindən Muzdluların Cəlb Edilməsi Beynəlxalq Cinayətdir – Ramil İskəndrəli

KIRIM'IN SESİ GAZETESİ PDF



Mercenaries in Karabakh conflict in Armenian side are the threat to civilians

According to investigations conducted by the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan, members of various terrorist organizations, including foreign nationals, have illegally crossed the state border into Armenia and established illegal armed groups. It has also been determined that they are used as mercenaries in the aggressive war aimed at occupying our territories. In the Armenian army, people from other countries are fighting as mercenaries. According to reports, Armenians from Syria, Lebanon, the United States, Canada and France are joining the Armenian army. We also have some concerns about the involvement of the PKK terrorist organization in the war.

The concept of mercenary is enshrined in Article 47 of Additional Protocol I (1977) to the 1949 Geneva Convention for the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflict. According to this article, a mercenary has no right to receive the status of a combatant or prisoner of war.

The International Convention on the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, adopted by the 44th session of the UN General Assembly on 4 December 1989 (44/34), criminalizes their use and training.

Unlike Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan acceded to the Convention in 30 September 1997. In order to combat the involvement of mercenaries in military conflicts under the Convention, States Parties shall provide for criminal liability in national law for such offences.

According to Article 114 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, it is a crime to recruit, train, finance and provide other material support to mercenaries, as well as to use them in a military conflict or military operation.

Even Article 395 of the Criminal Code of Armenia criminalizes the involvement of mercenaries. Pursuant to



Article 15 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted in 1966, "any act or omission committed by any person which is a crime in accordance with the principles of law accepted by the international community shall be prosecuted. It does not prevent him from being extradited and punished."

The UN General Assembly's Declaration on the Principles of International Law on Friendship and Cooperation between States, 1970, prohibits UN member states from engaging in mercenary conflicts. Apparently, mercenaries are recognized as criminals under international law and must be brought to justice as international criminals. Universal jurisdiction has been established in accordance with the principle of "aut dedere aut judicare" (obligation to prosecute). At the same time involvement of mercenaries under the customary norms of international humanitarian law, is prohibited.

Involvement of mercenaries is generally a human problem. The social danger of mercenaries lies not only in the fact that mercenaries commit murder, robbery, violence and other crimes, but also the development of a profession of murder and other crimes. Armenia is once again violating the norms of international law by actively involving mercenaries against Azerbaijan

How to protect civilians?

Peace enforcement operations (PEOps) by Azerbaijan to protect civilians

The key question is, how to stop Armenian attacks on civilians in Azerbaijan?

The Aide to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Hikmet Hajiyev in its briefing for diplomatic corps representatives, in September 28, 2020, said that "The Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan operate in the sovereign territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and organize the defense of Azerbaijan. These are defensive operations. Here, too, the main goal is to ensure the security of the Azerbaijani civilian population living close to the line of contact and to implement counter-offensive measures to prevent such provocations by Armenia. These operations can even be called Peace Enforcement. In this way, Armenia will finally be forced to make peace and participate constructively in the negotiation process. "

If we turn to international law, we will see that operations by Azerbaijani forces to stop Armenian occupation of Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and force Armenia for peace are completely legitimate from the point of view of international law.

Azerbaijan has an inherent right of self-defense against Armenia's aggression—including the right to organize its self-defense collectively and implement Peace Enforcement Operations in its own territory that occupied by Armenia. By no means does international law impede other States from assisting Azerbaijan. To the contrary, international law envisages it. In December 2010, both countries signed a Treaty that makes each other a guarantor in case of an attack by foreign forces.

Second, the territory of occupied Karabakh region is the territory within the borders of Azerbaijan that every state in the world has recognized.

What is the Peace Enforcement operation (PEOps) according to the international law? PEOps are forcible military interventions by one or more states into a third country with the express objective of maintaining or restoring international, regional or local peace and security by ending a violent conflict.

The formal legal basis for PEOps is under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. Thus, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, as a rule, with the use of elements of coercive action, in order to prevent aggression or threats to international peace and security by any state, or by the parties to the conflict or the state in conflict. These are peace enforcement operations carried out by the without the consent of the international community. These operations can be carried out only on the basis of a UN Security Council resolution. As we know, 4 UN Security Council resolutions have been adopted on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The resolutions noted that stability and peace in the region were under threat, expressed concern over the growing number of IDPs and stressed the need to address the problems caused by the state of emergency in the occupied territories. The UN Security Council called for an end to the occupation in order to achieve a permanent ceasefire and the withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. At present, Azerbaijan is exercising the right to self-defense enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter within the framework of these resolutions, as well as the use peace enforcement operations provided for in Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

According to the Paragraph 138 of the Resolution on the Outcomes of the World Summit, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 September 2005, at the World Summit of the Heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005, the Heads of States reaffirmed that each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means. Azerbaijan is acting in accordance with it. The

international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility. The international community, through the United Nations, also has the responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapters VI and VIII of the UN Charter, to help to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

In international practice, the doctrine of peace enforcement has been used in several cases. For example, the principle of peace enforcement was applied in Bosnia-Herzegovina under the 1995 Dayton Agreement. At that time, the country was effectively divided into the "Serbian Republic" and the Muslim-Croatian Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and there was a conflict between them. But in the end, as a result of peace enforcement measures, the separatist regime of the "Serbian Republic" which was created within Bosnia and Herzegovina was forced into peace and the conflict was resolved.

Another example is the Ulster conflict between the British and the Irish, where there has been a confrontation between Catholics and Protestants loyal to England since the early twentieth century, demanding the annexation of the territory to the Republic of Ireland. As a result of peace enforcement measures, the area is currently not annexed to Ireland. The concept of peace enforcement has been applied by in the context of the UN Charter and the UN peacekeeping doctrine during various periods of armed conflicts in African countries.

Immediately after Iraq's military intervention in Kuwait on August 2, 1990, sanctions were imposed on the country by a UN Security Council resolution, which began to be implemented and lasted until 2003. As sanctions continued, the Iraqi government was forced to step back over disputed territories with Kuwait. We can cite the precedents of Cambodia, East Timor, Rwanda, Somalia and Yugoslavia for the immediate implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and the immediate implementation of peace enforcement mechanisms.

Finally, I have to say that, it is easy to start a war, but very difficult to end it. The peace process is always complicated and almost never leads to a full settlement of the conflict. Peace enforcement operations are important for a completely fair settlement of the conflict.

Conclusion and appeal to international community

We call on international organizations to take serious steps against Armenia, which hypocritically violated the ceasefire and killed many innocent children and women, and stop the aggressor. The international organizations responsible for the protection of peace and security in the world, the protection of human rights and freedoms, the observance of the norms and principles of international law, the implementation of international conventions prohibiting the killing of civilians, cannot ignore the fact that Armenia is blatantly and grossly waging war against Azerbaijan in front of the whole world. Indifference attitude of international organizations to this aggression against Azerbaijan will be assessed as open disrespect for human values, international law and international humanitarian law.

We hope that international organizations will strongly condemn these crimes against humanity committed by Armenia and take necessary measures to sanction the aggressor.



JOURNALISTS NETWORK PUBLIC UNION

**Report on threats and pressure
of Armenia and the Armenian lobby
on international media outlets and
reporters covering
the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict
in order to stifle free speech**

October 27 – November 10

General information

Foreign media outlets exposing Armenia's policy of occupation, aggression, provocations, acts of terrorism of the terrorist state against the civilians of Azerbaijan and covering Azerbaijan's just position are being targeted, threatened with death by the Armenian lobby. Even the media, politicians and public activists taking a neutral, balanced position and not meeting the interests of Armenia and the Armenian diaspora continue to be targeted. The strangest thing is that these unacceptable cases occur mainly in European countries.

First of all, we would like to inform you that on September 27, Armenia committed another military provocation against Azerbaijan. The Armenian armed forces deployed in our occupied territories intensively fired upon positions of the Azerbaijani army along the entire front line and our settlements located in the frontline using heavy artillery, which caused casualties among our civilians and soldiers. Guided by international law, especially the right to self-defense, Azerbaijan has launched a counter-offensive operation in the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia. As a result of the 44-day operation, Azerbaijan's territorial integrity was restored. On November 10, the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia and the Prime Minister of Armenia signed a joint statement. According to the joint statement Armenia undertook to withdraw its troops from Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachin within the next 20 days. Moreover, the peacemaking process in the region will be ensured with the joint participation of Russia and Turkey, and the arrival of peacekeepers in the territory will be carried out simultaneously with the withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

After liberation of the occupied territories, even more new facts proving the barbaric attitude towards the occupied Azerbaijani lands are coming to light. Based on photo and video materials, as well as other material evidences, we will conduct inventory and damage assessment in the occupied territories by involving international experts.

Prior to the beginning of recent events, Azerbaijan has multiple times warned the world community about Armenia's intention to start a new war against Azerbaijan. The President of Azerbaijan underlined the need to stop the aggressor state in interviews with various television channels, as well as his speech delivered from the UN rostrum.

Starting from 2018, the new military-political administration of Armenia is trying to completely ruin the negotiation process with its purposeful actions. Statements and actions of the Armenian Prime Minister, including his attempts to change the format of negotiations, the phrase "Karabakh is Armenia and dot", holding of a so-called inauguration ceremony for the head of the illegal regime in Shusha, a provocative decision to move the fictional "parliament" to Shusha, statement on the establishment of military-volunteer brigades the conduction of military trainings in the occupied territories, as well as the policy of illegal settlement of ethnic Armenians from the Middle East, especially Syria and Lebanon in the occupied territories prove it.

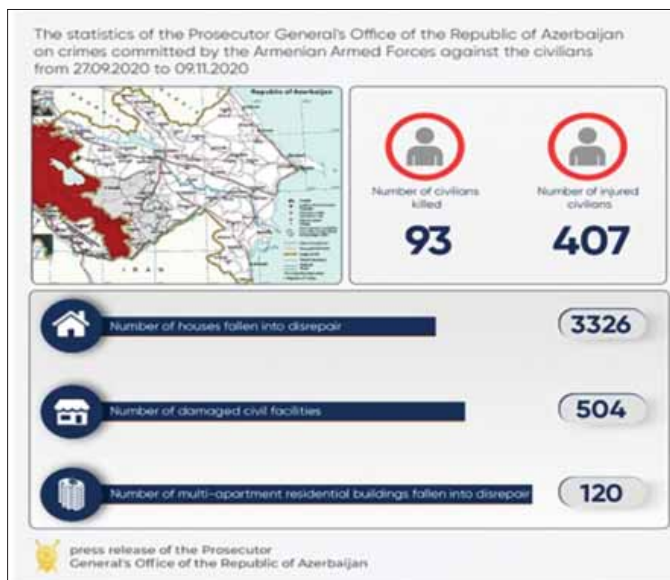
Despite the statements of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs on the unacceptability of the status quo in the occupied territories, the purpose of destructive actions of the Armenian government was to maintain the status quo.

Azerbaijan has always been committed to resolving the conflict by mutual negotiations. However, Armenia violated the negotiation process with its unconstructive position. As such, over the past month, Armenia has flagrantly breached the humanitarian ceasefire achieved as a result of the mediation efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs three times. Just one day after the adoption of the Moscow Declaration of Foreign Ministers at the initiative of the President of the Russian Federation – on the night of October 11, the Armenian armed forces launched a missile attack on settlements in Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan.

Armenian armed forces continued to keep the frontline of Azerbaijan under constant artillery fire, using the prohibited weapons such as cluster munitions and phosphorus bombs. Missile attacks were also launched at areas outside the combat zone.

Thousands of houses and hundreds of civil infrastructure facilities, including many schools and kindergartens were destroyed and damaged in Azerbaijan. The largest thermal power plant in the South Caucasus located in Mingachevir was attacked with missiles by the Armenian armed forces.

As a result of missile and artillery fire by Armenia using Tochka-U, Elbrus and other systems from both its own territory and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan since September 27, 93 civilians, including elderly people, women and 11 children were killed, and 407 civilians injured.



(Final statistics published by the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan)

As a result of ballistic missile bombardment of Ganja and Barda at night, 53 civilians were killed and 245 injured.

Such military crimes committed by Armenia have been widely covered by the world media. However, the Armenian diaspora targets and exerts serious pressure on media outlets, reporters and public activists covering the truth about the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, spreading objective information, and even taking a neutral position and not meeting the interests of Armenia and the Armenian diaspora. The Armenian lobby intimidates, threatens and insults reporters who take an objective and neutral position on the conflict trying to suppress free speech.

One such example is related with a news coverage made by **Liseron Boudoul**, an employee of the **French TF1 channel**. As such, Ms. Boudoul witnessed the artillery and missile fire of Armenia on our civilians in Ganja, Barda, Tartar and other settlements in her visit to Azerbaijan and made objective news coverage about this.

While in Beylagan and Fuzuli, I also observed the activities of Ms. Boudoul and the accompanying camera operator as a representative of the Azerbaijan Journalists' Network Public Union. She is a brave, professional and hard-working reporter.

TF1 reporter Liseron Boudoul was on the front line and she was told by Azerbaijani soldiers that Armenians had left their weapons and ammunition and fled. They underlined that the Azerbaijani army will go to the end and liberate every inch of our lands. The news coverage showed people, youngsters and children holding the Azerbaijani and Turkish flags were in a festive mood, saying "Karabakh, Karabakh". The reporter emphasized that our country, which is rich in underground natural resources, has a strong army.



The coverage said that people's daily lives near the front line were difficult and they were fired upon by the Armenian armed forces. It was underlined that women and children found shelter in underground trenches. The houses and livestock of civilians were destroyed. Casualties were discussed. It was reported that the Armenians repeatedly fired upon the civilians.



Link to the news coverage: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZCRfq8eoZo>

Speaking about the bombardment of a residential area in the center of Ganja directly from Armenia with two missiles, the reporter pointed to the destroyed houses. She reported that 15 people, including women and children were killed and more than 50 civilians injured as a result of the Armenian bombardment.



The 3-minute coverage about Azerbaijan broadcasted on TF1 was a major blow to the Armenian lobby. Members of the Armenian lobby made insulting remarks and threats about TF1 on social media. The coverage of TF1 once again revealed that the information spread by the Armenian lobby was false.

Following the broadcast, members of the Armenian lobby in France launched a total attack and pressure against Ms. Liseron Boudoul and TF1, and threatened her with death. Liseron Boudoul has been the target of numerous hateful messages from the Armenian community of France on Facebook and Twitter, calling her a "genocide prostitute".

Papazyan, co-chair of the Coordinating Council of Armenian Organizations in France (CCAF), called for mass protests against television, which broadcasted fair news coverage from the frontline on its Twitter page. Even proposals were made to boycott the channel.



At the same time, the journalist was reportedly harassed via WhatsApp after her phone number was obtained. The TV channel was also systematically disturbed through social media, e-mail addresses and phone calls. As a result, TF1 was forced to stop broadcasting the said coverage and delete it from the system. Nevertheless, protests against the channel still continue.

It is even reported that some TF1 executives have been threatened with beheading by Armenians. Reporters Without Borders said that the reporter, the author of the said coverage, had been sharply criticized and sent unethical and hateful messages, and condemned it.

Reporters Without Borders official website: <https://rsf.org/fr/actualites/une-journaliste-auteure-dun-reportage-sur-le-conflit-au-haut-karabakh-violemment-prise-partie-en>

It is quite interesting that the government of France, which considers itself a defender of the freedom of speech, keeps its silence on this issue and does not defend the reporter.

It should be noted that France treated the cartoon of the prophet of one of the three heavenly religions in the **magazine “Charlie Hebdo”** as the freedom of speech. Unfortunately, we did not see a similar position from the French government, which defended democratic freedoms despite numerous protests from Muslims around the world during the Charlie Hebdo incident regarding Liseron Boudoul, an employee of the French channel TF1, who made news coverage about the realities of Azerbaijan and was later threatened with death by the Armenian lobby. However, the French government had to take the necessary measures to prevent Armenian terror. We are deeply upset and surprised by the growing clear threats of the Armenian lobby to the balanced coverage about the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and the lack of adequate response to it.

Following France’s TF-1, similar threats were made **against the editorial office of the newspaper The New York Times. Members of the Armenian lobby held a protest in front of the newspaper’s editorial office.** The protesters came to the front of the editorial office with Armenian flags demanding “proper coverage of the Karabakh conflict”. The protesters were upset about the reports by Carlotta Gall, NY Times correspondent in Istanbul.

Carlotta Gall has been working with The New York Times since 1999. She has had special reports covering the wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan. She has also worked with Financial Times and The Economist during her professional career. She has been awarded at various times for her professional achievements.

Ms. Carlotta Gall’s article “In Azerbaijan, a String of Explosions, Screams and Then Blood” says that dozens of people were killed and injured, houses and facilities were damaged as a result of the Armenian missile fire upon Azerbaijani civilians. The newspaper quotes the phrase of Hikmat Hajiyev, Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan: “The main issue caused to stop the negotiation process was the words of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan “Karabakh is Armenia.”



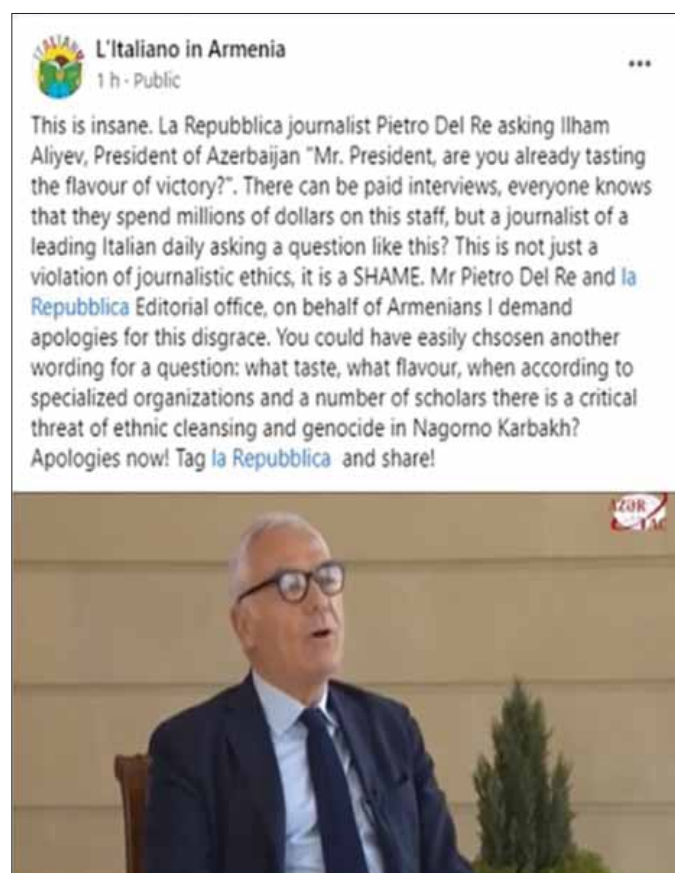
Link to the article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/28/world/europe/azerbaijan-barda-armenia-rockets-karabakh.html?smid=tw-nytimesworld&smtyp=cur>

Following this article, Carlotta Gall, NY Times Istanbul correspondent, was similarly exposed to moral and political terror by the Armenian lobby. As such, the newspaper’s editorial office and the journalist faced serious pressure and threats from the Armenians for covering Armenia’s massacre of Azerbaijani civilians with a ballistic missile.

Similar threats were made against the **Italian newspaper La Repubblica** as well. Numerous pressures were exerted on the popular newspaper on social media by the Armenian lobby.

Members of the Armenian lobby, which accuses the newspaper of being Islamist, claim that the newspaper's correspondent **Pietro Del Re** asked biased questions against Armenia in his interview with the President of Azerbaijan.

Armenians have been outraged by La Repubblica journalist Pietro Del Re's question addressed to the President Aliyev, "Mr. President, you have already tasted victory". A well-known journalist of the leading Italian newspaper is threatened with death for this question.



He is threatened on social media by the Armenian lobby and with the words "What taste can we talk about when Nagorno-Karabakh faces the threat of ethnic cleansing and genocide? Apologize immediately!". Official Baku has already reacted seriously to the issue. Hikmat Hajiyev, Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan called on Reporters Without Borders and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to condemn the physical, verbal threats and offensive personal attacks on professional journalists covering the objective realities of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

Certainly, in such situation, freedom of expression shall be treated as the main criterion and respected. In general, the Armenian diaspora has recently been trying to stifle and threaten independent media around the world. Over the past month, politicians and MPs have also been attacked, along with many foreign journalists and members of the public.



Prominent public figures of Russia - **military expert Igor Korotchenko (left)** and **journalist Maxim Shevchenko (right)** - are threatened and insulted by Russia's Armenian lobby. These brave Russian experts did not hesitate to say that Russia shall not interfere in Karabakh war from the side of Armenia, because it contradicts international law and poses a threat to Russia's national security. In addition, these experts state that the Russians shall not die for the interests of Armenia, whose armed forces do not want to leave the Azerbaijani

lands, and therefore the Armenians themselves are responsible for what happened.

As a result, Russia's Armenian lobby is trying to quiet the experts who are unfavorable for them down. Earlier, Armenian nationalists threatened Maxim Shevchenko with death. Now they are trying to discredit Igor Korotchenko's personality and dignity. Igor Korotchenko, editor-in-chief of the prestigious magazine *Voennoye Obozreniye*, the Russian statesman, is now under attack of the members of the Armenian lobby.

Israeli expert Natavan Rashidova-Katsman also faced similar threats. On October 30, after publication of objective articles on Nagorno-Karabakh, in which she also had an opinion, in a number of news agencies, she got calls from a secret number. The caller threatened her in a very severe and unpleasant way in Russian about what would happen to them in the future. Undoubtedly, in the modern world, all this is unacceptable and considered a crime.

The Armenian lobby also targeted TRT during this period. For the record, this channel and other Turkish media have played an important role in objectively conveying the conflict to the world. Turkish media, which covered in particular the Armenian army's targeting Azerbaijani civilians, have been insulted and threatened by the Armenian lobby. Moreover, Armenia has jeopardized the safety and security of journalists working in the conflict zone. Armenia made irresponsible attempts to abuse both its own and third-country journalists during its ongoing military operations against Azerbaijan. The fact that Armenia has deliberately failed to take the necessary measures to clearly distinguish reporters and other media professionals from the soldiers while sometimes bringing them to the areas of active military operations is of particular concern.

One of the Armenian media representatives has been captured in this photo. It shows a gun on the shoulder of a man presenting himself as a reporter. And the microphone in the reporter's hand has the logo of the Ministry of Defense of Armenia. These have led to serious discussions on social media. Users note that according to international journalism standards, a reporter sent to the frontline is not entitled to carry a weapon, as well as soldiers a microphone.





During the war, the Armenian army has attempted to attack the freedom of speech and expression. Journalists performing their professional duties in the frontline have been fired upon by the Armenian armed forces. Azerbaijani journalists have been attacked by the Armenian army four times by now. Film crew of Euronews has been fired upon by the Armenian armed forces with a cornet anti-tank missile while working in the liberated villages Talish and Sugovushan of Azerbaijan. It is clear from the footage of Euronews that their target has been the film crew of this channel. Fortunately, employees of the media outlet have not been injured, only the car got damaged.

Title of the footage: "Fighting continues in Nagorno-Karabakh despite the promises of ceasefire"

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJVpBCKJND0>

The result and outcomes

The real situation regarding whether TF1 or New York Times or La Repubblica and its correspondent Peitro Del Re shows that there is no freedom of speech and free media values for Armenian lobby and diaspora organizations. Material published in any media outlet can cause dissatisfaction. But there are normal means of expressing this dissatisfaction. Unfortunately, these means are completely strange to members of the Armenian lobby.

The world's leading media outlets, human rights associations and international organizations shall not remain indifferent to these threats and moral pressures. As long as the countries of location and international organizations do not take serious measures against the Armenian lobby and diaspora organizations, they will show the same disrespect for democratic principles. Undoubtedly, this sets a very negative precedent. It seems that Western society once again makes double standards and shows itself to be so weak as to ignore the supreme values for a specific group of criminals.

The unpleasant treatment against members of the free and objective media not complying with any norms, morals and rules of conduct is an unprecedented insult to the principles of freedom of speech and expression as a whole. This is a clear disregard for the values of free media.

The key point is the lack of necessary public condemnation, as well as efficient legal mechanisms for such cases. As Azerbaijan Journalists' Network, we call on the world's leading media outlets, human rights organizations, and leading journalism associations in the international public sector to assist in ending the Armenian lobby's attacks against TF1, New York Times, La Repubblica and their employees communicating the truth about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to the world, including the independent bloggers and media experts named in the report and take a firm and committed position regarding the issue.

We are greatly concerned about the fact that the Armenian lobby has declared open war against the freedom of speech and expression and the principles of objectivity, impartiality and neutralism of journalism. As an organization of journalism, which has operated in professional media sector for many years, we believe that the Armenian lobby's attempts to stifle independent media around the world shall primarily concern international media institutions, the management and officials of those insulted and threatened media outlets, and they shall openly protest against this illegality.

International media and human rights organizations shall take a committed position, because those journalists filmed what they saw in reality and published it in the media. All this leads to the conclusion that the Armenian lobby is trying to stifle the independent media, politicians and public activists who speak the truth around the world. Threatening any person who does not meet the interests of the Armenian lobby with death is another example of fascism.

We would also like to note that such pressures and threats are considered in general a serious violation by law in Europe and the United States. Threatening journalists with death contradicts European values and human rights. Those making terrorist threats against freedom of speech and the press must receive the punishment they deserve.

At the same time, we would like to remind that according to international humanitarian law and UN Security Council Resolutions 1738 (2006) and 2222 (2015), journalists in armed conflict are classified as civilians and therefore they shall be provided with protection that applies to citizens, provided that they do not act in a way adversely affecting their civil status.

Non-compliance by journalists with these explicitly set rules increases the risk of the media being abused to inflame tensions and hatred, leads to the situations emerged as a result of unlawful use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and accompanied by material violations of international humanitarian law, which cause to occupation of territories and continuation of conflicts.

We call on journalists to not visit the temporarily occupied territories of Azerbaijan anymore, thus prevent Armenia from abusing them, as well as those operating in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan to strictly comply with the above requirements, refrain from any action that violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, including promoting Armenia's use of illegal forces against Azerbaijan. We recommend all those media representatives to strictly comply with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding the accreditation of foreign journalists in Azerbaijan.

In addition, we call on all relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions to take all necessary measures for ensuring strict compliance with the laws and regulations by journalists, media workers and related persons in order to prevent their abuse in the military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and avoid adverse effect to the civil status of all journalists.



**Public Association of the
Organization for the Protection
of Cultural Monuments**



**Public Association of
the Center for Religion
and Democracy (CRD)**

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Facts of Armenian vandalism: REPORT on the destruction by Armenians of Azerbaijani religious, historic and cultural monuments

Baku - 2020

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AN OVERVIEW OF AZERBAIJAN'S HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL MONUMENTS VANDALIZED BY ARMENIA

Armenia's application of claims of ownership to historical and cultural monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan violently isolates the latter from its right to its own cultural values, in fact. It constitutes a war crime.

The purpose of Armenia's illegal claim that Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent territories are ancient Armenian territories is to justify its desire to grab 20% of Azerbaijan's territories. That is why Armenia has carried out a whole host of unlawful acts in these occupied territories, involving the destruction and misappropriation of immovable and movable historic monuments and other cultural heritage resources rooted in different centuries of history.

As a result of Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan, more than 10,000 place names, names of real historical and cultural monuments and hundreds of toponyms were changed and replaced with Armenian names.

Having destroyed villages and towns inhabited by Azerbaijanis in the occupied territories, Armenians have built a large number of Armenian churches and crosses, as well as memorial complexes in memory of well-known Armenian terrorists there.

As a result of the aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan, 2,645 historical and cultural, 1,814 architectural, 747 archaeological monuments, 64 garden and park monuments, 23 museums, 102,757 museum exhibits, 4 state galleries, 376 paintings. In addition, Armenians destroyed 4.6 million books, 13 archives, 260,000 archived documents were destroyed in the occupied territories. They also destroyed and appropriated hunting and household items (carpets, rugs, khurjuns, belts, and other household items) belonging to the personal collections of over 50,000 citizens.

The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954, to which Azerbaijan acceded on 12 December 2000, may create conditions for the protection of cultural property in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Thus, the inviolability of the occupied cultural heritage of Azerbaijan must be insured by a variety of international organizations through recommendations arising from international conventions.

The Hague Convention is the first international treaty on the protection of cultural property during wartime. Under this Convention, the attacking party has an obligation not only to respect and protect cultural property, but also to take constructive steps to prevent theft of such property in the occupied territories. The member states of the Convention agreed to "prohibit, prevent and, if necessary, put an end to acts of vandalism against cultural property and any form of theft, robbery and misappropriation of cultural property." The Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention, adopted in 1999, further expands the scope of protection of cultural property during armed conflicts. In particular, in the context of Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijani lands, Article 9 of the Protocol prohibits and prevents the occupying party from illegally trading of cultural property, examples of any archeological excavations, their removal from those territories, modifying or destroying cultural, historical or scientific evidence in relation to the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, according to the established provisions, specified by the 1970 Paris Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of

Cultural Property and the 1995 Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, acts against cultural property and cultural heritage during armed conflicts are considered a war crime under international criminal law. The Hague Convention also adopted an executive regulation defining the application rules of the convention and a protocol prohibiting removal of cultural properties from the occupied territories.

At the 7th session of the UNESCO Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in Paris on 21 December 2012, a decision was made on the protection of cultural property in the occupied territories at the initiative of Azerbaijan. The decision reflects the obligation of the occupying countries to submit a report on the protection of cultural property in the occupied territories and the possibility of sending technical missions to these territories.

Another document adopted at the 8th Session of the UNESCO Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in Paris on 18-19 December 2013 reflects the Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two protocols covering legal analysis of relevant provisions and mechanisms for their implementation, sending of technical missions by UNESCO for monitoring purposes, bringing the issue of protection of cultural property in the occupied territories to the attention of the Director-General of UNESCO in resolutions to be adopted by the UN Security Council and General Assembly, etc.

Assessment of criminal acts committed by the Republic of Armenia against the cultural heritage of Azerbaijan, as well as damage to monuments shall be implemented in accordance with Law No. 470-IQ of April 10, 1998 of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Order No. 51 s of February 26, 2014 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954 and the documents adopted by UNESCO Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in Armed Conflict in Paris in 2012 within the framework of the 8th session of the Committee on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Occupied Territories and other normative acts.

Thus, the Armenians, having illegally appropriated portable historical and cultural monuments plundered from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, put up for auction some of them in different countries of the world, some were donated to influential people, and some are stored in various institutions in Yerevan. They include;

- A silver handbag, taken from the Lachin Museum of History and Ethnography in 1993, was sold for US\$80,000 by Armenians at Sotheby's (39) auction in London.
- In 1998, one written stone sample was taken to Yerevan by Armenian ethnographs and it is kept in the Matenadaran museum of ancient manuscripts under No. 3437.
- During 1993-2016, carpets, having been plundered from Azerbaijan, were put on sale under the Armenian brand in the U.S., Germany, France, England, Saudi Arabia and other countries.
- 63 mosques have been completely destroyed and 4 mosques have been demolished and made unrecognizable.
- 71 tombs and 500 cemeteries have been destroyed.
- 136678 transported cultural heritage pieces, including museum exhibits have been appropriated by Armenians.
- 7,000 architectural monuments are in danger of falling down.
- Amaras temple in Khojavend district, Saatly mosque in Shusha city, Ganjasar temple in Kalbajar district, Agoglan temple in Lachin district and Soltan Ahmad palace were illegally repaired and lost their initial appearance, and wall inscriptions were removed.
- 1161 archeological monuments were excavated illegally.

- Illegal activities were carried out in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and new Armenian churches: one in Shahbulag plateau of Aghdam, four in Khojaly district, three in Khankendi city, three in Shusha city, one in Shusha-Fuzuli highway, two in Kalbajar district, one in Lachin city, one in Zabukh village, Lachin district, two in Aghdere district, one in Martuni settlement, and three in Hadrud district were built.

Armenia's inhumane policy against historical and cultural monuments in the occupied territories is inadmissible by law.

According to the international normative documents regulating the legal status of cultural properties, Azerbaijani cultural properties plundered and exported to foreign countries as a result of Armenia's military aggression must be returned to Azerbaijan by the Armenian Government.

Destruction of Islamic religious shrines is an integral part of Armenia's state policy

The Republic of Armenia, aiming at the one-time or gradual destruction or appropriation of national-cultural values, clothes, architectural samples, places of faith, places of worship, musical compositions and musical instruments, other samples of art and applied arts, including folklore, toponyms, as well as historical works and written examples of Azerbaijan, 20% of the territory of which was subjected to Armenian occupation, carries out a planned and systematic destruction of all national cultural values of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Destruction of cultural heritage examples to appropriate the territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenians is the main goal of the state policy of the Armenian clergy and Armenian Government. This activity of Armenia is considered an act of vandalism in international law.

Official vandalism, continuing in modern times, destroys, completely demolishes and vandalizes the Islamic religious values of the Azerbaijani people (tombs, mosques, shrines, sanctuaries, tombstones, cemeteries, etc.) in the territories of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding districts occupied by Armenia. Thus, the Armenian government is trying to establish here a new state by appropriating and forcibly armenizing the occupied Azerbaijani territories. However, historically, there has not been any Armenian state in these territories. Armenian historian Gevorg Aslan, who confirmed the absence of the Armenian state in these territories, wrote in 1914 in his book "Armenia and Armenians": "Armenians did not have states. They do not have a sense of homeland, a policy of patriotism. Armenian bigotry is only related to the places where they live."

The intention of representatives of a nation with no historical tradition of statehood to create a state in Karabakh and its environs, where they have been inhabited by the Russian state since the end of the XIX century, by destroying the architecture of mosques of the 8th-9th, 13th-16th centuries existing in these territories is against any laws and humanity.

There were 72 officially functioning Muslim mosques and 140 places of worship and shrines in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas. There were 17 neighborhood mosques in Shusha, 5 mosques in Aghdam, 18 places of worship and shrines, 17 mosques, 20 places of worship and shrines in Fuzuli, 12 mosques and 19 places of worship and shrines in Zangilan, 5 mosques, 37 places of worship and shrines in Jabrayil, 8 mosques, 20 places of worship and shrines in Gubadly, 9 mosques, 21 places of worship and shrines in Lachin, 2 mosques and 5 places of worship and shrines in Kalbajar.

Although only 4 mosques and a few tombs out of 210 mosques and other places of worship and shrines occupied by the Republic of Armenia have been destroyed since 1992, we witness that they still retain their shapes, and the remaining 200 monuments have been completely destroyed by Armenians.

Aghdam Juma Mosque

The mosque, designed by architecture Karbalayi Safi Khan Garabaghi, the leading craftsman of Karabakh architecture of the period, was built in 1868/70. The layout of the prayer room is based on a traditional rectangular area with four columns in the middle. Three rows of deep niches built on each of the eastern and western sides of the area expanded the area of the place of worship and made it rectangular.



Photos from Aghdam Juma Mosque before and after the occupation

A high sanctuary niche is installed in the middle of the south wall of the prayer room. The side niches are in the form of a balcony facing the interior and are designed for women's worship. The prayer room is lightened by windows in the middle of the side balconies and next to the sanctuary niches.





Interior view of the minaret of the mosque after burning down

The interior design of the prayer room is very strict and draws attention with the artistic effect of the perfect tectonic structure. The name of the decorator (master Muhammad Naqqash Tabrizi, son of the late Karbalai Naqqash Tabrizi) and the date of repair (Hijri 1331, AD 1913) are written in the inscription on the simple ornate sanctuary niche. The entrance door on the north side of the mosque is located inside a deep balcony – main arch, and two-storey rooms are located next to the open balcony. The minarets at the corners of the northern façade complete the symmetrical layout of the mosque, giving it a quadrangular appearance.

The mosque has a design distinguished by its classic simplicity, geometric purity and perfectly meeting the functional requirements. The cubic capacity of the mosque, the interior of which is covered with domes and arches, is covered with a four-sloped solid attic, which is traditional for the Karabakh zone. Brick minarets rise from the ends of the north facade of the attic. The delicate cylindrical capacity of the minarets is divided into sections by horizontal belts, and the surface of each part is covered with simple patterns made of brick masonry.

The mosque was severely damaged during the Armenian occupation. This mosque was set on fire a month after the Armenian occupation by pouring gasoline on it. The Armenian media reported that the relevant government bodies of the Republic of Armenia had officially decided to insult and destroy the mosque.

The minarets of the mosque were completely demolished from the inside, the ceiling was blown down in several places, the interior, design and wall inscriptions were destroyed, the cells and utility rooms were blown up, destroyed and completely rendered useless. The mosque's decorations, technical equipment, facilities, hard and soft inventory were looted and taken to Armenia.

Humiliating and insulting expressions and words against the Azerbaijani people and nation were written on the inner and outer walls of the mosque in Armenian and Russian languages. For



Interior view of the minaret of the Mosque after burning

more than 10 years, Armenians kept cattle and pigs in the mosque's prayer hall and utility rooms, that is, they used the mosque as a stable for many years. This was a very cruel barbarism committed by Armenians against Azerbaijanis.

In 2016, during Armenian president Serzh Sargsyan's visit to Iran, the Armenian army command in Karabakh was instructed to clean the inside of the mosque from animal manure. Within a month, the inside and around the mosque were cleared of manure by Armenian soldiers.

The mosque underwent the following changes after Armenian aggression:

- Relevant state bodies in Armenia created conditions for the official insult and destruction of the Aghdam mosque, a place of worship for Azerbaijanis.
- A month after the Armenian occupation, the mosque was set on fire by pouring gasoline on it.
- The minarets of the mosque were completely demolished from the inside, the ceiling was blown off in several places, the interior, design and wall inscriptions were obliterated, the cells and utility rooms were pulled down, utilities and communication lines were totally destroyed.
- The mosque's decorations, technical equipment, facilities, hard and soft inventory were looted and taken to Armenia.
- Humiliating and insulting expressions and words against Azerbaijan and its people were written on the inner and outer walls of the mosque in the Armenian and Russian languages.
- For more than 10 years, Armenians kept cattle and pigs in the mosque's prayer hall and utility rooms, as well as used the mosque as a stable.

The monument was occupied by Armenian military forces on July 23, 1993.

After occupation of 20% of the territory of Azerbaijan by Armenian forces in 1992-1994, the mosque was also completely destroyed. The minarets of the mosque were severely damaged, the ceiling was blown down, wall inscriptions were obliterated and insulting remarks against Azerbaijanis were written in the interior in Armenian and Russian languages.



Armenians have used the mosque as a stable for more than 10 years





Cattle and pigs were kept in the mosque's prayer hall and utility rooms



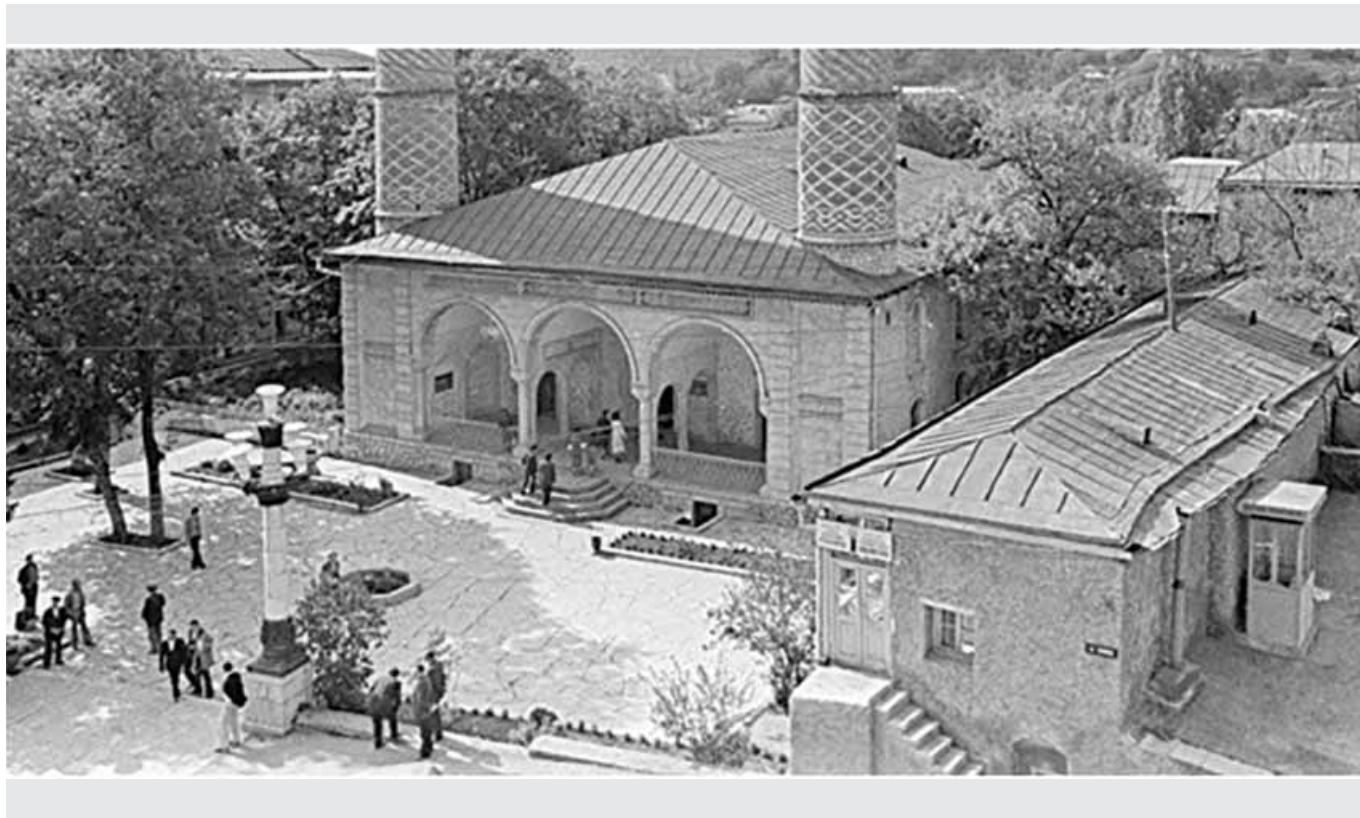


Humiliating and insulting expressions and words against Azerbaijan and its people were written on the inner and outer walls of the mosque in Armenian and Russian languages





During the Armenian president Serzh Sargsyan's visit to Iran in 2016, the Armenian army command in Karabakh was instructed to clean the inside of the Aghdam Juma Mosque from animal manure



Yukhary (Upper) Govhar Agha Mosque

The mosque was built in 1883-1884 by Karbalayi Safikhan Sultanhuseyn oglu Garabaghi with the financial support from Govhar agha, the daughter of Ibrahim Khalil Khan. This monument is the Great Juma Mosque of Shusha.

The prayer hall of the mosque is of three-nave in a square shape (190–185 meters). The three-beam veranda in the northern section of the mosque gives it a rectangular form (26.5 × 21.5 meters). The mosque has two minarets located in the corners of the balcony and stairs are placed to the balconies next to the prayer hall - the women's section. The prayer hall of the mosque is divided into naves with 6-stone columns. The side sections are covered with the sharp arch, while the two square sections in the middle are covered by the dome. The interior of the prayer hall gets light from dual windows. The building of the mosque was constructed out of stone while the two minarets are made of bricks. The minarets have cylindric forms with horizontal belts with each section covered with different brickwork patterns.

The monument was included in the list of immovable historical and cultural monuments of national importance by decision No. 132, dated 2 August 2001, of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The mosque has been occupied by Armenian military forces since May 8, 1992.

After the occupation of 20% of the territory of Azerbaijan by Armenian armed forces in 1992-1994, the mosque was also completely destroyed. The main building and minarets of the mosque were fired by Armenian armored vehicles and the monument was severely damaged. The ceiling was blown down in several places, inner and outer wall inscriptions were obliterated, and insulting remarks against Azerbaijanis were written in Armenian and Russian languages in the interior.

The mosque underwent the following changes following Armenian occupation:

- Relevant state bodies in Armenia instructed to officially insult and destroy the mosque, a place of worship for Azerbaijanis.

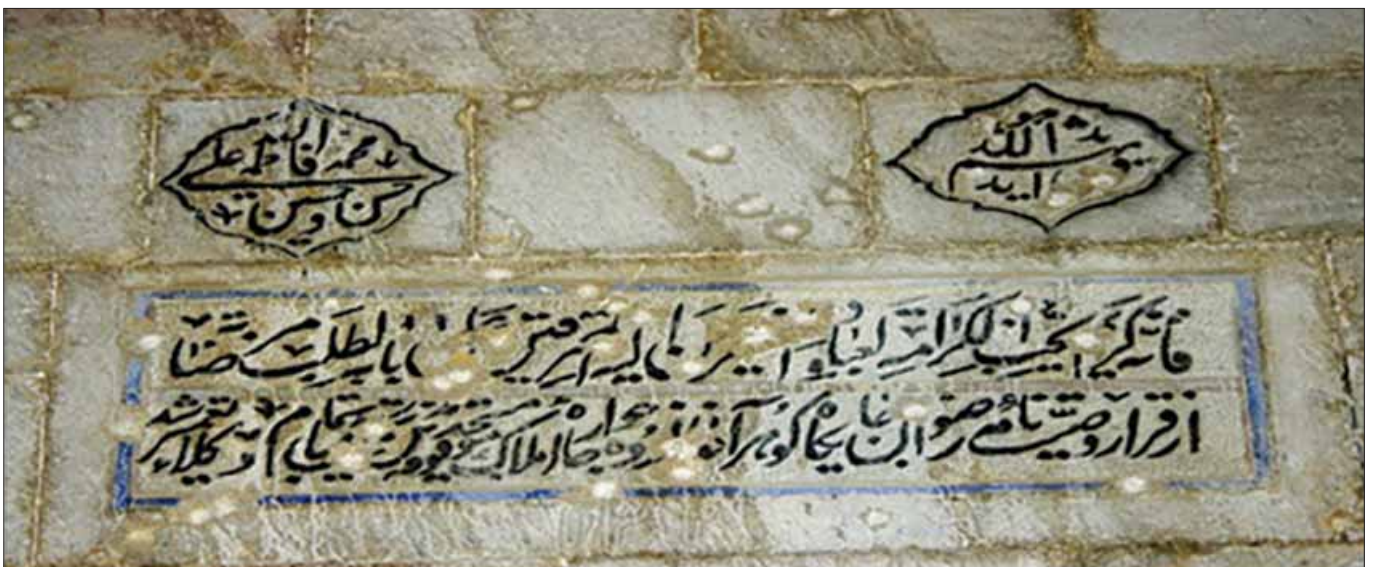


- The minarets of the mosque were completely demolished from the inside, fired from the outside, the ceiling was blown off in several places, the interior, design and wall inscriptions were obliterated, the cells and utility rooms were pulled down, utilities and communication lines were totally destroyed.
- The mosque's decorations, technical equipment, facilities, hard and soft inventory were looted and taken to the Republic of Armenia.
- Humiliating and insulting expressions and words against the Azerbaijani people and nation were written on the inner and outer walls of the mosque in the Armenian and Russian languages.

During 2018/19 years, the monument was illegally repaired as an example of Persian culture.



The mosque was illegally renovated in 2018 as a monument of Persian culture



The mosque was illegally renovated in 2018 as a monument of Persian culture



During the renovation, the original image was destroyed, as a result of numerous changes in the shape of the interior of the mosque





Before the repair, gravestones around the mosque were broken and destroyed





Prior to the repairs, the places of worship of the Karabakh people around the mosque were demolished and destroyed



During the renovation, the interior of the mosque was significantly altered in shape and the original construction was destroyed.

Ashaghy (Lower) Govhar Agha Mosque in Shusha city

Architectural features and history of the mosque, including its main facade have a special artistic architectural solution. The mosque was built in 1832. The entrance to the mosque is distinguished by a large balcony with three arches. These three arches, which are strictly symmetrical, are mounted on a pair of octagonal stone columns placed at equal distances from the center point and on the other two half-columns placed at the edges. The axial arch installed in the center is relatively higher than the semicircular arches on the sides. On both semicircular arches, the architect drew rectangular geometric figures framed by light relief lines. That part of the balcony is limited by vertical plasters the surface of which is divided by horizontal lines on both sides. A pair of upside-down windows on the right and left sides of the balcony and the niches on their sides is generally framed. Although these frames are rectangular, the cladding structures of the windows and niches are semicircular. The roof of the mosque, like other residential buildings in Shusha, is four-sided. The architect erected the minarets of the mosque on the sides of the back facade.

The mosque has been under occupation of Armenian military forces since May 8, 1992.

After the occupation of 20% of the territory of Azerbaijan by Armenian armed forces in 1992-1994, the mosque was also completely destroyed. The main building and minarets of the mosque were fired by Armenian armored vehicles, severely damaging it. The ceiling was blown down in several places, inner and outer wall inscriptions were obliterated, and insulting remarks against Azerbaijan and its people were written in its interior in Armenian and Russian languages.



Ashaghy Govhar Agha Mosque after the occupation

The mosque was subjected to the following acts of vandalism following the Armenian occupation:

- Relevant state bodies in Armenia decided to officially insult and destroy the mosque, a place of worship for Azerbaijanis.
- The minarets of the mosque were completely demolished from the inside, fired from the outside, the ceiling was blown off in several places, the interior, design and wall inscriptions were obliterated, the cells and utility rooms were pulled down, utilities and communication lines were totally destroyed.
- The mosque's decorations, technical equipment, facilities, hard and soft inventory were looted and taken to the Republic of Armenia.

INFORMATION

On mosques of Azerbaijan vandalized by Armenian armed forces

No	Type	Construction date	Location
1	Julfalar Mosque (two-storey)	19th century	Julfalar neighborhood, Shusha city
2	Ashagy Govhar Agha Mosque	1832	Shusha city
3	Yukhary Govhar Agha Mosque	1883-84	Shusha city
4	Haji Yusifli Mosque	19th century	Hacı Yusifli neighborhood Shusha city
5	Saatly Mosque	19th century	Köçərli neighborhood, Shusha city
6	Mamay Mosque	19th century	Mamay neighborhood, Shusha city
7	Mardinli Mosque	19th century	Mardinli neighborhood, Shusha city
8	Guyuluq Mosque	18th century	Quyuluq neighborhood, Shusha city
9	Seyidli Mosque	18th century	Seyidli neighborhood, Shusha city
10	Taza Mahalla Mosque	19th century	Taza Mahalla, Shusha city
11	Chol Gala Mosque	19th century	Col Gala neighborhood, Shusha city
12	Khoja Marjanly Mosque	18th century	Khoja Marjanly neighborhood, Shusha city
13	Mosque	19th century	Malıbeyli village, Shusha district
14	Juma Mosque	1868	Aghdam city
15	Mosque	19th century	Boyahmadli village, Aghdam district
16	Mosque	18th century	Giyasly village, Aghdam district
17	Mosque	18th century	Papravend village, Aghdam district
18	Mosque	1751-1752	Near Shahbulag Tower, Aghdam district
19	Mosque	19th century	Bey Pirehmedli village, Fuzuli district
20	Mosque	19th century	Garakhanbeyli village, Fuzuli district
21	Mosque	18th century	Garadagly village, Fuzuli district
22	Mosque	19th century	Gochahmadli village, Fuzuli district
23	Mosque	19th century	Ashaghy Dilagharda village, Fuzuli district
24	Mosque	18th century	Gochahmadli village, Fuzuli district
25	Mosque	19th century	Yukhary Veyselli village, Fuzuli district
26	Mosque	1889	Horadiz town, Fuzuli district

27	Mosque	19th century	Horadiz town, Fuzuli district
28	Mosque	19th century	Gecekozlu village, Fuzuli district
29	Mosque	19th century	Gajar village, Fuzuli district
30	Mosque	19th century	Mardanly village, Fuzuli district
31	Mosque	19th century	Dedeli village, Fuzuli district
32	Mosque	19th century	Gorgan village, Fuzuli district
33	Mosque	19th century	Boyuk Behmenli village, Fuzuli district
34	Mosque	17th century	Garghabazar village, Fuzuli district
35	Sheykh Babı Mosque	12th – 13th centuries	Babı village cemetery, Fuzuli district
36	Mosque	19th century	Zangilan village, Zangilan district
37	Mosque	19th century	Malatkeshin village, Zangilan district
38	Mosque	17th century	Zangilan city
39	Mosque	19th century	Mushlan village, Zangilan district
40	Mosque	9th century	Rezdere village, Zangilan district
41	Mosque	17th century	Bartaz village, Zangilan district
42	Mosque	17th century	Sobu village, Zangilan district
43	Mosque	17th century	Baharlı village, Zangilan district
44	Mosque	17th century	Gırag Mushlan village, Zangilan district
45	Mosque	17th century	Malatkeshin village, Zangilan district
46	Mosque	17th century	Shefibeyli village, Zangilan district
47	Mosque	17th century	Minjivan settlement, Zangilan district
48	Mosque	-	Chelebiler village, Jabrayıl district
49	Mosque	19th century	Papi village, Jabrayıl district
50	Mosque	19th century	Mezrə village, Jabrayıl district
51	Mosque	19th century	Suleymanly village, Jabrayıl district
52	Mosque	-	Dashkasan village, Jabrayıl district
53	Mosque	19th century	Damirchiler village, Gubadly district
54	Mosque	19th century	Dondarlı village, Gubadly district
55	Mosque	18th century	Yusifbeyli village, Gubadly district
56	Mosque	19th century	Mahrızlı village, Gubadly district
57	Mosque	15th – 16th centuries	Khelej village, Gubadly district
58	Mosque	18th century	Mollalı village, Gubadly district
59	Mosque	18th century	Mirler village, Gubadly district
60	Mosque	18th century	Memer village, Gubadly district
61	Mosque	Medieval ages	Irchan village, Lachin district
62	Mosque	16th – 17th centuries,	Kohnekend village, Lachin district
63	Mosque	17th century	Jijimli village, Lachin district
64	Mosque	18th century	Mollalar village, Lachin district
65	Mosque (built by Karbalayi Shafaralı Mardan oğlu)	18th century	Pircahan village, Lachin district
66	Mosque (believed to have been built by Seyid Abdulali)	19th century	Seyidler village, Lachin district
67	Mosque (believed to have been built by Haji Mahammad Huseyin in memory of his sister Chickek)	1878	Pichanish village, Lachin district
68	Mosque	1718	Garigishlag village, Lachin district
69	Mosque	Medieval ages	Garagol pasture, Lachin district
70	Mosque	18th – 19th centuries	Bashlıbel village, Kalbajar district
71	Mosque	19th century	Otakhlar village, Kalbajar district
72	Mosque	-	Mughanly village, Hadrut district

ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARKS THAT LOST THEIR ANCIENT APPEARANCE

Daghyurd is a village in Azerbaijan's Khojaly district. The village was named Sarushen until December 29, 1992. Armenians who settled from Iran to Karabakh in the late 19th century called it Sarushen. The village has an ethnic Armenian-majority population resettled from Iran in the 90s of the 19th century. The village, which means literally "land on the mountain" is one of the ancient territories of Azerbaijan.

The village has been under Armenian occupation since 1992. The monument in the village (pictured below) is believed to date back to the 19th century. The general appearance and construction of the monument show the uniqueness of this monument. The monument was used as a warehouse during the Soviet empire.





The upper part of the monument was raised after repairs. The attic was closed with iron. A bell tower was also installed on the building



This Caucasian Albanian monument, built near the village of Daghyurd, dates back to the 12th -13th centuries. It was used as a target by Armenian terrorists in 1991 and attacked several times by long-range missiles and heavy artillery



Armenians decided to restore the monument to cover up their crimes. Thus, under the pretext of rebuilding the monument, they changed its original appearance in 2014. As can be seen from the picture, they added a 2-meter wall to the left side of the monument, also expanding the front of the building elevating it 50 cm above. Thus, the monument has not preserved an ancient appearance



The Caucasian Albanian monastic cell, built on top of Ziyaret Mountain in Khojavend, can be dated back to the 17th century. The territory was occupied by Armenian armed forces on October 2, 1992. The construction style and peculiarities of construction is very different from the eastern orthodox church architecture. The architectural structure of the monument confirms that it is a non-religious place of worship. Armenians now present all such monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, including the cell built on this mountain, as an Armenian church. However, it is simply impossible that a church can exist on a high mountain peak far from residential areas



Hochaz village, Khojavend district

Hochaz is one of the oldest locations in the district of Lachin. Since it has not been fully studied from the historical point of view, it is not possible to give a complete and definitive opinion about the history of this village. Following the occupation in 1992, Armenians changed the name of Hochaz to Hunchak, sometimes Khojany or Khoches. In 2016, the shape of this historically important temple in the centre of the village was changed.

The village is home to unique examples of the ancient castle construction, single-walled irrigation of the Caucasian Albania period, as well as stone carvings of a plot nature, horse figures of Aries and other artistic stone art.

The total area of the two-storey temple belonging to the period of Caucasian Albania, whose construction is dated to 12th-13th centuries, is 13,40x8,15 m, the thickness of the walls is 105-110 cm. The stone written on the south facade of the monument was changed by Armenians in 1995. It was built of basalt stones and lime.





Tug village, Khojavend district

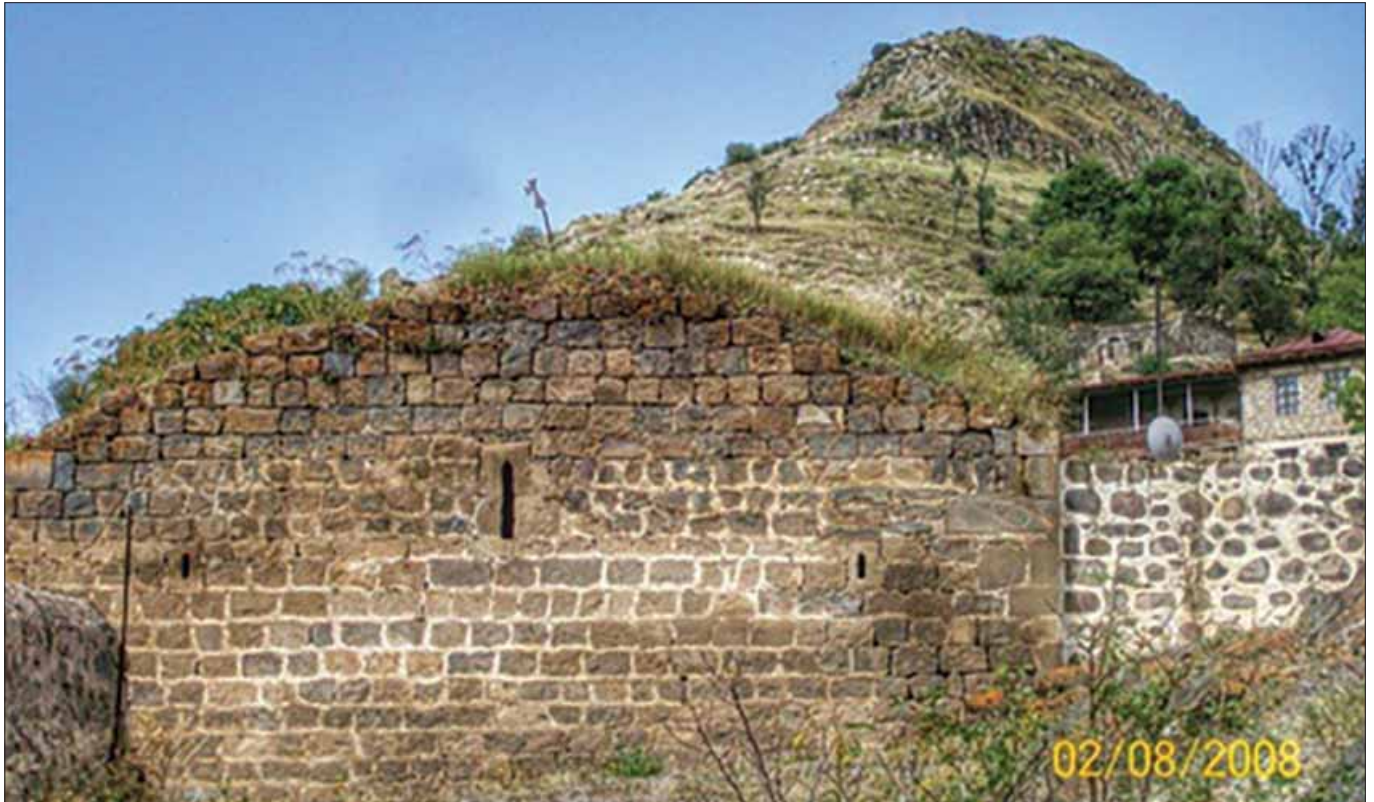
Tug is one of the most historically important administrative territorial units in Azerbaijan's Khojavend district. The village has more than 20 architectural monuments. During the occupation, these monuments either completely destroyed or demolished by Armenians had changed shape.



This building is a surviving part of the administrative residential complex of the Karabakh mansion. It was two-storey before the occupation, but the upper floor was later demolished, and the first floor lost its original appearance. During the occupation, the monument was used as a museum

Mirik village, Lachin district

The village of Mirik is located on the left bank of the Minkend branch of the Gajari River, 2 km west of the village of Bozlu, at an altitude of 1440-1520 meters above sea level. The history of the village dates back to the early Middle Ages, and the existence of the first human settlements here dates back to the time of the primitive community. Examples of cyclopean architecture, ancient fortresses, underground caves, tunnels and embrasures on the territory of this village are very interesting and invaluable materials in terms of studying the history of Azerbaijan. After the occupation, Armenians significantly altered the original structures.



The Armenians either changed or blew up wall inscriptions of more than 700 Caucasian Albanian monuments of history and culture in the occupied territories.



Architectural samples of Kalbajar district



Armenians carved the symbol of the cross on the wall of the Shahbulag fortress built by the Karabakh khanate.

Tugh village, Khojavend district

This basilica, located in the center of Tug village, is believed to have been built in 1197. The building was used as a food warehouse in the village in different years. In 2014, Armenians who wanted to turn the monument into a church altered its original appearance. They laid tombstones in front of the monument and spread false information claiming that some saints had lived here.



Ganjasar monastery, Kalbajar district

The Ganjasar monastery in the Kalbajar district, was built between 1216 and 1238. Although known as the Khaznadagh temple in the scientific literature, it is known as Ganjasar (English: Gandzasar). The 13th- century Christian Albanian monastery is located on the left bank of the Khachinchay in the village of Vengli, Kalbajar. From the 13th century to the 19th century, the monastery was the religious and cultural center of Caucasian Albania.



Architectural features of the monument

The Ganjasar complex, surrounded by high castle walls, includes a main church built in the style of Turkish-Christian architecture, a temple building with a rotating roof on four adjoining sloping roofs and buildings built on the inside of the castle walls. The cross-shaped dome composition of the main church, the 16-cornered dome drum and the umbrella-shaped pyramid-shaped stone dome covering it give a special splendor and beauty to the last residence of the Albanian believers. Unlike the eastern and western facades, the architectural solution of the northern and southern facades is almost the same. Each of them is decorated with five arches, and the highest arch in the middle is completed with a profile cross. The upper parts of the arches inside the church are decorated with bas-reliefs of bull and sheep heads, which are considered sacred. The architectural planning and compositional solution of the temple complex, sculptural patterns and dyophysite elements confirm that this monument belongs to the centuries-old traditions of Caucasian Albanian architecture. The temple, which has long been the residence of Albanian Christians, is called Ganjasar in the sense of the main treasure of religion.

The monument has been under the occupation of the Armenian armed forces since April 3, 1993. After occupying the territories of Azerbaijan in 1992-1994, Armenia illegally changed the architectural structure and interior of the Ganjasar monastery, damaged the wall inscriptions, several stone inscriptions on the walls of the monument, as well as erased a large number of ornaments and symbols of the Albanian period in a variety of styles, making many of them unrecognizable by altering their original appearance. The monument, which is under Armenian occupation, is promoted by the relevant bodies of this state as the center of the Armenian Gregorian religion. The Ganjasar monastery has been included in the list of monuments of the Republic of Armenia and promoted as an Armenian church since 1994.



The walls of the temple are painted with colored paints, and although the chest stone on the tomb of the Albanian prince Hasan Jalal was broken, an attempt was made to restore it.

Ganjasar Monastery underwent the following changes during the occupation of the Republic of Armenia:

- Since 2000, serious damage has been done to the architectural structure of the monument under the guise of repairing it. Various animal figures and Armenian inscriptions have been carved on the interior and facades of the monument.
- More than 15 graves and crosses were installed in 2000-2009 in the courtyard of the monastery and the cemetery belonging to the monastery.
- Armenians have significantly damaged the monument by erasing inscriptions and artistic samples on the interior walls of the monument, decorating it with red and black colors and inscriptions in Armenian throughout the walls.
- Armenians broke the tombstone on the grave of Prince Hasan Jalal Davla inside the complex and destroyed many of the artistic ornaments engraved on the tombstone.

During repairs and construction carried out in the complex, most of the walls were covered with marble stones.



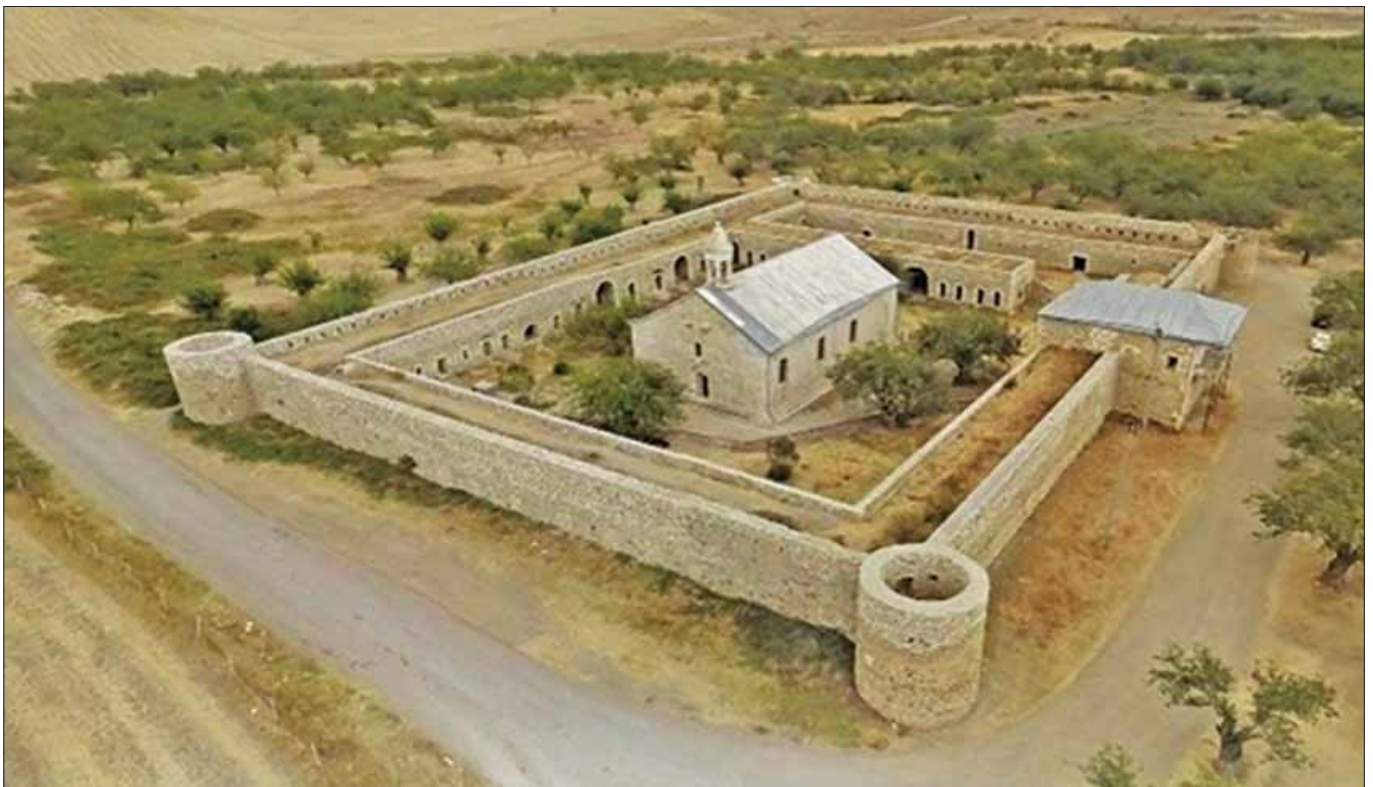


During the renovation and construction works carried out in the complex, most of the walls were covered with marble stones

Sos village, Khojavend district

The monastery is one of the most sacred temples visited in Caucasian Albania from the time of early Christianity until the abolition of the Albanian Apostolic Church. The peculiarity of this monastery is that it was considered sacred by both the Christian and Muslim population of the area where it was located. Also, the territory of Amaras was a major religious center even before the spread of Christianity. The plan of the temple preserved the features of the 10th century temple, repeating the plan of the ancient temple of the IV century with small additions.

This monument under the occupation since 1992 was significantly changed by Armenians in 2000 under the pretext of repairs.



Veng village, Kalbajar district

One of such monasteries in Nagorno-Karabakh, distinguished by its charming beauty, is the Khotaveng monastery located in the former Aghdere district.



The district was abolished by the decision of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated October 13, 1992 and divided between Tartar, Aghdam and Kalbajar districts. Khudavang monastery complex located in this area ("Khotaveng monastery" means "located on a hill" in Persian) is an ancient Albanian monastery located 29 km of Kalbajar, east of Kalbajar, below the village of Bagglipeye on the Aghdere-Kalbajar highway. The monastery was built by the Albanian prince in the 6th-7th centuries. In the 15th century, this monument was a religious temple of the Albanian principality. The temple was later repaired several times, extended, and finally renovated by the Albanian ruler Hasan Jalal. It is reported that Hasan Jalal's wife Mina Khatun was buried here, and his mother Arzu Khatun and prominent intellectual of the time Mkhitar Gosh visited the temple and laid memorial stones. Interestingly, wood was also used in the construction of these domed buildings. There were many oil paintings and inscriptions on the walls of the structure. Armenians who had come from Aghdere and Basarkecher destroyed some of the crosses and inscriptions with an ax. Instead of the Albanian crosses and paintings, they carved Armenian crosses and drew Armenian paintings on the walls. In fact, the Armenians also changed the shape of this monastery. Thus, the entrance door of the monastery was deprived of its original appearance, the walls and exterior were partially changed.



Repair, renovation or conservation work on monuments in occupied areas is inadmissible under the international law



Armenians changed the shape of the monastery. The entrance door lost its original appearance, the walls and exterior were partially changed

Askeran fortress, Khojaly district



This wall, known in Azerbaijan as the Askeran fortress, was built by Panahali khan in the 18th century to protect the eastern border of his khanate (1783-1784). Following the occupation, Armenians managed to change some portions of this monument as well.

Basharat village, Gubadly district



In summer 2019, Armenians changed the original appearance of this monument of Caucasian Albanian sculpture in the Basharat village

Shahbulag Castle, Aghdam district

The Shahbulag Castle was built much earlier than Bayat Castle as the administrative center of the Karabakh Khanate. Although built for defensive purposes, this fortification had been used as the residence of the Karabakh Khanate for some time, but later became one of the summer residences of the khanate. The palace complex was built of local building materials, limestone, and mountain stones.

The castle consisted mainly of residential houses, a market, a bathhouse and a mosque. Construction work for the palace complex was completed within just two years, from 1750 to 1752. The khan's palace was located near the protective walls of the complex. The palace was built according to the plan in a rectangular form. The complex was surrounded by protective walls, circular and semi-cylindrical control towers. The height of the walls and towers was, respectively, 7 and 8.5 meters. The entrance to the complex was located in the center of the East Wall. Around the entrance, there was a two-story tower-like building from outside. A small mosque with a small prayer hall and a balcony was built near the spring, northwest of the Shahbulag Castle.

According to researchers, the architectural style of the palace complex is a continuation and integral part of the architecture of the central city of Shusha.

The monument had been occupied by Armenian armed forces from 1993 to 2020.

Armenia illegally restored the palace complex after the occupation of Azerbaijani territories in 1992-1994, changing the architectural structure and interior of the complex, damaging wall paintings, and completely removing ornaments and artistic stone inscriptions in a variety of styles that reflected a significant number of cultural values of Azerbaijan, with many of them being altered and becoming unrecognizable. As a result of excavations, 10 hectares of land adjacent to the complex remained unusable, more than 15 burial mounds (kurgans) were destroyed, and material evidence obtained during the excavations was taken to Armenia.

Outlined below is the scale of vandalism of the Shahbulag complex committed by the staff of the Armenian National Expedition Institute of Archeology and Ethnography:

- The leader of the group that destroyed the complex and adjacent territories under the occupation is Hamlet Petrosyan, a doctor of history and head of the department of cultural studies at Yerevan State University. This group led by Petrosyan shall be responsible for excavation activity and destruction in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan from 1992 to 2011, having been charge of all the archeological excavations there since 2004.
- Other members of the group are Agvani Jamkochyan, Joreza Khachatryan, Asmik Margaryan, Ayka Hakobyan, and Vardgesa Safaryan with the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the National Academy of the Republic of Armenia; Lyuba Kirkosyan, a laboratory assistant at Yerevan State University; and Ruben Vardanyan, head of the Armenian History Museum, to name a few.
- Financial support for the excavations was provided by Armenia-based "Yerkir" Rehabilitation Center, a public organization.
- Shahbulag was renamed Surenavan by the relevant entities of Armenia, and the adjacent territories were renamed Tigranakert.
- Shahbulag palace complex was repaired by Armenians and a history museum called "Tigranakert" was established inside the complex.
- Armenians illegally (2005-2019) conducted archeological excavations around the complex, damaged 10 hectares of land, destroyed more than 15 burial mounds of the Khojaly culture and took material evidence to Armenia.

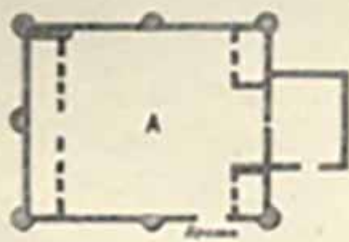
Such acts of vandalism by Armenia in the Aghdam district of Azerbaijan under the pretext of "archeological excavations" had continued uninterruptedly.

ЗАМОКЪ ШАХЪ - БУЛАХЪ

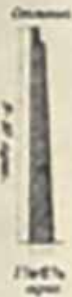
Современный видъ замка съ южной стороны



ПЛАНЪ
Замка Шахъ Булахъ



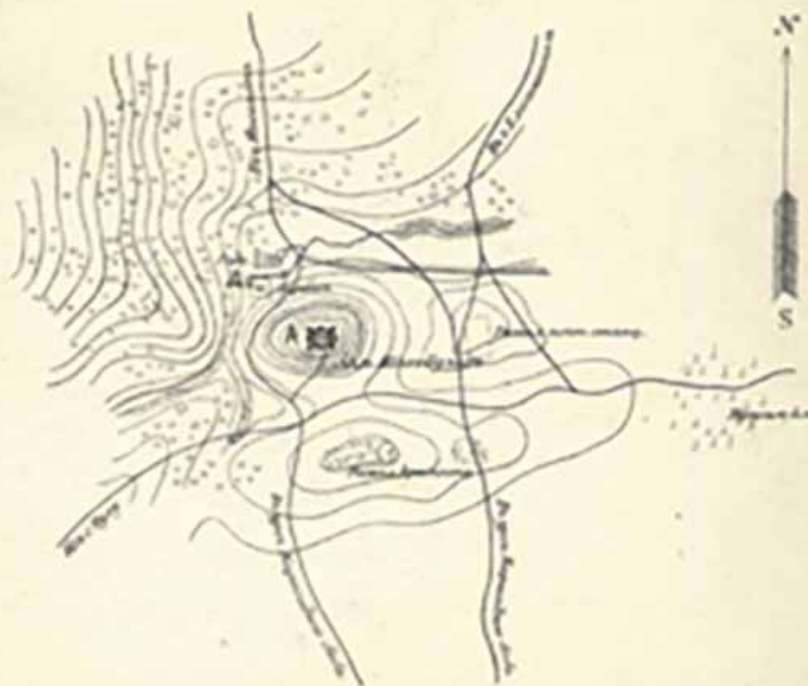
Размеры



Масштабъ плана

КРОКИ

Схематическій Шахъ-Булахъ.



Масштабъ крѣпи

Съёмка произведена въ 1877 году Александромъ Петровичемъ Лавровымъ

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONUMENTS VANDALIZED BY ARMENIA

Archaeological monuments; sites where material culture is thought to be underground in connection with human activities, including ancient settlements, primitive human camps, caves, as well as the remains of villages and towns, ancient defense systems and fortifications, stone and earth walls, remnants of ancient protective walls made of wood or stone; religious areas, including place for pilgrimage, remains of ancient temples and monasteries, remains of religious worship complexes; areas where religious ceremonies are presumed to take place; ancient cemeteries, religious and memorial monuments, other burial places, mounds and earthen burial complexes, big graves, remains of ancient farms; all kinds of ancient objects, drawings and inscriptions on rocks and stones, hunting places, areas related to livestock, agriculture and handicrafts, traces of ancient mining, tools, ovens, construction remains, remains of hydraulic structures, transport lines, structures and settlements, etc.

In order to conduct archaeological excavations in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the government of Armenia has established a permanent commission headed by the senior researcher of the Armenian Expeditionary Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, Doctor of Sciences (History) Hamlet Petrosyan. Since 2000, this permanent commission has been engaged in the destruction of archaeological sites in Nagorno-Karabakh and its surrounding areas, including in the Khojaly, Khojavend, Khankendi, Aghdam, Shusha, Kalbajar and Lachin districts.

Students of higher and secondary general education schools in Armenia as well as the Armenian population of Karabakh are mobilized to carry out these destructions. Representatives of the Armenian government and the global terrorist organization Dashnaktsutyun have recruited experts from the United Kingdom, Spain, the Netherlands and Iceland to allegedly internationalize the commission. As a result of their illegal activities, mounds, cubic graves, ancient farm buildings as well as all samples of archaeological culture related to the Khojaly- Gadabay culture were checkmated in the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent areas.

The Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954, adopted in 1999, further expands the scope of protection of cultural property during armed conflicts. In particular, in the context of the occupation of Azerbaijani territories by Armenia, paragraph 9 of the protocol states that the party participating in the occupation "with respect to the occupied territories " prohibits and prevents illegal trade in cultural property, any samples of archaeological excavations, their removal from these territories, alteration or destruction of cultural, historical or scientific evidence of the nature of monuments.

Identification and registration of availability of archaeological sites call for great attention, business acumen and high professionalism from representatives of organizations for the protection of monuments. However, the only reason hindering the preservation of the archaeological heritage under the occupation of Azerbaijan is the state policy of the Republic of Armenia.

During these illegal archeological excavations organized by Armenian archaeologists, valuable underground artifacts were obtained by Armenians and transported to Armenia. Lack of control over the territories of Nagorno-Karabakh has resulted in mass scale of such excavations.

Azykh is a Paleolithic camp near the village of Salaketin in the Khojavend region, which was subject to vandalism of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Paleolithic archaeological expedition of the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan under the management of Mammadali Huseynov conducted comprehensive archaeological excavations in the Paleolithic camp of Azykh in June-July 1960-1986. The Azykh cave, located in the Tug depression on the left bank of the Guruchay gorge in the valley of the Kura and Araz rivers, is included in the UNESCO list of cultural heritage as an ancient cultural monument.

From 1999, the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of Armenia every year involved in these archaeological excavations researchers from the UK, Spain, the Netherlands, Iceland, as well as local Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, and students from Yerevan universities. Armenians received financial support from Russia, France and the United States for these illegal and inhumane actions. This provides international support to the criminal case initiated against the

history and culture of Azerbaijan.

The worst part of it is that the Azykh cave, located at the highest peak of the South-Eastern slopes of the Karabakh mountains on crossing of the Iranian-Azerbaijani territory on the left bank of Guruchay at an altitude of 900 meters above the sea level, which was discovered by Azerbaijani scholars in 1968, was destroyed with special cruelty.

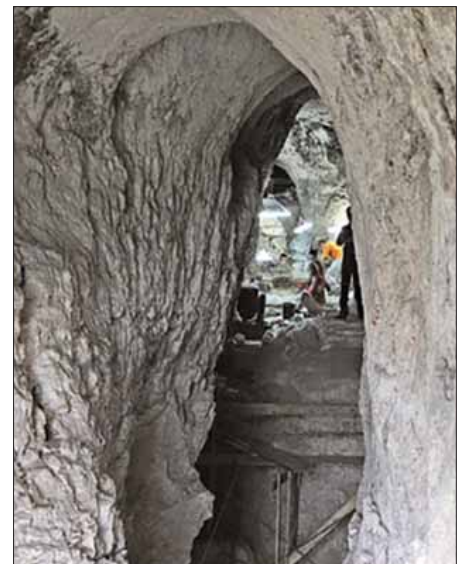
The studies show that the Azykh cave is the only Paleolithic monument in the world in terms of its antiquity, richness and archaeological richness. By the technique of stone tools of the ancient and Middle Paleolithic in this cave, it was possible to determine the degree of their evolution. The fauna and archaeological materials found in the cave gave a broad idea of the economic activity of the Azykhanthropes in the territory of Azerbaijan.

Such a majestic monument was used by the Armenian government as a weapons depot from 1992 to 2001, and in 2001 illegal archaeological excavations were launched in the cave. The British citizen Tanya King-Hovhannisyan, Spanish citizen Patrice Dominguez and Armenian citizens Levon Episkoposyan and Hamlet Petrosyan were managing these excavations.

This monument, which has been under the Armenian occupation since 1992, was completely destroyed and looted by Armenians starting from 2001.



Illegal archeological excavations were carried out by Armenians in Azykh cave.





Armenian researchers with the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography involved every year researches from the UK, Spain, the Netherlands, Iceland in archaeological excavations

In 2000, the government of Armenia established an expedition archaeological research group to exploit ancient settlements and mounds in the territory of Shahbulag in the Aghdam region.

An archaeological group sent by Armenia to Karabakh has been engaged in illegal archaeological activity in the territory of the Shahbulag complex since 2000. Financial support for this illegal activity was provided by Yerkir.





Askeran settlement of Khojaly region



Archaeological monuments were discovered while the occupying army was digging a trench in Askeran settlement, Khojaly district.

Tug village, Khojavand district



Illegal archeological excavations in Tug village, Khojavand district

Khankendi city



Illegal archeological excavations around the city of Khankendi

Shusha city



Illegal archaeological excavations around Gargarchay, Shusha district



Illegal archeological excavations around the Topkhana forest



Illegal archeological excavations in the territory of the former Aghdere district

GARDEN-PARK MONUMENTAL CONSTRUCTIONS AND MEMORIAL MONUMENTS VANDALIZED BY ARMENIA

Armenians also destroyed garden-park monumental constructions and memorial monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, shoveling them away with the help of armored vehicles to completely erase traces of construction. These are: buildings, apartments, memorial sites, documents and objects related to the lives of historical figures, including state and military figures, Heroes of the Soviet Union, National Heroes, outstanding figures of science and art, monuments related to the lives of cultural figures, artists and scientists, residential buildings, residential buildings and ensembles.

Memorial sites, memorials, complexes and ensembles related to important historical events in the life of the country, city or village; memorial places and monuments, complexes and ensembles of Azerbaijan related to science, technology and life; ancient cemeteries, tombstones, graves and their remains, grave complexes of state and government figures; graves of folk heroes; graves of literary, artistic and scientific figures, fraternal cemeteries, graves of soldiers and citizens; graves of those who died for the sake of state independence, among others.

So far, 64 garden-park monumental and memorial monuments have been registered in Azerbaijan's territories occupied by Armenia. It is unfortunate that 58 of these monuments were completely destroyed by Armenians.



*A photo from the monument to the participants
of the Second World War in Lachin before and after the occupation*



*Photos from the monument to the Azerbaijani bayat
master Sari Ashig in Gulebird village, Lachin district,
before and after the occupation*



Photos from Lachin town before and after the occupation



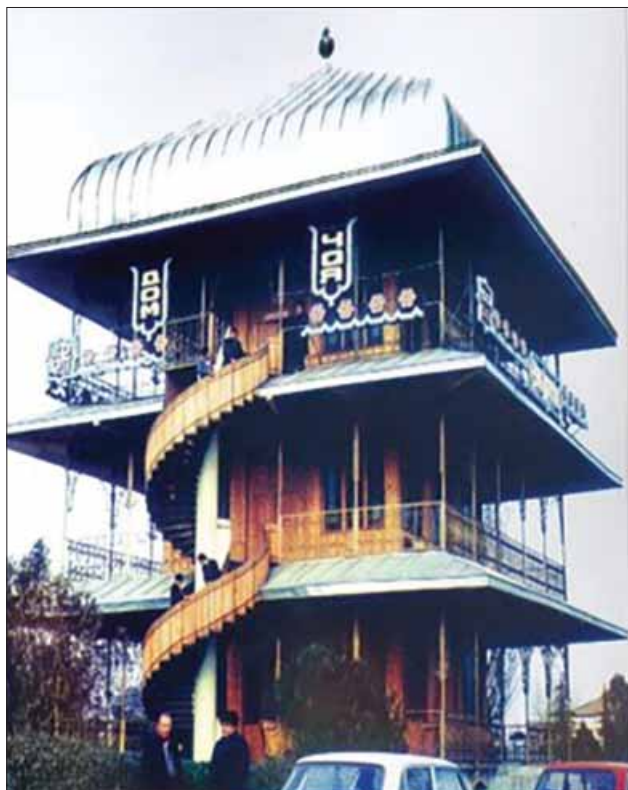
city Photos from Vagif Mausoleum in Shusha before and after the occupation



A photo from the Fatish spring in Lachin district after the occupation



Photos from Central Square in Aghdam city before and after the occupation



Photos from the tea house in Aghdam city before and after the occupation



Shusha city. Construction and landscaping works were carried out on archeological monuments in the territory of the fortress. These works were prohibited under international law and conventions

MUSEUM EXHIBITS AND OTHER CULTURAL HERITAGE ITEMS STOLEN BY ARMENIA FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF AZERBAIJAN

A total of 23 museums, 102 757 museum exhibits, 4 state art galleries, 376 paintings, 4.6 million books, 13 archives, 260,000 archived documents, more than 50,000 private hunting and household items kept in private civil collections (carpets, bags, rugs, saddle-bags, embroidery, belts, household items, etc.) were destroyed, plundered and taken to Armenia as a result of the armed aggression of the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijan.

More than 150,000 samples of movable cultural heritage, including museum exhibits and paintings, were taken by Armenians from the conflict zone, some of them were sold to different countries of the world, some were donated to influential people, and some were distributed to various institutions in Yerevan.

Information on the number of museums and exhibits left in the territories occupied by Armenia

No	Location	Number of exhibits	
1	Local History Museum	22591	Khankendi city
2	Shusha History Museum	5000	Shusha city
3	U.Hajibeyov's House Museum	300	Shusha city
4	House Museum of Bulbul	369	Shusha city
5	Shusha Branch of the State Museum of Azerbaijani Carpets and Folk Applied Arts	163	Shusha city
6	Karabakh State History Museum	500	Shusha city
7	Karabakh Literature Museum	10000	Shusha city
8	The house-Museum of Mir Mohsun Navvab	100	Shusha city
9	Museum of Local History and Ethnography	2000	Aghdam city
10	The Museum of bread	694	Aghdam city
11	Memorial Museum of Gurban Pirimov	700	Aghdam city
12	Battle Honour Museum named after Rahib Mammadov	500	Aghdam city
13	Local History Museum	2290	Aghdere city
14	Local History Museum	5000	Fuzuli city
15	Museum of Folk Applied Art	800	Fuzuli city
16	Local History Museum	3200	Hadrut town
17	Local History Museum	3000	Gubadly city
18	Local History Museum	5000	Lachin city
19	Memorial Museum of Sari Ashiq	500	Gulabird village, Lachin district.
20	Local History Museum	32000	Kalbajar city
21	Local History Museum	2000	Jebrail city
22	Local History Museum	6000	Zangilan city
23	The Stone Museum	50	Zangilan city
	Total:	102 757	

Information about the state art galleries

No	Name	Number of exhibits	
1	State Art Gallery	90	Shusha city
2	State Art Gallery	62	Gubadly city
3	State Art Gallery	50	Lachin city
4	State Art Gallery	174	Khankendi city
	Total number of exhibits	376	

History and Ethnography Museum in Kalbajar district

It was a museum of history, archeology and ethnography in the Kalbajar district. The museum was built in 1980. The number of exhibits in the museum was more than 30,000 (thirty thousand). The museum had contacts with more than 150 scientists from Bulgaria, India, the People's Republic of China, the United States, Germany, Italy, Canada, Australia, Iran, Finland and many other countries. The total area of the museum was more than 900 square meters. The museum consisted of a corridor, 3 rooms, 9 exhibition halls and a fund. Various stones of 2037 colors were used in the surrounding walls of the museum. In the courtyard of the museum there were Artistic Stone samples made of different ages, carved with a plot, agricultural tools, various animal figures, horse and ram statues, churns, pots, amulets and many other household items.

The museum had been under the occupation of the military forces of the Republic of Armenia from 1993 to 2020. After the occupation of the district by Armenian armed forces, the museum was completely destroyed, the exhibits were looted and taken to Yerevan. The museum underwent the following changes during the Armenian occupation:

- The museum complex was completely destroyed.
- More than thirty-two thousand valuable exhibits were looted and taken to the Republic of Armenia.
- Artistic stone samples, carvings, agricultural tools, various animal figures, horse and ram statues, rivers, pots, boulders and many other household items made in different centuries were broken and destroyed in the yard of the museum.



A photo from Kalbajar Local History Museum before the occupation



A photo from Kalbajar Local History Museum after the occupation

Lachin Museum of History and Ethnography

This museum, built at the turn of the 20th century, was evaluated as a monument of history and culture. The museum building was intended for the activities of the pedagogical technical school in the early years of Soviet power, but later this building continued to function as a city eight-year school. In 1974, the Lachin Museum of Local History was commissioned. By Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 132 dated 2 August 2001, the building was included in the list of immovable historical and cultural monuments of state significance.



Lachin Museum of History and Ethnography before the occupation



Lachin Museum of History and Ethnography after the occupation

The museum covered a total of more than 1,200 square meters. The museum consisted of a corridor, 24 rooms, 1 demonstration hall and a fund of 72 square meters and a swimming pool in the yard. Artistic stone samples, carvings, horse and ram statues and many other household items made in different centuries were displayed in the courtyard of the museum. Lachin Museum operated under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1974-1992.

Lachin Museum of History and Ethnography has been under the occupation of Armenian forces for 28 years since May 18, 1992.

After the occupation of Azerbaijani territories by Armenian armed forces in 1992-1994, the museum was completely destroyed, the exhibits were looted and taken to the Armenian capital city of Yerevan.

The museum underwent the following changes during the occupation:

- The museum complex was completely destroyed.
- More than five thousand valuable exhibits were looted and taken to the Republic of Armenia.
- Artistic stone samples, carvings, agricultural tools, various animal figures, statues of horses and rams, rivers, pots, pots and many other household items made in different centuries were broken and destroyed in the yard of the museum.

TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES CHANGED BY ARMENIA

In 1992-93, Armenia occupied 736 settlements of Azerbaijan. During the period of occupation, the Armenians completely destroyed and rendered uninhabitable more than 500 of these settlements. About 200 villages and towns were seriously affected. Even though they still exist, the names of these villages and towns were changed by the Armenians in 1992-2019.

Contrary to international law and conventions, Armenia wanted to justify the policy of occupation by changing the appearance and place names of the occupied territories and making them unrecognizable in the international public opinion that these territories of Azerbaijan are historical Armenian lands. During our research, we were able to identify 179 of our administrative settlements, which were renamed by Armenians.

Khojaly district

No	Previous place names	Post-occupation place names
1	Əsgəran	Əsgəran
2	Balıca	Ayqestan
3	Daşbulaq	Astraqaşen
4	Malıbəyli	Açapnyak
5	Aranzəmin	Варазəбун.
6	Xanabad	Voskevaz
7	Arpagədik	Qetik -Kyatuk
8	Daşkənd	Karaşen-Daşuşen
9	Mehtibəyli	Karenqlux-Mehtişen;
10	Muxtar	Mextareşen-Мехтерашен
11	Mədətkənd	Madatşen -Мадатшен
12	Naxçıvanlı	Naxçevanik
13	Ağbulaq	Sarınaxbyur-Сарнахбюр
14	Aşağı Yemişanlı	Nerkin Siznek
15	Badara	Patara
16	Moşmahat	Moşxmhat
17	Dağbulaq	Astarşen
18	Dağyurd	Saruşen
19	Çanaxçı	Avertarnos
20	Dəhraz	Dexraz
21	Dəmirçilər	Caraqasner
22	Muxtar	Moşxmqat
23	Pircamal	Varadadzor
24	Pirlər	Xramord
25	Qızıloba	Karmir
26	Qışlaq	Saxkaşat
27	Seyidbəyli	Saxakaşat
28	Sərdarkənd	Sardaraşen
29	Təzəbinə	Noragüx
30	Xanabad	Kanapad
31	Xanyeri	Kançık
32	Xanyurdu	Xansax
33	Xaçmaz	Kaçmaç
34	Yuxarı Yemişanlı	Vern Siznek
35	Şuşukənd	Şoş-Шош
36	Şəlvə	Rev-Рев
37	Kətik	Ketik
38	Xanbağı	Xaçtak-Хачтак
39	Çaykənd	Aqunk-Акунк
40	Xumarta	Hamdasar-Амдзасар
41	Mirzələr	Vararakan-Вараракн
42	Daşaltı	Karintak-Каринтак
43	Çəmbərxaç	Kornaşer-Когнашер
44	İmanqulular	Marakats-Маракац
45	Xəlifəli	Sqnaх-Сгнах
46	İrçan	Xojoraberd
47	Zarılı	Tsarıs-Царис
48	Xocalı	İvanyan

Khojavend district

№	Previous place names	Post-occupation place names
1	Arpaduzu	Kolkhozashen-Колкозашен
2	Aghbulag	Aknakhbyur-Акнахбюр
3	Arpagedik	Karing
4	Aghbulaq	Jeraberd-Jraberd
5	Aghjakend	Khanadzor-Khandzadzor
6	Aghdam	Hakkaku-Khakkaku
7	Aghkənd	Spitakshen-Спитакшен
8	Akhullu	Sakhavank – Tsakhvank
9	Bine	Tumi - Туми
10	Boyuk Taghlar	Mets Tager - Мец Тареп
11	Bunyadly	Karmakar - Кармракар
12	Chilen	Saralanch - Сараланч
13	Chiraguz	Sarkisashen - Саркисашен
14	Daghdoshu	Tyak - Тяк
15	Dolanlar	Arevshat - Аревшат
16	Dashbashy	Karaglukh - Karaqlux
17	Dudukchu	Hoger
18	Edilli	Ukhadzor- Ukhtadzor
19	Banazur	Banadzor - Ванадзор
20	Guneykhrman	Gune - Ловкий Gyune
21	Guneshli	Qışi - Гиши
22	Akhullu	Hakaku - Хакаку
23	Heshan	Roş - Рош
24	Kavahin	Kavax - Кавах
25	Kish	Qışi - Гиши
26	Kendkhurd	Hağorti - Haghorti
27	Mammaddere	Marimadzor - Мариамадзор
28	Melikjanly	Melikaşen - Меликашен

29	Susanlyg	Mokhrenes - Мохренес
30	Gilan	Saralanj – Сараландж
31	Kendkhurd	Haghorti
32	Garakend	Berdashen - Бердашен
33	Mughanly	Dasht - Дашт
34	Garakend	Kusaberd - Кусаберд
35	Garadaghly	Varanda-Варанда
36	Mirikend	Mirishen
37	Mulkudere	Hayrenater
38	Mulkudere	Arakel - Аракел
39	Ningijan	Ningi - Нинги
40	Qargar	Gerge - Gerge
41	Gyşlag	Avazot - Авазот
42	Taghaverd	Taghaverd - Тагавард
43	Taghaser	Draktik - Драктик
44	Tugh	Tokh - Тох
45	Kharkhan	Kerkan - Kherkhan
46	Khyrmanjyg	Tsamadzor - Тсамадзор
47	Khojavend	Vazgenashen
48	Zoghalbulag	Tsovategh-Drakhtik
49	Chaylaggala	Kasaberd - Ксаберд
50	Chaghaduz	Sargashen - Sargsashen
51	Hatsi	Gatsi
52	Chartar	Chartar
53	Guney Chartar	Guneychartar
54	Gyrmyzybazar	Karmir Shuka
55	Zavaduk	Zavadix – Tsovatekh
56	Shykh Dursun	Khtorashen
57	Gyzyloba	Karmirgyukh
58	Ziyaret (a mountain name)	Dizapayt

Lachin district

№	Previous place names	Post-occupation place names
1	Lachin	Berdzor
2	Lachin district	Kashatakh
3	Aliguluushaghy	Aztshen- Azatshen
4	Minkend	Hak
5	Aghbulag	Akunk – Акунк
6	Ferejan	Ahtaraşen – Антарашен
7	Zabukh	Akhvani – Ахавни
8	Xachynyaly	Vazgenashen – Вазгенашен
9	Seyidler	Ganza- Gandza
10	Gulebird	Gegiberd - Гегиберд
11	Pirjahan	Gokhtanik - Гохтаник

12	Jaghazur	Dagedzor – Dzagedzor
13	Jicimli	Zanganadzor- Znganadzor
14	Erikli	Kazapat - Казарапат
15	Aghjakend	Garagulukh - Караглюх
16	Gazydere	Spanosadzor - Сраноцадзор
17	Hajylar	Khandzaberd - Хандзаберд
18	Gazydere	Khuzen – Хузен
19	Garakeshdi	Suguk – Цгук
20	Kosalar	Tsiternavank - Цицернаванк
21	Velibeyli	Shogavank - Шогаванк
22	Ahmadli	Hayri
23	Alkhasly	Misheni

Aghdam, Tartar, Kalbajar districts

№	Previous place names	Post-occupation place names
1	Aghdam	Akn – Акн
2	Kalbajar	Karvacar
3	Kalbajar district	Shaumyan
4	Janyatag	Jankatar – Чанкатаг
5	Chaygovushan	Khtasar – Хтацар
6	Alimadatli	Khachenjur
7	Gazanchy	Tigranakert
8	Ballygaya	Mesropavan
9	Margushavan	Leninavan
10	Aliaghaly	Kusaberd
11	Malikli	Manik
12	Shahbulag	Kangark – Кангарк
13	Mollalar	Jrashen – Джрашен
14	Kangarli	Dashtamut – Даштамут
15	Ulubaba	Gevorgasar – Геворгасар
16	Yukhary Chayly	Gerart Verin - Гетарат Верин
17	Ashaghy Chayli	Gerart Nerkin - Гетарат Неркин
18	Gulyataq	Gaylatag – Гайлатаг
19	Pappravend	Verin Vankasar - Nor Karmiravan
20	Boyahmadli	Vangasar
21	Yarymja	Hashavan – Іachavan
22	Seysulan	Arsavashen -Archvashen
23	Guney	Areguni
24	Aghdaban	Antagut – Antarat

25	Umudlu	Aknaberd
26	İmaret Gervend	Hakarakaberd – Akarakaberd
27	Gulably	Varder - Barder
28	Demirchilər	Hand – And
29	Garajaly	Hankadzor – İankadzor
30	Sarydash	Berdashen
31	İstisu	Jermajur
32	Baghyrly	İgadzor
33	Lev	Levonagyukh
34	Yanshag	Lernansak – Lernanchk
35	Babashlar	Suratav – Churtav
36	Dadavang	Vank
37	Malikli	Manik
38	Hayat	Lancik – Lanjik
39	Khachynderbetli	Armenakavan
40	Gozlu	Vaquas
41	Kichik Garabey	Mokhpatage
42	Chelebi Yurdu	Jraberd
43	Ushag Gala (Kalbajar)	Khokhanberd – İshkhanaberd
44	Fuzuli	Varanda
45	Gubadly	Sansar
46	Muradkhanly	Taskaberd -Chakhkaberd
47	Minjivan	Mijnavan
48	Zangilan	Kovsakan
49	Jabrayil	Jrakan
50	Aybasanly	Karyagin

ARMENIAN CROSS SYMBOLS ILLEGALLY BUILT IN AZERBAIJAN FOLLOWING THE OCCUPATION

Armenia has altered the appearance of our occupied territories and making them unrecognizable. Armenians deliberately destroyed or simply Armenianized the cultural heritage of Azerbaijan in the territories of Azerbaijan. At the same time, they spread false information about the ownership of these territories by Armenians, citing examples of Azerbaijani monuments that they distorted to prove it. This, in turn, causes serious damage to human history and culture.

The Armenians have been creating huge, monumental constructions depicting Christian symbols in the occupied territories in order to put it beyond doubt when observed from the outside that these areas are Christian. This is a dangerous trend. It is a war crime under international law.

Armenians pursuing a policy of occupation have built mass Armenian churches and crosses of different sizes with various decorative artistic solutions around the administrative settlements they had destroyed in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, especially on the roadsides, high mountain peaks, former medical resorts, near springs and in areas surrounded by beautiful natural landscapes, by carrying out propaganda work at the international level that these lands are ancient Armenian lands.



In 2016, Armenians erected the 'shining cross' on top of an unnamed mountain near the village of Ballyja (they now call it Dashushen) in the former Hadrud district. The construction, made of iron, is 50 meters high. This symbol of the cross shines at night and can be seen from all areas across Karabakh.



It should be noted that there is no cross at this height in any part of present-day Armenia. More than 10 hectares of forest were destroyed for the construction of this cross here, causing serious damage to the ecology of Azerbaijan.



In 2017, an Armenian symbol of the Armenian cross was erected in Khankendi that can be viewed from every corner of Khankendi



Armenian cross installed in 2016 near the residence of the Karabakh Khanate in Shahbulag area, Aghdam district



A second Armenian cross erected in 2016 in Shahbulag area, Aghdam district



Armenian cross, erected in the territory of Minkend Istisu, Lachin district (2011).



Crucifix monument complex built in 2014 near the city of Zangilan.



The so-called Armenian genocide memorial complex built in Khankendi (2017).



The memorial complex with a crucifix erected in 2015 near Askeran settlement of Khojaly region.



The so-called Armenian genocide memorial complex in Khankendi built in 2017.



A memorial complex (2017) near the village of Talysh, former Aghdere district

The Armenian government has built a total of more than 1,500 monumental structures, sculptures and monuments to commemorate Armenian terrorists in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

ARMENIAN CHURCHES ILLEGALLY BUILT IN AZERBAIJAN'S OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

By Armenizing the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the Armenian government is seriously trying to justify its aggression in these territories at the international level and annex these lands to Armenia. According to them, they will not be able to live peaceably in these territories unless it is internationally confirmed that the occupied territories belong to the Armenian nation from religious, cultural and historical view-points. That is why Armenian ideologues invent artificial, fictitious, false arguments and endeavour to convince the world community that these territories belong to Armenians.

Changing the form and content of toponyms and local names, as well as historical and architectural monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, destruction of many artistic stone samples, tombs, cemeteries, gravestones and horse and ram figures to erase Azerbaijani traces, propagation of belonging of evidences obtained during the illegal archeological excavations in these territories to Armenians are among such actions taken by Armenians. Such kind of abominable activities are further "enriched" by including the construction of churches, Armenian memorial ensembles and crosses in the ruined administrative settlements of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Armenian church figures have a great reputation among Armenians. For many years, the lack of Armenian statehood forced Armenians to unite closely around the church. As a result, the Armenian Church was not only engaged in the performance of religious rites, but also engaged in political and ideological issues. They are constantly conducting political propaganda among ordinary Armenians, plotting provocations against other peoples, demanding that the population support political and military forces close to the church, and collecting donations for this purpose. Because the Armenian Church has close ties with the world's leading Armenian parties and organizations and coordinates its activities with them. Mainly as a result of this cooperation, many terrorist acts were organized in different countries, especially in the 19th and 20th centuries, and as a result of one of such terrors, they occupied 20% of Azerbaijani territory.

This management system of government is implemented by the Armenian Gregorian churches. As there is no unified church leadership in the Armenian church system, there is always internal competition and tension between these churches. Many Armenian church officers (clergy) now call the Armenian church as the Armenian Apostolic Church, which is fundamentally wrong. The Armenian Church is justly called the "Armenian Gregorian Church" in Russian sources. It is well known that the Apostolic Church in the Caucasus was an Albanian church. Since Armenians adopted this religion 270 years after the Albanians converted to Christianity in 313. This fact is reflected in the research conducted by Academician Ziya Bunyadov. He proves with evidence that the Armenians actually converted to Christianity in 583 under the leadership of Gregory. Armenians are not apostles. The question of whether Armenians were apostles was a matter of controversy. The Albanian Catholicos Abraham clarified this controversy. This point is reflected in the letter of the Albanian Catholicos Abraham to the Albanians. He wrote: "... After all, the Armenian church is the Gregorian Church. That is, it originates from Gregory. Gregory is known to have been a disciple of a follower of Apostle Elisseus. If Gregory was not an apostle, how can the Armenian church be an apostolic church?" That is the point. Apparently, Armenians are committing fraud here, as well.

Historically, there has never been an Armenian church or churches in Nagorno-Karabakh or in other occupied territories. It is impossible to find any document in the archives of the world that can prove this. The term "Armenian church" was first used in Nagorno-Karabakh in the 1970s and 1980s of the XX century. This has its own historical roots. Thus, the tsarist government, which overthrew the Karabakh Khanate in 1805, established its headquarters in Shusha. For the worship of Russian soldiers, the army leadership hung a bell from the tower of the khanate's divan and created conditions for the worship of Russians here. The divankhana (courtroom) was renovated several times at various time intervals by the Russian army command and adapted to the church

style. Later, they started to call the divan of the Karabakh Khanate publicly as the "Russian Church". Even Armenian researchers of that time confirm this in their works. Armenian historian Zare Melik-Shahnazarov notes in his book (*Zapiski Karabakskogo Soldata*. Moscow, 1995) that the only church in Shusha is not an Armenian church, but a Russian church.

After the establishment of the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1918, Russian military forces left Shusha. Thereafter, the Russian Church remained abandoned and unused until 1970. However, in 1980-1990, the Armenian authority of the Nagorno-Karabagh Autonomous Region repaired the Russian church in Shusha and handed it over to the Armenians living in Shusha. After that, this church, the only place of worship for Armenians in Karabakh, was completely Armenianized. Certainly, following this incident, the church was named the 'Armenian Church'.

Before the Armenian occupation of 1992, there was no single Armenian church either in Karabakh or in the adjacent occupied territories. However, we know that after the occupation, the Armenians built their own churches in many cities and settlements of Azerbaijan: three in Shusha, one in Lachin city, one in Zabukh village, Lachin district, one on the Shusha-Khankendi highway, two in Khankendi, three in Askeran district, one near the Shahbulag castle in Aghdam district, one in Aghdere city and two in Hadrut district. In addition, numerous temples of Albanian sculpture were repaired in various parts of the occupied territories and they were given the status of Armenian churches. These are: ten in Lachin district, seven in Kalbajar district, three in Gubadly district, two in Zangilan district, three in Jabrayil district, two in Fuzuli district, with a total of 20 in Aghdere, Askeran, Hadrut and Martuni districts. Thus, Armenian churches built by the Armenian government in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan have reached 58 over the past 20 years. In fact, this is twice as much as the number of churches currently in use in modern Armenia.

Armenians build Armenian churches on the ruins of Islamic religious monuments (tombs, mosques, etc.) in villages and towns that have been abandoned as a result of ethnic cleansing in Karabakh. This unprecedented brutality changed the entire appearance of Karabakh.

For example, the Armenian church in Khankendi was built in 2007 on the remains of a tomb known among the people as the 'dome'. It is known that in Soviet times there was no need to build a church in Khankendi, because there were no devout Armenians there. After occupation of the territory by the Armenians, the construction of three Armenian churches in Khankendi, the capital of Karabakh, is a matter of concern. These Armenian churches and other Armenian symbols take roots in the Armenian youth's consciousness, characterizing the city as a historical Armenian city and inflaming the illusion of 'Great Armenia' in their outlook.

Newly built Armenian churches



Occupation in the Zabukh village, Lachin district on the Shusha-Gorus highway, 50 metres from the Zabukh bridge.



A photo from the church built by Armenians during the occupation in the Ertees residential area, Lachin city, on the Shusha-Gorus highway.



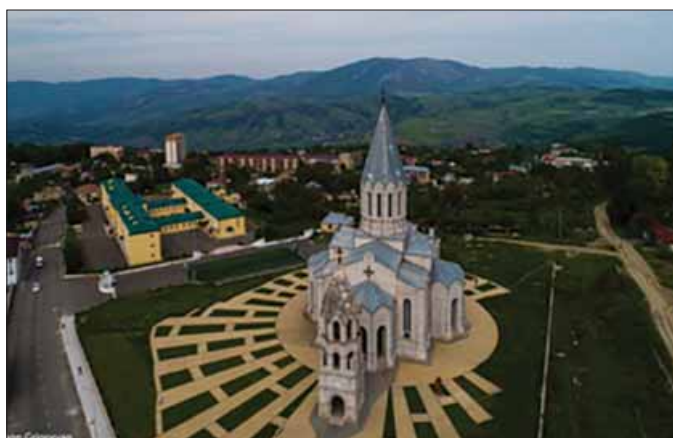
This church was built by Armenia near the Shahbulag fortress in the Shahbulag area of the Aghdam region during the occupation.



This church was built by Armenia during the occupation – 200 meters from Askeran settlement of Khojaly region.



Photos from the two visible buildings of the church. It was in Shusha built by Armenians. Other invisible parts are from the khanate period constructions.



A photo from the Russian church in Shusha repaired three times following the occupation and used as an Armenian church.



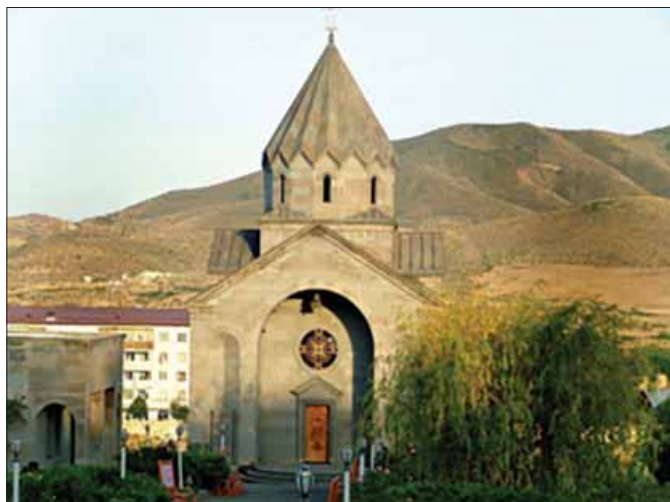
This church was built by Armenians during the occupation near the Martuni settlement, Khojavend district.



This church was built by Armenia near Martuni settlement of Khojavend region during the occupation.



In 2006, the architectural structure of the monument of Albanian sculpture in the village of Aghdere was fundamentally changed into an Armenian church



This church was built by Armenia in Askeran settlement of Khojaly region during the occupation.



A photo from the church built in Khachmaz village, Khojaly district, during Armenian occupation



A photo from the church built in Khachmaz village, Khojaly district, during Armenian occupation



A photo from the bell tower built in Khachmaz village, Khojaly district



A photo from the Armenian church built on an Islamic tomb (Khankendi city)



A photo from the bell tower located 2 km south of Khojaly city built during Armenian occupation



Photos from the church built in Chayly village, former Aghdere district, during Armenian occupation



This church was built in Lesagor village of Shusha region.



A photo from the church built in Chartaz village, Khojavend district



A photo from the church in Jabrayil district (2017)



A photo from the Armenian Church built in an Islamic holy place on the Shusha-Fuzuli highway. As it is seen, the church is located far from the administrative settlements



A photo from the Armenian church built in 2002 near an ancient Muslim cemetery, a non-residential area, Khojaly district



A photo from the architectural monument of the Albanian period fundamentally changed and renamed the Armenian church in the village of Ballija, Khojaly district (2017)



A photo of two Armenian churches built among the ruins of Bina village, Khojavend district

Azerbaijan's religious monuments damaged during Armenian attacks in 2020

As a result of shelling Azerbaijani settlements by Armenian armed forces with the use of various weapons, including heavy artillery, on September 27, 2020, the 'Imamzade Sanctuary' and Alexander Nevsky Russian Orthodox Church in Ganja were seriously damaged. The window glasses at the sanctuary were broken, the chandelier fell to the ground at the place where usually people gathered to pray and became unusable, and the graves around the sanctuary were damaged. Cracks appeared on the walls of the church, and the icons inside were broken.



A photo from Alexander Nevsky Russian Orthodox Church

In addition, Sheikh Babi's tomb at the cemetery near Babi village in the Fuzuli district and shrine Ali Dada in Aghdam village in the Tovuz district, were badly damaged, as well as a shell fired by the enemy fell near the shrine of Prophet Jarjis in the Beylagan district. Cemeteries in Tartar and Agjabadi districts were also attacked by heavy artillery, as a result of which many graves were either completely destroyed or seriously damaged.

In addition, it should be noted that keeping pigs in a mosque in the liberated Zangilan district once again confirms Armenian vandalism in relation to our religious and spiritual monuments.

Sheikh Babi's Tomb

Architect Ali Majidaddin built the tomb in which Sheikh Babi Yagub was buried in 1273-1274. The tomb was built of white stone and covered with octahedral spherical cupola. This monument, widely known as 'Shikhbaba Grave', is located in the cemetery near the village of Babi, the Fuzuli district. At present, the underground roads of this holy place, as well as one of the minarets, are seriously damaged. Presently only the tomb and the minaret of this unique architectural monument have survived. Sheikh Babi's grave was badly damaged due to large-scale provocations carried out by the Armenian armed forces during the fighting in Karabakh on September 29, 2020.

Alidada shrine

A frontline cemetery and Aga Mirali's tomb, known as the 'Alidada' monument included in the list of historical places of Azerbaijan, burnt down in a fire set Armenians and spread to the Azerbaijan-controlled area.

Prophet Jarjis shrine

It is located at 3-4 km northeast of the city centre in Shafag village, Beylagan distric. The shrine was built in the 17th-18th centuries. The shrine is named after Prophet Jarjis ibn Anak, originally from Palestine who survived for 77 years after Jesus' death approximately in the 3rd-4th centuries. Today, the shrine is a place of faith and worship for Muslims from all regions across Azerbaijan, as well as Azerbaijanis from Georgia and Dagestan. A shell, fired by Armenian armed forces, landed near the shrine.

Imamzade Sanctuary Complex

The complex, 7 km northward to Ganja, is located in the territory of the Ganja State Historical and Cultural Reserve. Around the brick tomb, a religious complex was built, consisting of small mosques, houses in the form of caravanserai, gate with an arch and warehouses, and it was surrounded with a stone-brick fence. There is a tomb known as the Blue Dome, Blue Mosque or Goy Imam inside the complex. As one of the valuable architectural monuments, the tomb bears the grave of Ibrahim, one of the sons of Imam Muhammad al-Baqir.



The exact date of the construction is unknown. Due to the architectural structure, the tomb is believed to be built in the late 14th - early 15th centuries, and the surrounding complex - in the 17th century. As a result of heavy artillery shelling from the Armenian side, the window glasses at the sanctuary were broken, the chandelier fell to the ground at the place where people usually gathered to pray and became unusable, and the graves around the sanctuary were damaged.

Alexander Nevsky Russian Orthodox Church

The Alexander Nevsky Church is a Russian Orthodox church in Ganja, built in 1887. The church was constructed on the site of an ancient cemetery, allocated for charitable means by the local Orthodox Christians and Muslims. According to sources, in 1916 the church was considered a cathedral. The Church was constructed in the Byzantine style with the use of brick called 'plinfa'. Cracks appeared on the walls of the Alexander Nevsky Church, and the icons inside were broken because of the heavy shelling from the Armenian side.

The illegal actions of Armenia aiming to destruct and falsify the cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani people are considered a crime against humanity in international documents. Armenia is responsible for crimes conducted against humanity and property, as well as for the destruction of cultural heritage in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The destruction of our monuments by Armenia contradicts the requirements of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the 1992 European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage and the 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT OF MONUMENTS OF HISTORY AND CULTURE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The assessment standards for immovable historical and cultural monuments in the occupied territories in accordance with international assessment standards will increase the responsibility between the parties of the conflict in the protection or use of the monument and determine the damage caused to historical and cultural monuments. Alongside with these points, determining the historical value of monuments, at the same time informing society about them, will eliminate the existing problems in the protection, restoration and lease of monuments in the post-conflict/occupation period and will be of great importance in the protection of any monument. Initiating an assessment process to determine the damage to historical and cultural monuments during the conflict can prevent the complete destruction of these monuments.



When a monument is being repaired or restored, or used for other purposes, it is definitely needed to standardize and evaluate the monument. The commission created for standardization and evaluation should include representatives of various governmental bodies, including the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patents, as well as members of non-governmental organizations and real estate agencies.

It is known that like in many foreign countries, Azerbaijan does not have a mechanism for assessment of damages to cultural values, that is, movable and immovable monuments of history and culture under occupation. Evaluation of movable or immovable monuments of history and culture in accordance with international standards is new in the Azerbaijani experience. However, one of the urgent requirements of today is to assess, in accordance with international standards, damage to the national and cultural heritage - movable and immovable monuments of history and culture of the country, whose 20% of the territory was under the occupation by the enemy.

The main issues of assessing the monuments of history and culture of Azerbaijan in accordance with international standards are:

- selection of an assessment base;
- determination of the market value of damage to the monument;
- determination of the historical authenticity of the monument;
- determination of damage to the ornamental structure of the monument;
- determination of the market value of the rental rights;
- agreed market value in accordance with the legislation of Azerbaijan, the value of the existing use.

One of the main features of international assessment standards is the reference to the assessment carried out for the preparation of accounting records in accordance with the legislation of Europe and other countries. At the same time, the applicability of these standards to other assessment purposes should be indicated. These standards are of recommendatory nature for other states and serve as a targeting indicator for assessment.

The assessment of the monument provides the basis for making a decision to enhance the protection and insurance of the monument. Currently, resolution of the damage assessment to

movable or immovable national-cultural values, that is, historical, cultural, artistic and other monuments of particular importance in conflict zones in the world is the core issue.

Collection and analysis of available information about a monument serving for the assessment of the real estate value is one of the fundamental conditions for the assessment of a monument. The study of the current state of the monument during the assessment gives grounds to draw conclusion about the damage to the monument.



Analysis of information about the historical and cultural value of real estate includes:

- determination as to whether the monument passed the state registration;
- study of the monument from the historical and architectural point of view;
- determination as to whether the monument has designed-estimated documentation and other technical documentations;
- calculation of damage to the monument in accordance with current market prices;
- definition of the purposes for which the monument may be used after its assessment and restoration;
- study of the architectural style (technique) of the monument;
- definition as to whether the monument plays a role in historical urban planning;
- study the possibility of preserving the historicity of the monument during restoration (the possibility of the original appearance, the possibility of preserving the original appearance with minor changes or complete reconstruction);
- study the preserving (change or complete loss) of the historical function of the monument;
- study the possibility of preserving the facade décor;
- explore the possibility of preserving interior décor;
- examine the significance of the monument (determine if the monument has local, national or international significance);
- agree upon the possible changes with the relevant state authorities on the visual appearance and structure of the monument;
- obtain a permission for the movement of trucks across the territory for the transport of construction materials for the restoration in the monument protection area;
- take preventive measures to prevent the expected collapse, destruction and other adverse developments in the construction during the study of the monument;
- provision of general insurance for the monument.

The following activities provide information on the assessment of historical and cultural movable or immovable monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in accordance with international standards:

- conduct analysis of state registration and protection of a monument for its use and assessment;
- verify the property rights and examination of the monument;
- study of survey materials on the history and architecture of the monument;
- prepare and analyse the designed-estimated documentation and other technical documents.

The collection of documents available after all these analyses provides the basis for information security on the monument. Detail information about the monument, obtained through these documents, makes it possible to determine the damage to the monument.

Information about the state of the historical and cultural monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan was usually obtained from the State Archives of Azerbaijan and Georgia, as well as from the official state websites of Armenia and the Armenian press. Historical and cultural monuments in the territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia are divided into such groups as historical monuments, art monuments, architectural monuments, archaeological monuments. 2.645 thousand monuments of history and culture of Azerbaijan, 901 of which have official state registration on these groups, are under Armenian occupation. Out of these monuments 600 are of local importance, 285 - national importance, 13 - international importance. 1.747 thousand monuments have not been registered yet.

There is enough information in the official sources of the Republic of Armenia for definition of numbers and locations of historical and cultural monuments of Azerbaijan under occupation. The Armenian website Radi Doma (January 28, 2011), the Russian news agency REGNUM (August 29, 2013) and the official report of the Ministry of Culture of Armenia states that since 2011, during researches in 120 directions, 4.000 historical and cultural monuments have been registered in this territory. According to Armenian sources, during the occupation 1.450 cross-stones produced by the Armenians, as well as newly built Armenian churches were registered as historical monuments and included in the list of the historical and cultural monuments of Karabakh.

The book 'Architectural Monuments of Karabakh' by Shahen Mkrtchyan, an Armenian historian published in Yerevan in 2006, indicates falsified names, dates and locations of monuments in Karabakh.

Registration of monuments in Karabakh by Armenia was implemented in a phased manner over several years. So, the registration held by years is as following: in 2000 - 1,700 monuments; in 2006 - 1,200 monuments; in 2010 – 289 monuments, and in 2011 – 361 monuments, in total 3,550 monuments. In 2012, the Armenian press reported that the number of historical and cultural monuments in Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent districts is 4.000. In fact, 1450 out of 4.000 monuments claimed as historical ones by Armenians in Karabakh are modern cross-stones carved by Armenians and recently-built Armenian churches following the occupation. From all our research work thus far, it turned out that the total number of immovable historical and cultural monuments in the occupied territories does not exceed 2.645.

While assessing the historical and cultural monuments of Azerbaijan under occupation in accordance with international standards, the following measurements should be taken into account:

- results of the monument assessment by different generations of experts;
- study of the rules for preserving historical and cultural heritage in the memory of the people;
- study of the revealed information about the value and general condition of the monument while assessing this type of real estate.

Evaluation of a monument, the results of its research, the value of real estate and its assessment, construction rules, the results of archaeological excavations and researches in the area, as well as repairing and restoration projects, special information on income from sale or lease play an important role during the use of the monument.

The valuation of immovable historical and cultural monument can only be valid using traditional teaching materials. After the valuation, certainly, a report should be drawn up. A valuation report is a document, which includes the explanation of the analysing processes used in the assessment and important information. The assessment reflects the results of the analysis, providing a basis for the formulation of assessment guidelines, assessment basis and aims of assessment, as well as basis for the establishment of reference on value.

The International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC) develops valuation standards. The organization was founded in 1981 at the initiative of certified valuers from the Royal Institute (UK). The International Valuation Standards Committee covers associations of professional valuers in more than 50 countries.

Thus, the following tables indicate the cost of the damage caused by Armenians to historical and cultural monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan:

Cost of the damage to state-registered historical and cultural monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Location	Number of state-registered monuments	Category (levels)			Damage cost (US\$)
		Local	National	International	
Lachin district	73	62	11	-	10 752 000 000
Kalbajar district	70	50	18	2	14 382 960 000
Gubadly district	67	51	16	-	7 980 000 000
Zangilan district	47	39	8	-	3 008 690 000
Fuzuli district	71	57	14	-	3 825 160 000
Aghdam district	140	41	95	4	19 603 920 000
Jabrayil district	93	74	16	3	7 575 700 000
Khojaly district	28	8	19	1	4 887 500 000
Khojavend district	93	61	30	2	4 711 600 000
Shusha city	217	167	49	1	11 279 640 000
Nakhchivan AR	3	3	-	-	252 000 000
Gazakh district	1	1	-	-	67 200 000
Total:	903	609	285	13	88 326 370 000

**Cost of the damage to State-owned unregistered historical
and cultural monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan**

Location	Unregistered monuments		Total damage cost	
	Number of monuments	Artistic stone samples, horse-ram figures	Architectural and archeological monuments	Cost of the damage to monuments (US\$)
Lachin district	202	162	40	1 680 420 000
Kalbajar district	145	125	20	840 210 000
Gubadly district	100	70	30	2 525 233 000
Zangilan district	100	80	20	840 210 000
Fuzuli district	100	80	20	840 210 000
Aghdam district	100	50	50	6 534 640 000
Jabrayil district	100	50	50	3 787 850 000
Khojaly district	100	70	30	4 887 500 000
Khojavand district	100	70	30	1 570 533 000
Shusha city	600	100	500	22 559 280 000
Nakhchivan AR	-	-	-	-
Gazakh district	-	-	-	-
Total:	1647	857	790	46 066 086 000

Cost of the damage to immovable historic monuments and other cultural heritage resources: US\$ 46,066,086,000.

Cost of the damage to movable historic monuments and other cultural heritage resources: US\$ 42,607,544,000.

Total cost of the damage to historic monuments and other cultural heritage resources in the occupied territories: US\$ 177,000,000,000.

ARMENIAN VANDALISM TO BE REGARDED AS INTERNATIONALLY WRONGFUL ACTS

The Azerbaijani people, who were constantly deprived of their territory by Armenians resettled in Azerbaijan by Tsarist Russia from the end of the 18th century to the 21st century, have also faced a great loss of their culture and distortion of their past history. Today, the architectural structures of historical and cultural monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan are being modified, their dates are being falsified, examples of cultural heritage are being auctioned, toponyms and names of administrative settlements are being replaced by Armenian names.

The Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention, adopted in 1999, further expands the scope of protection of cultural property during armed conflicts. In particular, in the context of Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijani lands, Article 9 of the Protocol prohibits and prevents the occupying party from illegally trading of cultural property, examples of any archeological excavations, their removal from those territories, modifying or destroying cultural, historical or scientific evidences in relation to the occupied territories and detects prevention.

Meanwhile, according to the established provisions, specified by the 1970 Paris Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and the 1995 Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, acts against cultural property and cultural heritage during armed conflicts are considered a war crime under international criminal law.

As a result of the aggression and occupation of Armenia, Azerbaijan has suffered concrete material and moral damage, and Armenia, as the aggressor state, is responsible to Azerbaijan for this damage. As noted, as a result of the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, 20% of Azerbaijani lands were occupied and about one million people became refugees and internally displaced people (IDP), and the population, territory, economy, culture, ecology, flora and fauna of Azerbaijan suffered significant material and moral damage.

As mentioned above, as a result of the armed aggression and occupation of Armenia, the cultural heritage of Azerbaijan has suffered material damage in the amount of 177 billion manats. To determine the amount of this damage and solving the problem of its compensation is one of the important aspects of the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

It is obvious that the damage caused by Armenia to Azerbaijan's cultural heritage makes inevitable to provide its full compensation. Thus, a state responsible for international law is under obligation to fully compensate the damage caused to another state by its wrongful act.

Armenia bears international legal responsibility for occupying Azerbaijani territories through armed aggression against Azerbaijan. Thus, Article 5 of UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, entitled "Definition of Aggression", states that "aggressive war is a crime against international peace and the act of aggression bears international responsibility."

The deliberate destruction of dozens of mounds, human settlements, cemeteries, places of worship, Islamic religious monuments and other archeological monuments by Armenians has artificially dealt a severe blow to the history and culture of Azerbaijan.

Thus, Armenia's armed aggression against Azerbaijan, as well as genocide against Azerbaijan's cultural heritage, the policy of ethnic cleansing in the occupied territories, proves that Armenia bears international legal responsibility not only to Azerbaijan, but also to the world community as a whole.

It is mentioned in the annex to Resolution 56/83 adopted by the UN General Assembly on 12 December 2001, entitled "Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts". Article 28 of the document states that internationally wrongful acts give rise to international responsibility of the state, which involves legal consequences.

According to Article 31 of the "Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts", the responsible state is under obligation to compensate for the damage caused by its internationally wrongful acts, and this damage covers all damages caused by internationally wrongful acts,

including material or moral damage. Article 34 of the "Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts" defines the forms of compensation for damage caused as a result of internationally wrongful acts.

This provision is, at the same time, reaffirmed by resolution entitled "Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law " adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 December 2005. Article 18 of Chapter IX, entitled "Compensation for Damages", states that in accordance with international law and national laws of states, and considering concrete cases, reimbursement of damage in full and effectively determined for the victims of serious violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law and, appropriate to severity of the violation and for each case may take the form of restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and a guarantee of non-recurrence of the incident.

Article 35 of the Annex to the Resolution of the UN General Assembly "Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts" states that a state responsible for internationally wrongful acts must provide restitution. Thus, restitution involves the restoration of the situation that existed before committing the wrongful act. This means the restoration of the previous financial situation and intangible rights through restitution.

Reimbursement of the damage to Azerbaijan's cultural heritage as a result of Armenia's wrongful acts in connection with the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the form of restitution means the return of all occupied Azerbaijani territories and the renunciation of wrongful acts committed by Armenia against historical and cultural monuments in the territory of Azerbaijan. In addition, the restitution includes the decision of the Supreme Soviet of Armenia on the annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh to the country, the declaration of Nagorno-Karabakh in the act of state independence of Armenia as its territory and the repeal of all other normative acts adopted illegally.

Pursuant to Article 37 of the "Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts", a State responsible for internationally wrongful acts is under an obligation to provide satisfaction for the damage caused by that act insofar as it cannot be made good by restitution or compensation. Satisfaction may consist of an acknowledgement of the breach, an expression of regret, a formal apology or another appropriate modality. It should be noted that in the case of satisfaction, payments in cash are also possible, and in this case such payments are in the form of compensation for non-pecuniary damage.

Satisfaction of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict can take the forms of Armenia's acknowledgment of aggression against Azerbaijan, its recognition of the fact of occupation of Azerbaijani lands, its confession of the Khojaly massacre, and its official apology to the Azerbaijani people. Punishment of those who have committed internationally wrongful acts by their deeds can also be a form of satisfaction.

Apparently, Azerbaijan is entitled to compensation for the material and moral damages caused by Armenia's internationally wrongful acts, and there are appropriate international legal mechanisms for this. The right of Azerbaijan to receive appropriate compensation for the damage caused to it has been confirmed in the decisions of international organizations. For example, at the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in the Republic of Senegal (Dakar) on March 13-14, 2008 ("The Islamic Ummah in the 21st Century"), in Article 4 of Resolution 2/11-C (IS) on the Protection of Islamic Shrines, the ISC considers that "Azerbaijan is entitled to appropriate compensation for the damage it has sustained and affirms Armenia's full responsibility to pay up adequate compensation for such damages." Provisions with the same content are reflected in other ISC documents. For example, Paragraph 22 of Resolution 10/11-P (IS) "on the Aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan" states, Azerbaijan considers that it has the right for appropriate compensation with regard to damages it suffered and puts the responsibility for the adequate compensation of these damages on Armenia.

Thus, it is obvious that the problem of compensation for material and moral damage to Azerbaijan is one of the important aspects of the elimination of the consequences of the Armenian aggression and the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as a whole.

ARMENIAN VANDALISM IN THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The military aggression by Armenian armed forces against Azerbaijan from 1988 to 1994 resulted in the occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijani territories, including seven districts not included in the administrative area of the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO).

This fact frustrates Armenia's claims for the right to "self-determination" of the Armenian population in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, that it is constantly stirring up. This occasion actually confirms Armenia's aggression aimed at seizing new territories in Azerbaijan. As a result, Armenia had occupied an area of over four times the size of the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The total area of the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan encompasses the following administrative territorial units in whole or in part:

- The territory of the Nagorno-Karabakh region (former NKAO);
- The territory of seven districts bordering on Nagorno-Karabakh (Aghdam, Fuzuli , Jabrayil, Zangilan, Gubadly, Lachin and Kalbajar);
- The territory of four regions bordering on Armenia (Gazakh, Aghstafa, Tovuz and Gadabay);
- Territories of four frontline districts (Tartar, Goranboy, Agjabadi and Beylagan);
- The territory of the Sadarak and Sharur districts in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

The Republic of Armenia that has occupied 20% of Azerbaijan's territory in gross violation of international law, including the UN Charter, has committed criminal acts against the peace and international security. Armenia bears international legal responsibility for the occupation and damage caused to Azerbaijani lands. This fact is reflected in resolutions on the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict adopted by many influential international organizations, including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

United Nations Organization (UN):

On April 30, 1993, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 822 on the invasion of the Kalbajar district by Armenian forces. This resolution is a strong political and legal significance:

1. being the first resolution regarding the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict adopted by the UN Security Council;
2. identifying the first feature of the UN Security Council's attitude to the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Thus, in the resolution, the UN Security Council expresses its deep concern over the deterioration of relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, which is most likely understood to mean an interstate conflict;
3. assessing the nature of this conflict, which endangers peace and security in the region;
4. reaffirming the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States in the region, including the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force.

Thus, the UN Security Council determines a legal basis for the inadmissibility of the use of force by another State. It was this legal basis that enabled the UN Security Council to demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The UN Security Council in its Resolution 853 of July 29, 1993 on the seizure of the Aghdam district of Azerbaijan reaffirms the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory, condemns the seizure of Aghdam and other recently occupied areas of the Azerbaijani Republic and all hostile actions in the region and demands the immediate cessation of all hostilities and the immediate and complete withdrawal of the occupying forces from all recently occupied areas.

Paragraph 9 of the resolution reflects the term 'Armenians' of the Nagorno-Karabakh [region of Azerbaijan] as being important to specially mention it.

Such interpretation clearly confirms the fact that Nagorno-Karabakh is a region of Azerbaijan.

1. It confirms that the population living here are the Armenians living in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, i.e. the Armenian community, but not the non-existent 'Nagorno-Karabakh people' as the Armenians claim.

2. In this resolution, the phrase 'growing tension between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia' was added to 'expressing its serious concern at the deterioration of relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia' reflected in UN Security Council Resolution 822. This reflects the UN Security Council's increasingly clear understanding of the fact that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is, by its very nature, an interstate conflict.

3. While Resolution 822 expressed grave concern at "the humanitarian emergency in the region, in particular in the Kalbajar district and the displacement of a large number of civilians", this expression was further redefined and indicated to express grave concern at "the humanitarian emergency in the region and the displacement of a large number of civilians in Azerbaijan". Thus this document shows that mainly civilians in the Azerbaijan Republic were subjected to the 'displacement', but in fact to ethnic cleansing.

4. If Resolution 822 reaffirms the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States in the region, Resolution 853 reaffirms the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan first and then of other countries in the region. Given that military operations are conducted entirely on the territory of Azerbaijan, it can be concluded that this is mainly a matter of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and this factor is specially indicated by the UN Security Council.

5. UN Security Council Resolution 874 of 14 October 1993, reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan Republic and all other States in the region, also reaffirming the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory, and expressing in particular its grave concern at the displacement of large numbers of civilians in the Azerbaijani Republic, called for the withdrawal of forces from recently occupied territories. The preamble of this resolution also contains the phrase 'in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic.' Such interpretation is very important as it is not only about the conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, but also about the 'conflict around it'.

Resolution 884 of 12 November 1993 adopted by the UN Security Council, expressing grave concern at the occupation of the Zangilan district and the city of Horadiz of the Azerbaijani Republic, reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic and of all other States

in the region, reaffirming also the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory, and expressing grave concern at the latest displacement of a large number of civilians and the humanitarian emergency in the Zangilan district and the city of Horadiz and on Azerbaijan's southern frontier, particularly condemns the occupation of the Zangilan district and the city of Horadiz, attacks on civilians and bombardments of the territory of the Azerbaijani Republic, demands from the parties concerned the immediate cessation of armed hostilities and hostile acts, the unilateral withdrawal of occupying forces from the Zangilan district and the city of Horadiz, and the withdrawal of occupying forces from other recently occupied areas of the Azerbaijani Republic.

The preamble of this resolution also includes the phrase 'the conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic'. In addition, paragraph 2 of the resolution also includes the phrase 'the Armenians of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic.' Thus, the analysis of these international legal documents provides a basis for the following conclusion:

1. In its resolutions, the UN Security Council unequivocally reaffirms that the Nagorno-Karabakh region belongs to Azerbaijan.

2. UN Security Council resolutions support Azerbaijan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and its internationally recognized borders. These resolutions reaffirm the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory of other States and strongly condemn the occupation of the territory of the Azerbaijani Republic by Armenian forces and attacks on civilians.

3. Resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council demand the unilateral withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from occupied areas of the Azerbaijani Republic. Along with the UN Security Council, a series of core resolutions and decisions on the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict had been adopted by the UN General Assembly.

UN. General Assembly:

It should be noted that the phrase 'the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan' is also reflected in the resolutions of the UN General Assembly. Thus, the phrase 'the conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan' is reflected in paragraph 16 of the Resolution on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe of 16 January 1998, adopted by the UN General Assembly without reference to a Main Committee. A similar phrase is included in the UN General Assembly's resolutions of 9 February 2000, 2 March 2001, 14 February 2002, and 6 February 2003.

The UN General Assembly in its 85th plenary meeting within the 48th Session of 20 December 1993 on the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the elimination of the severe humanitarian consequences of the conflict had adopted a resolution titled "48/114. Emergency international assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan" in which the General Assembly for the first time notes with alarm that the humanitarian situation in Azerbaijan has continued to deteriorate seriously and that the number of refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan has recently exceeded one million.

The UN General Assembly in its 98th plenary meeting within the 61st session of 7 September 2006 had adopted a resolution entitled 'The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.' This

resolution reflects the General Assembly's grave concern at the fires in the affected territories, which have inflicted widespread environmental damage. Both the title and the text of this resolution contain the phrase 'occupied territories of Azerbaijan'. The title of the resolution speaks of many points. As can be seen from the title of the resolution, this document acknowledges the occupation of Azerbaijani lands. The term 'the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan' is also reflected in the resolution 'The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan' adopted on 14 March 2008 at the 62nd plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly. This resolution deserves special mention.

The resolution reaffirms continued respect and support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders and demands the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Armenian forces from all the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Further, it reaffirms the inalienable right of the population expelled from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan to return to their homes, and stresses the necessity of creating appropriate conditions for this return, including the comprehensive rehabilitation of the conflict-affected territories; recognizes the necessity of providing normal, secure and equal conditions of life for Armenian and Azerbaijani communities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which will allow an effective democratic system of self-governance to be built up in this region within the Republic of Azerbaijan.

It also reaffirms that no State shall recognize as lawful the situation resulting from the occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, nor render aid or assistance in maintaining this situation.

It should be noted that this resolution is not one-time. In paragraph 8 of the resolution the Secretary-General is requested to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution.

It is worth noting that along with these resolutions, the UN General Assembly adopted a decision to include the question titled 'Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development' in its agenda for the sixty-first session, despite opposition from Armenia and its protectors. This issue was later included in the agenda for the sixty-second, sixty-third, sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions of the UN General Assembly.

During its summer part-session on June 6, 2008, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) reaffirmed its support for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. The session discussed and adopted Resolution No. 1614 (2008) on the basis of a report on "The functioning of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan" prepared by co-rapporteurs Mr. Andres Herkel and Ms. Yevgeniya Zhivkova. Paragraph 24.1 of the resolution states The Assembly considers that sustainable democratic development will be extremely difficult in Azerbaijan as long as the country's territorial integrity has not been restored. Paragraph 24.2 of the resolution states, the Assembly takes note of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution "on the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan", adopted on 14 March 2008.

As noted above, in its resolution of 14 March 2008, the UN General is seriously concerned that the armed conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan continues to endanger international peace and security, and reaffirms support for Azerbaijan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and its internationally recognized borders and demands the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Armenian forces from all the occupied territories. Thus, PACE supported the UN General Assembly's Resolution of 14 March 2008 on the situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, reaffirmed the territorial affiliation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region to Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC):

A second Charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was adopted at the 11th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the OIC on March 14, 2008 in Dakar, Senegal. The amended Charter is divided into 18 chapters and consists of 39 articles. As a result of efforts by Azerbaijan, a provision 'to support the restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of any Member State under occupation' was established in paragraph 1.4 of Chapter 1. This, in turn, is of exceptional importance for our country in strengthening the legal framework for the future foreign policy orientation.

Provisions on the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are reflected in various documents adopted at summits of the Heads of State and Government of the OIC, in various documents adopted at the sessions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, as well as in final communiques and statements, and numerous resolutions.

Paragraph 15 of the Final Communiqué of the Fifth Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Istanbul (Republic of Turkey) on 17-18 June 1992;

Paragraphs 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70 of the Section 'Conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan' and the Resolution on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan of the Final Communiqué of the Seventh Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 7-9 September 1994;

Paragraph 44 and the Resolution on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan of the Final Communiqué of the 21st Conference of the Foreign Ministers held in Karachi, Islamic Republic of Pakistan on April 25-29, 1993;

Paragraphs 70, 71, 72, 73 of the Section relating to Azerbaijan-Armenia, as well as Resolutions on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan of the Final Communiqué of the Twenty-Second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco (10-12 December, 1994);

Paragraphs 80-85 of the Chapter "B. Political Affairs: Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and Resolutions on the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan and on Economic Assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan of the Final Communiqué of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Jakarta, the Republic of Indonesia (9-13 December, 1996);

Paragraph 63 of the Chapter 'Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan' and Resolutions on the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan of the Final Communiqué of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Doha, State of Qatar (15-17 March, 1998);

Paragraph 72 of the Chapter 'the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan' and the Resolutions on the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan, on Economic Assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan and on the Destruction and Sabotage of Islamic Historical and Cultural Relics and Shrines in the Occupied Azerbaijani Territories as part of the Republic of Armenia's Aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan of the Final Communiqué of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Kuala Lumpur – Malaysia (27-30 June, 2000);

Paragraph 37 and the Resolutions on the aggression of the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan, on Economic Assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan and on the Destruction and Sabotage of Islamic Historical and Cultural Relics and Shrines in the Occupied Azerbaijani Territories as part of the Republic of Armenia's Aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan of the Final Communiqué of the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Khartoum — Republic of the Sudan (25-27 June, 2000);

The section regarding the Destruction and Sabotage of Islamic Historical and Cultural Relics and Shrines in the Occupied Azerbaijani Territories as part of the Republic of Armenia's Aggression

against the Republic of Azerbaijan of the Resolution on the protection of Islamic Shrines of the Final Communiqué of the Thirty-Second Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, (Session of Integration and Development) held in Sana'a, Yemen (28-30 June, 2005).

The following conclusions can be made about the decisions and resolutions adopted by the OIC on the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict:

1. The OIC confirmed the fact of occupation of Azerbaijani territories by Armenia.
2. The OIC strongly condemned the Armenian aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan and demanded a halt to its aggression, as well as immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied Azerbaijani territory;
3. Recognizing Armenia as an aggressor, the OIC appealed to the UN Security Council to recognize the fact of aggression against Azerbaijan and to take appropriate steps to ensure its previous decisions by the UN Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Violation of the norms and principles of modern international law by Armenia creates the international legal responsibility of this state. In this case, the application of a system of international coercive measures by the UN Security Council against that state in accordance with the UN Charter is fully justified;
4. Recognizing Armenia by the OIC as an aggressor meant that the Republic of Armenia is a direct participant in the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This fact was later reflected in the Moscow Declaration signed on December 2, 2008. It is important that this fact is reflected in all international legal documents. Thus, the recognition of this fact proves once again that the Armenian side's concept of referring it as a central and provincial conflict between Azerbaijan and 'Nagorno-Karabakh' is unfounded;
5. The OIC considers the actions committed against the Azerbaijani population in the territory occupied by Armenian armed forces as crimes against humanity. This fact provides a legal basis for raising the issue of the need to prosecute Armenian officials and officials involved in crimes against the Azerbaijani population in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, including the genocide against the civilians in Khojaly;
6. The OIC defines the basic principles of a just and peaceful settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. These are the principles of territorial integrity of states and inviolability of internationally recognized borders;
7. The OIC emphasizes the need to put an end to any illegal economic activity of Armenia and the exploitation of natural resources in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and the destruction of cultural and historical monuments of Azerbaijan, including Islamic shrines;
8. The OIC has adopted a decision to call upon its Member States to take coordinating steps towards achieving the above objective. It should be noted that in its decisions, the OIC emphasizes the need to show solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan within other international organizations.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE):

The Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has been one of the major concerns from OSCE, brokering the process of resolving the conflict and taking certain steps to move the process forward.

In February 1992, the first Rapporteur Mission arrived in Azerbaijan to prepare a report. The Interim Report of the Rapporteur Mission on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh was presented at the seventh meeting of the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials in Prague in February. This report reaffirmed the fact that Nagorno-Karabakh is the territory of Azerbaijan. The Committee also underlined the need for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The Council of the CSCE held its First Additional Meeting in Helsinki on 24 March 1992. The Ministers discussed the continuing escalation of the armed conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh and therefore requested the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE Council of Ministers to convene a conference on Nagorno-Karabakh under the auspices of the CSCE to ensure a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The Ministers furthermore agreed that this Conference, which will take place in Minsk, will have as participants Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Russian Federation, Sweden, Turkey and United States of America.

In May 1992, the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials adopted a decision to establish all conditions for organizing and holding the conference, as well as to determine the scope of powers of the chairman. The Minsk Group, set up to summon the Minsk Conference, was to take part in the conflict resolution process to adopt a final document on the conflict settlement.

In December 1994, a following summit of the heads of states and governments, which were members of the CSCE, took place in Budapest. Participants of the summit discussed the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and agreed that the appropriate provision be added to the documents regarding this issue. The provision was called "Intensification of CSCE action in relation to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict". They confirmed their commitment to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and welcomed the political support given by the Security Council to the CSCE's efforts towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

As a first step in this effort, they directed the co-chairmen of the Minsk Conference to take immediate steps to promote, with the support and co-operation of the Russian Federation and other individual members of the Minsk Group, the continuation of the existing cease-fire and, drawing upon the progress already achieved in previous mediation activities, to conduct speedy negotiations for the conclusion of a political agreement on the cessation of the armed conflict, the implementation of which will eliminate major consequences of the conflict for all parties and permit the convening of the Minsk Conference. They further requested the co-chairmen of the Minsk Conference to continue working with the parties towards further implementation of confidence-building measures, particularly in the humanitarian field. They underlined the need for participating States to take action, both individually and within relevant international organisations, to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of the region with special emphasis on alleviating the plight of refugees.

One of the main results of the CSCE Budapest Summit was the establishment of a co-chairmanship of the Minsk Conference. The decision to deploy multinational peacekeeping forces impeded Russia's efforts to tackle this issue alone.

The next Summit of the Heads of State or Government of the States participating in the OSCE was held in Lisbon In December 1996. The States Parties defined core parameters for the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. They were reflected in a statement by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, saying, "... no progress has been achieved in the last two years to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the issue of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan".

The three co-chairs expressed their support for the necessary decisions taken by the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia to achieve a peaceful settlement. They called on the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan to increase their efforts to resolve pending issues in the Basic Principles, and instructed their co-chairs to continue working with them to help the parties to the conflict implement these efforts. In order to improve the atmosphere of the talks, they called on the parties to take additional steps to strengthen the ceasefire and implement confidence-building measures in all areas. As can be seen from the essence of the document, it is of a general nature.

Perhaps therefore the OSCE is trying to take a more 'neutral' stance on the conflict. However, failure to distinguish between the aggressor and the victim of aggression leads not to the resolution of the conflict, but to its prolongation. At the same time, it can be concluded that the following principles are reflected in all documents adopted by the OSCE, in particular in those adopted at the OSCE Summits:

1. the fact that Nagorno-Karabakh is the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
2. the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
3. legal status of Nagorno-Karabakh defined in an agreement based on self-determination which confers on Nagorno-Karabakh the highest degree of self-rule within Azerbaijan;
4. guaranteed security for Nagorno-Karabakh and its whole population, including mutual obligations to ensure compliance by all the Parties with the provisions of the settlement.

OSCE PA - 2014: Protection of Cultural Property in the OSCE area:

The Resolution aims to request the OSCE participating States for the establishment of an OSCE mechanism to prohibit and prevent within conflict zones any illicit export, other removal or transfer of ownership of cultural property, or archaeological excavation, any alteration to, or change of use of, cultural property.

It emphasizes that a participating State that intentionally destroys or intentionally fails to take appropriate measures to prohibit, prevent, stop, and punish any intentional destruction of cultural heritage of great importance, whether or not it is inscribed on a list maintained by UNESCO or another international organization, bears the responsibility for such destruction, to the extent provided for by international law.

It reiterates that when involved in an armed conflict, be it of an international or non-international character, including cases of occupation, States should take all appropriate measures to conduct their activities in such a manner as to protect cultural heritage, in conformity with customary international law and the principles and objectives of international agreements and UNESCO recommendations concerning the protection of such heritage during hostilities.

European Union (EU):

The European Union, as an economic and political union between 27 EU countries, is one of the major organizations that have a major impact on the geopolitical state of forces in the modern world. The European Union (EU) evolved into an organization pursuing regional integration in 1993, with a name change from the European Economic Community (EEC). As the South Caucasus is close to its borders, the EU cannot but worry about developments set in our region. The EU as a subject of international law has openly stated its position on the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

In its first statement on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on 22 May 1992, the organization on behalf of the Community and its member States had expressed their deepest concern at the escalation of the fighting in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. All inhabitants of both Armenia and Azerbaijan including the Armenian and Azerbaijani populations of Nagorno-Karabakh are entitled to the same levels of protection afforded by their government's acceptance of CSCE principles and commitments. Therefore, the Community and its member States condemn in particular as contrary to these principles and commitments any actions against territorial integrity or designed to achieve political goals by force. Fundamental rights of Armenian and Azerbaijani populations should be fully restored, in the context of existing borders, according to a press release by the Community and its member States.

Another statement on the conflict was issued on 7 April 1993. "The Community and its member States are seriously concerned about the latest degradation of the relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Community and its member States regret the enlargement of the combat zone to Kalbajar and the Fuzuli area. The Armenian government is strongly urged to use its influence on the Nagorno-Karabakh forces for an immediate withdrawal from the territory of Azerbaijan and to stop the fighting in the area," the Organization said in a press release.

New offensives by Armenian occupying forces in the front line forced the organization to make new statements on June 24 and September 3, 1993, in which it condemns the recent offensives by Armenian forces, noting with regret that “such actions are extending the area of armed conflict to encompass more and more of Azerbaijani territory and are creating a very serious refugee problem in Azerbaijan.”

However, 2003 was marked by one of the most important events in the European Union's position on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. For the settlement of the conflict, the organization suggested the return of 5 occupied regions of Azerbaijan instead of the opening of communication lines. This proposal was the object of discussions for a long time and maintains its topicality as well today. The EU's intention both to develop relations with the region and to take an active part in the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has become quite a serious matter.

At the same time, it should be noted that the organization's official position on the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is reflected in the Resolution of the European Parliament “on the need for an EU strategy for the South Caucasus” adopted on 20 May 2010. Thus, the Resolution noted that the European Parliament respects the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity in its relations with the three South Caucasian countries.

According to the Resolution, paragraph 8, the Parliament is seriously concerned that hundreds of thousands of refugees and IDPs who fled their homes during or in connection with the Nagorno-Karabakh war remain displaced and denied their rights, including the right to return, property rights and the right to personal security, calls on all parties to unambiguously and unconditionally recognise these rights, the need for their prompt realisation and for a prompt solution to this problem that respects the principles of international law, and demands, in this regard, the withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO):

Fair and relevant international legal assessments of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict were also reflected in the documents produced by NATO, an intergovernmental military alliance.

NATO passed a series of decisions and resolutions on this conflict. Paragraph 43 of the Riga Summit Declaration issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Riga on 29 November 2006 highlights the conflicts in the post-Soviet space, emphasizing NATO member nations' support for the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova. This is a very important provision. “The Alliance's declaration for the first time gives an important signal to other countries of the region,” said Daniel Fried, the then Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs.

This position of NATO was reaffirmed at the Bucharest Summit Declaration issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council adopted in Bucharest on 3 April 2008. We are concerned with the persistence of regional conflicts in the South Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova. Our nations support the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. We will continue to support efforts towards a peaceful settlement of these regional conflicts, taking into account these principles, according to paragraph 43 of the Declaration adopted at the Summit.

Regarding the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, it should be taken into account that Azerbaijan does not have any territorial ambitions regarding the territory of Armenia. On the contrary, Armenia keeps Azerbaijani lands under occupation, violating Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. Thus, the essence of paragraph 43 of the NATO's Bucharest Summit Declaration is to support the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan on the actual Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and to settle it only within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

The next NATO Summit was held in Lisbon on November 20, 2010. This Summit also reaffirmed the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Pursuant paragraph 35 of the Summit Declaration, the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Lisbon remain committed in their support of the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, and will also continue to support efforts towards a peaceful settlement of these regional conflicts, taking into account these principles.

NATO is interested in the resolution of conflicts in the South Caucasus region, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the South Caucasus and Central Asia Robert Simmons said. "NATO is interested in resolving regional conflicts and supports political negotiations held in this direction. The alliance's Lisbon summit fixed that the conflicts in South Caucasus should be resolved in the framework of the territorial integrity of states," Simmons added. In fact, this position of NATO is once again aimed at supporting Azerbaijan.

Interestingly, all decisions adopted by NATO unconditionally support the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and in general, the principle of self-determination of peoples is not even mentioned among the principles aimed at resolving the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The Alliance's member States see the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of the principles of territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of the countries and support efforts towards a peaceful settlement of these regional conflicts, taking into account these principles. The documents adopted by NATO prove once again that this international military alliance recognizes the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and supports the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

The then NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer once reiterated the Alliance's position. At a joint press briefing with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on 29 April 2009, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said the problem in Nagorno-Karabakh will be found on the basis of the principle of territorial integrity. "I express the hope and I want to do that once again, that a solution for the conflict, the problem in Nagorno-Karabakh will be found on the basis of an important principle which was underlined again by the NATO Heads of State and Government, on the basis of the most important principle I do know, and that is the principle of territorial integrity. It can be concluded that the decisions passed by the North Atlantic Council give a fair international legal assessment of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and define the principles that form the international legal basis for the settlement of this conflict. These are the principles of territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of countries, including the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Thus, the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is recognized and supported by the most influential intergovernmental international organizations. This, in turn, means that, under modern international law, the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenia is a clear proof of Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan. The aggression of one State against another State is considered the most serious international crime thus establishing the prerequisites for the international legal responsibility of the aggressor State.

Recommendations

- Registration of historic and cultural monuments in the liberated territories
- Preparation of a catalog of historical and cultural sites
- Certification of historic and cultural monuments
- Clarification of the damage to historic and cultural monuments (between 2014 and 2017, we conducted damage assessment in absentia)
- Filing lawsuits with international courts against Armenia related to compensation for the material damage to historic and cultural monuments.



**The Regional Environmental
Centre for the Caucasus**



**Oil-Workers' Rights
Protection Organization**

REPORT

on the environmental terror committed by Armenia in the territory of Azerbaijan and its deliberate attack on international oil and gas pipelines

***November 7, 2020
Baku, Azerbaijan***

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1. History of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

Since 1828, almost all Armenians from Iran and Turkey have been resettled to the Russian occupied South Caucasus, including Nagorno-Karabakh, which led to serious demographic consequences in Nagorno-Karabakh, laying the groundwork for future territorial claims by Armenians. Thus, starting from 1905, the process of mass genocide of Azerbaijanis began in these lands.

On February 20, 1988, at the meeting of the Oblast Soviet of Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, in Khankendi, the Armenia representatives decided to unite Nagorno-Karabakh with the Armenia SSR. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union rejected to adopt this decision and declared it as illegal.

In the same year, by order of the management of Armenian “Kanaker” aluminum plant, valuable trees were cut down in the Topkhana forest of Karabakh under the pretext of building a boarding house, without the consent of the relevant state bodies of Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani public did not accept this atrocity against nature and began mass rallies. Thus, the Armenians launched a military aggression against Azerbaijan in order to continue their hideous policy.

As a result of the military aggression of the Armenian armed forces in 1988-1993, 20 percent of the territory of the Azerbaijan Republic, namely the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent districts (Lachyn, Kalbajar, Aghdam, Jabrayil, Fuzuli, Gubadly, Zangilan) were occupied by Armenian forces, part of its population was brutally murdered, and up to 700,000 Azerbaijanis were displaced from their homes.

Numerous resolutions adopted by international organizations, including UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 of 1993, and related to the withdrawal of the Armenian occupying forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan haven't implemented by Armenia to date.

On the contrary, in a climate of impunity, on September 27, 2020, the Armenian armed forces committed new acts of aggression against Azerbaijan, violating the ceasefire and firing on the positions of the Republic of Azerbaijan along the frontline with large-caliber weapons, mortars and artillery.

2. Assessment of damage to the environment and natural resources

The occupation policy and aggression of Armenia caused serious damage to the Azerbaijani nature, biodiversity, unique ecosystems and the ecological situation in the region as a whole and led to environment problems with its subsequent degradation.

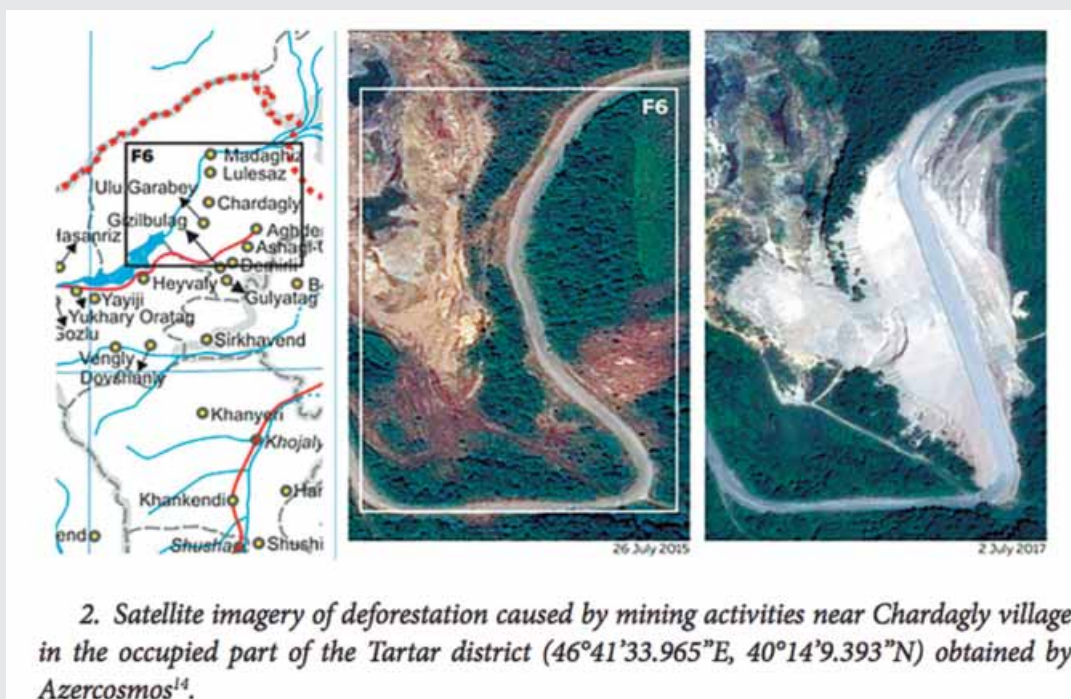
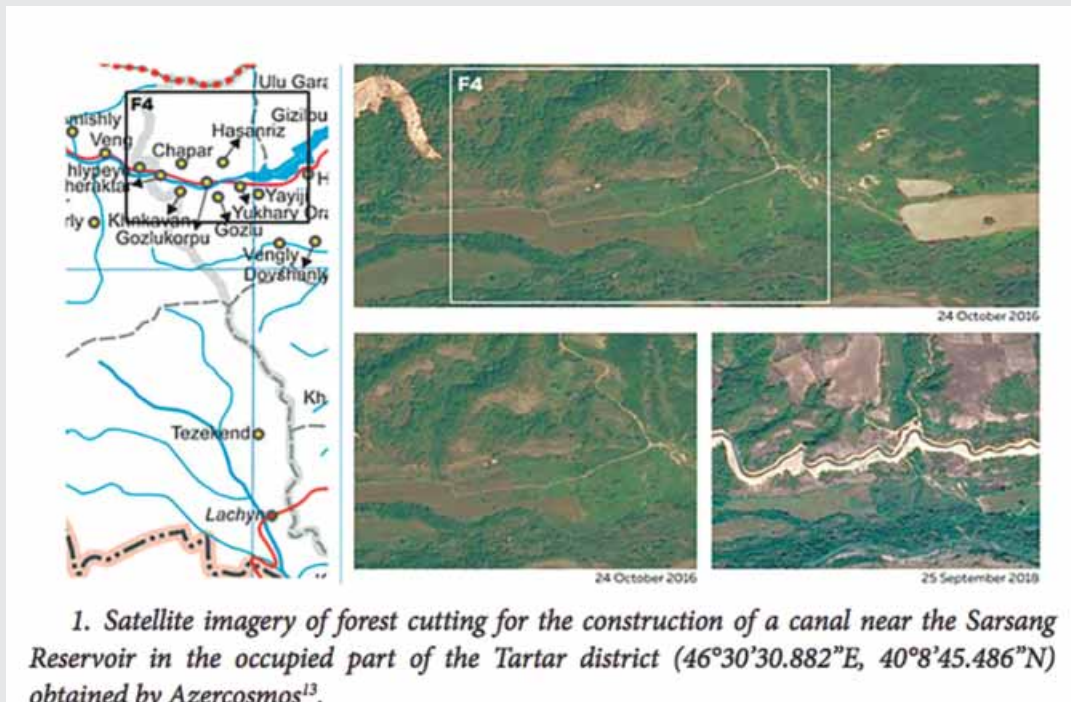
Deforestation and incineration in the occupied territories, pollution of water resources, destruction of flora and fauna, the looting of natural resources have disturbed the ecological balance and posed significant threat to the environment of the region.

A working group that was established by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and consisting of the government members, NGOs, scientists and independent experts, has developed international standards for assessing the damage caused by the military aggression of Armenia.

3. Damage caused by loss of biodiversity

3.1. Forests located in the occupied territories

25% of the forested areas of the Republic of Azerbaijan is in the occupied territories. Satellite imagery obtained from Azercosmos Open Joint Stock Company confirms that 260,300,000 hectares of the forests have been destroyed as a result of Armenian vandalism. It is no coincidence that Armenia's furniture industry and exports in this field have increased in recent years. Undoubtedly, this is due to the forests in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, which contain valuable tree species.



3.2. National natural monuments

There are 131975 hectares of forest areas, 215 natural objects in the territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia, including 5 geological monuments and 145 certified Eastern plane trees of 45 meters high, 6-8 meters in diameter, from 120 to 2000 years of age, which were subjected to unprecedented vandalism.

The valuable forest areas destroyed en masse include the following natural monuments:

- Hazelnut tree, which covers an area of 968.0 hectares in Kalbajar district;
- Juniper tree, which covers an area of 1,092.00 hectares in Lachyn district;
- Azat tree, which covers an area of 0.5 hectare in Khojavend district;
- Araz oak tree, which covers an area of 10,000.00 hectares in Zangilan district;
- Eastern plane tree, which covers an area of 5.0 hectares in Agdara district;
- Pikral forest, which covers an area of 20.0 hectares, located in Khojaly district.

Azerbaijan had protected the following monuments by the time Armenian armed forces occupied these territories:

- Khan Cave, 114 meters long, located to the south of Shusha city, at an altitude of 1,365 m above sea level, and consisting of Titon-age old limestone;
- Azykh Cave, 250 meters long, located to the south-east of Azykh village of Khojavend district, at an altitude of 900 m above sea level, and consisting of Oxford-Kimmeridgian-age old limestone;
- Taghlar Cave, 22 meters long, located to the south of Metstaghlar village of Khojavend district, at an altitude of 850 m above sea level, and consisting of Oxford-Kimmeridgian-age old limestone;
- Qakhhal Cave, 72 meters long, located 500 m to the north-east of Dashalty village of Shusha district, at an altitude of 1,410 m above sea level, and consisting of Titon-age old limestone;
- Divlar Sarayi Cave, 30 meters long, located 2 km to the east of Daghtumas village of Jabrail district, at an altitude of 870 m above sea level, and consisting of Titon-age old limestone;

According to various sources, the above-mentioned monuments were destroyed.

3.3 Specially protected natural areas

More than 400 species of 594 registered terrestrial vertebrates in Azerbaijan are distributed in the territory of Karabakh, of which 84 species are included in the Red Book of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

More than 70 percent of the 115 species of mammals in Azerbaijan live in Karabakh. 26 species of mammals inhabiting these territories are listed in the Red Book.

288 out of 405 bird species in Azerbaijan are registered in Karabakh. 50 out of 72 bird species, listed in the Red Book, are distributed in the territory of Karabakh. 4 out of 11 amphibian species in Azerbaijan are registered in the territory of Karabakh. 32 out of 63 reptile species in Azerbaijan are registered in the territory of Karabakh. At the time, there is no updated information about the mentioned species.

More than 460 species of wild trees and shrubs grow in the occupied territories. 70 of them are endemic plants. Hundreds of species of trees and shrubs are being destroyed in the occupied territories and are about to be erased from the treasury of the world's flora. These seven endemic plant species (Karabakh tulip, Karabakh *Centaurea diffusa*, Zangilan *Astragalus*, Sagsagan hollyhocks, Shusha hornbeam, Shusha Sainfoin and Shusha *Astragalus*) are found only in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Most of over 60 species of fauna and 70 species of flora, included in the Red Book of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 6 protected areas (total 43,000.00 ha), such as Basitchay and Garagol nature reserves, Arazboyu, Lachyn, Gubadly and Dashalty sanctuaries, occupied by Armenian armed forces, have already extincted or have endangered. In the pre-occupation period, along with the Khari-bulbul, the symbol of our Karabakh, there was protected Eastern plane tree, the Sweet chestnut, Shusha hornbeam, *Celtis caucasica*, Berry qarachohra and other rare species of trees.

4. The condition of water resources

Seven relict lakes of ecological significance in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan are exposed to a large anthropogenic impact. Fresh water resources are under occupation today in the pastures of Kalbajar and Lachyn districts, in the territory of Boyuk Alagol, Kichik Alagol, Zalkhagol, Garagol, Janligol, Ishigli Garagol and Aghdara district (Toraghachay, a tributary of Tartar).

Continuing pollution in the occupied territories and improper regulation of river use cause serious environmental damage and deprive the population of nearby areas of water. Deliberate contamination of 10 reservoirs, including Sarsang Reservoir, the largest reservoir with a volume of 560 million m³, poses a serious threat to the lives of about 400,000 Azerbaijani civilians living in nearby areas.

In winter, water is discharged from the reservoir into the villages inhabited by Azerbaijanis without taking into account the seasonal needs of the area, which results in the flooding of settlements, arable land and communications. In summer, on the contrary, only 10-15% of the annual water norm is released, which creates an acute shortage of water and leads to soil degradation.

In 2016, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted Resolution 2085 on the purposeful deprivation of water to Azerbaijanis living in the frontline territories. The Assembly believes that the deliberate creation of an environmental crisis should be seen as an aggression against the environment.

Okhchuchay and Bazarchay rivers are polluted with heavy metals as a result of the exploitation of deposits in the territory of Armenia. The waters of these rivers cannot be used for any purpose.

5. Minerals

The occupied territories of Azerbaijan are rich in mineral resources. There are 167 mineral deposits, including 5 gold, 7 mercury, 2 copper, 1 lead and zinc, 1 coal, 6 gypsum, 4 vermiculite, 1 soda ash, 12 coloured and ornamental stone deposits, 10 sawn stone, 21 veneer stone, 12 clay, 20 cement raw material, 8 different types of building stone, 6 limestone raw material, 11 sand and gravel materials, 4 construction sand, 1 perlite, 8 pumice-volcanic ash, 16 underground deposits of fresh and 11 mineral waters.

Proven industrial reserves for these fields are estimated at 205.3 tons of gold, 251.1 tons of silver, 1,788.2 tons of mercury, 37.3 thousand tons of lead, 191.6 million m³ of sawn stone, 7.3 million tons of gypsum, 61.4 million m³ of veneer stone, 28.7 million m³ of clay, 46.7 million m³ of building stone, 202.6 million m³ of sand and gravel, 18.0 million m³ of perlite, pumice-volcanic ash, 129.8 million tons of limestone for soda production, 282.3 million tons of cement raw material, 434.4 thousand m³ / day of groundwater and 7,805 m³ / day of mineral water and other mineral resources.

According to the International Trade Center, released in 2017, exports of mining products from Armenia have increased in recent years. Here it is necessary to emphasize the role of the plundering of mineral resources in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Most of the products of mining industry, like gold, copper, zinc ores and concentrates, as well as concentrates of precious metals, which have played an important role in Armenia's exports for many years, have been extracted from Soyudlu (Zod), Gizilbulaq, Vejnali gold, Mehmana polymetallic and Demirli copper-porphyry deposits, located in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

At the present time, the illegal exploitation of gold and copper deposits and other natural resources is being promoted and organized in the occupied territories with the participation of foreign legal entities, belonging to the countries that constantly uphold the principles of transparency in the extractive industries, the principle of "disclosure of payment" and require others to do the same.

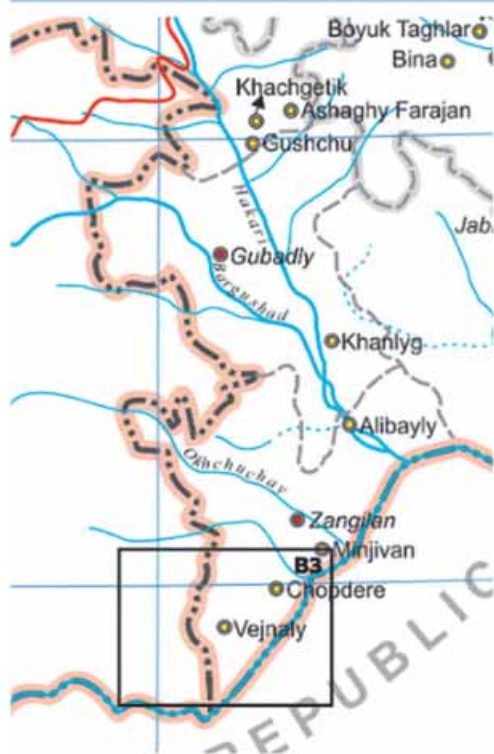
Businesspersons of Armenian origin from France, Canada, Switzerland and other countries or those having ties with the Armenian Diaspora have been involved in the exploitation of fields in the occupied territory of Azerbaijan.



Gold, stolen by Vartan Sirmakes, a businessman from Switzerland and a founder, co-owner and CEO of Swiss Franck Muller Watchland company, from Soyudlu gold mine of occupied Kalbajar district and from Vejnali gold mine of Zangilan district, which was liberated on October 30, 2020, is sold on the Swiss stock exchange and profits from these operations are deposited in Swiss banks.

We would like to note that one of the largest gold deposits in Azerbaijan is located in Vejnali village. Gold produced in Vejnali, as well as in Kalbajar, is used in Franck Muller Watch ornaments. According to the official statistics, Armenia exports most of its products to Switzerland, the homeland of Vartan Sirmakes. In 2019, Switzerland was the second largest importer of Armenian products – its share in Armenia's exports was 17.4% (\$ 457 million)

3. Mining and ore processing facilities on 70.10 hectares of gold mine near Vejnaly village of the occupied Zangilan district
38° 55' 52" N, 46° 31' 40" E



19 June 2017



24 October 2005



Not only foreign corporations, but also the political leadership of Armenia are involved in the exploitation of the fields by creating fake companies in offshore zones. They are the Kocharyan-Sargsyan duo, former ambassador and current President Armen Sargsyan and Prime Minister N.Pashinyan.

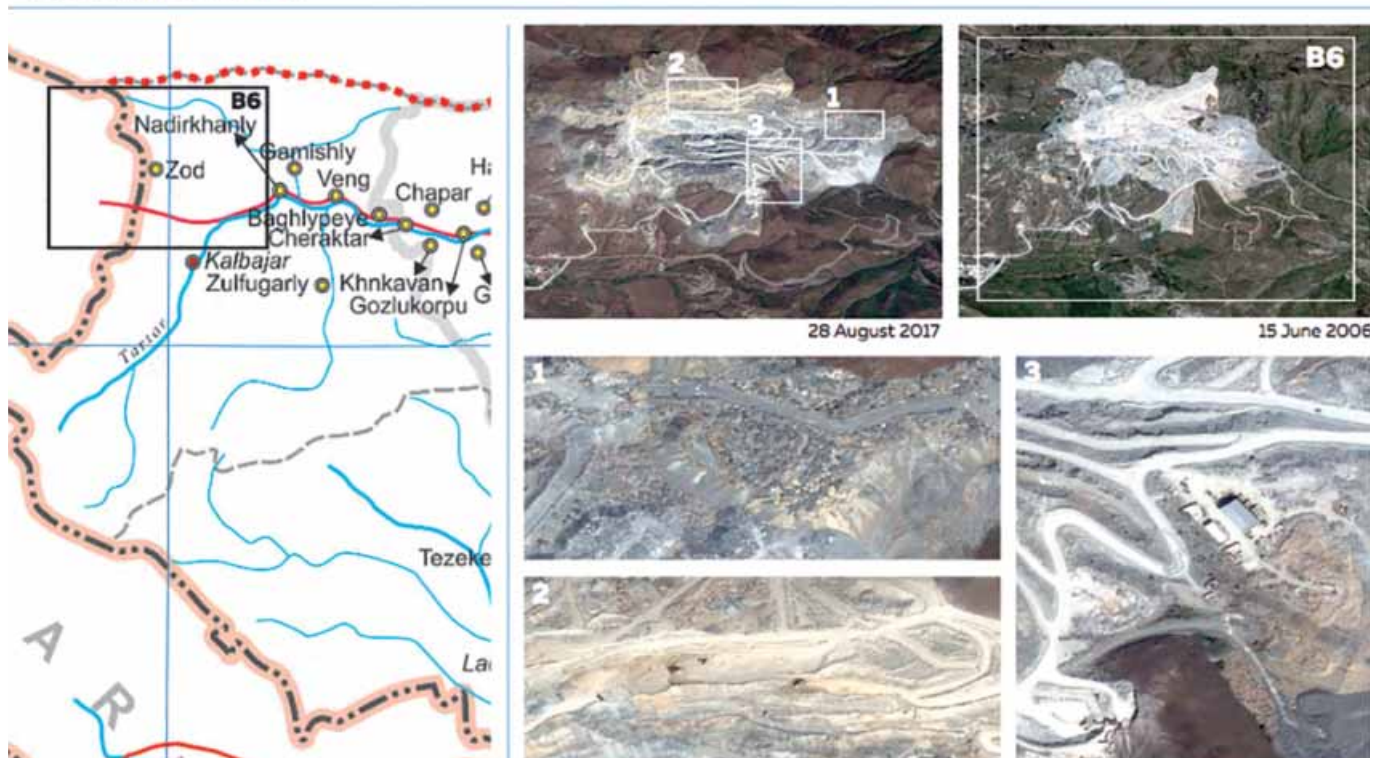
In 1997, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Armenia, which owned Kalbajar district, signed a contract with Canada's First Dynasty Mines Company (FDM) for the development of Soyudlu (Zod) gold mine. Only in 2003-2004, there were 4.5 tons of pure gold produced from that mine.

In total, FDM received 16 tons of pure gold from various mines of the occupied territories. 73% of Soyudlu gold mine is located on the Azerbaijani-Armenian border in Armenian occupied Kalbajar district, and its gold reserves in the Azerbaijani side are more than 112 tons. More than 27 tons of gold had been produced from the mine before the occupation of Kalbajar district. Although the development of the mine was stopped in 1992, American specialists resumed its exploration in 1996. As a result, more than 40 tons of gold were discovered at the deposit.

Until 2007, the Canadian company FDM had invested \$ 22.1 million in the gold mine in Nagorno-Karabakh, which was occupied by Armenians. The company has invested a total of \$ 4 million in geological exploration in Armenia and in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. In September 1997, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Armenia and FDM signed an agreement worth \$ 63.3 million on mining operations. FDM's assets belong to Sterility Gold LTD, led by Marcus Randolph.

In 1998, FDM purchased 50% of the shares of Armenian Government in Ararat Gold Recovery Company (AGRC) and became the sole owner of it. AGRC resumed the exploitation of Soyudlu gold mine. The gold reserves of this mine are estimated at 12 million ounces (370 tons). In 2010 and 2011, the Armenian company extracted approximately 700 kg of gold per year from Soyudlu gold mine.

6. Mining activities on 442.17 hectares of Soyudlu gold mine in the occupied Kalbajar district
40° 14' 01" N, 45° 58' 17" E



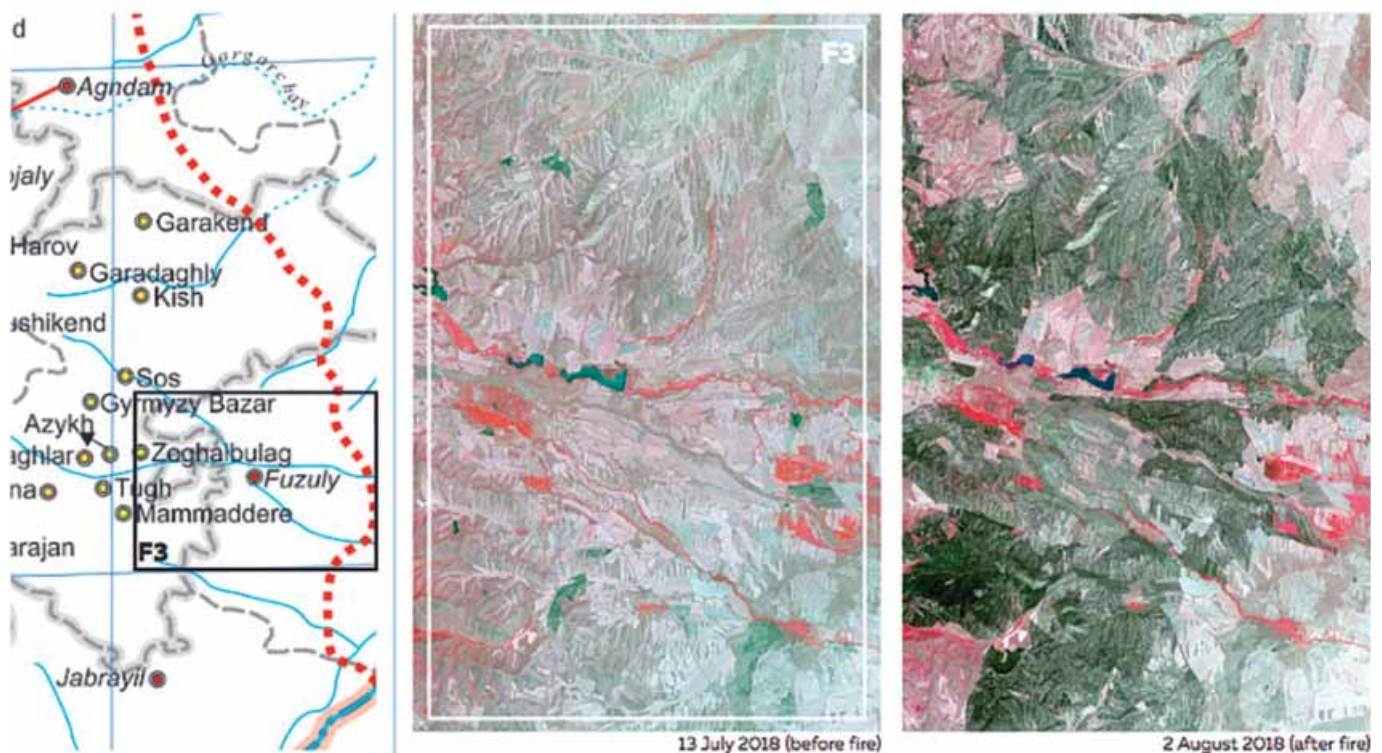
6. Severe effects on the environment

6.1. Impact of fires on the environment

As a result of deliberate fires in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, more than 110,000 hectares of area were destroyed by fire. During fires, all living things, including the fertile topsoil, grass and shrubs, are destroyed.

UN General Assembly Resolution 60/285, entitled "The Situation in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan", adopted in 2006, expressed serious concern about fires in the affected territories, which have inflicted widespread environmental damage. The resolution stressed the necessity to urgently conduct an environmental operation in the affected territories to suppress the fires and to overcome their detrimental consequences.

3. Burned area covering 347 km² and affecting 25 villages in the occupied Fuzuli district stretching 22 km from the South to the North and 17 km from the East to the West | 39° 36' 24.92" N, 47° 06' 26.71" E



Unfortunately, the process of deforestation continues.

Armenia continues its ecological terror in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan by deliberately using poisonous, inextinguishable and banned white phosphorous bombs and burning valuable Shusha forests and commits new types of crimes, causing irreparable damage to the ecological situation in the region and the planet in general.

At the same time, in gross violation of international humanitarian law, on October 29-30, 2020, Armenia launched missile attack, which caused large-scale fires in an area of 20 hectares of the internationally recognized Goygol National Park, located outside the frontline and Aghgol National Park, included in the list of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat. As a result, the flora, fauna and natural landscape were severely damaged.



6.2. Air, water, soil pollution and hazardous waste disposal

The following negative consequences were recorded as a result of non-compliance with environmental standards and rules supported by international law and international conventions during the illegal, vandalized exploitation of Azerbaijan's natural resources in the occupied territories, as well as the purposeful discharge of wastewater from Armenia to the occupied territories:

- As a result of the exploitation of Zod gold mine in the occupied Kalbajar district, the waters of the Tartar River have been severely polluted with arsenic, cyanide and other heavy metals;
- During the day, 2.1 million m³ of wastewater is discharged from Armenia directly into the Araz River without treatment. Pollution of the territory occurs through the Khonashen, Gargarchay, Oxchuchay, Bazarchay, Basitchay, Hakarichay, Kondalanchay, Tartarchay and Khachinchay rivers coming from the territory of Armenia;
- Chemical polluted waters of Gajaran copper-molybdenum, Gafan copper ore processing plants located in Armenia, and biologically polluted waters of Gafan-Gajaran cities (including villages, hospitals, agricultural facilities) are discharged directly into Oxchuchay in front of Sharikan village of Zangilan district in Azerbaijan. This turned the river basin into a "dead zone". 43 km of the riverbed in Azerbaijan and 455 km² of the catchment area are constantly polluted. As a result, the micro flora and fauna formed in the river water from ancient times were destroyed, and the process of self-purification was stopped.

6.3. Radioactive contamination

Inspection of radiation leaks from the Metsamor NPP, one of the world's five most dangerous nuclear power plants, has shown that there is indeed a nuclear leak from the plant that poses a threat to human health. The lack of a suitable landfill for the disposal of industrial waste and reports on the recent increase in Armenia's special role in the smuggling of nuclear and radioactive materials, as well as nuclear fuel waste, increase the likelihood of radioactive waste being buried in uncontrolled occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

It is stated in PACE Document No. 9444 dated May 7, 2002: "One of the consequences of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict has been the creation of uncontrolled nuclear zones on the land occupied by Armenian military forces, posing a serious threat to the entire South Caucasus region."

6.4. Ecological terror

As a result of long-term occupation of Kalbajar, biodiversity, including flora and fauna, and specially protected natural areas have been severely damaged, and ecological balance has been disturbed because of the burning of territories, pollution of water resources, the deliberate looting of forests rich in valuable tree species, the natural monuments, underground and surface natural resources in general. In Kalbajar district, the Turkish hazelnut trees listed in the Red Book, which cover an area of 968 hectares, were also cut down en masse. Turkish hazelnut is rare in other forests of Azerbaijan. It grows at an altitude of 1500-2100 meters above sea level in Kalbajar district. The forest contains Turkish hazelnut, oak, hornbeam, tilia, hazelnut and beech trees. Some Turkish hazelnut trees reach a height of 25 m and a diameter of 48-120 cm. It is valuable because it is spread in a limited circle.

Not satisfied with the damage they had done to the ecosystem of Azerbaijan and the region for many years, the Armenians resorted to new environmental terror in the occupied territories. Thus, according to the statement, signed on November 10, 2020 between the Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, the occupying forces of Armenia should return Kalbajar district by November 15, 2020 (later changed to November 25). Since November 11, the Armenian occupants have been carrying out massive destruction and fires in the forests of Kalbajar. These facts are reflected in the videos taken by peacekeepers. The consequences of environmental terrorism in the region, one of the world's 25 hotspots for biodiversity, will have a negative impact not only on Azerbaijan, but also on the global ecosystem by destruction of it.

7. Energy security

July clashes in Tovuz in 2020 showed that the concerns and warnings of Azerbaijan about the attacks on international oil and gas pipelines in our country were not unfounded. And now the world has witnessed once again that Armenia has tried to make this threat a reality. The Armenian armed forces regularly fire rockets at areas oil and gas pipelines of strategic and international importance¹ (Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC), the Western Route Export Pipeline (WREP), the South Caucasus Pipeline (SCP) and the Southern Gas Corridor) span through. This is also the biggest threat to Europe's energy security.

¹ The following companies are included in the BTC - BP (30,1 per cent, Great Britain), "AzBTC" (25 per cent), MOL (8,9 per cent, Hungary), "Equinor" (8,7 per cent, Norway), TPAO (6,53 percent, Turkey), "Eni" (5 per cent, Italy), "Total" (5 per cent, France), ITOCHU (3,4 per cent, Japan), INPEX (2,5 per cent, Japan), "ExxonMobil" (2,5 per cent, USA) and "ONGC (BTC) Limited" (2,36 per cent, India). The operator of the Azerbaijani and Georgian parts of the pipeline is BP on behalf of the shareholders of BTC Co., and the operator of the Turkish part is BOTAS International Limited (BIL). The BTC pipeline currently carries mainly ACG crude oil and Shah Deniz condensate from Azerbaijan. In addition, other volumes of crude oil and condensate, including volumes from Turkmenistan, Russia and Kazakhstan are transported via the BTC.

Oil pipelines

Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline carries oil from the Azeri-Chirag-Deepwater Gunashli (ACG) field and condensate from Shah Deniz across Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. It links Sangachal terminal on the shores of the Caspian Sea to Ceyhan marine terminal on the Turkish Mediterranean coast. In addition, crude oil from Turkmenistan continues to be transported via the pipeline. Starting in October 2013, we have also resumed transportation of some volumes of Tengiz crude oil from Kazakhstan through the BTC pipeline.

The Western Route Export Pipeline (WREP)² transports crude oil from offshore oil fields in the Caspian Sea to the Black Sea, from where the crude oil is further shipped via tankers through the Bosphorus to European markets. The pipeline begins at the Sangachal terminal near Baku and travels through Azerbaijan and Georgia to the Supsa terminal on the Georgian coast of the Black Sea. The length of this pipeline is 829 km.



BTC



The Western Route Export Pipeline

Gas pipelines

The South Caucasus Pipeline (SCP)³ was built to export gas to Georgia and Turkey from the Shah Deniz field in the Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian Sea. The pipeline starts from the Sangachal terminal near Baku. It follows the route of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) crude oil pipeline through Azerbaijan and Georgia to Turkey, where it is linked to the Turkish gas distribution system.

Segments of the Southern Gas Corridor⁴ include the Shah Deniz-2, South Caucasus Pipeline expansion, TANAP and TAP projects. The main goal of the Southern Gas Corridor project is to provide and increase Europe's energy security, and to export Azerbaijani gas to Turkey and South through the South Caucasus Gas Pipeline (SCP), TANAP and the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP).

https://az.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C9%99nub_Qaz_D%C9%99hlizi - cite_note-5

² Azerbaijan International Operating Company (AIOC) is the owner of the pipeline and operates it on behalf of the partners of the Azeri-Chirag-Deepwater Gunashli (ACG) Production Sharing Agreement. In the first quarter of 2020, it exported more than 8 million barrels of oil via the Western Route Export Pipeline.

³ The pipeline became operational in late 2006 and has been supplying Shah Deniz Stage 1 gas to Azerbaijan and Georgia since July 2007, and to Turkey since July 2007. The South Caucasus Pipeline Company (SCP Co.) was entirely responsible for the operation and construction of the pipeline.

⁴ The delivery capacity of this gas pipeline is expected to reach 16 billion cubic meters per year in 2020, and 23 billion in 2023 and 31 billion in 2026. It is a project to expand the South Caucasus gas pipeline (Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum), as well as the construction of the TANAP gas pipeline in Turkey and the expansion of the TAP gas pipeline in Europe.



Southern Gas Corridor



South Caucasus Pipeline

The pipes are built side by side at a distance of 15 meters from each other. The purpose of the rocket fire in the areas where the pipelines pass is to create an environmental catastrophe in our country. The pipe passes through 13 districts of Azerbaijan - Garadagh, Absheron, Hajigabul, Aghsu, Kurdamir, Ujar, Agdash, Yevlakh, Goranboy, Samukh, Shamkir, Tovuz, and Aghstafa. And six of these districts were attacked by Armenian forces. So:

- At night of July 30 and in the morning, Bala Jafarli and Gushchu Ayrim villages in the Gazakh district, Kohnagishlag village in the Aghstafa district and Garalar village in the Tovuz district were subjected to intensive shelling from large caliber artillery by the Armenian armed forces;
- On October 2, 2020, the armed forces of Armenia fired into Sabirkand settlement in the Shamkir district, through which four oil and gas pipelines pass, using heavy artillery and missiles;



- On October 6, 2020, at around 9 p.m. the largest strategic project in the region, the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, which plays an important role in Europe's energy security, was attacked with missiles on the part of the pipeline passing through the Yevlakh district, but as a result of the decisive measures of our army, this terrorist attempt was prevented.



I would like to note that the choice of the territory of Yevlakh as a firing point is not accidental. Thus, BTC was constructed underground where it passes. In only two places in Azerbaijan a certain part of the pipeline runs over the ground: in the Sangachal terminal and in Yevlakh district. Pumping and compressor stations are located in these areas. For this purpose, Armenia intended to cut off Azerbaijan's energy artery.

- On October 7, at around 10:00 p.m., an Armenian unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) attempted to fly over the Armenian-Azerbaijani border in the Aghstafa district. Four oil and gas pipelines of international importance (2 oil and 2 gas) pass through 10 villages of Aghstafa district;
- On October 18, 2020, Armenian armed forces fired on Goranboy and Samukh districts;
- On Morning of October 22, 2020 Armenia launched a missile in the direction of Kurdamir district from its territory.

Thus, Armenian forces using missiles fired on 7 out of 13 districts, where the oil and gas pipelines pass.

8. Targeting strategically important and civilian facilities

We express our deep concern at the silence of the parties to the environmental conventions regarding the ongoing missile attacks on the Mingachevir Hydroelectric Power Station and the Mingachevir Reservoir, located 100 km far from the conflict zone. The Mingachevir Reservoir is the largest reservoir in the South Caucasus, being one of the most important facilities in the field of energy production and agriculture. The total water capacity of the reservoir at the normal filling level of 83 meters is 15,730 million cubic meters. Water flowing from the dam, which could be destroyed, can flood a large part of Azerbaijan, causing humanitarian and environmental disasters and the loss of rare biodiversity, as well as irreparable damage to the environment of Azerbaijan and the region.

We condemn the next military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan which began in September 27, 2020 and the targeting of civilians in the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan beyond the conflict zone. 92 civilians have been killed and 404 others wounded as at November 6,

with 504 civilian facilities, including 3,164 houses being destroyed. The deliberate targeting of settlements leads to forced internal displacement of the population and to unsustainable trends in urban and environmental governance.

9. Appeal

The illegal actions of the Armenian occupiers, which threaten the environmental security of the region, are a gross violation of many international conventions, including the obligations under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention to Combat Desertification and other international agreements, of which Armenia is a member.

We hope that the Member States will adhere to the obligations arising from international environmental conventions and relevant agreements, and we call on the member states of international environmental conventions and multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the EU, the UN and other international organizations to condemn the deliberate destruction of nature and targeting of civilian and strategic facilities in the territories of Azerbaijan, occupied by Armenia and to demand an end to such acts.

Considering that the attacks of Armenian armed forces on the oil and gas pipelines were not accidental, but purposeful, and that it could have serious consequences, we appeal to the leaders of the countries through which the international oil and gas pipelines pass, to the European Union countries, to the International Financial Institutions that allocate funds to the pipelines, to a large number of companies that invest in the pipelines and have a certain share, urge them and call to condemn Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan, the deliberate bombing of civilians, the targeting of areas through which international oil and gas pipelines travel, and to take effective measures against the occupying Armenia. The Armenian aggression poses a serious threat not only to Azerbaijan, but also to Europe's energy security.



**Public Union of the Working Group for the Implementation
of International Human Rights Standards**

**REPORT
on the use by Armenia of mercenaries
and foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs)
in fighting against Azerbaijan**

***November 10, 2020
Baku, Azerbaijan***

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SUMMARY

Overview

Considerable parts of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan are still occupied by the armed forces of Armenia, continuing to pursue its aggression policy in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions 822 (30 April 1993), 853 (29 July 1993), 874 (14 October 1993) and 884 (12 November 1993). In response to a large-scale military campaign launched by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, on September 27, 2020, Azerbaijan's armed forces conducted counter-offensive operations in full compliance with Articles 33 and 51¹ of the United Nations Charter.

Armenia, suffering repeated military defeats on the battlefield, has continued to grossly violate the norms and principles of international law, especially the law of war.

In violation of the principles of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their two Additional Protocols of 1977, Armenian forces launched missiles, unguided rockets, and heavy artillery into Azerbaijan's populated cities and villages, including Ganja, Tartar, Barda, and Goranboy that are far beyond the conflict zone and have no nearby military objectives.

According to statistical data as of 9 November 2020, 93 civilians were killed, and 407 others were wounded in Armenia's heavy artillery attacks on Azerbaijan's densely populated areas. And more than 4,000 civilian facilities and buildings were severely damaged.²

Armenia has systematically violated the requirements of the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects³ and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)⁴ adopted on May 30, 2008, conducting attacks on Azerbaijani civilians using ballistic missiles and rocket artillery, as well as inherently inaccurate explosive weapons with a large destructive radius in populated areas. Armenia's barbaric aggression inflicted great material damage on civilians and state property, including infrastructure facilities.

¹ <https://www.un.org/ru/charter-united-nations/index.html>

² <https://genprosecutor.gov.az/az/post/3167>

³ <https://www.icrc.org/ru/doc/resources/documents/misc/treaties-ccw-101080.htm>

⁴ https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/conventions/cluster_munitions.shtml

Consequences of Armenia's rocket and missile strikes on Azerbaijani cities outside the conflict zone



Ganja city following Armenia's missile attack on October 4, 2020. ⁵



Ganja city following Armenia's missile attack on October 11, 2020 ⁶

⁵ <https://ona.az/az/daglig-qarabag/gence-ermenistan-erazisinden-yeniden-ate-se-tutulub-fotosessi%CC%87ya-24222>

⁶ <https://twitter.com/HikmetHajiyev/status/1315159794966310914>



*Ganja city
following Armenia's
missile attack
on October 17, 2020.*





Barda city following Armenia's missile attack on October 27, 2020. ⁷

⁷ <https://oxu.az/war/435205>



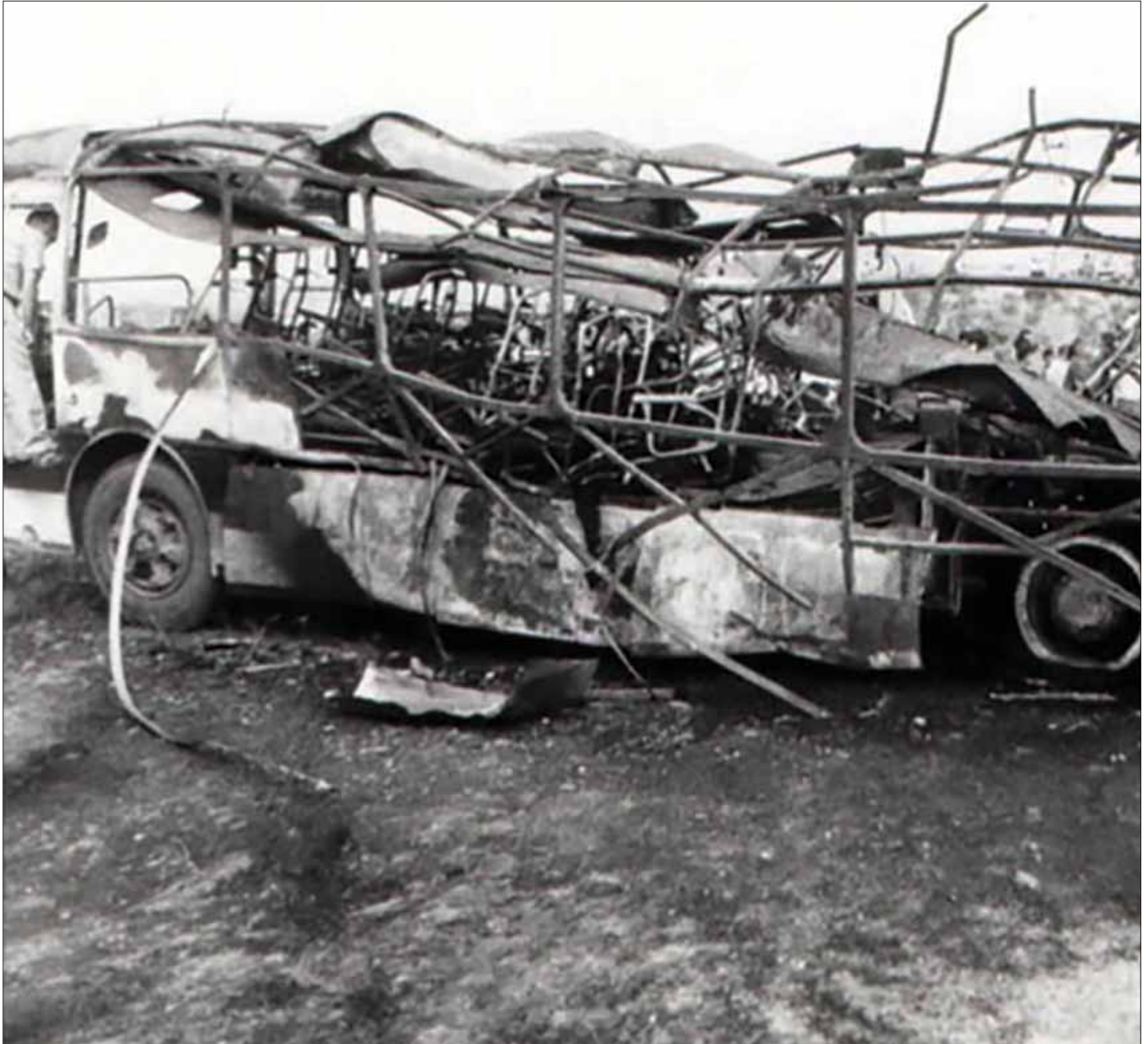
Barda city following Armenia's missile attack on October 28, 2020.⁸

⁸ <https://twitter.com/HikmetHajiyev/status/1321425276539162624>

Armenian terrorism against Azerbaijani civilians during the First Karabakh War

Nationalist terrorism was committed in Azerbaijan between 1987 and 1994. The targets of terrorist attacks are: 62.5% - international and domestic passenger bus routes; 12.8% - passenger and freight trains; subway trains - 4%; aircraft - 25%; and ferries - 4%.

Civil facilities: 67% - bridges; 12% - grain process enterprises and bakeries; 21% - five-storey buildings and private houses inhabited by civilians.



Armenian terrorists blew up an inter-city bus operating on the Tbilisi-Aghdam route, killing 20 passengers, and injuring 30 others on August 10, 1990.⁹

As a result of terrorist acts, 1,250 people were killed, and 1,283 others were wounded. An additional 65 went missing after the attacks. A total of 367 terrorist acts had been committed during the first wave of terrorism.

⁹ <http://news.mediasova.com/smi-tj/6.php>



An exploded van. 30.05.1991



An act of terror on ferry boat. 08.01.1992



14 people were killed, and 49 others were injured as a result of an explosion at Baku Metro's '20 January' station. 19.03.1994.

An example of the direct implementation of state terrorism in Baku was a June 2, 1993 explosion in a train car in the Baku railway station that had inflicted enormous material losses and damages. The terrorist action was committed by Igor Khatkovsky, a Russian citizen, who admitted his involvement during questioning.

In secret cooperation with the Armenian special services and was mobilized by the chief of the main intelligence department of the ministry of National Security of Armenia colonel Djaan Ohanesyan and sent to Azerbaijan for spying and committing terrorist actions. He had been tasked to carry out explosions resulting in numerous casualties. The investigations proved that the group, to which he belonged, committed explosions in the passenger trains coming from Russia to Baku between 1992 and 1994.

Another example of the state terrorism policy prepared and perpetrated by the Armenian special services was an explosion at '20 January', a Baku Metro station, on March 19, 1994: as a result, 14 people were killed and 49 were injured. A similar explosion took place on July 3, 1994 between Baku Metro's 28 May and Ganjlik stations: 13 people were killed and 42 were seriously injured.

The results of the investigation proved that the above-mentioned terrorist acts had been committed with the direct participation of the special services and other state bodies of the Republic of Armenia, as well as separatist regime's functionaries in Nagorno-Karabakh, including their organizational, intelligence, financial and technical support.

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS PROHIBITING THE INVOLVEMENT OF MERCENARIES AND TERRORISTS IN HOSTILITIES

The term 'mercenary' is enshrined in Article 47 of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977.¹⁰ Under this article, a mercenary shall not have the right to be a combatant or a prisoner of war.

The UN General Assembly in Resolution 39/159¹¹ of 17 December 1984 characterises State terrorism as acts working for the military intervention and occupation, forcible change in or undermining of socio-political system of States, destabilization and overthrow of their Governments as well as the support of terrorism.

The Memorandum on Development of International Law adopted by the 44th Session of the UN General Assembly in 1989 says state terrorism reveals itself in aggression, undeclared wars and other openly unlawful acts aimed against other nations.

As a rule, states pursuing state terrorism try to impute all the responsibilities for what happens on the territory of another state on the 'factor of national liberation movement.'

We believe that it is time to develop a draft Concept of Criminal Liability for State Terrorism Policy and submit it to competent bodies and agencies of the United Nations.

Armenia grossly violates the International Convention Against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries adopted by General Assembly Resolution 44/34 on 4 December 1989.¹²

Under Article 114 (Mercenary) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, recruitment, training, financing and other material maintenance of mercenaries, as well as their use in a confrontation or military operations shall be admitted as war crimes.

Under Article 395 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia, the use of mercenaries shall be admitted as war crimes as well.

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of article 15 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights adopted in 1966, nothing in this article shall prejudice the trial and punishment of any person for any act or omission which, at the time when it was committed, was criminal according to the general principles of law recognized by the community of nations.¹³

Under the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States¹⁴ in accordance with the 1970 Charter of the United Nations, every State has the duty to refrain from organizing or encouraging the organization of irregular forces or armed bands including mercenaries, for incursion into the territory of another State. The mercenary constitutes a crime against the peace, for which there is responsibility under international law.

A system of universal jurisdiction is based on the principle *aut dedere aut judicare*. At the same time, the use of mercenaries is prohibited under traditional international humanitarian law.

¹⁰ https://www.icrc.org/ru/doc/assets/files/2013/ap_i_rus.pdf

¹¹ <https://undocs.org/ru/A/RES/39/159>

¹² https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/conventions/mercen.shtml

¹³ https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/conventions/pactpol.shtml

¹⁴ https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/conventions/pactpol.shtml

ARMENIA'S USE OF MERCENARIES AND FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS (FTFs) IN FIGHTING AGAINST AZERBAIJAN

It was proved that during Azerbaijan's peace enforcement operations terrorists were fighting on the side of Armenian occupying forces. In a statement, Sergei Naryshkin, the head of Russia's SVR Foreign Intelligence Service, also singled out extremist Kurdish groups fighting in the conflict.

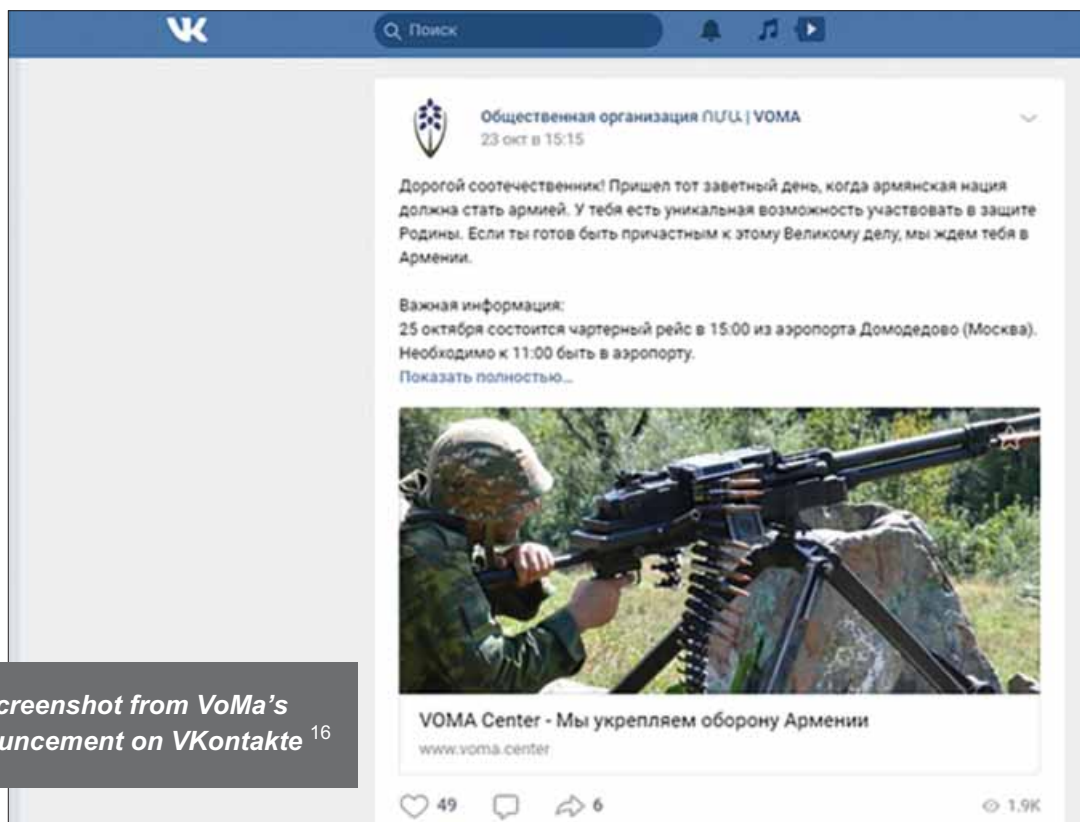
In addition, there has been a significant presence of terrorist fighters who are members of Armenian terrorist organizations, including Lebanese who have recently settled in Azerbaijan's occupied territories.

It should be noted that several countries launched investigations into the financing of terrorist activities in Armenia. Two major Australian banks launched an investigation regarding the funds and money transfers Armenia received from Australia.¹⁵

They were afraid to be complicit in crimes against humanity by using that money to buy banned munitions, such as cluster bombs. The same banks and other relevant bodies are reviewing whether the AML / CTF (Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act) obligations were violated.

Dozens of terrorists of Armenian origin from around the world, especially citizens of France, Greece, Spain, Syria, Canada, Lebanon, Iraq, Russia, and the United States, are wanted by Azerbaijan's law enforcement agencies for having committed terrorist acts. A list is attached.

The Armenian VoMa armed group earlier posted an announcement on its VKontakte social network, calling on young Armenians to join fighting: "We organized a charter flight to depart from Moscow's Domodedovo airport at 15:00 p.m. on October 25. You must be at the airport by 11:00 a.m.... We are ready to provide free flight tickets to those unable to afford them," the announcement said.



*Screenshot from VoMa's
announcement on VKontakte*¹⁶

¹⁵ <https://report.az/ru/finansy/v-avstralii-nachalos-rassledovanie-v-svyazi-s-perevodom-deneg-v-armeniyu/>

¹⁶ https://vk.com/wall-71650754_24929

1) Lebanese Armenians.

Following Beirut blast in August this year, Armenia's Chief Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs Zare Sinanyan announced the 'desire' of 20,000 Lebanese Armenians to move to Armenia. Official Yerevan described it as 'repatriation'.¹⁷

Earlier the 'head' of the separatist regime in Nagorno-Karabakh announced plans to form mercenary groups in the occupied territories.¹⁸ From this point of view, the goals set by Yerevan for the resettlement of Lebanese mercenaries in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan leave no room for doubt.

As of October 6, a plane carrying a group of Lebanese mercenaries took off from Beirut to Yerevan. Armenian authorities intend to transfer them to the Azerbaijani territories under occupation, according to informed sources.

Information on the flight of Airbus A320-232 from Lebanon to Armenia is confirmed by the Flightradar24 portal, which displays the movement of planes across the world in real-time.¹⁹

This flight confirms the fact that Armenia widely uses terrorist militants and mercenaries from "hot spots" in the Middle East region to strike at the territory of Azerbaijan, thus pointing to the fact that Armenia hides the combat losses from the public, according to a Reuters journalistic investigation.²⁰

2) Members of the PKK and other terrorist organizations from Syria and Iraq.

It should be recalled that 15,000 Armenians have been settled in Armenia since the beginning of the war in Syria. Some of them were settled in the occupied Lachin district. Thus, in 2018 alone, Armenia moved 76 families to Lachin.²¹

Armenia deployed PKK terrorists who received training in Iraq and Syria to Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region occupied by Armenia to train Armenian militias against Azerbaijan.²²

Earlier in September, Armenia proposed to establish a militia of volunteers after Armenian armed forces attacked the positions of Azerbaijani forces in the direction of the Tovuz district along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border.²³ Reports said that the PKK terrorists were expected to train these volunteer fighters. Armenian Ambassador to Iraq Hrachya Poladian reportedly contacted the YPG/PKK group in Syria and Iraq and convinced them to go to Nagorno-Karabakh for training.²⁴ The ambassador also secured an agreement with northern Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which is led by the Talabani family, for the transfer of terrorists.

The terrorists followed several different routes to reach their destination, including using Iran as a transit country, reports said. One of the routes included the transfer of terrorists from Iraq's Sulaymaniyah to Sabis, then to Kermanshah in Iran. Another group from Mount Qandil in Iraq also passed through Iran's Urmiya on their way to Nagorno-Karabakh.

¹⁷ <https://news.am/rus/news/595711.html>

¹⁸ <https://ru.armeniasputnik.am/karabah/20201013/24896989/Skoro-opolchentsy-popolnyat-ryady-AO-Arutyunyan-o-sozdanii-dobrovolcheskikh-otryadov-v-Karabakhe.html>

¹⁹ <https://report.az/ru/nagorno-karabakhskiy-konflikt/v-armeniyu-perepravlyayut-naemnikov-iz-livana/>

²⁰ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-armenia-azerbaijan-lebanon/despite-lebanons-woes-armenians-spring-to-action-for-nagorno-karabakh-idUSKBN27H159>

²¹ <https://report.az/ru/analitika/livanskiy-terroristov-pereselyayut-v-karabah-pochemu-molchat-posredniki/>

²² <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/armenia-transfers-ypgpkk-terrorists-to-occupied-area-to-train-militias-against-azerbaijan>

²³ <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4475354>

²⁴ <https://haqqin.az/news/189594>

In addition, the copies of passports issued to Baazo Hraj Sepob, born 2 May 1964, (passport: 015-11-L021693), a national of Syria living in Al Hasakah, Alexandrian Hartion Avadis, born 12 November 1969, (passport: 004-11-L128622), a national of Syria living in Aleppo, and Kirakos Babkin, born 1 January 1962, (passport: AM 0709227), a Syria-born Armenian national, were also revealed.

19	Pogros	Xatna	Polaris	
	Krakos	Baboen	Oavit	01.01.1962
	Tomyan	Taqubi	Sungs	10.08.1975
	Krakos	Siran	Baboen	29.05.1994
	Krakos	Kalar	Baboen	10.06.1996
	Krakos	Xeqik	Baboen	04.01.1998
	Krakos	Narek	Baboen	05.01.2004
	Krakos	Nanot	Baboen	11.01.2008

²⁷ <https://www.azerbaycan24.com/ru/v-zanqilane-obnaruzheni-dokumenti-nezakonno-rasselennih-sirivskih-armyan/>

On November 1, Kirill Krivosheev, a Kommersant newspaper journalist and expert on the post-Soviet space, in his program 'Dezertir s infovoyni' (a deserter from information warfare) he authors on Telegram channel reported that Russians were offered contracts for \$1,500 a month to fight in Karabakh as mercenaries.³⁴

Aghasi Asatryan, national of Germany, who arrived in occupied Nagorno-Karabakh to take part in military operations.



French citizen Marc de Cacqueray-Valmenier, the leader of the extreme right-wing group Zouaves Paris (ZVP), informed via Instagram that he had arrived in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan to fight alongside Armenians against Azerbaijan. To illustrate his commitment, he shared own photo in uniform with an assault rifle in his hands that could be a Kalashnikov.³⁵



“Hrayr Keroglyan, 45-year-old national of France, arrived in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan after the eruption of hostilities.”³⁶

The news portal “Big Asia” exposed another scheme for the participation of mercenaries in the war against Azerbaijan.³⁷

“Crash courses in Armenia are being held for civilians, including young fighters who arrived from different countries,” the report reads.

³⁴ <https://1news.az/news/kanal-kirilla-krivosheeva-o-russkom-naemnike-v-karabahe>

³⁵ <https://1news.az/news/rukovoditel-ekstremistskoy-gruppirovki-zouaves-paris-otpravilsya-srazhat-sya-na-storone-armyan-v-nagornom-karabahe---foto>

³⁶ <https://ru.armeniasputnik.am/columnists/20201103/25162713/Ne-prosit-a-zastavit-uvazhat-kak-Grayr-Keroglyan-iz-Frantsii-priekhal-na-voynu-v-Karabakh.html>

³⁷ <https://bigasia.ru/content/news/society/dobrovoltsy-priezzhayut-v-armeniyu-na-voynu/>

4) Unsuccessful attempts to attract mercenaries from the Donbas.

Armed groups in the occupied Donbas region of Ukraine refused to fight against Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh despite the calls from Armenia, pointing to the strongest 'pro-Western faction' in the Armenian government.³⁸

Previously, Russia was reportedly planning to lure militants from the Donbas into Nagorno-Karabakh. After returning from the Donbas, Russian 'volunteers' were prepared to go to Nagorno-Karabakh to fight on the Armenian side. However, a group of Donbas Armenians is reported to have arrived on occupied Nagorno-Karabakh's front lines to take part in military operations.

5) Abkhazian mercenaries.

On November 6, a group of more than 20 mercenaries (a group called 'Hamshen'³⁹) was reported to have arrived from the separatist Georgian region of Abkhazia to fight against Azerbaijan in Karabakh.⁴⁰

This announcement was made by Aram Gabrelyanov, a Russian citizen who had been a provocateur for many years and called upon Armenia to resort to terror following the outbreak of hostilities in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. And he shared through social networks a photo of mercenaries taken at Sochi International Airport.

The information was also confirmed by Telegram blogger Aleksandr Kots, citing Akhra Avidzba ('Abkhaz')⁴¹, a terrorist known for his activities in the Donbass region, reported that a group of ethnic Armenians from Abkhazia had departed for Karabakh.⁴²

A report from the Ukrainian portal Dialog.ua spoke of ethnic Armenians leaving for Karabakh from Sochi airport in Russia, which sends mercenaries to fight in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, yet has been brokering the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.⁴³

On November 7, the leader of the illegal junta regime in Nagorno-Karabakh, Araik Harutyunyan, met with a group of armed mercenaries from Abkhazia who had arrived to fight in Karabakh.⁴⁴

According to available information, Russia sends not only human resources, but also weapons to Armenia. It should be noted that civil aircraft, as well as aircraft of the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations and of Armenian officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan and Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharyan, are used for this purpose.⁴⁵

During the period from October 3 to 9, civil aircraft shipped from Russia to Armenia 'humanitarian' deliveries of weapons and ammunition with a total weight of over 20 tonnes.

The aforesaid fact is a flagrant violation of Article 4 of the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation.⁴⁶

³⁸ <https://azvision.az/news/236794/news.html>

³⁹ <https://ru.armeniasputnik.am/karabah/20201106/25216413/Otryad-dobrovoltsev-iz-armyan-Abkhazii-otpravilsya-na-voynu-v-Karabakh.html>

⁴⁰ <https://1news.az/news/gruppa-naemnikov-iz-abkhazii-napravilas-na-pomosch-karabahskim-separatistam-foto>

⁴¹ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=794358321415573&id=100025242379704

⁴² <https://t.me/sashakots/17937>

⁴³ https://www.dialog.ua/war/218584_1604662494

⁴⁴ <https://ru.armeniasputnik.am/karabah/20201107/25220435/Araik-Arutyunyan-prinyal-chlenov-otryada-dobrovoltsev-iz-Abkhazii.html>

⁴⁵ <https://haqqin.az/news/191375>

⁴⁶ <http://docs.cntd.ru/document/1902240>

An interim list of criminal cases initiated by the Prosecutor General's Office and the State Security Service in connection with the recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters and armed groups by the Republic of Armenia in its recent operations against the Republic of Azerbaijan (currently updated).

The person(s) who committed crimes

Criminal proceedings instituted by the Prosecutor General's Office



1) Vahan Chakhalyan, national of Georgia, was born on November 28, 1981 in Georgia (wanted).

2) Armen Chakhalyan, national of Georgia.

3) Ashot Abramyan, national of Georgia.



4) Arthur Oganessian, French national, was born in Gyumri. He was one of the first mercenaries coming from abroad to fight when the war broke out. He fought in the Jabrayil direction at the front line's southern sector. In addition, Arthur's two more brothers also fought in Karabakh.



5) Gilbert-Levon Minasyan, French national, was born in 1961 (wanted).



6) 28-year-old Sipan Mouradian, national of France from Alfortville, a commune in the Val-de-Marne department, is studying drama at the National Conservatory. According to a France24 news report, Mouradian is currently serving in the Lachin corridor, inspecting vehicles. It should be noted that Alfortville's mayor of Armenian extraction has recognized the independence of the so-called Artsakh. The mayor himself is reported to have recruited mercenaries to fight in Karabakh. Muradyan said he had not taken any direct part in the hostilities.

However, he is obviously doing preparatory works for military operations and training volunteers. About 15 more French, American and Palestinian citizens of Armenian origin admitted to volunteering together volunteering on the front lines of the conflict.



7) 30-years-old Sipan Koroglian, national of France.



8) Armen Artavadzi Knyazian, national of Spain from the Lloret de-Mar city, the Girona province (date of birth: 30.06.1974). Was a manager of restaurant before joining Armenian forces.



9) Krisdapor Artin (Charisdapore), a Toronto native, was born on January 16, 1972. Artin had been working in the mining industry and owned a business in Armenia before the conflict began. He lived with his family in Kapan, a town in southeast Armenia. In a Facebook post, the Armenian National Committee of Canada (ANCC) described Artin as “an active member of the Toronto Armenian community, before repatriating with his family.”



10) 49-year-old Kevork Hadjian, national of Lebanon, was an opera singer.

11) Stephan Keshishian, national of Syria.

12) Aren Osipov, national of Greece.



13) Russian/Armenian citizen Vladimir Vartanov (date of birth: 10.12.1965) (wanted) having created the armed formation called “VoMA” (“VoxjMnaluArvest” – the art of survival), involved citizens from various countries, including members of ASALA, PKK and other terrorist groups, in training within the Mountain Rifle Reserve Battalion (VoMA battalion) to commit terrorist acts against Azerbaijan.



14) French citizen Marc de Cacqueray-Valmenier is the leader of the extreme right-wing group Zouaves Paris (ZVP). The Zouaves Paris only do politics with their fists in the purest tradition of the GUD (Groupe union défense), which they claim to be. These extreme right-wing “Zouaves” engage in brawls and ratonnades (racist attacks on immigrants) in the streets of Paris. They have also participated in yellow vest riots.



15) Armen Martoyan, Russian national of Armenian descent, was born on September 18, 1967 in the village of Lanjik, Anik province, Armenia. Is an MP of the State Council of the “Republic of Crimea”.

16) Alexander Bagdasaryan, national of the Russian Federation.

Criminal proceedings instituted by the Prosecutor General's Office



17) Hamlet Hovsepien, 31-years-old sports wrestler from Strasbourg, France (wanted).



18) Sergey Valeryevich Vabishevich (Serov), with Passport # AB 2929333, national of Belarus (date of birth: 20.07.1967) from the Kobrin city and resident of Moscow, Russian Federation (wanted). Under the influence of the Armenian special services, he arrived in Karabakh from Belarus in exchange for money. Was a participant in the First Karabakh War. Committed the first major terrorist attack at the village of Vang, Aghdere, on June 1, 1992. He then committed 20 terrorist acts with a terrorist group led by Karo Kahkechian and carried out operations in the direction of Lachin and Aghdere. Serov took part in the occupation of Shusha.



19) Aroushan Badasyan, U.S. national (date of birth: 27.05.1968), resides at 815 S Central Ave Ste 8, Glendale, CA (wanted). Was one of the brutal field commanders in the First Karabakh War. On the anniversary of the occupation of Shusha in 2006, he was awarded the Order of the Combat Cross of the First Degree by the order of the then separatist leader Arkadi Ghukasyan. The fact that he was in Karabakh was also confirmed by the separatist leader Araik Harutyunyan.



20) Qalust Akopovich Safaryan (date of birth: 23.12.1968), national of the Russian Federation, organized the illegal armed group called "Garegin Nzhdeh troop". Was born in Kirovakan (now Vanadzor), Armenia.



21) Kegart Hovansian, 31-years-old national of Syria and priest.

22) Hagop Terzian, national of Lebanon. Tel: +37498597263

23) Hagop Khajiryan, national of Lebanon from Beirut. Works for the Lebanon - International Basketball Federation. Tel: +9613884435.

24) Harmik Hovsepyan, 59-years-old national of Iran from Rasht and member of an Iranian chapter of radical "Dashnakstutyun" party of Armenia.



25) Samuel Badalian, 63-years-old national of Spain, from the Lloret de Mar city of the Girona province. Established an Armenian culture organization and was a chief of private security company before joining Armenian forces.



26) Migran Arutunian (date of birth: 25.03.1989), national of the Russian Federation, was born in Echmiadzin, Armenia. Is a professional mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter.



27) Eduard Danielovich Vartanyan, national of the Russian Federation, was born on June 11, 1991 in Yerevan, Armenia. Is a professional mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter.

Articles of the Criminal Code

100 (Waging of a war of aggression)

114 (Mercenary)

120 (Deliberate murder)

214 (Terrorism)

228 (Purchase of illegal weapons)

279 (Creation of illegal armed formations or groups not stipulated by the legislation)

318 (Illegally crossing the State border)

214 (Terrorism)

228 (Carrying illegal firearms)

279 (Creation of illegal armed formations or groups not stipulated by the legislation)

318 (Illegally crossing the State border of the Republic of Azerbaijan)

214 (Terrorism)

214-1 (Terrorist financing)

228 (Carrying illegal firearms)

279 (Creation of illegal armed formations or groups not stipulated by the legislation)

318 (Illegally crossing the State border of the Republic of Azerbaijan)

ARMENIA'S ATTEMPTS TO CREATE A POSSIBLE TECHNOGENIC DISASTER IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF AZERBAIJAN BY TARGETING THE SARSANG WATER RESERVOIR THROUGH THE USE OF FOREIGN MERCENARIES AND FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS



Armenia, which suffered crushing defeats on the battlefield by Azerbaijan's armed forces, sought to carry out terrorist attacks at strategic targets, including the Sarsang reservoir, recruiting mercenaries and other foreign fighters.

Accordingly, on the night of 5 to 6 November 2020, a PKK militant group fighting in the Armenian armed forces was destroyed.

The PKK terrorists, deployed by the enemy in the direction of Kalbajar, tried to carry out terrorist attacks, advancing in different directions.

According to the operational information, it was possible to prevent a terrorist attack at the Sarsang HPP.⁴⁷

As a result of satellite and UAV surveys, the area, where the terrorists were temporarily mobilized, was identified and at least 15 PKK terrorists were killed during the night operation.

Among the killed terrorists, there were members of the Military Council of al-Hasakah - Abdulbari Zardusht, Seydo Ahmet and Mahir Gabar - who once committed terrorist acts against the Turkish armed forces during Turkey's 'Peace Spring' military operation.



⁴⁷ <https://www.azerbaycan24.com/ru/boeviki-rpk-unichtozheni-v-napravlenii-kelybadzhara-sarsang-pod-pritselom-terroristov/>

The Sarsang reservoir and its significance

Sarsang is a large water reservoir in Azerbaijan. The reservoir was formed in 1976 when a height dam was built on the Tartar River. The area of the reservoir is 14.2 km². The installation is located in a mountain valley at an altitude of 726 metres above sea level, with a dam 125 metres in height and a capacity to hold up to 575 million m³ of water. The dam has not been inspected since the area was occupied. Seven districts in Azerbaijan can be susceptible to flooding in case of a dam break.

There have been some reports of incidents when explosives (mines) were found in water released from Sarsang, injuring or killing inhabitants in the six frontline districts. There was an incident in 2012 when a child and his mother died from explosives in a toy allegedly found in the canal.⁴⁸ Mines were also found in 2013⁴⁹(8 mines) and in 2014 (14 mines).

Before the invasion of Azerbaijani territory, the Sarsang dam provided irrigation water for more than a hundred thousand hectares of fertile land in six districts of the country (Tartar, Aghdam, Barda, Goranboy, Yevlakh and Aghjabedi).

In addition to annual fluctuations in water flow, human security cannot be guaranteed for technical reasons: the concrete structures of the reservoir are aging and for many years there has been insufficient maintenance.

The upkeep of the reservoir and its installations have been neglected, creating a major threat to security. The accidental destruction of the dam or sabotage would pose a huge risk to towns and villages in the Tartar, Aghdam, Barda, Goranboy, Yevlakh and Aghjabedi districts.



Currently under the control of Armenian military forces, the dam needs some urgent and long overdue work. In the event of an accident or sabotage, the 400 000 inhabitants of the six districts on the Azerbaijani side of the line of contact as well as public and private property would be at risk of being completely destroyed.

⁴⁸ https://aze.az/news_azerbaydzhan_podnimet_v_62354.html

⁴⁹ https://aze.az/news_armyane_spuskayut_v_91186.html

Because of inadequate or non-existent maintenance, there are also fears among those living downstream from the dam that it could break. In such an event, the lower Tartar region would flood, with severe impacts on the local population and property. Approximately a thousand hectares would be completely submerged.

In an effort to ensure that fresh water is used in a balanced, fair and humanitarian manner, several international institutions have been set up, the most famous being the World Water Council, which began operating in 1996, with its headquarters in Marseilles.⁵⁰

The following international instruments play an important role in protecting water resources across conflict-affected areas:

- the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols adopted in 1977 and in 2005 are now recognised as key international instruments aimed at protecting the rights of civilians in military conflicts;
- the Dublin Principles signed under the auspices of the United Nations in 1992⁵¹;
- the Helsinki Rules which provide the legal framework for the United Nations Water Convention signed in Helsinki in 1992⁵²;
- the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (signed in Espoo, Finland, in 1991)⁵³;
- the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kyiv, 2003)⁵⁴;
- on 28 July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly Adopted a Resolution Recognizing Access to Clean Water, Sanitation as Human Right⁵⁵;
- Resolution A/RES/73/226 adopted by the UN General Assembly (2018)⁵⁶;

Resolution of the UN General Assembly A/RES/72/178 “The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation” (2017)⁵⁷. These rights oblige States to work towards achieving

- universal access to water and sanitation for all, without discrimination, while prioritizing those most in need;
- in 2000, the European Parliament and the European Council adopted a Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) in order to put an end to disputes and implement water resource management and protection based on balanced standards⁵⁸;
- General Comment No. 15: The Right to Water (Arts. 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, November 2002⁵⁹;

Resolution 2085 (2016) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)⁶⁰: “Inhabitants of frontier regions of Azerbaijan are deliberately deprived of water.” The Resolution notes that the lack of regular maintenance work for over twenty years on the Sarsang reservoir, located in one of the areas of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia, poses a danger to the whole border region. The Assembly emphasises that the state of disrepair of the Sarsang dam could result in a major disaster with great loss of human life and possibly a fresh humanitarian crisis.

⁵⁰ <https://www.worldwatercouncil.org/ru/o-hac>

⁵¹ <https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/hwrp/documents/english/icwedece.html>

⁵² https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-5&chapter=27&clang=_en

⁵³ https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/conventions/env_assessment.shtml

⁵⁴ <https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/legaltexts/protocolenglish.pdf>

⁵⁵ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2010/ga10967.doc.htm>

⁵⁶ <https://undocs.org/ru/A/RES/73/226>

⁵⁷ <https://undocs.org/ru/A/RES/72/178>

⁵⁸ <http://www.caresd.net/iwrm/new/doc/direct.pdf>

⁵⁹ <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4538838d11.pdf>

⁶⁰ <https://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-EN.asp?fileid=22429&lang=en>

On July 2, 2013, Azerbaijan urged the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) to demand from Armenia to carry out regular maintenance work on the Sarsang water reservoir dam.⁶¹

According to a resolution released on November 2015, the Parliamentary Assembly requested the Armenian authorities to cease using water resources as tools of political influence or an instrument of pressure benefiting only one of the parties to the conflict.⁶²

In view of this urgent humanitarian problem, the Assembly requested the immediate withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from the region concerned. The Secretary General of the Assembly repeatedly urged the Armenian authorities to allow the PACE rapporteur to carry out an on-site visit on the Armenian side for an in-depth assessment of the condition of the Sarsang reservoir, located in one of the areas of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia. However, the Armenian authorities did not allow the rapporteur to visit the area.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND STRUCTURES MONITORING THE USE OF MERCENARIES AND TERRORISTS IN CONFLICT ZONES

To encourage the enhancement of Member States' capacity to detect foreign terrorist fighters, the UN Security Council has adopted special resolutions 2178 (2014)⁶³ and 2396 (2017)⁶⁴.

These resolutions involve the approval by the following bodies of terrorist activities:

- Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED);
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO);
- Office of Information and Communication Technology (OICT);
- United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC);
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

⁶¹ <https://www.eng.kavkaz-uzel.eu/articles/33784/>

⁶² <https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2461841.html>

⁶³ [https://www.undocs.org/ru/S/RES/2178%20\(2014\)](https://www.undocs.org/ru/S/RES/2178%20(2014))

⁶⁴ [http://undocs.org/ru/S/RES/2396\(2017\)](http://undocs.org/ru/S/RES/2396(2017))

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thus, the above facts once more prove the criminal terrorist nature of Armenia's aggressive policy against Azerbaijani civilians.

The information contained in this report can be used as a basis for accusing the occupying country's military-political leadership of committing the following international crimes:

- 1) Illegal arms shipments by civil aircraft;
- 2) illegal transfers of funds and money-laundering to support terrorism and mercenary activities;
- 3) illegal settlement in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- 4) use of foreign mercenaries and foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) in fighting Azerbaijan.

We trust that all the competent bodies and agencies of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, as well as other relevant international organizations to uphold the rule of law in the above areas shall do everything in their power to bring to justice and correctly punish crimes committed by the military-political leadership of the Republic of Armenia.



*The report was prepared by Ahmad N. Abbasbeyli, Chairman of the
"Development of Society and Civil Relations" Public Union.*

PRELIMINARY REPORT

**on the ill-treatment and torture
of Azerbaijani prisoners of war during
the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict**

*Baku, Azerbaijan
December 2020*

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The courage and professionalism of the Army of the Republic of Azerbaijan demonstrated in the Patriotic War for the liberation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the restoration of its territorial integrity led to a victory engraved in golden letters in history. Discussions on this war and this glorious victory will be conducted for a long time, both domestically and internationally, various articles will be published in the media, and representatives of literature and arts will create many works of art.

But one of our main goals, both on and off the battlefield, and in the political arena in general is to ensure the accurate and objective coverage of events in all areas.

Unfortunately, we are already witnessing the beginning of a smear campaign against this historical victory. With the organization of transnational centers serving different political and religious groups, biased, unfair, shameless disinformation is spread against the Republic of Azerbaijan. One of the segments of this slander campaign is related to the treatment of prisoners of war and hostages. A biased, biased approach to this issue is obvious.

1. Concepts of captives and hostages.

International normative documents

War crimes as a type of international crime have been studied at different periods and its elements that pose a great threat to society have been analyzed. Over time, those who planned and carried out this type of crime were brought to international criminal responsibility and punished. Responsibility for war crimes has been established by both national courts and international criminal tribunals.

The history of the treatment of prisoners of war is as old as the history of war. In the early and Middle Ages, captives were considered the private property, but in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when war was seen as a relationship between states, a more modern view of the situation of prisoners of war began to develop. According to this approach, soldiers were enemies only as long as they were armed, and the rights of captives only were to prevent them from returning to battle. This way of thinking has resulted in a more humane treatment of those who are officially classified as prisoners of war. From the first Geneva Convention in 1864 to the Hague Conferences of 1899, 1907 and 1914, international rules of war and universal standards for the treatment of prisoners were developed. The 1929 Geneva Convention required prisoners to be treated humanely, to be informed of all prisoners held by the countries, and to be allowed to visit prisons by representatives of neutral states. The Geneva Convention of 1949 established very broad and detailed rules of conduct for the protection of prisoners of war. The right to humane and dignified treatment of prisoners must be ensured. Prisoners of war are not perceived as criminals, but as victims of events. Prisoners of war cannot be tried for taking part in a war. Their arrest is not a form of punishment, but only to prevent further involvement in the conflict. They must be released immediately after the end of hostilities and sent back to their home countries.

International documents are an important mechanism for protecting the rights of citizens in armed conflicts. International humanitarian law is mainly expressed in three documents: the 1907 Hague Convention "On the Laws and Customs of War on Land", the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, and the 1977 Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions relating to the protection of victims of international conflicts are among the international legal instruments reflecting the principle of respect. The principle of respect for human rights was first enshrined in the UN Charter and later clarified in a number of important international instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948.

In addition to the above-mentioned international documents, there are many conventions directly related to respect for human rights - the 1907 Hague Convention "On the Laws and Customs of War on Land", the 12 August 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention protecting civilians and the 1977 Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions relating to the protection of victims of international conflicts, the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its 1999 Additional Protocol, the 10 December 1976 Convention on the Prohibition of the Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, Which May Be Deemed Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, 1974 Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.

On August 12, 1949, four Geneva Conventions were adopted to ensure the necessary protection and humane treatment of civilians and the protection of war victims in international humanitarian law.

One of these conventions is the III Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War. In addition to the Convention, the main international legal instruments governing the treatment of prisoners of war include the Fourth Hague Convention on the Laws of Land Operations and the 1977 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols I and II, adopted in 1977.

A prisoner is a person whose freedom is restricted in order to prevent the participation of servicemen and non-servicemen in combat operations. Simply put, civilians captured in combat are called "prisoners" and those serving in the Armed Forces are called "prisoners of war."

It is important to refer to the requirements of international conventions in order to investigate the rules of conduct for people captured by the enemy, as well as the provisions concerning their being called "prisoners" or "prisoners of war."



Excerpts from the Geneva Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, 12 August 1949.

ARTICLE 4. Prisoners of war.

A. Prisoners of war, in the sense of the present Convention, are persons belonging to one of the following categories, who have fallen into the power of the enemy:

(1) Members of the armed forces of a Party to the conflict as well as members of militias or volunteer corps forming part of such armed forces.

(2) Members of other militias and members of other volunteer corps, including those of organized resistance movements, belonging to a Party to the conflict and operating in or outside their own territory, even if this territory is occupied, provided that such militias or volunteer corps, including such organized resistance movements, fulfil the following conditions:

- (a) that of being commanded by a person responsible for his subordinates;
- (b) that of having a fixed distinctive sign recognizable at a distance;
- (c) that of carrying arms openly;
- (d) that of conducting their operations in accordance with the laws and customs of war.

Article 3 of the Geneva Convention states that in the event of armed conflict not of an international character, both parties are obliged to apply the following rules:

Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed 'hors de combat' by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction founded on race, colour, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria.

To this end, the following acts are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to the above-mentioned persons:

(a) violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture;

(b) taking of hostages;

(c) outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment;

(d) the passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples.

(2) The wounded and sick shall be collected and cared for.

An impartial humanitarian body, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, may offer its services to the Parties to the conflict.

3) This article in no way applies to personnel with medical-sanitary and spiritual status.

Article 5. The present Convention shall apply to the persons referred to in Article 4 from the time they fall into the power of the enemy and until their final release and repatriation.

Should any doubt arise as to whether persons, having committed a belligerent act and having fallen into the hands of the enemy, belong to any of the categories enumerated in Article 4, such persons shall enjoy the protection of the present Convention until such time as their status has been determined by a competent tribunal.

Once these conditions are met or confirmed, a prisoner of war regime can be applied to detainees.

Finally, it is important to note that prisoners of war are disarmed enemies, that they must be under the temporary authority of the State as required by the Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War, and that the State must be fully responsible for their fate.



2. Information on ill-treatment and torture of Azerbaijani prisoners of war in the First Karabakh War of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

Although Armenia is a party to most of the mentioned conventions, it has always violated and continues to violate their terms.

Under international law, the crime of genocide is considered the most serious crime against humanity. During the occupation of Azerbaijani lands, the armed forces of Armenia repeatedly committed genocides against Azerbaijanis, ill-treated captives and hostages, and subjected them to torture. The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 9 December 1948 enshrines the crime of genocide. Armenia has applied to Azerbaijanis all the acts constituting the crime of genocide enshrined in that Convention. Hundreds of irrefutable evidences of the atrocities committed by Armenia against Azerbaijani prisoners of war and inhumane acts have been collected and presented to international organizations, as well as brought to the attention of the media and the public.

Information of the State Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons as of 01.12.2020:

Captives, hostages and missing persons

Statistics on persons missing, hostages and released as a result of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

1. Missing persons registered by the State Commission - 3890 persons

a) servicemen – 3171 persons

b) civilians - 719 persons (71 children, 267 women, 326 elderly people)

a) men - 3623 persons

b) women - 267 persons

Information is received from 872 persons (registered as missing persons) about being held hostage:

a) servicemen – 605 persons

b) civilians - 267 persons (29 children, 98 women, 112 elderly people)

a) men - 774 persons

b) women - 98 persons

2. released Captives and hostages - 1480 persons

a) servicemen - 378 persons

b) civilians - 1102 persons (224 children, 357 women, 225 elderly persons)

a) men - 1123 persons

b) women - 357 persons





The information obtained by the Azerbaijani side shows that most of the people on this list died in Armenian captivity, either from torture or disease. To date, there is evidence that some of those on the list have been used as slaves in heavy physical labor in Armenia and the occupied territories.

In June-December 1991, armed forces of Armenia destroyed more than 30 settlements in the mountainous part of Karabakh, including Meshali, Jamilli, Tug, Imarat-Garvand, Sirkhavand, Umudlu, Karkijahan and others. Strategically important settlements were burned, hundreds of Azerbaijanis were killed, captured and wounded. In January-February 1992, the villages of Garadagli, Gaybali, Malibeyli, Ashagi Gushchular, Yukhari Gushchular were occupied. On the night of February 25-26, Armenians destroyed Khojaly. The 2nd Battalion under the command of Major Ohanyan Seyran Mushegovich, an Armenian officer of the 366th Regiment, the 3rd Battalion under the command of Yevgeny Nabokikh, the Chief of Staff of the 1st Battalion Chitchyan Valery Isayevich and more than 50 Armenian officers serving in the regiment attacked Khojaly.

During the occupation of Khojaly, 613 people were brutally killed in the genocide, of which 63 were children, 106 were women of different ages, and 70 were elderly people, 487 people were injured - 76 of them were children. 1275 people were captured, 8 families were destroyed, the city was burned, 25 children lost both parents, 130 children lost one parent. As of October 1, 2016, 186 people were missing, including 31 children (11 girls), 59 women and 33 elderly people (20 women). Of those 186 missing people, there were witness testimonies about 95 of them stating that they were captured and taken hostage by Armenians. Among those 95 people are 12 children (2 girls), 23 women and 11 elderly people (7 women).

People were killed with special cruelty in Khojaly. According to the Russian human rights center "Memorial", the fact of peeling the scalp of a living person was registered.

The Paris-based Le Monde newspaper wrote on March 14, 1992: "... Foreign journalists in Agdam saw the scalp and nails of three children and women killed in Khojaly peeled off. These are not Azerbaijani propaganda, but reality ...".

The Izvestia newspaper in Moscow, the Croix L'Evoneman magazine in Paris, the Times newspaper in London, the Sunday Times newspaper, the Financial Times newspaper, and the Valer Aktuel magazine in Paris all covered the atrocities committed by Armenia in Khojaly.

The true nature of this genocide, which took place in front of the eyes of the whole world, was revealed only after the return of national leader Heydar Aliyev to power in 1993. In February 1994, the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan gave a political and legal assessment to the Khojaly genocide.

Considering the need for international cooperation to prevent genocides that have caused great losses to humanity, the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on December 9, 1948. The resolution of the General Assembly of December 3, 1973 set out the principles of international cooperation in the detection and punishment of those guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Paragraph 1 of the resolution states that war crimes and crimes against humanity must be investigated, regardless of when and where they were committed, and that those who have evidence of such crimes must be punished if found guilty.

According to paragraph 5, perpetrators of such crimes must be punished in the country where they were committed. Accordingly, states co-operate in the extradition of such persons.

Unfortunately, in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which lasted for more than 30 years, Armenia grossly violated all the above-mentioned norms and conventions, committed war crimes, vandalism, atrocities against captives, hostages and missing persons, and murders. About 4,000 Azerbaijani captives and hostages were killed in Armenian captivity, committed suicide because of intolerance to torture and disease, and the rest were hidden and used in hard physical labor in Armenia and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. According to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, prisoners of war must be kept in a non-hostile government, not in the homes of individuals or in hostages, they must always be treated humanely, and no prisoners of war must be subjected to physical torture or experimentation. Armenians violated international law by torturing prisoners of war as well as civilians, brutally beating and insulting them, turning them into objects of trade, often not returning them after receiving large sums of money from their captives, torturing them to death, or torturing prisoners and hostages. sold and experimented on them.

Russian and US human rights organizations and the New York Times report that human rights were violated during the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, with decapitated and skinned corpses and the scalp of one person alive.

According to the ceasefire agreement signed on May 12, 1994, Armenia had to stop the attack on Azerbaijani lands. However, Armenia not only did not comply with the ceasefire agreement, but also continued to grossly violate human rights, including the rights of prisoners of war and hostages. Ignoring the ceasefire, the Armenian armed forces have recently taken hostages. On July 11, 2014, Russian citizen Dilgam Asgarov and Azerbaijani citizen Shahbaz Guliyev were taken hostage by the armed forces of Armenia while trying to visit their ancestral homes and graves in the village of Shaplar, Kalbajar region. Azerbaijani citizen Hasan Hasanov was killed. An illegal court was established in occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, and the court sentenced Asgarov to life imprisonment and Guliyev to 22 years in prison. Recently, the Armenian armed forces targeted minors and brutally killed them.

Adherence to the principle of protection of human rights is one of the main factors influencing the settlement of international conflicts. Armenia, which has "joined" most of the international legal instruments, is grossly violating their terms. It is important to establish a Special Tribunal to punish the perpetrators of crimes committed by Armenia against Azerbaijan. The application of international law and the protection of human rights may be carried out in cooperation with key bodies such as the UN Security Council, the International Court of Justice, specialized agencies, including the Human Rights Council and other relevant bodies.

Crimes committed by the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijani hostages and captives.

The Gugark massacre

In November 1988, 15 Azerbaijanis were set on fire by Armenians in the Gugark region of Armenia, killing overall 21 Azerbaijanis.

Khojaly genocide

On February 25-26, 1992, armed forces of Armenia, with the help of the 366th Russian Regiment stationed in Khankendi, attacked the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly and carried out an act of genocide with special cruelty against the civilian population. As a result of this tragedy, 613 civilians were killed, 487 were injured and 1,275 were taken as hostages.

Many of them have not returned from captivity and there is no information about their future. After the withdrawal of the 366th Regiment from Khankendi, a significant part of the military equipment belonging to this military unit was given to the Armenian separatists.

Aghdaban genocide

On April 8, 1992, Armenian occupants attacked the village of Agdaban in Kalbajar, killing 67 people and burning 17 villagers alive.

Azerbaijanis captured and taken hostage during the Karabakh war

The indisputable facts on the Azerbaijani side show that at least a thousand of our citizens have been captured or taken hostage by Armenia, but these facts have been hidden from international organizations, including the ICRC. The list of these people was compiled on the basis of testimonies of our citizens who returned from Armenian captivity and other sources. Human rights activists from Germany, Russia and Georgia, members of the International Working Group on the Release of Captives and Hostages, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have confirmed reports that some of these individuals have in fact been taken prisoner. However, the fate of these citizens is still unknown.

Captives and hostages whose fate is unknown

Huseynova Mehriban Allahverdi gizi: She and her 3 minor children were taken hostage during the occupation of Khojaly. According to Mammadov Mayil Mahammadali oglu, who was released from captivity, he saw Mehriban and her children in the pre-trial detention center in Yerevan. However, Mayil, who was later taken to Shusha, did not know about them. The Armenian side denies that Mehriban and her children have been taken hostage and still hides the facts about their fate.

Huseynova Tamara Saleh gizi: was taken hostage by Armenians on July 26, 1992 in Alibeyli village of Tovuz region. It was reported that Tamara Huseynova was detained in the village of Paravakar, Berd region, in the family of the missing Alaverdiyan Mger, during several talks with the Armenian side within the search by her brother Akif Huseynov. On November 6, 1992, an Armenian named Alaverdiyan Shamir Alekseyevich sent a telegram to Akif Huseynov confirming that his sister Tamara had been taken hostage. The hostage-taking of Tamara Huseynova by Armenians was also confirmed by the international working group on the release of prisoners and hostages and the search for missing persons. However, the fate of Tamara Huseynova in captivity is still unknown.

Rahimov Rahim Abdulkarim oglu: was taken prisoner in Agdara region on June 24, 1993. A telegram sent to his family from Russia on 16.07.1993 (Orenburg, Volgogradskaya Street, house 40/2, ap. 69) stated that Rahimov was detained at the house of Agajanyan Grel in the village of Vagauz, Agdara region. In 1993, his family received a letter from Rahimov through the ICRC. In this letter, Rahimov asked to find the missing Agajanyan Jora and hold an exchange. The Armenian side is still hiding the facts about Rahimov.

The information received by the Azerbaijani side shows that the vast majority of those on the list of captives and hostages, but whose fate is unknown, were killed in Armenian captivity or died of torture and disease, and a small number are still hidden and used as slaves in hard labor. .



Hostages whose fate remains unknown: Aliyev Tural Nadir oglu, Allahverdiyev Mahir Novruz oglu, Guliyeva Shahnaz Mammad gizi

In 1988-2003, 1,335 Azerbaijani citizens were released from Armenian captivity. According to the State Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons, among the citizens who returned from captivity, there were injuries, mental illness due to moral suffering, tuberculosis, etc. Diseases were recorded due to non-compliance with basic requirements. In short, Armenian captivity and hostage-taking have left a lasting mark on the health and psyche of these people.

The materials of the Commission prove that hundreds of Azerbaijani citizens, including children, women and the elderly, were victims of intolerable torture in Armenian captivity. Prisoners and hostages were subjected to horrific torture - brutally beaten, deliberately maimed, hot crosses and stamps were placed on their chests, nails and teeth were removed, salt was applied to their wounds, beaten with rubber and iron sticks until death, gasoline was injected into their veins, and body parts were cut and fed to them, medical experiments were performed on them:



*Azerbaijani hostages who are still missing with no information:
Huseynov Rajaf Elkhan oglu, Huseynova Nasiba Huseyn gizi, Jafarov Samir Tacir oglu*

At the same time, hundreds of our citizens were killed by Armenians during their captivity, died as a result of torture, were subjected to cruel treatment and constant humiliation to the point of suicide. The facts of crimes committed in Armenian captivity are being received by the State Commission even until today:

During the large-scale attack of the armed forces of Armenia on the Kalbajar region of Azerbaijan on April 1, 1993, an urgent order was issued to deliver from the headquarters radio station in the Vardenis region of Armenia (QSM-7) to the main radio station in the Kalbajar war zone ("Uragan"). The order called for the immediate destruction and burial of Azerbaijani captives and hostages, including the elderly, women and children. The reason for the haste was to hide the traces of the atrocities committed against Azerbaijanis from the international delegation, including journalists, who arrived in the war zone at that time. The text of this radio broadcast of the commanders of the military units of Armenia was recorded by the radio intelligence service of the Ministry of National Security of the Republic of Azerbaijan on April 6-7, 1993.

On February 16, 1994, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia stated that eight Azerbaijani prisoners of war had been killed in an alleged attempt to escape. During a forensic medical examination of the bodies in Baku, Professor Derek Paunder, a member of the Presidium of the Academy of International Law and Social Medicine and the British organization

Doctors for Human Rights, said that Azerbaijani prisoners of war were killed by the same weapon (pistol) and rejected the idea that captives were allegedly killed "while trying to escape."

During the occupation of Kalbajar, 20-year-old Samaya Karimova was taken hostage along with her 2-year-old child, Karimova Nurlana, whose arm was wounded. On May 15, 1993, Samaya committed suicide because she could not stand the suffering of torture against her and her daughter Nurlana.

Amirova Khazengul Tavakkul gizi: When Khojaly was occupied, Armenian militants took her family hostage. Armenians shot Khazangul's mother Raya, 7-year-old sister Yegana and aunt Goycha, and set her father Amirov Tavakkul on fire after pouring gasoline on him.

Ilham Nasirov: He was captured by Armenians on July 27, 1992, wounded in the head, neck and shoulder during the battles for Aghdara. On August 8, Ilham's family received a call from Khankendi stating that he was being held at the home of an Armenian named Arakelyan in Yerevan. The family demanded that Shagen Arakelyan be found and handed over to the other side in order to release Ilham Nasirov. Although Nasirov was kept hungry and thirsty for about a year and reached the point of dystrophy, he was later hospitalized in Yerevan, but it was no longer possible to help him. According to the hospital chief Sh. Arakelyan's letter No. 06/134 dated November 24, 1993, I. Nasirov died on November 23 from a diagnosis of acute cachexia.

Heydar Heydarov died as a result of torture and regular beatings during his detention in Shusha prison.

Forensic examination of the remains of 20-year-old Farhad Rahman oglu Atakishiyev, who died in Armenian captivity, proved that he was killed as a result of regular beatings and severe torture.

Faig Shahmali oglu Alimammadov, a resident of Khojaly, who was in Armenian captivity, was shot by an Armenian soldier because he did not say the name of Ganja as "Kirovabad". Zulfi Ibrahim oglu Mammadov, Mammad Jumshud oglu Mammadov and others, who were released from captivity, testify to this.

These are some of the crimes committed against our captives and hostages. But these facts alone give a full picture of the atrocities and crimes committed against our captives and hostages. In general, as a result of measures taken by the Ministry of National Security and the relevant State Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan, numerous reports, testimonies and procedural evidence on the atrocities committed against Azerbaijani captives and hostages in Armenia and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan were obtained. Already in 2002, by the decision of the State Commission, the materials collected on the facts of Armenians who committed crimes against Azerbaijani captives and hostages were sent to the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan for legal assessment. The preliminary investigation of the criminal case showed that in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, especially in Shusha prison, Khankendi detention center, military units, police stations and other places, members of illegal Armenian armed groups, prison staff captured servicemen and international humanitarian aid. Human rights defenders were brutally treated, killed, or even killed, raped, humiliated, and subjected to other forms of torture. The investigation has once again confirmed that the massacre and torture of Azerbaijani captives and hostages were organized and directed by the servicemen of the armed forces of Armenia and the leaders of the illegal regime in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Persons killed in captivity

The facts collected by the State Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons show that the Republic of Armenia violates the norms of international law in relation to Azerbaijani citizens in captivity, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 on the Protection of Victims of War, killing, maiming, ill-treating or torturing, or infringing on human dignity.

Mass killing of civilians during the Armenian military aggression against Azerbaijan, torture and moral torture of Azerbaijani citizens held captive in the Republic of Armenia and the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, cruel treatment and degradation to the point of suicide, cold-blooded killing or torture are clear evidences of the above-mentioned.

Below are some of these facts:

During the occupation of Khojavend region (17.02.1992) by the armed forces of Armenia, about 80 out of 117 villagers taken hostage from Garadagli village were shot on the spot. This was witnessed by villagers Seyyur Khanlar oglu Nagiyev, Shahruz Amirkhan oglu Aliyev and others.

Hagigat Yusif gizi Huseynova, a resident of Garadagli village of Khojavend region, witnessed the burning alive of 10 villagers by Armenia in February 1992.

During the occupation of Kalbajar region, 15 civilians of Bashlibel village were killed on the spot by Armenians. Among them were Mahammad Amraliyev, Surkhay Amraliyev, Chingiz Amraliyev, Aygun Amraliyeva, Busat Ahmadova and Chichek Hasanova. Khasay Mahammad oglu Amraliyev and Binnat Abdulali oglu Ahmadov testify about it.

According to Imarat Mamishova, she and her two young children were taken hostage during the occupation of the Kalbajar region. In front of Imarat Mamishova, Armenians shot and burned eight civilians, including her eight-year-old son, Taleh. After that, the Armenians took her, her 10-year-old son Yadigar, other women, children and the elderly to Khankendi and subjected them to terrible torture.

According to the testimony of the Ahmadov family, who were released from Armenian captivity in 1994, on August 17, 1993, Armenians shot about 25 civilians in the village of Gajar, Fizuli region, in front of them.

Hasan Majid oglu Huseynov, who was taken hostage by Armenia, said that about 40 civilians were killed by Armenians on the Horadiz-Fuzuli road in 1993.

Niyaz Balay oglu Zeynalov, who returned from captivity, said that the Armenians took hostage Sariya Tagi gizi Zeynalova, born in 1910, Yegana Dadash gizi Madatova, born in 1920, and Movsum Abdulrahim oglu Ahmadov, residents of Gushchular village, Shusha region, on February 11, 1992 – all burned alive and killed.

Budag Ali oglu Alishanov, a 61-year-old former hostage, witnessed the killing of five Azerbaijanis in Armenian captivity in the village of Drmbon (Nagorno-Karabakh) as slaves in heavy physical labor.

Israyil Sarif oglu Ismayilov, who was released from captivity, confirms that Armenians beheaded three Azerbaijani hostages on an Armenian grave.

Samaya Karimova, a resident of Lachin region, committed suicide in Armenian captivity, not enduring the torture of her 2-year-old daughter Nurlana and herself.

According to Taleh Madat oglu Ibishov, born in 1977, who was taken hostage with his family during the occupation of Lachin region on May 18, 1992, Armenians brutally killed his father Madat Avaz oglu Ibishov and his sister, Yegana Madat gizi Ibishova, born in 1967.

Forensic examination of the remains of 20-year-old Farhad Rahman oglu Atakishiyev, who died in Armenian captivity, proved that he was killed as a result of regular beatings and severe torture.

Heydar Heydarov, a resident of Yardimli district, died as a result of regular torture by Armenians in Shusha prison. (December 24, 1994) Former prisoners Habib Aliyev, Avaz Mukhtarov, Abulfat Gasimov and others testify to this.

Faig Shahmali oglu Alimammadov, a resident of Khojaly, who was in Armenian captivity, was shot by an Armenian soldier because he did not say the name of Ganja as "Kirovabad". Zulfi Ibrahim oglu Mammadov, Mammad Jumshud oglu Mammadov and others testify about it.

According to Abuzar Manafov, Hasan Huseynov, and Aydin Aziz oglu Maharramov, who were released from captivity, on February 14, 1994, while being held in Shusha prison, guards Kolya, Slavik, and Gor regularly tortured and killed Ilgar Anvar oglu Gurbanov, originally from the Beylagan region.

Fikret Hasan oglu Huseynov, a resident of Shamkir region, born in 1962, died in Armenian captivity on June 28, 1993 as a result of regular beatings and torture. Bakhtiyar Ibrahim oglu Tagiyev and Matlab Shiraslan oglu Allahverdiyev, who were released from captivity, are witnesses to this fact. During the forensic medical examination in Baku, rib fractures were found in Fikret Hasan oglu Huseynov.

Zohrab Nadir oglu Heydarov, who was released from captivity, stated that Zahid Nasibulla oglu Amrullayev, born in 1973, was strangled to death by Armenian guards on May 21, 1993 in Shusha prison.

Mashallah Bandaliyev, who was released from captivity, said that in May 1992, while being held in a garage in Khankendi, Mero and Sargsyan Vazgen, another Armenian who did not know his name, first tortured and then beheaded him.

Despite the fact that the IV Geneva Convention and other international legal acts, which are the main sources of international law, prohibit the hostage-taking and detention of civilians during armed conflicts, we see the exact opposite in the behavior of the Armenian side in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.



An Azerbaijani child whose feet were frozen while fleeing the Khojaly genocide

Azerbaijanis captured and held hostage in Armenia

Despite the fact that a few years ago, the leadership of the Armenian Defense Ministry and other government agencies brazenly declared that there were no Azerbaijani captives and hostages in Armenia or the occupied Karabakh region of Azerbaijan at the events on the case of captives, missing and hostages, the information obtained from the sources confirmed the opposite.

The Azerbaijani side states that the Armenian government wants to deceive the world, but exposes itself.

Back then, Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry spokesman Hikmet Hajiyev stated that official Yerevan, which made an absurd statement about the absence of Azerbaijani captives and hostages in Armenia and the occupied territories, was in fact exposing its lies. According to him, at the end of 2014, the presidents met in Paris and offered to exchange information and cooperate through the International Committee of the Red Cross between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the parties to the conflict on the case of captives, missing persons and hostages.

"The Azerbaijani side, which considers more than 4,000 citizens missing as a result of the Armenian aggression and occupation, has expressed its readiness for this humanitarian proposal. Azerbaijanis captured and held hostage by Armenia, including civilians, have been subjected to the most brutal torture," he said. The fact that they were mass tortured, massacred and buried in mass graves has been documented. Official Yerevan, which makes an absurd statement about the absence of Azerbaijani captives and hostages in Armenia and the occupied territories, is exposing its lies. The illegal detention of our compatriots Dilgam Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev is clear evidence of the fact that the Armenian side suffers from "institutional memory impairment".

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, it was confirmed by themselves that Armenia held captives and hostages, and that no information had been provided about them. "We believe that our compatriots Dilgam Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev, who were taken hostage, should be released immediately also with pressure from the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs and the influence of the International Committee of the Red Cross, mass graves in Armenia and the occupied territories should be excavated, the relevant database must be created. As a result, DNA analysis could determine the fate of missing people and provide information to families who have been waiting for information about their loved ones for more than 20 years. As a result of the inhumane policy pursued by the Armenian side, these facts, each of which must be investigated on an individual basis, cannot be investigated, and Armenia, realizing its international legal responsibility, is trying to obstruct the process under various pretexts".

Clarifying the legal responsibility of Armenia for these actions, Hajiyev said that the legal responsibility of Armenia includes the responsibility of Armenian military and civilian officials who committed or ordered these crimes, as well as Armenia as a state: "What is disgusting is that these individuals still hold senior positions in Armenia's political, military, and law enforcement agencies. By committing these crimes, Armenia, as a state, gravely violates the Geneva Conventions, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. commitments under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture and the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and other international instruments. Using international legal mechanisms, the Azerbaijani side continues to work to determine the responsibility of the Armenian military and civil officials, as well as the Armenian state, who committed these acts.

There is information about six women's and children's captive camps set up by Armenian vandals based on serious and reliable sources: Vardenis children's camp, Razdan children's camp, Khankendi children's camp, Getashen women's camp, Cermukh women's camp, Kalbajar women's camp. It is reported that the hundreds of Azerbaijani prisoners are held in these camps.

A number of international organizations have from time to time noted the detention of Azerbaijani prisoners in Armenia and the occupied Karabakh. For example, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) stated in an official document on prisoners of war and hostages held in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh in 2001 that according to the International Committee of the Red Cross on April 10, 2001, 4,959 Azerbaijanis were missing as a result of Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijan, 1,092 of them were released between 1992 and 2001, and 783 people are currently being held captive in Armenia and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, including 18 children, 43 women and 56 elderly people. However, the Armenian side denies this fact.

Paragraph 5 of the document of the Parliamentary Assembly states that Azerbaijan and Armenia are full members of the Council of Europe. It is unacceptable that there are so many prisoners in the territory of a country that is a member of such an influential organization, even ordinary human rights are not protected.

The sixth paragraph states that released prisoners say that captives are used as slaves, constantly insulted and tortured. They do not eat normally and do not receive the necessary medical care. The Parliamentary Assembly called on the Committee of Ministers to use every opportunity to ensure the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights in the territory of Azerbaijan occupied by another member of the Council of Europe – Armenia.

Some Armenian citizens have also stated that Azerbaijani prisoners have been detained and tortured. Mesrop Martirosyan, an Armenian citizen and former serviceman who fled to the United States under government pressure, testified in a US court a few years ago that there were many Azerbaijani prisoners of war in Armenia and the occupied territories, and that he had witnessed them being tortured.

In his testimony, Martirosyan said that the group spoke out against the violent treatment of prisoners, especially the torture of Azerbaijani prisoners held in Armenian-controlled concentration

camps in Nagorno-Karabakh. He also cites articles and press releases by a number of international organizations to substantiate his views on the atrocities against Azerbaijani prisoners of war.

As can be seen, the facts presented by the Azerbaijani side to various international organizations over the years about the presence of Azerbaijani captives and hostages in Armenia and the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region, and the crimes committed against them, have once again been acknowledged by the Armenian citizen.

Azerbaijani hostages enslaved in Armenian captivity - facts related to captives, missing and hostages with reference to the international electronic magazine.

On the fate of Azerbaijani prisoners of war since 1993

According to our research, in the first days of the bloody wars in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenians who held Azerbaijani prisoners in Shusha and Khankendi prisons chose several key places to hide them from the Red Cross and other international organizations. One of them is a secret camp in one of the thousands destroyed by an earthquake in Spitak region (Armenia), 306 block, the second is the Bank's basement in Askeran region (Karabakh), gold mines in Kalbajar region, former military bases in Leninakan and Gyumri.

The first captives were used by Armenians as workers for looting in the occupied territories. Some hostages and prisoners are even reported to have committed suicide in protest of the destruction of Azerbaijani graves.

Based on the project of the Henry Böll Foundation, it is necessary to write a couple of points in the report of experts interested in the fate of prisoners and missing during the Karabakh war on October 18-31, 1998:

Mammadali Gasimov, 65, was captured on June 16, 1994, "allegedly killed while fleeing." In fact, he was shot for refusing to dig an Azerbaijani grave and dismantle the headstones. (Rasul Nemat oglu Ramazanov, who was held captive in Shusha, Khankendi and Khojavend districts in 1993-1995, stated in his explanation No. 474 / DK addressed to the State Commission: "In addition, I saw the demolition of the ancient city mosque. These materials were transported directly to Armenia by license plates belonging to Yerevan. In addition to the above, I saw the demolition of buildings in the Aghdam region").

A hostage named Elkhan Ahmadov was brought to the Yerevan police station in January 1994 for refusing to work in Karabakh, and he was "allegedly killed during the escape." But the truth is that even the most reckless person cannot escape from the military police station in the center of Yerevan. The truth: Elkhan, who refused to work in Karabakh as a worker, was shot on the spot. (Mammadov Valhad Adil oglu, who was in Armenian captivity in 1993-1996, confirmed in his explanation No. 474 / DK dated 30.06.2003 that the captives were used in the demolition of historical monuments belonging to Azerbaijanis. He said that the marble slabs on the floor around the statue of Vagif were torn down and Muslim cemeteries were destroyed).

A 15-year-old civilian named Azer. In 1994, a woman in Khankendi bought him for money from Armenian officers and hired him to work on her property.

Rahimov Rahim, an Azerbaijani hostage, secretly sent a letter through one of the returned soldiers in 1993 to his family and wrote that he was being held in Khankendi. Although the Armenian side claims that such a person does not exist, he is currently being held hostage by Armenians and is working as a slave. (The International Working Group of Human Rights Defenders of Germany, Russia and Georgia on the release of captives and hostages and the search for missing persons and the ICRC confirm the fact that some of these individuals were indeed captured and that their fate was withheld).

Osmanov Nadir – despite being registered as a hostage by the International Committee of the Red Cross on June 16, 1992, the Armenian side denies his existence. At present, this person is also likely to be employed as a slave. (This behavior of the Armenian side is intended

to cover up the hostile country's treatment of prisoners of war and hostages during the war. The internal organs were removed and sold to foreign countries, and in many cases used for medical experiments.)

Safar Babayev – registered as № 30. He was killed in Karabakh for refusing to work as a slave and was handed over to his family in April 1992.

General Manvel Grigoryan, one of the organizers and participants of the Khojaly genocide, told panorama.am: "I returned from the Karabakh war with hundreds of Azerbaijani captives. I kept one of them, a 15-year-old boy, in Karabakh for two years and in Armenia for two years and named him Simon".

Azerbaijani hostages enslaved in Armenian captivity Budag Ali oglu Alishanov, a 61-year-old former hostage, witnessed the killing of five Azerbaijanis in Armenian captivity in the village of Drmbon (Nagorno-Karabakh) as slaves for hard physical labor.

Citizens of one of the neighboring countries told the press that while visiting the mines near the village of Zod in the occupied Kalbajar region of Azerbaijan, they saw many hungry, miserable people working in the mines in Armenia. Those who were interested in the identities of those working in the area surrounded by iron wires were amazed. The Armenian who led them said that those working in the Zod gold mines were Azerbaijani captives.

Later, when Armenians living in occupied Karabakh came to Georgia as tourists, they said that many Azerbaijani prisoners were being held in Armenia and Karabakh. But they are afraid to disclose the exact location of these people. According to them, many of them are currently employed as slaves in the Zod village of the Kalbajar region, in the Agduzdag and Tutkhun gold deposits. He said that some captive Azerbaijanis are detained in Kalbajar. "We were told that there are many captive Azerbaijanis in Yerevan, Leninakan and Gyumri. They are mainly used in hard physical labor.

Azerbaijani hostages enslaved by Armenians are at a gold mine near the village of Zod, on the Azerbaijani slope of the Zod Pass. The geographical coordinates are: 40°14'13.94"N, 45°58'3.85"E. It is only 8-9 kilometers from the Hinaldag front line. This gold deposit is right next to the main highway connecting Karabakh with Armenia.

Such information once again confirms that Armenia has grossly violated the 1949 Geneva Conventions on the Protection of Victims of War. Captives are called fighters. Non-combatant civilians are called "hostages." The convention prohibits the taking of civilians hostage during wars and conflicts, and hostages must be returned immediately.

Reference: State Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons, Светлана Ганнушкина, Bernhard Clasen, Паата Захаришвили "Отчет о поездке в зону Карабахского конфликта 18 – 31 октября 1998 года" and reports of the International Committee of Red Cross and other international organizations.

3. Some examples of torture (atrocities) committed by Armenians against Azerbaijani captives and hostages

For several years, various studies, as well as materials of the State Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons, prove that the Armenian side resorts to deliberate genocide against Azerbaijani captives and hostages. Hundreds of Azerbaijani citizens, including children, women and the elderly, have been victims of intolerable torture in Armenian captivity. Numerous facts show that captives and hostages were subjected to various horrific tortures — they were brutally beaten, deliberately maimed, stamped with hot crosses on their chests, their nails and teeth removed, their wounds salted, beaten with rubber and iron sticks to death, and had gasoline in their veins.



- At the time of the hostage-taking, 3-year-old Shovgi Khagani oglu Aliyev's arm bone (24.07.1993) was removed by Armenian "doctors" in Khankendi, as a result of which Shovgi was permanently disabled.



- Armenian "doctor" Aida Serobyanyan injected needles into Guljamal Guliyeva's newborn son Arzu Hajiyeu, who was taken hostage during the occupation of Kalbajar region (March 31, 1993). As a result, Arzu Hajiyeu was disabled for life.



- Babek Ilyasov was only seven months old when his mother, Afat Mirzayeva, and his grandfather, Aslan Mirzayev, were brutally shot by Armenians. The shrapnel wounded Babek's right eye, but the Armenians returned him, along with other villagers taken hostage from the Kalbajar region, only four months later and without treatment. Currently, Babek is blind in one eye.
- Zamina Goyush gizi Dadashova's bullet wound in her arm when she was taken hostage by Armenians became dirty due to negligence and her body was in the process of decay. Currently,

Zamina's left arm is not working. When she was taken hostage, Armenians shot his father Goyush Dadashov and her elderly grandmother Goncha Ibadova on the spot.

- Armenian guards tortured Keklik Hasanova, a hostage from the Aghdam region, and pulled out 16 of her teeth with nails.
- During the occupation of Gubadli region, 65-year-old Binish Rasul gizi Mammadova and 69-year-old Sara Mirish gizi Ismayilova were taken hostage and detained in Khankendi military unit. Here they were forced to work hard during the day and beaten with special cruelty at night. The women, Shahsanam and Asli, who were detained with them, did not tolerate such severe torture and died in captivity.
- Vladimir Ivanovich Shevelyov, a former resident of the Aghdam region of Russian descent who was severely tortured in Armenian captivity, was brutally killed by Armenians during the 1994 occupation of the Aghdam region by his 89-year-old mother Vera Davidovna and older sister Svetlana Ivanovna and 58-year-old sick brother Anatoly Ivanovich. He said he saw the bodies of countless women and children near the Aghdam channel. In addition, Vladimir Shevelyov testified that during the occupation of the Aghdam region, the Armenians took hostage 7 mentally ill people, including two sick women, detained in a mental hospital there. One of them was released, another was beaten to death, and the fate of the others is still unknown.
- Ali Rasul oglu Abbasov, a resident of Aghdam region, born in 1930, was regularly beaten in Armenian hostage, his body was pressed and burned. Unable to recover from his mental and physical torture, Ali Abbasov died shortly after his release from Armenian captivity.
- Armenian servicemen beat Murvat Fatish oglu Agayev, who was taken hostage from Fizuli region, cut off his ear, tied his hands behind his back with a wire, hung him from a tree and set him on fire under his feet.
- Prisoners of war - Novruz Mahammad oglu Dashdamirov, Namig Javanshir oglu Garayev were brought to the level of mentally ill as a result of regular beatings, mountaineering with hot bodies and nails on their heads.
- Prisoner of war Murshudov Sadraddin Aslan oglu was beaten and forced to swallow broken glass.
- Mayil Mahammadali oglu Mammadov was injected with diesel fuel and his chest was marked with a heated cross.
- Seven-month-old Babek Ilyasov's mother Afat Mirzayeva and grandfather Aslan Mirzayev were brutally shot by Armenians. Babek's right eye was injured by the shrapnel, but the Armenians returned him, along with other villagers taken hostage from the Kalbajar region, only four months later and without treatment. Currently, Babek is blind in one eye.

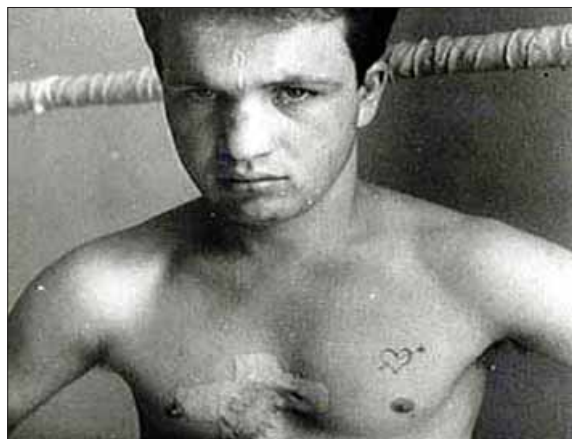
Torture facts obtained from other sources and corroborated by witness statements.

1. The insertion of sticks, armatures and other iron tools into the anus of captives: This atrocity was mainly inflicted on soldiers detained in Shusha prison. For example, for Samvel Babayan, who holds one of the most important state positions in Armenia today, this is a "favorite" type of torture. This atrocity against Rauf, a native of Baku, led to his being cut ten centimeters from his intestines after his release from captivity.

2. Tearing the bellies of pregnant women and removing children from them: Armenians mainly tear the bellies of pregnant women captured in Khojaly with a soldier's knife, feed the child in her womb to dogs, stuff the woman with cartridges, live cats, snakes, frogs, mice, etc. they watched the woman die in agony.



3. Rape: Armenians raped all girls and women between the ages of 4 and 60, then forced them to dance naked. The mother of a 6-year-old girl captured in Khojaly, who could not stand the rape, strangled herself with a rope, and the other killed herself when she was taken to work. Among the captive Azerbaijani girls, the girls kept as virgins were presented to Armenians abroad visiting Karabakh and to high-ranking officials of some foreign countries.



4. Forcing to have sex with each other: Armenians forced Azerbaijani soldiers and captured civilians to have sex with each other were filming them with cameras.

5. Rat nest: The captive's hands and feet are tied, placed in an iron bucket, and a live rat is placed inside. A hole is drilled in the back of the bucket for the rat to pass through, and the captive is kept on top of that hole. The bucket is then heated, and the rat, melting from the heat inside, enters the captive's anus, eats his internal organs, and goes out. This type of punishment is mainly carried out by Syrian and Lebanese Armenians.



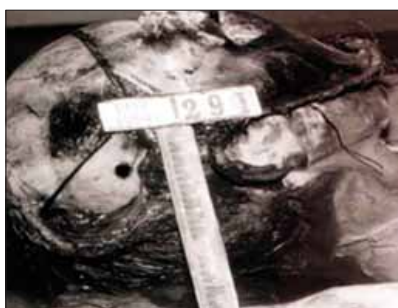
6. Bullet in the ear: The captive's hands are tied to the tree by the arms and the ear is pulled with a rope. They give a monetary reward to an Armenian who shots his ear with a bullet.

7. Burning in the fire: Having several captives hanging from their arms, lighting a fire under their feet, burning them alive in hot water, throwing them into a well and pouring diesel or gasoline on them, burning them in an iron pipe, tying them to a board and setting them on fire.



8. Sacrifice: Armenians sacrificed captive Azerbaijanis on holidays, on the graves of dead soldiers and relatives. First they beat him with a stick and a club, then they opened their arms side by side, first they cut one with an ax, then they tore open his heart. Those who dared to strike the neck of the captive with a dagger and an ax, watched the death of the captives who were not beheaded.

9. Nailing: The hands and feet of the captives are nailed to a piece of wood and nailed to their heads. The most "favorite" games were to tie the captive's hands to a tree and targeting his brain, eyes and heart with a pneumatic nail machine.



10. Feeding urine and feces: Armenians kept captives hungry and thirsty and forced them to drink their urine. In the presence of the hungry, they excreted feces and fed the captives.

11. Kissing the flag: They hung the Armenian and Azerbaijani flags, forcing prisoners who had been hungry for days to kiss their flags and spit on the Azerbaijani flag. They beat those who didn't obey and broke their arms and legs.

12. Bottle and nail eating: Prisoners were starved and forced to eat glass, nails and other pieces of iron. The survivors were fed, and the dead were thrown into the toilet.

13. Keeping as dogs: Captive Armenians took captives and kept them in their gardens and houses in the homes of dogs, put chains around their necks and forced them to stand and bark like dogs. Sometimes they had a "dog fight" and bet. Protesters were beaten and set on fire.

14. Feeding the dogs: Prisoners were lined up, fenced off, and trained dogs were let on them. The dogs tore the captives to pieces.

15. Gambling by ear: Prisoners lined up and gambled by cutting off their ears. The more listeners "earned" the right to receive the amount they wanted.

16. Tooth extraction: Their gold tooth was pulled out with pliers or beaten with the butt of a machine gun. The captives were forced to remove their gold teeth from the mouths of Azerbaijani corpses and to open the graves and bring them the gold teeth from the mouths of the dead.

17. Needles: Captives were injured by injection of gasoline, diesel, alcohol and other unknown substances.

18. Organ trafficking: They operated on the internal organs of captives and sold them to foreign countries.

19. Insults to the dead: Armenians threw the corpses of the dead prisoners into the toilets, fed them to pigs, and even cooked their meat and fed it to the captives.

20. Tie with rope: The prisoner's leg and neck were tied in two, and the prisoner was forced to stand for 24 hours in a double position.

21. Boxing: Prisoners were placed in small chests and boxes, where they were forced to stay for 3 days.

22. Torture of the wounded: Acid, gasoline, boiled oil, etc. were poured on the wounds of the captives. They performed surgery to relieve pain or experiment.

23. Tearing: The eyes of the captives were removed with a heated soldier's knife and the dogs were fed.

24. Fear: Women and children were exposed to snakes, spiders, mice, and other animals and insects, and they watched their fears and screams.

25. Removal of nails and peeling of skin: Prisoners were lined up and their nails were torn off. Then they skinned them with a razor.

26. Driving: Prisoners were tied to the backs of cars and dragged around the city. Sometimes a naked Azerbaijani girl was tied to the front of the tank and given an Armenian flag.

27. Hanging: A prisoner hangs by the throat with a crane, holds for a while and lowers to the ground.

28. Matches: Prisoners put matches on their eyelids to keep them from sleeping. And in this form they were forced to keep their eyes open.



29. Prohibition of speaking: Prisoners tied their tongues with ropes so that they could not talk to each other. During the night, the captive was forced to keep his tongue tied.

30. Brick: A woman tied a brick to her nipples and breasts with a rope and was forced to stand for several hours.

31. Hanging on the hair: Women and girls hung on their hair naked in the middle of the room and Armenians spat on their bodies.

32. Deprivation of masculinity: Men hung a stone tied to a rope from their genitals and were forced to stay for several hours.

33. Head Press: The jaw of the captive is placed on a flat surface and an iron belt is passed over his head. Slowly squeezed, the captive's teeth are broken and then his whole head is crushed.

This list can be expanded. The Organization for the Protection of Victims of Torture has compiled a list of the most common types of torture in the world and used at different times.

The list of crimes of Armenians against Azerbaijanis is two times larger. Captive Azerbaijani citizens were subjected to terrible torture and moral suffering. The events witnessed by our released citizens are intolerable and undeniable.

Armenians directly and explicitly denounced the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949, the UN General Assembly Resolution on Missing Persons of 18 December 2002, Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, they also violated Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, etc.



4. Facts of torture against Azerbaijani prisoners of war in the Patriotic War of September 27-November 10, 2020 (Second Karabakh War)

The Patriotic War of 2020 resulted in the glorious victory of our National Army and the liberation of our lands.

During the 44-day war, Azerbaijan liberated the territories occupied for almost 30 years and ensured its territorial integrity. We have witnessed many cases of atrocity and vandalism committed by Armenians in our liberated territories.

The Azerbaijani side has always observed all norms and principles related to the detention of prisoners and hostages, their exchange, as well as the return of the bodies of Armenian servicemen during the humanitarian ceasefire in accordance with all international norms and principles. Unfortunately, the Armenian side, as always, is vandalizing and barbaric in its treatment of Azerbaijani prisoners of war, and openly demonstrates the torture of Azerbaijani prisoners on social networks.

This is another manifestation of Armenian vandalism. Unfortunately, international organizations remain silent on this issue. It is unfortunate that in the 21st century, international organizations are silent on torture and other forms of violence.

International organizations and states that have consistently spoken out on human rights have remained silent to this day. This is very disappointing. International organizations should not ignore these issues and exert pressure and influence on the Armenian side based on international law. Because this is vandalism, nowhere in the world such atrocities are committed against captives.

In accordance with the joint statement signed by the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia and the Prime Minister of Azerbaijan on the end of hostilities and a ceasefire in Karabakh on November 10, prisoners of war, hostages and other detainees, as well as bodies should be exchanged.

Azerbaijani citizens captured in the 2020 Patriotic War, as always in Armenia, have been subjected to torture, ill-treatment and humiliation. It should be noted that Azerbaijani servicemen Musayev Amin Alim oglu and Karimov Bayram Yashar oglu were severely wounded and physically assaulted, even during the filming of a Ukrainian journalist. The depravity and savagery of the Armenian military had reached such a level that perhaps the presence of journalists at that moment saved his life. Later, the serviceman Musayev Amin Alim oglu was deceived as if he had been



handed over to the Azerbaijani side, put in a special car and taken in an unknown direction. Later, while the car was moving, our serviceman was physically abused and insulted along the way, all of which were confirmed by video materials. Initially, videos were released showing two wounded soldiers receiving first aid by Ukrainian journalist Alexander Kharchenko and Armenian soldiers after the fighting. Following this, a video was released showing one of them being subjected to violence inside the car.

In connection with this incident, the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan Sabina Aliyeva issued a statement on gross violation of international law and humanitarian law, torture, humiliation and other facts in relation to Azerbaijani soldiers captured as a result of Armenia's repeated military aggression against Azerbaijan. On November 12, 2020, Aliyeva addressed appeals to relevant international organizations. However, neither Armenia nor the International Committee of the Red Cross have commented on the fate of these captives.

The other two prisoners of war, Alizadeh Nurlan Mehman oglu and Hamidov Nahid Yashar oglu, were also brutally beaten, kicked and punched by more than 10 Armenian servicemen from the moment they were taken prisoner. There are video materials about this event. It is also clear from the statements of the Armenian captives that the treatment of Azerbaijani captives with special cruelty, beating, insulting, torturing them, was an ordinary case that had to be carried out. There were even special instructions from the Armenian commanders in this regard, and torture was one of the absolute measures, without exception, for the captives.



There are video facts about another prisoner of war, Bakhshaliyev Emin Zahir oglu, being subjected to severe pressure, torture, humiliation, and forced to commit some acts.

The confirmation of such cases against other Azerbaijani prisoners of war - Abdinov Yahya Vugar oglu, Ahmadzade Mobil Ilgar oglu, Alakbarov Omar Teymur oglu, Aliyev Sharif Elsevar oglu, Aliyev Anar Hidayat oglu, Valiyev Valiahad Shakir oglu and Yolchuyev Nureddin Bakhtiyar oglu is also confirmed by various sources. Our prisoners of war have been tortured and humiliated.

The situation is even worse with Shahbaz Guliyev and Dilgam Asgarov, who were being held hostage by Armenians. On July 11, 2014, Russian citizen Dilgam Asgarov and Azerbaijani citizen Shahbaz Guliyev were taken hostage by the Armed Forces of Armenia while visiting their ancestral homes in the Kalbajar region, and an illegal "trial" was held against Dilgam Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev in occupied Nagorno-Karabakh. The court sentenced Dilgam Asgarov to life imprisonment and Shahbaz Guliyev to 22 years in prison. During this period, they were detained, tortured, etc.

The facts of ill-treatment, torture and humiliation of each of our prisoners were fully proved by photos, videos and testimonies of witnesses. In this regard, the Azerbaijani side has enough solid

materials. In addition, the most disgusting and inhumane act is the insulting and degrading actions of the armed forces of Armenia on the bodies of Azerbaijani soldiers. There are enough videos, photos, etc. One of the videos showed the burning of the body of an Azerbaijani serviceman by several Armenians (mostly in military uniforms).



It should also be noted that in addition to the above the torture of Azerbaijani servicemen (beheading, etc.), insulting the bodies of Azerbaijani servicemen, exposure to moral violence - there are also video materials and images. Investigations are underway. Once the investigation of the listed materials is completed and the information is clarified, additional materials will be published in this report.

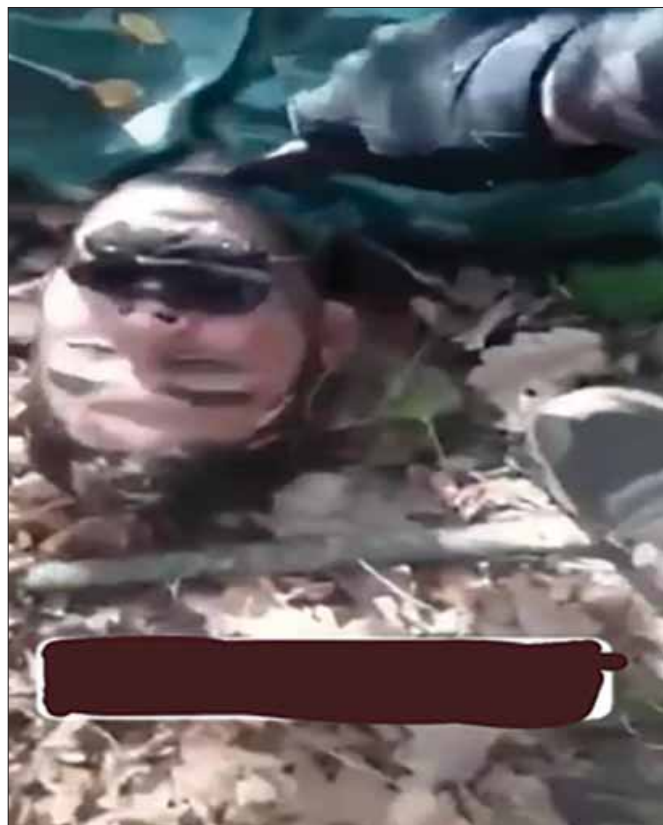
In addition, the Baku Military Court has recently considered the case of Ludvig Mkrtchyan, an Armenian citizen. The court granted the petition. Ludvig Mkrtchyan has been remanded in custody for four months. Ludvig Mkrtchyan is found guilty under Article 113 of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan (inflicting physical pain or mental suffering on persons detained or otherwise deprived of their liberty).

According to the report, Ludvig Mkrtchyan tortured Azerbaijanis held captive by Armenians in the First Karabakh War. A criminal case was launched on these facts in 2000 by the Military Prosecutor's Office of Azerbaijan. When the Patriotic War broke out on September 27 this year, the Azerbaijani Army captured a group of Armenian servicemen. Among those captives was Ludwig Mkrtchyan.

Ludvig Mkrtchyan, who was interrogated by the investigation, admitted that he tortured Azerbaijanis captured in the First Karabakh War. Even several Azerbaijani servicemen who were captured and returned in Armenian captivity during the First Karabakh War recognized Ludvig Mkrtchyan.

Necessary investigative actions are underway in the criminal case initiated by the Military Prosecutor's Office.

This event also once again confirms that the Republic of Azerbaijan respects the requirements of the conventions to which it is a party and to the rule of law.



As the Republic of Azerbaijan, we are in favor of an objective approach to all issues in this war, including the treatment of prisoners on both sides, and we are in favor of a careful study of videos and all materials spread on social networks. We also support the punishment of the perpetrators. But, unfortunately, some foreign states and international organizations have a biased, unfair, one-sided approach to these issues, and even try to manipulate these issues to their advantage. Giorgi Gogia, Human Rights Watch's (HRW) director for the South Caucasus, called on the media to conduct an "effective investigation" into the videos and that "an effective investigation should identify the responsibilities of individuals and perpetrators and prosecute those responsible".

In fact, Mr. Giorgi Gogia's statement that "the organization does not independently verify the videos, but that the images could be war crimes" is biased, calling for a unilateral call on Azerbaijan only on the basis of unsubstantiated, deliberately disseminated videos.

For some reason, a representative of Human Rights Watch (HRW) was very late with his statements.

The Republic of Azerbaijan, as in all matters, operates in this matter within the requirements of both domestic legislation and international norms. The political leadership of the country is taking all measures to prevent the tarnishing of the victories of our army and soldiers on the battlefields. In this sense, the information disseminated by the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan is noteworthy. The statement said: "The Prosecutor General's Office is currently investigating the video footage, which is said to reflect the inhuman and cruel treatment of our soldiers. Those videos have been analyzed by Prosecutor General's Office and Military Prosecutor's Office. Although many of the videos were found to be fake, there were serious doubts as to whether some of them reflect reality or not". The Prosecutor General's Office said that a criminal case has been opened in connection with the video.

Later, official information was spread that 4 servicemen were involved in the investigation.

It is obvious that the Republic of Azerbaijan, unlike the enemy, demonstrates a fair approach to any issue, measures will be taken against the perpetrators of war crimes in accordance with the requirements of the law. Has the Republic of Armenia, which has been occupying our lands for nearly 30 years, committing countless crimes against our citizens, including captives, and unprecedented atrocities and vandalism, punished a single military serviceman? Seeing this, do not the consciences of the hypocrites, false, immoral "human rights defenders" and false "doves of peace" who turn a blind eye and ignore it hurt?

If the number of captured citizens of the Republic of Armenia (civilian and military) is in the hundreds, it is clear from various reports and videos that the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan treat Armenian prisoners in accordance with the requirements of conventions, provide them with medical care, food, clothing and so on. Even the Russian and Armenian media have acknowledged that dozens of prisoners of war have been handed over to the Russian Peacekeeping Forces in recent days after being disarmed. There is not a single example of the Armenian side's at least similar humane treatment of Azerbaijani prisoners.



In accordance with the Statement signed by the President of the Russian Federation, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia on November 10, 2020, the Azerbaijani side is committed to ensuring the rights of Armenian servicemen captured during the war. Information about the Armenian captives was regularly provided to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Russian Peacekeeping Forces, and some of them were unilaterally released. During their stay in Azerbaijan, these prisoners were provided with the necessary medical care and dignified treatment, were given the opportunity to keep in touch with their families, and were provided with other rights.

We have also held talks with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Russian Peacekeeping Forces and other international organizations, taking all possible measures, focusing on the returning of Azerbaijani citizens captured or taken hostage during the war for various reasons.

As a result of negotiations with the participation of international organizations and the Russian Peacekeepers, an agreement was reached with the Armenian side on the exchange of prisoners and hostages on the principle of "all for all" and the return of prisoners and hostages began on 14 December this year. At noon, Azerbaijani prisoners and hostages, including Shahbaz Guliyev and Dilgam Askerov, who have been held hostage by Armenians since July 2014, were brought to Baku by plane. After the implementation of appropriate quarantine measures, the released persons will be reunited with their families.

The Azerbaijani side will continue to fulfill its obligations to exchange prisoners, hostages and bodies of fallen, guided by the principles of humanism.



Information of the State Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons

The State Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons has disclosed a list of servicemen and civilians released from Armenian captivity and hostage as a result of measures taken by the State Commission upon the instructions of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev and brought to Baku on December 14, 2020.

1. Yahya Abdinov, (born Dec. 30, 1999), serviceman
2. Emin Bakhshaliyev, (born Jan. 22, 1988), serviceman
3. Mobil Ahmadzade, (born April 22, 1999), serviceman
4. Omar Alakbarov, (born Jan. 1, 1985), serviceman
5. Sharif Aliyev, (born Dec. 20, 1995), serviceman
6. Anar Aliyev, (born June 28, 1992), serviceman
7. Nurlan Alizade, (born Jan. 2, 1992), serviceman
8. Nahid Hamidov, (born Jan. 5, 1991), serviceman
9. Bayram Karimov, (born February 3, 1992), serviceman
10. Amin Musayev, (born July 4, 1994) , serviceman
11. Valiahad Valiyev, (born March 5, 1998), serviceman
12. Nuraddin Yolchuyev, (born October 14, 1998), serviceman
13. Shahbaz Guliyev, (born May 9, 1968), civilian
14. Dilgam Asgarov, (born September 30, 1960), civilian

Currently, the abovementioned military personnel and civilians are undergoing check-up and treated.



Yahya Abidinov,
(born Dec. 30, 1999),
serviceman



Emin Bakhshaliyev,
(born Jan. 22, 1988),
serviceman



Mobil Ahmadzade,
(born April 22, 1999),
serviceman



Omar Alakbarov,
(born Jan. 1, 1985),
serviceman



Sharif Aliyev,
(born Dec. 20, 1995),
serviceman



Anar Aliyev,
(born June 28, 1992),
serviceman



Nurlan Alizade,
(born Jan. 2, 1992),
serviceman



Nahid Hamidov,
(born Jan. 5, 1991),
serviceman



Bayram Karimov,
(born February 3, 1992),
serviceman



Amin Musayev,
(born July 4, 1994),
serviceman



Valiahad Valiyev,
(born March 5, 1998),
serviceman



Nuraddin Yolchuyev,
(born October 14, 1998),
serviceman



Shahbaz Guliyev,
(born May 9, 1968),
civilian



Dilgam Asgarov,
(born Sept. 30, 1960),
civilian

5. Conclusion

1. There are international normative documents and conventions on prisoners, prisoners of war, hostages and their treatment, and most states have joined it. However, experience shows that there are serious problems with compliance with the requirements of these documents and control over this process. Double standards and sometimes a biased approach to this issue are clearly felt, both by individual states and by international organizations operating in this field. Especially in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, which lasted more than 30 years, and in the two wars that took place during this period (1992 and 2020), these problems were very serious.

2. The obtained materials, irrefutable evidence and facts prove that the Armenian side tortured the captured Azerbaijani servicemen, committed degrading acts, insulted the bodies of our martyred servicemen, as well as brutally killed the captured Azerbaijani servicemen.

3. Recent events have proved once again that the Republic of Armenia, which relies on its strong patrons, does not respect international norms, especially the Conventions on war and military issues, and has continued its atrocities and vandalism, inspired by the impunity for war crimes, trying to expand its activities more blatantly.

4. Despite the thousands of evils and facts of ill-treatment, torture and degrading treatment of Azerbaijani prisoners for more than 30 years, the Armenian state, individual servicemen of the armed forces, etc., who committed these crimes, are still at not brought to responsibility – there is no fact that even one of them has been formally punished. On the contrary, Armenia openly acknowledges this at the highest level, and even uses it as a means of propaganda and intimidation. Unfortunately, no serious measures have been taken by individual states or international organizations in this situation, no demands for compliance with the norms of international norms, no slight pressure.

5. The enemy's propaganda about the captives proves once again that the other side, in order to cover up its abominable deeds, made baseless, unsubstantiated fake information, pre-staged, prepared videos and circulated them on social networks. They are trying to draw attention to the Azerbaijani side by conducting a biased slander campaign. At the same time, this activity is not only the work of Armenia. This activity is carried out by some transnational forces supporting Armenia, power centers with the ability to influence the media and political processes. Unfortunately, some "human rights defenders", international organizations that have to fight against war crimes, try to use such false information against Azerbaijan under their banner.

The Republic of Azerbaijan, in contrast to the enemy, has once again proved that our state, as in all matters, acts in accordance with the requirements of both domestic law and international norms on the detention and treatment of prisoners of war. In other words, any information received from various sources and spread on various social networks, including insulting actions on the bodies of Armenian servicemen killed during the military operations to liberate our lands, as well as all signs of ill-treatment of captured Armenian servicemen are being investigated. A criminal case has been opened in this regard.

REPORTS PREPARED BY FOREIGN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS



COJEP INTERNATIONAL

New military clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan

REPORT

**On the civilian casualties
and destructions caused by attacks
of Armenia on densely populated
areas of Azerbaijan**

between 27 September – 24 October 2020

26 October 2020

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict is one of the longest-standing protracted conflicts in the region, which has been going on for nearly 3 decades. As a result of this, the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and 7 adjacent districts of Azerbaijan, namely Lachin, Kalbajar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadli and Zangilan, were occupied by Armenia.

The conflict affected the lives of over a million of Azerbaijanis who lived in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and 7 adjacent districts of Azerbaijan, causing a number of social, economic and humanitarian problems.

The above-mentioned 7 districts are not a part of the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The total area of Nagorno-Karabakh region is 4400 km², while the total area of 7 districts is almost 3 times larger (11.000 km²).

More than 90% of the total number of IDPs (which is more than 1 million) represent those 7 districts. It should also be mentioned that the number of Azerbaijani people forced to leave the Nagorno-Karabakh region is now 86 thousand people. It is the attention capturing fact, that the number of IDPs only from Aghdam (191.700 people) is larger than of the Nagorno-Karabakh region (the overall number of Armenians, Azerbaijanis and other nationalities populating this territory before the conflict was 189.085 people). So, the population of 7 districts is almost 5 times more than of Nagorno-Karabakh itself.

The UN Security Council Resolutions 822 , 853 , 874 and 884 of 1993 define the frameworks of the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict on the basis of norms and principles of international law.

The Resolution No. 62/243 of 14 March 2008 adopted by the 86th Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly titled "Situation in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan" reaffirmed Azerbaijan's territorial integrity supporting for its internationally recognized borders and demanding the immediate withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from all occupied territories there, and reaffirmed that no State should recognize as lawful the situation resulting from the occupation of Azerbaijan's territories, or render assistance in maintaining that situation.

The recent military escalation between Armenia and Azerbaijan

On September 27, at about 6 a.m., the armed forces of Armenia launched a large-scale provocation along the entire frontline.

The armed forces of Armenia are intensively firing on the settlements, historical and cultural buildings, as well as the objects of strategic importance in the frontline and the densely populated areas situated far from the conflict zone using heavy artillery, aircraft, special missile systems and prohibited weapons.

The Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict adopted by the UN General Assembly on 14 December 1974, stresses that attacks and bombings on the civilian population, inflicting incalculable suffering, especially on women and children, who are the most vulnerable members of the population, shall be prohibited, and such acts shall be condemned.

All States shall abide fully by their obligations under the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949, as well as other instruments of international law relative to respect for human rights in armed conflicts, which offer important guarantees for the protection of women and children.

The present report has been prepared by the COJEP International, aiming to systematize the war crimes and facts of violation of humanitarian law committed by Armenia against Azerbaijan starting from September 27, 2020.

In the Part 1, you may get acquainted with the main facts and figures regarding the recent aggression of Armenia, while the Part 2 will focus on the day-by-day information on the attacks of Armenia on the Azerbaijani civilians.

Part 1. FACTS AND FIGURES

- As of October 24, 65 civilians of Azerbaijan have been killed and 297 wounded, while more than 2500 residential buildings and civilian objects are destroyed by Armenia.
- As of October 19, about 24 thousand missiles are launched against Azerbaijan by Armenia.
- Armenia uses missiles and cluster bombs against Azerbaijani civilians, which is strictly prohibited by the relevant international conventions.
- Armenia's attack against Ganja city will go down in the history as the first instance when an OSCE participating State used SCUD/"Elbrus" ballistic missile against civilian objects in another participating State.
- After the 10 October 2020 Moscow Declaration on humanitarian ceasefire and the second humanitarian ceasefire which entered into force on 17 October 2020, Armenia continued deliberately targeting the civilians and launching missile attacks on the densely populated areas located both within and outside of the conflict zone.



- Armenia is indiscriminately targeting the civilian population of Azerbaijan, including women, children and elderly people.
- The projects of local and regional importance, including the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan and Baku-Novorossiysk pipelines, were subjected to the missile attack of Armenia.
- As a result of the heavy artillery attack, the cotton factory in Azadgaragoyunlu village of Tartar district caught fire.
- Several times Armenia deliberately attempted to destroy the largest hydroelectric power station in the South Caucasus situated in the Mingachevir city. Its destruction could lead to the humanitarian catastrophe for the people of Azerbaijan and neighboring countries.
- Criminal case has been launched against French citizen Gilbert Minasyan, a member of the ASALA terrorist organization, and a group of 15 militants led by him for the crimes committed in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- Armenia employs children under the age of 15 to fight against Azerbaijan .Recruiting and using children under the age of 15 as soldiers is prohibited under international humanitarian law and is defined as a warcrime by ICC, also violating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UNICEF Paris Convention.



A child (b.2019) (11 months) seriously injured as a result of a shell explosion (Ganja, 4 October 2020)



Ganja city after the missile attack of Armenia (17 October 2020)

Part 2. Day-by-day information on the attacks of Armenia on civilians and densely populated areas of Azerbaijan

September 27, 2020

On September 27, at about 06:00, the armed forces of Armenia started a large-scale provocation along the entire front line. Positions of the Azerbaijani army were intensively fired from large-caliber weapons, mortars and artillery of various calibers.

As a result of the intensive shelling by the enemy, civilians were killed and wounded, and many houses and civilian objects were seriously damaged in Gapanly village of Terter District, Chiragli and Orta Garvand villages of Aghdam District, Alkhanli and Shukurbayli villages of Fuzuli District, and Jojug Marjanli village of Jabrail District.

Gurbanov Elbrus Isa oglu, a resident of Gashalti village, Naftalan region, and four members of his family (2 children, 1 teenager and an elderly person) were killed as a result of artillery shelling by Armenia's armed forces against the civilian population of Azerbaijan.



House of Elbrus Gurbanov after the artillery shelling (27 September 2020)

One of the shells hit the yard of Asadov Zahid Maharram oglu, a resident of Chamenli village of Aghdam region. As a result, Asadov's house and VAZ 2107 car was severely damaged.

September 28, 2020

As a result of heavy artillery shelling of the center of Tartar District, as well as of densely populated villages by the enemy forces, the houses of Ahmadov Mayil Alasgar, Salahov Nizami Majid, Karimov Elshan Shahmat were severely damaged, the main strategic bridge and the police station were hit.

Furthermore, as a consequence of the enemy shelling, house No. 10 consisting of 54 apartments on E.Safarov Street, Terter District, as well as apartment house No. 16 in Shikh Arkh village of the district fell into disrepair, the residents were evacuated.

Also, numerous small and large horned livestock perished as a result of artillery shells hitting the auxiliary buildings belonging to Aghayev Bakhtiyar Rahim, resident of Sahlabad village, and Rasmiyya Hasanova, a resident of Yukhari Gapanli village of Tartar District.

Pashayev Joshgun Anvar, born in 1979, a resident of Evoghlu village, Aghdam District, was killed as a result of another shelling of the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan by Armenia. Ilhama Bagirova's house in Baharli settlement, was also subjected to shell fire.

The shells hit the houses of Rukhsara Shahbazov and Adil Shukurov, residents of Chamenli village of Aghdam. As a result, both houses were destroyed.

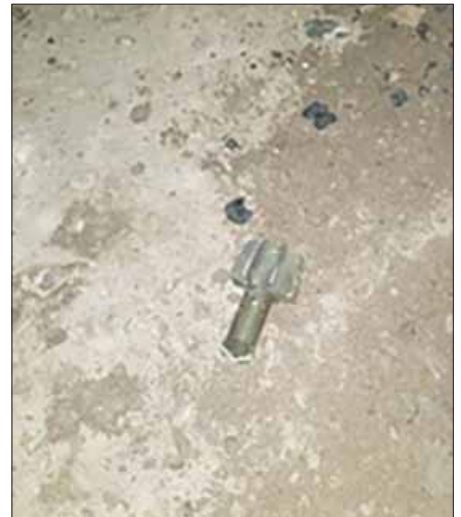
At about 11 a.m., as a result of the enemy's intensive artillery shelling on the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan, Aliyev Mehman Sovet, born in 1975, was killed by shrapnel fragments falling near the administrative building of Terter District Court on Heydar Aliyev Avenue. The driver of the ambulance passing by at that time Asadov Ganbar Asgar, born in 1968, and the military police officer in the car - Huseynov Fakhraddin Farman, born in 1994, as well as another resident of Terter, Ibrahimov Tural Firdovsi, born in 1991, were injured.



Images of the Terter District Court taken after the artillery shelling (28 September 2020)

At about 06 p.m., Haziyeu Hilal lgar, born in 2006, resident of Jojug Marjanli village, Jabrayil District, was hospitalized with shrapnel wounds in the head as a result of a fire opened by the armed forces of Armenia while he was grazing sheep in the village.

At about 07 p.m., residents of Terter District - Abbasov Khalig Asif, born in 1981, and his brother Abbasov Elshan Asif, born in 1987, were killed as a result of artillery shelling hitting the yard of an apartment building built for the disabled and IDPs in Shikh Arkh settlement of Tartar District. Mammadov Seymur Fuzuli, born in 1984, and Mahmudov Faig Malik, born in 1989, were hospitalized with various injuries.



Tartar district after shelling by Armenia (28 September 2020)

September 29, 2020

At about 01 p.m., as a result of intensive artillery shelling on the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan, Sariyev Elmaddin Humbat, born in 1997, a resident of Garadaghli village, Aghdam District, was killed by shrapnel fragments falling on a medical center. The building in the center was destroyed and the residents in that area were evacuated.

Numerous shells hit the house of Galib Babayev, an IDP from Giyasli, who settled in Baharli settlement of Aghdam region. As a result, the house was severely damaged.

The shell fired by the Armenians fell a few meters from the car of the Public TV of Azerbaijan, nobody was injured as a result of the attack.

Armenian artillery shell hit the post office and village hospital in Gapanli village of Tartar region. In addition, a shell hit the yard of Zulfugar Guliyev, a resident of Gapanli village.

One of the shells fired by Armenia's Armed Forces hit the house of Hasanov Mohtasim, a resident of Chamenli village of Aghdam region.

An artillery shell fired by the armed forces of Armenia hit a house on Uzeyir Hajibeyov Street in Tartar. As a result, the housewife Aynur Mehdiyeva was killed.

As a result of large-scale provocations re-committed by the Armenian armed forces, one of the firefights aimed at the enemy's settlements fell on the cemetery near the village of Babi in the Fizuli region. The tomb of Sheikh Babi is an important historical and architectural monument of the country, which was taken under state protection in the cemetery. The facade of the historical monument was damaged and the tomb fell into disrepair.

September 30, 2020

At about 08 a.m., as a result of heavy artillery shelling of Terter city by Armenia, 7 civilians were hospitalized with various injuries, and extensive damage was inflicted to civilian infrastructure.

At around 03 p.m., another heavy artillery shelling resulted in collapsing of an auxiliary building in the courtyard of a house belonging to Ogorodnik Lyuda Vasilyevna, a resident of Yenikend village, Terter District.

At about 04 p.m., as a result of heavy artillery shelling of the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan by Armenia's armed forces, Rustamov Murad Tahir, born in 1990, was killed by shrapnel fragments that fell near one of the gas stations in Horadiz, Fuzuli District. Three civilians were hospitalized with various injuries and the station was seriously damaged.

October 1, 2020

At about 09 a.m., as a result of the heavy artillery shelling of the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan by the armed forces of Armenia Hasanov Zabil Mahammad, born in 1982, was killed by shrapnel fragments that hit the Tartar city bus station. The bus station was severely damaged.

At about 01 p.m., as a result of heavy artillery shelling of the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan by Armenia Mammadov Murshud Rashid, born in 1966, and his son Samir Mammadov, born in 1996, were killed by shrapnel fragments that hit their house in Hajimammadli village, Aghdam District. Their house was severely damaged.

As a result of intensive shelling by Armenia's armed forces extensive damage was inflicted to houses in Jojug Marjanli village of Jabrail District.

October 2, 2020

Armenia's armed forces shelled Amirli settlement of Barda region, Aghdam region of Tovuz region and Guzanli settlement of Aghdam region of Azerbaijan.

As a result of a shell fired by Armenia's armed forces, a fire broke around the city of Horadiz in the Fizuli region, in the area bordering the Islamic Republic of Iran.





Tartar (2 October 2020)

October 3, 2020

As a result of heavy artillery shelling of civilians in different directions of Beylagan city by the armed forces of the occupying country at about 07 p.m., Ismayilova Zulfiya Isgandar, born in 1976, and her sister Asadova Arzu Isgandar, born in 1998, died under the wreckage when numerous artillery shells fell on their house. At the same time, the residents of the city Balakishiyev Etibar Tavakkul, born in 1982 and Bashirova Sevda Yashar, born in 1969 were hospitalized with various injuries, and many houses were severely damaged.





Results of the shelling of Beylagan (3 October 2020)

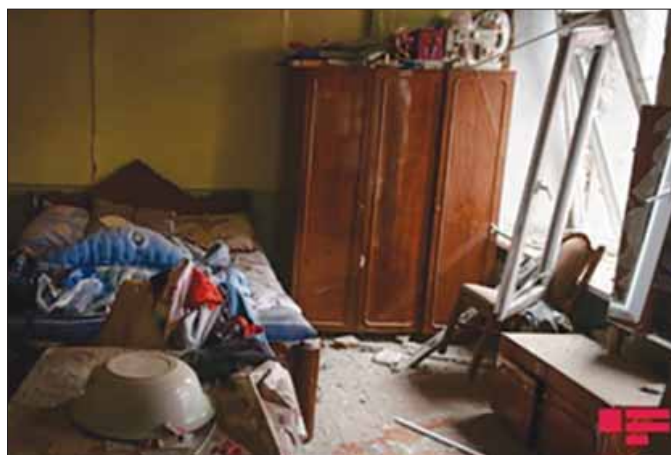
At about 09 p.m., heavy artillery bombardment of densely populated areas of Azerbaijan by the Armenian armed forces resulted in shrapnel falling on Azad Garagoyunlu village, Terter District. Mammadov Safar Ayyub, born in 1966, and Guliyev Akif Yunis were hospitalized with various injuries caused from shrapnel fragments.

October 4, 2020

At around 10 a.m., the second largest city of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ganja, home to more than five hundred thousand civilians, was fired upon by missiles and artillery shells from the territory of Armenia. While subjecting Ganja to the rocket fire, the armed forces of Armenia have been using the cluster bombs which are strictly prohibited by international conventions.

Aliyev Tunar Goshgar oglu, a resident of Ganja, was killed and 32 people were injured. At the same time, the city's infrastructure and houses were severely damaged.

As a result of one of the shells fired by the Armenian armed forces, that hit a large shopping center in Ganja, covering an area of about 30 hectares, 20 2-storey buildings, as well as six 1-storey buildings with 108 shops were destroyed, at the same time numerous vehicles in the parking lot in this area have become unusable, and, thus, property rights were violated, causing significant damage to more than 200 citizens.



Ganja after the missile attack of Armenia (4 October 2020)

At about 11 p.m., Armenia's Armed Forces deliberately targeted the civilians of the city of Mingachevir, located more than 100 km from the theater of hostilities, with the population more than 100.000 people.

Two of the three rockets fired did not explode. One of the unexploded missiles fell in front of the building of " Azerbaijani thermal power plant " LLC, the other one is near the house where civilians live.



Unexploded missile in close proximity of energy block in Mingachevir

As a result of the third missile hit in a private home, 5 people were injured and hospitalized with various injuries, serious damage was made to the home.

Armenia launched two 300 km mid-range missiles on the Khizi-Absheron region of Azerbaijan



October 5, 2020

From the morning of October 5, Armenia's armed forces continue to fire at densely populated areas in Goranboy, Goygol, Beylagan, Barda, Terter, Zardab districts and Ganja city.

Another heavy artillery shelling of the Azerbaijani civilian population by the Armenia's armed forces resulted in killing Mehdiyeva Shahriyar Isa by missile shrapnel fragments that hit the central streets of Barda and fell near the central hospital. Three civilians were hospitalized with miscellaneous injuries.



Fire caused by the missile attack of Armenia on a residential house in Barda (5 October 2020)

At around 4 p.m. Armenia's armed forces fired three missiles at Aghjabadi District, targeting the civilian population, as well as unprotected areas, settlements and demilitarized zones, and clearly visible and distinguishable non-military facilities.

One of the missiles did not explode, one fell in the yard causing damage to the house, and the other hit the house.

Residents of the city Ibrahimov Elshan Mehdi, born in 1994, and his niece Ibrahimova Ayan Rovshan, born in 2015, were hospitalized with various injuries as a result of a rocket hitting their house, and inflicting extensive damage.

Armed forces of Armenia targeted settlements and demilitarized zones, as well as clearly visible and distinguishable non-military objects, including the civilian population. As a result of intensive shelling in various directions of Aghdam District, Rahimov Eyvaz Musa, born in 1954, was killed, and Safarov Mehman Agalar, born in 1971, resident of Uchoghlan village, was hospitalized with various injuries.

Resident of Gizilhajili village Abbasova Raziya Bayramali, born in 1955, was killed by shrapnel hitting her house as a result of heavy artillery bombardment of the settlements in Goranboy District. At the same time, residents of another house where an artillery shell fell - Hasanov Mashdi Ibrahim, born in 1958, his daughter Sevinj Hasanova, born in 1984 and his underage grandson Hasanov Eljan Elgun, were hospitalized with injuries. Alakbarov Rasim Nadir, born in 1969, was also hospitalized with miscellaneous wounds from shrapnel falling on an empty field.

October 6, 2020

At about 6:30 p.m., the armed forces of Armenia, using massively destructive methods of warfare and weapons prohibited by international law, and targeting demilitarized zones, as well as non-military, clearly visible, differentiated crude oil and condensate export pipelines, launched missiles at civilian objects in the direction of the Aran settlement of Yevlakh District, which is not involved in hostilities and is at least 50 kilometers away from the area of military operations. The 9M525 Smerch rocket, which has a large destructive power and contains 300 9N235 bombs, was neutralized in the air by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. As a result, some of the bombs inside the rocket hit the 42-inch-diameter South Caucasus Expanded Pipeline in Aran settlement, Yevlakh District. Some of the bombs scattered 120 meters from the Western Export Pipeline, which transports crude oil to the Black Sea coast, and other parts were scattered 100 meters from the Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan Oil Pipeline passing through the settlement.

At about 9 p.m., the Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan oil pipeline, the largest strategic project in the region, which plays an important role in Europe's energy security, was targeted by missiles on the part of the pipeline passing through Yevlakh District. This attempt of Armenia was prevented as a result of Azerbaijan's Army's timely measures.

At the same time, densely populated areas and demilitarized zones, as well as at non-military highly visible and distinguishable objects, including the civilian population are subjected to intensive bombardment by the armed forces of Armenia from different directions of Terter District. As a result, Mammadov Hasan Asif, born in 1981, a resident of Gaynag village, was killed. Aliyev Dayanat Ganimat, born in 1989, a resident of the same village, and Hasanov Seyfulla Yagub, born in 1968, a resident of Kocharly village, were hospitalized with various injuries.

October 7, 2020

Armenia's armed forces fired on the Aghdam region from various directions, targeting settlements and demilitarized zones, as well as the civilian population.

As a result of a shell falling on the house in the village of Hindiristan, a resident of the village Aliyeva Zarifa Gamboy, born in 1945, was killed and the house was severely damaged.

October 8, 2020

Targeting settlements and demilitarized zones, as well as non-military clearly visible and distinguishable objects, including the civilian population the armed forces of Armenia intensively fired rockets and artillery shells at Aghdam District from different directions.

On October 8th at about 8 am, a shell falling in Alibayli village resulted in injuring residents of Boyukbayli village - Jabrayilli Sadi Babir, born in 1992, and Guliyeva Huru Talysh, born in 1977, passing through the village. They were hospitalized with various wounds, and numerous civil infrastructure facilities and houses in the rural area were excessively damaged.

Starting from 11 a.m., the armed forces of Armenia intensively fired rockets and artillery shells at Barda District, targeting settlements and demilitarized zones, as well as non-military clearly visible and distinguishable objects, including the civilian population.

As a result of a rocket hitting the "Gadim Barda" (Ancient Barda) restaurant in the center of Barda city, two civilians were hospitalized with various injuries. At the same time, rockets falling near the secondary school No. 5 in Barda city resulted in injuring five people, and inflicting excessive damage to the school building and numerous vehicles.

October 9, 2020

Armed forces of Armenia intensively fired rockets and artillery shells at Fuzuli District from various directions, targeting settlements and demilitarized zones, as well as non-military clearly visible and distinguishable objects, including the civilian population.

At around 9 a.m., residents of Garabagh village, Fuzuli District - Asadov Samir Hidayat, born in 1982, Ibrahimov Nizami Jafar, born in 1958 and Abbasov Alman Anvar, born in 1968, were hospitalized with various injuries as a result of shrapnels hitting their houses. Excessive damage was inflicted to their properties.

At about 2 p.m., targeting the settlements and civilian population armed forces of Armenia intensively fired rockets and artillery shells at Guzanli settlement of Aghdam District from various directions. Residents of the settlement - Huseynov Alizamin Javid, born in 1979, Zeynalov Elchin Ali, born in 1978, Mammadova Lala Mahammad, born in 1984 and Rzayev Elchin Hanifa, born in 1992 were hospitalized with various injuries as a result of a shell falling on the territory of the settlement.

October 10, 2020

In gross violation of the requirements of the humanitarian ceasefire declared on October 10, 2020 at 12:00, Armenia continued deliberate attacks against civilian population

Heavy artillery shelling of Chamanli and Zangishali villages of Aghdam District by Armenian armed forces today at about 19:00 resulted in killing Huseynov Gunduz Taryel, born in 1974, a resident of Chamanli village.



Armenia fired cluster missile to Goranboy region of Azerbaijan

October 11, 2020

At around 02 a.m., a multi-apartment building in Ganja city, the second largest city of Azerbaijan which is located far from the war zone, was subject to heavy shelling by the Armed Forces of Armenia. As a result, 10 civilians, including 5 women, were killed, 34, 15 of them women and 6 children, were severely wounded and numerous civil infrastructure facilities were significantly damaged. As a result of rocket fire by the Armenian armed forces, 3 children lost both parents. For this attack, Armenia used the cluster bombs, which is prohibited by the relevant international conventions.

As a result of rockets fired at apartment buildings in the central part of the city, over 10 apartment buildings and more than 100 facilities were extensively damaged.



At around 04 a.m., the Armed forces Armenia launched Smerch missile attacks on Mingachevir, a large industrial city lying 100 km away from the frontline, targeting the largest hydroelectric power station in South Caucasus. Missiles were shot down by the Azerbaijani military air defense forces.



October 12, 2020

Starting from the morning, Terter, Aghdam and Goranboy districts have been subjected to intensive missile attacks and heavy artillery bombardment from different directions.

As a result of the explosion of artillery shells in Kangarli village of Terter District, Baylarov Firudin Kamal, born in 1970, was hospitalized with various injuries.

October 13, 2020

Starting in the morning, the enemy again targets civilians, firing heavy artillery at civilians. About 300 artillery shells were fired by Armenia at the territory of Tartar city and surrounding villages - Gazyan, Yukhari Garadagli, Sahlabat and Askipara. More than 10 houses were damaged.

October 14, 2020

Early in the morning Tartar District was subjected to rocket attacks and heavy artillery bombardment from various directions. Armenia from various directions intensively fired at Aghdam district with missiles and heavy artillery.

Today at about 12 o'clock Soltanov Saleh Eldar, born in 1964, was hospitalized with various injuries as a result of a shell hitting a private house in Chamanli village, Aghdam district. The house was extensively damaged.

At about 9 a.m., Akhundov Adavat Zahid, born in 1969, resident of Narliq settlement, Tartar District, was killed by shrapnells hitting the yard of his house. The house was severely damaged.

At about 10 a.m., a shell falling on the yard of a rural secondary school in the territory of Terter district resulted in hospitalization with miscellaneous wounds of Zeynalov Ramiz Surkhay, representative of Terter Executive Power on Duyarli village, born in 1971, Ahmadov Kamran Valiyaddin, representative on Asgarli village, born in 1966.

Villagers: Aliyev Matlab Jamshid, born in 1976, Ahmadov Khayyam Mahammad, born in 1987, Ibrahimov Ilgar Ibrahim, born in 1965, Aghazade Firdovsi Alim, born in 1996 and Suleymanov Agha Suleyman, born in 1960, were also hospitalized with varying degrees of injuries.

In addition, Gambarov Namig Malik (born in 1983), an employee of the Azerbaijan Television and Radio Broadcasting CJSC (AzTV) seconded to the frontline zone was hospitalized with various injuries as a result of the shooting of a TV service vehicle while bringing the provocations committed by Armenia against the civilian population to the attention of the world community.



The car was severely damaged

At about 12 a.m. Soltanov Saleh Eldar, born in 1964, was hospitalized with various injuries as a result of a shell hitting a private house in Chamanli village, Aghdam district. The house was extensively damaged.

October 15, 2020

Aghdam district came under intensive rocket artillery fire from various directions. At about 9 a.m., Valiyev Shahsuvar Millet, born in 1969 and Musayev Roman Yusif, born in 1979 were hospitalized with various injuries as a result of a shell hitting the yards of private houses in Birinji Baharli settlement of Aghdam district. The houses were seriously damaged.

At about 01 p.m., deliberate artillery shelling of Terter city cemetery during the funeral ceremony resulted in numerous civilian casualties. As a result, the city residents who were there at the time - Orujov Parviz Novruz, born in 1989, Rustamov Vasif Bahadur, born in 1962 Zamanov Shakir Khasay, born in 1988 and Amirov Isgandar Yelmar were killed. Mammadov Fizuli Ali, Allahverdiyev Elsevar Vali, Amirov Nofal Yelmar and Gazanfarli Rafael Gazanfar were hospitalized with various injuries.



Photos from the Terter cemetery after the attack of Armenia (15 October 2020)

An operational-tactical missile fired by the Armenian armed forces from the occupied Gubadli region at 10:44 a.m. exploded in the Ordubad region of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, situated far from the conflict zone.

October 16, 2020

Armenia's armed forces continued firing on the territories of Goranboy, Tartar, Aghdam, Agjabadi and Fizuli regions.

October 17, 2020

Using SCUD/Elbrus Operative-Tactical Ballistic Missiles, at around 1 a.m. Armenia for the third time launched ballistic missile attack on the central part of Ganja city.

Simultaneously, the damage to row level of houses and other civilian objects being affected by the effects of explosive weapons in populated areas caused widespread damage to civilians. For that reason, 20 private houses were totally destroyed, and many houses, civilian objects around, including 4 kindergartens, one secondary school and a child clinic were damaged. A 13-year-old Russian citizen Mayakov Artur Vasilyevich who was seriously wounded on October 17 died on October 24, thus increasing the death toll to 15.



Ganja after the third missile attack of Armenia (17 October 2020)

At about 4 p.m., due to the intensive rocket and heavy artillery shelling from different directions of Aghjabadi district by the Armed Forces of Armenia, Hajiyev Rauf Nizami born in 1991, a resident of Arazbar village, received various injuries as a result of a cannon shot falling on the yard of his house, and the house itself was severely damaged.

At about 9 p.m., intensive rocket and heavy artillery shelling of Aghdam district from different directions, resulted in a shrapnel hitting the courtyard of house belonging to Hasanov Ramil Kamal, a resident of Mahrizli village, born in 1981. As a result of explosion, he was hospitalized with various injuries. The house was extensively damaged.

October 18, 2020

Early in the morning, as a result of intensive rocket and artillery shelling of Aghjabadi district from different directions, more than 25 houses were severely damaged in Yukhari Giyamaddinli and Garakhanli villages.

At about 13 p.m., Armenia's armed forces targeted non-military crude oil and condensate export pipelines in Khizi district of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Armenia's military units tried to launch rockets in the direction of Khizi district, located more than 300 kilometers away from the area of hostilities. As a result of neutralization by air defense forces of the Azerbaijani army, some of the explosive particles inside the rocket were scattered over a distance of 250 meters from the part of the Baku-Novorossiysk oil pipeline passing through Sitalchay village in Khizi district. The pipeline is of strategic importance in Azerbaijan-Russia economic cooperation.

By this, Armenia attempted to deliberately destroy a large amount of property belonging to infrastructure facilities, jeopardizing oil-exporting pipelines and high-capacity crude oil and condensate export pipelines, the destruction of which could cause major material consequences.

October 19, 2020

In the morning of October 19, 2020, Terter district came under intensive rocket artillery fire by Armenia. A resident of Alasgarli village - Salimov Niyaz Huseynali, born in 1962, was hospitalized with various injuries as a result of a shell hitting the yard of his house. The house was severely damaged.

From the morning, the Armenia fired at Aghdam district from various directions with missiles and heavy artillery.

At about 3 p.m., as a result of a shell falling on Banovshalar settlement of the district - Guliyeva Shamama Isa, born in 1955, and Guliyeva Maya Mammad, born in 1976, were hospitalized with various injuries.

In addition, Hasanov Anar Beybala (born in 1982), a reporter of the Azerbaijan Television and Radio Broadcasting CJSC (AzTV) seconded to the frontline zone was hospitalized with various injuries as a result of enemy fire while informing the world community about Armenia's provocations against the civilian population.

Mahiyaddinli Chichek Ilyas, a resident of Pashabeyli village of the district, was also hospitalized with various injuries as a result of artillery shelling.

October 20, 2020

Since the morning, the armed forces of Armenia have fired on the Tartar region from various directions with heavy missiles and heavy artillery.

Residents of the village - Isaqli Anar Rasul oglu, born in 1994, and Guliyev Anar Tofiq oglu, born in 1984, were killed as a result of a shell falling on a private house in Jamilli village of the region at about 3 p.m. Shabanov Murov Rasul oglu, born in 1972, received serious injuries. The house was severely damaged.

At about 5 p.m., Armenia fired rockets and artillery at the Goranboy and Tartar regions.

October 21, 2020

Armenia's armed forces have been shelling the city of Tartar and the region since the morning.

October 22, 2020

Using massively destructive warfare methods, Armenia fired Scud ballistic tactical missiles at Gabala, Kurdamir and Siyazan districts of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which are located more than 150 km away from the frontline.

As a result of rockets launched, resident of Hajally village, Gabala district - Amirbeyov Murad Jeyhun, born in 2003, received various injuries, 5 houses in the village were severely damaged.



Missile strike of Armenia on Gabala (22 October 2020)

Also, Armenia targeted the Oghuz-Gabala-Baku water pipeline, which supplies drinking water to the Absheron Peninsula and is of special strategic importance for Azerbaijan. However, as a result of neutralization by Azerbaijan's air defense forces, parts of the missile fell within 250 meters from the pipeline.

October 24, 2020

As a result of "Smerch" missile attack on Tartar city of Azerbaijan, 16-year-old Ismayilzada Orkhan was killed in the garden of their house.

“CIVILIANS ARE UNDER ATTACK!” REPORT

**This report covers the factual and
legal aspects of the attacks
on civilians in Azerbaijan by the
armed forces of Armenia**

**The report covers the period of
27.09.2020 – 28.10.2020**

November 2, 2020

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SUMMARY

Protection of civilians in international law

In international humanitarian law, the protection of civilians is not the same as the protection of combatants. This difference is particularly relevant in the conduct of hostilities: there is a fundamental distinction between civilians and combatants, and between military objectives and civilian objects. Combatants may be attacked until they surrender or are otherwise hors de combat, while civilians may not be targeted, unless and for such time as they directly participate in hostilities, and they are protected by the principles of proportionality and precaution against the incidental effects of attacks against military objectives and combatants.

Regarding the legal aspects of the protection of civilians, in accordance with the IV Geneva Convention the protection of civilians during armed conflict is a cornerstone of international humanitarian law. This protection extends to their public and private property. International Humanitarian Law (IHL) also identifies and protects particularly vulnerable civilian groups such as women, children and the displaced persons.

International human rights law and international humanitarian law share the goal of preserving the dignity and humanity of all. Over the years, the UN General Assembly, the Human Rights Council have considered that, in armed conflict, parties to the conflict have legally binding obligations concerning the rights of persons affected by the conflict.

Escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

From September 27, the armed forces of Armenia have launched another act of aggression against Azerbaijan, by intensively attacking the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan as well as residential areas along the frontline, with the use of large-caliber weapons, mortar launchers and artillery of different calibers. Having openly and purposefully targeted the civilian population and civilian objects, in addition to military servicemen Armenia has killed a number of civilians, among them elderly, women and children, and inflicted serious damage on numerous houses and civilian objects.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan operate in the sovereign territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan which recognized by your countries and all international community and organize the defense of Azerbaijan. These are counter-offensive military operations with the aim of enforcing Armenia to peace. The main goal is to ensure the security of the Azerbaijani civilian population living close to the line of contact and to implement counter-offensive peace enforcement operations to prevent such provocations by Armenia.

In accordance with the international humanitarian law and human rights law, each individual State has the responsibility to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means. Azerbaijan is acting in accordance with these norms and principles. The international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility.

According to our observations, Armenia is committing war crimes and other violations of the humanitarian law, human rights law, customary law by killing civilians, by using child soldiers, mercenaries and terrorists, and organizing illegal resettlement the ethnic Armenian population from some Middle Eastern countries to Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent districts, which are internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan, and using them and local population as a human shield in armed conflict.



House of Elbrus Gurbanov after the artillery shelling (27 September 2020)



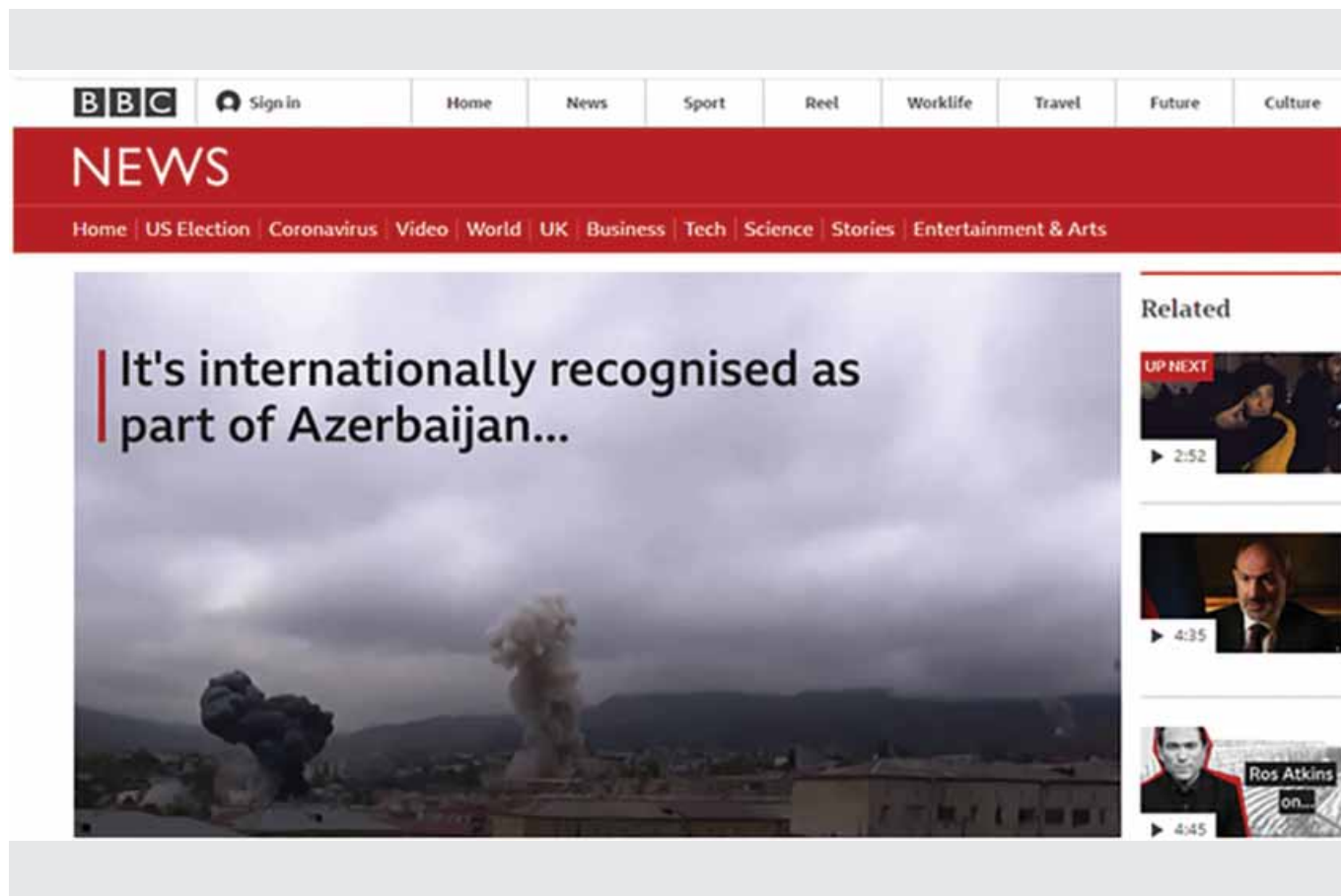
Images of the Terter District Court taken after the artillery shelling (28 September 2020)



Tartar district after shelling by Armenia (28 September 2020)

Some facts that we need to know about the Karabakh conflict

Nagorno-Karabakh is not a "disputed" territory. It is an integral part of sovereign territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan recognized by the UN, other international organizations and states.



Armenia has occupied not only Nagorno-Karabakh region, but also 7 adjacent regions - in total more than 20% of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. As a result, nearly one million IDPs- citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan –ethnically expelled from Nagorno Karabakh and other occupied territories between 1988 and 1994 (during the first Karabakh War).The undergoing war is not on the territories of Armenia. Azerbaijan, currently, is using his right under the UN Resolution Article 51 to prevent aggression against its civil population and to liberate its territories from the occupying forces of the Republic of Armenia. On September 27, 2020, when the current aggressive offensive actions by the Armenian Army started, Azerbaijan responded with counter-offensive military operations. The Azerbaijani Government repeatedly stated, "The Republic of Azerbaijan does not have military targets in the territory of the Republic of Armenia."(Source: AUKAA)

Between 27.09.2020 and 28.10.2020, the total number of civilian casualties in Azerbaijan are as the following:

Number of Civilians Killed: 90

Number of Injured Civilians: 370

Number of Houses Fallen into Disrepair: 2243

Number of Residential Buildings Falling into Disrepair: 90

Number of Damaged Civil Facilities: 402(Source: The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan)

Aggression by Armenia. 1992-1994

Armenia that occupied in 1992-1993 one fifth of the internationally recognized territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, has been refusing to liberate them despite a clear call for the unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in the UN Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874, 884 adopted in 1993, as well as Azerbaijan's good-will and dedication to the peaceful resolution of the conflict. For decades, Azerbaijan struggled with the consequences of unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe which made every 7th person in the country forcefully displaced. Most of our cities under the Armenian occupation turned to ghost cities with totally destroyed and plundered infrastructure.

Armenia has been using acts of genocide as a means to instill fear and to terrorize the entire population and force them to flee. Only in Khojaly massacre 613 civilians of whom 63 were children were brutally killed and many were maimed by the armed forces of Armenia in 1992. One million Azerbaijanis, one thirds of whom are children were forcefully expelled and driven away from their homes, and for almost 15 years the larger part of the forcefully displaced children in Azerbaijan had to live in tent camps and villages consisting of luggage vans on railways which were subsequently abolished as a result of the tremendous efforts and budget resources allocated by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The internally displaced children in Azerbaijan still cannot realize their right to voluntary return to their lands in safety and dignity. During the conflict, 224 children were taken hostage by Armenia and were subsequently released, and 29 children are still considered to be in Armenian captivity. 73 Azerbaijani children are missing.

Armenia is responsible for total destruction of 1145 educational facilities and 855 kindergartens in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Tens of thousands of Azerbaijani children continue to realize their right to education under serious challenges stemming from their continued displacement. Many others along the line of confrontation attend their classes under the constant threat of being attacked by the indiscriminate bombing of the armed forces of Armenia.

Attacks on civilians by Armenia

According to the armament index of world countries released by the Bonn International Center for Conversion in February 2020, Armenia ranks third in the world and first in Europe for the number of servicemen per thousand people in Armenia, the cost of armaments in the gross domestic product (GDP), military spending, healthcare, number of troops and the quantity of heavy weaponry. The report says that the reason for Armenia's leading position in the arms race is the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and its militaristic policy over the past 30 years.

(Source: Armament index, Bonn International Center for Conversion in February 2020).

In an interview with TV show "Vesti" aired on the Russian TV channel Russia-1 on 8 October, Vagharshak Harutyunyan, the chief adviser to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, openly stated that Armenia is purposefully bombarding peaceful cities of Azerbaijan and targeting civilians to create panic among them. (Source: Caspian News, <https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/pashinyans-advisor-confirms-armenias-deliberate-attacks-on-azerbaijani-civilian-settlements-2020-10-9-0/>)

Since the deadly clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan broke out on September 27, Armenia's forces have continued to shell densely populated areas, strategically important civilian and energy infrastructure, which are far from the frontline. The skirmishes broke out after Armenia's forces deployed in the occupied Azerbaijani lands hit Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military positions along the front zone in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

Armenia's forces have so far launched intensive missile attacks against Azerbaijan's second-largest city of Ganja, which is more than 60 kilometers away from the conflict zone, the central Azerbaijani city of Mingachevir, which hosts the country's largest hydroelectric power and water reservoir, as well as Barda, Tartar and Beylagan. They also hit the Khizi-Absheron region near Azerbaijan's capital Baku with mid-range missiles.

Russian military expert Igor Korotchenko expressed confidence that by shelling Azerbaijani cities, Yerevan is trying to provoke Baku into tit-for-tat response. If Yerevan can demonstrate that military activities are taking place not only in the territory of the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, but also in Armenia itself, then it can demand military support from Russia.

Pashinyan's tactics: To make an attack on Azerbaijani cities, provoke Baku to retaliate against targets in Armenia, and then seek for help from Russia and the CSTO acting as "a victim of aggression," Korotchenko said, commenting on the Armenia's attacks on residential areas of Azerbaijan, according to Armiya.az citing APA.

Emboldened by the 30 years impunity for its war crimes and crimes against humanity, Armenia has started another aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan since September 27, 2020. Armenia continues shelling Azerbaijan's densely populated areas using heavy artillery.

65 civilians have been killed and 297 others have been injured since the outbreak of large-scale hostilities on September 27, after Armenia launched another attack along the line of contact, the Prosecutor General's Office has reported.

Among the civilians are ten children.

As a result of the shelling of civilian infrastructure facilities by the occupying country's armed forces, 2,243 houses and 90 multi-apartment residential buildings, as well as 402 civilian facilities were severely damaged.

Vehicles belonging to civilians became unserviceable, and numerous small and large horned animals and haystacks were destroyed as well.

Moreover, as a consequence of rocket and heavy artillery attacks on October 4, 11 and 17, a total of 25 civilians were killed and 139 were injured in Ganja city. The city's civil infrastructure facilities and vehicles were inflicted extensive damage.



Ganja after the missile attack of Armenia (4 October 2020)

Furthermore, 7 civilians were killed and 10 were injured in Goranboy region. On September 27, as a result of shrapnel hitting the yard of a private house in Naftalan region, all members of one family (5 civilians) were killed.

Likewise, 16 civilians were killed and 50 were injured in Tartar region, 25 civilians were killed and around 70 were injured in Barda region, 2 civilians were killed and 2 were injured in Beylagan region, one civilian was killed and 19 were injured in Aghjabadi region, 3 civilians were killed and 17 were injured in Fuzuli region, 7 civilians were killed and 40 were injured in Aghdam region and 5 civilians were injured in Mingachevir region. In addition, in Dasheksan, Jabrayil, Khojali and Gabala regions one civilian was injured in each.

Armenian armed forces launched a large-scale operation in the front-line zone on September 27 at 6 am, shelling the positions of the Azerbaijani army from large-calibre weapons, mortars, and artillery installations of various calibres. Armenia has been targeting Azerbaijan's densely populated areas and infrastructure projects.



Unexploded missile in close proximity of energy block in Mingachevir





Fire caused by the missile attack of Armenia on a residential house in Barda (5 October 2020)


Opinion Political Op-Eds Social Commentary

The conflict we can't ignore

Opinion by Michael Bociurkiw

🕒 Updated 0147 GMT (0947 HKT) October 14, 2020



A man brings out his belongings after his house was shelled in Gyandzha, Azerbaijan.

Ganja and Barda bombings – acts against humanity

Article 18 of the 1949 “Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War” states that under no circumstances should the parties to a conflict throw shells or artillery at civilian gatherings. The military-political leadership of the aggressor state of Armenia continues to target civilians, houses, civilian sites and settlements, and commit crimes against civilians in violation of all international norms and principles, in gross violation of its obligations under the Geneva Conventions. Population centers, district and village centers, civil infrastructure facilities, hospitals, medical centers, school buildings and kindergartens are targeted deliberately.

Despite the agreement reached on ceasefire on October 10, 2020, Armenia once again demonstrated stubborn negligence of its obligations and spitefully attacked on the night of October 11, the second biggest city in Azerbaijan, Ganja situated far beyond the frontline. 10 civilians were killed and 34, including minors, were seriously injured. As a result of rocket fire on residential buildings 3 children lost their both parents. This nefarious attack was repeated on the night of October 17, taking the life of 13 civilians, including 3 minors, and injuring 48 civilians, including 5 children. Two children are missing in Ganja.



Ganja after the missile strike of Armenia (11 October 2020)

Violation of humanitarian truce

According to the Article 15 of the Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field. Geneva, 12 August 1949, at all times, and particularly after an engagement, Parties to the conflict shall, without delay, take all possible measures to search for and collect the wounded and sick, to protect them against pillage and ill-treatment, to ensure their adequate care, and to search for the dead and prevent their being despoiled.

Whenever circumstances permit, an armistice or a suspension of fire shall be arranged, or local arrangements made, to permit the removal, exchange and transport of the wounded left on the battlefield.

Likewise, local arrangements may be concluded between Parties to the conflict for the removal or exchange of wounded and sick from a besieged or encircled area, and for the passage of medical and religious personnel and equipment on their way to that area.

Armenia violated such humanitarian truce agreements three times in a row. As known, a trilateral meeting of the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov, the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov and the Foreign Minister of Armenia Zohrab Mnatsakanyan was held in Moscow on October 9, 2020 on the initiative of Russian President Vladimir Putin to declare a humanitarian ceasefire," the appeal said.

"After a meeting that lasted about 11 hours, an agreement was reached consisting of following 4 points:

1. To declare a ceasefire for humanitarian purposes starting from 12 p.m. on October 10 for the exchange of the prisoners of war, other people detained and bodies of those killed, with the mediation and in accordance with the criteria of the International Committee of the Red Cross;
2. Further parameters of the ceasefire will be agreed upon additionally;
3. The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, with the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, on the basis of the fundamental principles of the settlement, are launching substantive negotiations with the aim of achieving early peaceful resolution;
4. The sides reiterate the inalterability of the format of the peace process," the appeal said.

However, unfortunately, the Armenian side, in violation of all the provisions of the agreement signed, in accordance with its hypocritical and aggressive nature, continues to subject the frontline regions and villages, as well as the cities of Azerbaijan situated far away from the conflict zone, to heavy artillery and missile fire, grossly violating the ceasefire agreement.

The most regrettable is that on October 11, at around 4 AM, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, Ganja, with a population of more than 500,000 people, located 80 km from the frontline, was shelled by the order of the political-military leadership of Armenia. As a result of this barbaric and atrocious attack of Armenia, 3 residential buildings were destroyed, more than 9 civilians, including 4 women, were killed and 34 were wounded, including 16 women and 6 children.

Second violation of humanitarian truce, 17 October 2020

In October 17, Armenia once again attacked Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, firing a SCUD / Elbrus ballistic missile on the densely populated block of the city, killing 13 people and injuring more than 40. Among the dead and injured were the children, women and the elderly people.

This was the third time in the last two weeks that the city of Ganja has come under heavy rocket fire of Armenia, and so far 27 civilians have been killed and more than 100 injured.

The bombing of the Ganja, the city with a population of more than 500,000 people situated far from the conflict zone, without any military necessity by the Armenian political-military leadership, the deliberate and indiscriminate use of powerful destructive missiles such as SCUDs to kill innocent civilians will be included in the history books as the bloodiest war crime committed against humanity in the XXI century.

It is not only this act of savagery, barbarism and terrorism committed by Armenia in the eyes of the whole world that worries and deeply concerns the Azerbaijani public, it is also seriously infuriated and disturbed by the silence about the human tragedy, genocide and war crimes committed in Ganja of the UN Security Council, which must stop and punish the aggressors around the globe and was established for this purpose by the world community.



Ganja after the third missile attack of Armenia (17 October 2020)

Third violation of the humanitarian truce by Armenia (October 26, 2020)

Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry issued statement, saying that Armenia has blatantly ignored and violated the ceasefire regime with Azerbaijan for a third time in a row. "In a gross violation of the new humanitarian ceasefire, on October 26, Armenian armed forces subjected to artillery fire the units of Azerbaijani Army located in the Lachin's region Safiyan village. Later, the Tartar city and villages of the region were under intensive shelling by the Armenian armed forces," the ministry stated.

On October 27 at nearly 4:40 p.m., as a result of the Smerch MLRS missile attack by the armed forces of Armenia on the Barda region of Azerbaijan, four civilians including a 7 year old child were killed, 13 civilians including children and women were seriously injured

As reported on October 28th, at around 1 pm, again, after first attack, the hostile armed forces using cluster bombs prohibited by international law launched missile attacks massively for the second at densely populated areas of Barda district, where trade facilities are located. As a result, 21 civilians were killed and up to 70 wounded. Civil infrastructure facilities and vehicles were extensively damaged.

Thus, it was underlined that Armenia grossly violates all the humanitarian ceasefire reached - first on October 10 Moscow joint statement, then on October 18 reaffirmed commitments by the mediation efforts of Paris and now on October 24 after meeting in Washington and agreeing on implementing the immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

It was noted that this is another demonstration of willful ignorance by Armenia of its commitments and open disrespect to the tireless endeavors of international mediators.



Barda after the missile attack of Armenia (27 October 2020)



Barda after the missile strike of Armenia (28 October 2020)

Humanitarian help to civilians in Ganja city

Along with the Azerbaijani government, other friendly countries, such as Israel has sent humanitarian and medical aid to the residents of Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, which came under missile attacks by Armenia, the Israeli Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper said, Trend reported citing TASS.

According to the newspaper, Israel, as a humanitarian and medical aid for dozens of civilians who suffered from the shelling in Ganja city, supplied heaters, warm clothes, blankets, first aid kits, and basic necessities. The second batch of Israeli aid with consumables for medical supplies was delivered to Ganja on October 24, noting that "Israel is ready to supply medical equipment if necessary". On October 23, Ambassador of Israel to Azerbaijan George Dick visited Ganja, Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper added.

"I came [to Ganja] to express my condolences and the condolences of the State of Israel to the victims and wish a speedy recovery to the wounded," the ambassador said upon his arrival. "I met some of the victims and I will meet more later, their stories are heartbreaking. As Israelis, we know the destructive effect of war, especially when innocent civilians are under attack. Violence against civilians, no matter what nationality or religion, is unacceptable. No one should lose loved ones, friends or neighbors while they sleep peacefully at night."

(Yedioth Ahronoth, 25.10.2020, YNE<https://www.ynetnews.com/article/Sk11bDGm00P>)

"During my visit yesterday to Ganja, I saw at firsthand the situation of children. I was saddened to hear the reports that more children had been injured over the weekend and extend my condolences to those affected."

Media reported that UNICEF Representative to Azerbaijan Edward Carwardine stated this. Edward Carwardine noted that UNICEF repeats its urgent call for the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and reiterates that a cessation of hostilities is in the best interest of all children: "I spoke in Ganja with Mr Hikmat Hajiyev, Assistant to the President, to offer UNICEF's support for children and families, particularly in responding to psychological trauma and keeping children safe from unexploded ordnance, and we agreed to implement this assistance urgently."

(<https://en.axar.az/news/society/506910.html>).

Missile attack on oil pipeline from Armenia

Azerbaijan is a developing country and it is a big hub for multi-billions of investments. Azerbaijan also plays an important role in Europe's energy security through several significant energy projects such as Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline, the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) and the Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP). Not surprisingly, as a part of their terror policy, Armenian forces launched a missile attack on last Tuesday on the BTC oil pipeline amid the conflict, that was successfully prevented by the Azerbaijani army, on the part of pipeline in Yevlakh city. Azerbaijan described the attack as a "terrorist act" and highlighted the pipeline's important role in Europe's energy security.

Armenia has shelled Azerbaijani power plants and pipelines of strategic importance, which threatens not only the security of Azerbaijan, but also the region, Azerbaijani Energy Minister Parviz Shahbazov said in October 28, 2020.

Shahbazov made the remark at the Baku International Energy Charter Forum on "Transition to renewable energy sources in electricity production, transport, heating and cooling: modern challenges and trends," Trend reports.

"The Armenian side continues to shell the peaceful cities of our country. We have already faced Armenian aggression. Since the beginning of hostilities, Armenia has repeatedly struck the strategic pipeline, which is part of the Southern Gas Corridor," the minister said.

These are just few evidences of the ongoing Armenian aggression towards Azerbaijan and its territorial integrity. This aggression can escalate to its highest point in any time, putting whole population and infrastructure of the country in danger. Simultaneously, Armenia's policy of terrorism threatens security and stability not only of Azerbaijan but also the whole region, as well as the business and investment climate too.

American Chamber of Commerce in Azerbaijan (AmCham Azerbaijan) issued a statement supporting territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. According to the statement, AmCham Azerbaijan is deeply concerned with the events developing in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other areas of Azerbaijan. The Chamber strongly condemns all attacks on Azerbaijan, especially recent large-scale shelling of civilian population and strategic infrastructure facilities carried out from the territory of Armenia.

AmCham Azerbaijan unequivocally supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and calls for the resolution of the conflict within the framework of international law and in line with the UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 which demand immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all the occupying forces from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In the statement it was also emphasized that, the liberation of several occupied territories in the past days from the Armenian occupation gives hope, first time in 30 years, for more than one million of Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons to return to their homes and sustainable peace and stability in the region.



(Rashid Mammadov, The London Watch Legal E-Digest , October 11, 2020
<http://thelondonwatch.com/2020/10/11/rashid-mammadov-american-chamber-of-commerce-in-azerbaijan-issued-a-statement-supporting-territorial-integrity-of-azerbaijan/>)

Azerbaijan strikes only at military facilities

Azerbaijan strikes only at military facilities stationed by the Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories, all possible precautionary measures in accordance with the convention have been taken in order not to damage the civilians and civilian facilities.

At present, Azerbaijan is exercising the right to self-defense enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter within the framework of these resolutions, as well as the use peace enforcement operations provided for in Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

In order to prevent Armenian military aggression and ensure protection of the civil population, the Azerbaijani Army took counter-attack measures to repel the assault.

According to the Article 51 of UN Charter, nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defence shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security.”

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, as a rule, with the use of elements of coercive action, in order to prevent aggression or threats to international peace and security by any state, or by the parties to the conflict or the state in conflict. These are peace enforcement operations carried out by the without the consent of the international community. These operations can be carried out only on the basis of a UN Security Council resolution. As we know, 4 UN Security Council resolutions have been adopted on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The resolutions noted that stability and peace in the region were under threat, expressed concern over the growing number of IDPs and stressed the need to address the problems caused by the state of emergency in the occupied territories. The UN Security Council called for an end to the occupation in order to achieve a permanent ceasefire and the withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. According to the Paragraph 138 of the Resolution on the Outcomes of the World Summit, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 September 2005, at the World Summit of the Heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005, the Heads of States reaffirmed that each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means. Azerbaijan is acting in accordance with it. The international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility. The international community, through the United Nations, also has the responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapters VI and VIII of the UN Charter, to help to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Protection of women and children in armed conflicts in international law

If we talk about specific protection of children and women, international humanitarian law provides general protection for children and women as persons taking no part in hostilities, and special protection as persons who are particularly vulnerable.

Protocol II of 1977 also codifies the principles according to which the civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack. The Fourth Geneva Convention comprises a great many provisions in favour of children. They show that, already in 1949, it was felt that children should be especially protected against warfare.

Armenia is violated the principles stipulated by the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict and which calls for the strict observance of the Declaration by all Member States. Attacks and bombings on the civilian population, inflicting incalculable suffering, especially on women and children, who are the most vulnerable members of the population, shall be prohibited, and such acts shall be condemned.

The Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict calls for the strict observance of the Declaration by all Member States:

1. Attacks and bombings on the civilian population, inflicting incalculable suffering, especially on women and children, who are the most vulnerable members of the population, shall be prohibited, and such acts shall be condemned.

2. The use of chemical and bacteriological weapons in the course of military operations constitutes one of the most flagrant violations of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the principles of international humanitarian law and inflicts heavy losses on civilian populations, including defenceless women and children, and shall be severely condemned.

3. All States shall abide fully by their obligations under the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949, as well as other instruments of international law relative to respect for human rights in armed conflicts, which offer important guarantees for the protection of women and children.

4. All efforts shall be made by States involved in armed conflicts, military operations in foreign territories or military operations in territories still under colonial domination to spare women and children from the ravages of war. All the necessary steps shall be taken to ensure the prohibition of measures such as persecution, torture, punitive measures, degrading treatment and violence, particularly against that part of the civilian population that consists of women and children.

5. All forms of repression and cruel and inhuman treatment of women and children, including imprisonment, torture, shooting, mass arrests, collective punishment, destruction of dwellings and forcible eviction, committed by belligerents in the course of military operations or in occupied territories shall be considered criminal.

6. Women and children belonging to the civilian population and finding themselves in circumstances of emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, or who live in occupied territories, shall not be deprived of shelter, food, medical aid or other inalienable rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child or other instruments of international law.

Unfortunately, this does not mean that the international community will react immediately to Armenia's actions. We have been witnesses for many times, that international community were closed their eyes to unlawful actions of Armenia in regards to Azerbaijan. The only right way in such a situation is to continue the peace enforcement operations of the Azerbaijani army to force Armenia to withdraw the occupying forces from the territories of Azerbaijan as required by the UN Security Council 4 resolutions on Karabakh.

During 30 years of conflict, Armenia has not stop to surprise the international community by the level of its barbarism and cruelty. Attacking innocent children sleeping at night in the cities that do not contain any military objects is an immoral practice of conducting war invented by Armenia. Our hearts are bleeding when we look at 3 years old Khadija lying on a hospital bed, and who lost her both parents and one year old sister. This is not the way that innocent children should be behaved.

The internally displaced children in Azerbaijan still cannot realize their right to voluntary return to their lands in safety and dignity. During the conflict, 224 children were taken hostage by Armenia and were subsequently released, and 29 children are still considered to be in Armenian captivity. 73 Azerbaijani children are missing.



Children in Azerbaijan are the targets by Armenian aggressors even during the ceasefire time. During the ceasefire since 1994, 34 children became victims of the Armenian terror, 14 of them were killed and 20 were injured. Another murder that got away with Armenian extremists happened in 2017, when the Armenian Armed Forces fired from 82- and 120-mm mortars and heavy grenade launchers at the village of Alkhanly, Fizuli region, as a result of which 18-month-old girl Zakhra Guliyeva and her 50-year-old grandmother Sahiba Guliyev died. This murder shook the whole world, by showing the Armenia's true colors, however, the Armenians still got away with it due to the world community's unresponsiveness! In total, over the years, about 350 thousand innocent children have suffered from an unjust war.

Over the years of the conflict, Armenian armed groups have purposefully targeted civilians and civilian facilities of Azerbaijan, including schools, hospitals, and administrative buildings.

The Presidential aide Hikmat Hajiyev noted that the Armenian armed forces once again fired missiles from Armenia's territory on residential settlements in the direction of Azerbaijan's Fuzuli and Jabrayil districts, which resulted in fatalities and injuries among civilians. "During the recent days, over 10,000 pieces of projectiles and missiles of various types were launched on Azerbaijan's densely populated settlements. Over 500 private houses were completely destroyed or seriously damaged.

Azerbaijani Prosecutor General Kamran Aliyev has made a statement on the Armenian armed forces' shelling of the city of Ganja: "October 4, 2020, at about 10 am, Ganja, the second largest city of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with a population of more than five hundred thousand civilians, was subjected to rocket and artillery shelling which is a blatant violation of the requirements of the Geneva Conventions.

Funeral service for 13-year-old Arthur



A funeral service for 13-year-old Artur Mayakov, who died due to the Armenian terror, is being held at the Russian Orthodox Church in Azerbaijan's Ganja city, Trend reports.

The leadership of the Mayor's Office of Ganja city, representatives of the Russian community, and other residents of the city are taking part in the farewell ceremony.

Russian citizen Artur Mayakov, who was wounded due to Armenia's missile strike on Ganja on Oct. 17, died on October 24.

Child soldiers in Armenian army

"Video shows that Armenia employs child-soldiers. Needs to be investigated", Assistant of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmet Hajiyev wrote on his Twitter page. He also added that, "Recruiting and using children under the age of 15 as a soldier is prohibited under international humanitarian law – treaty and customs – and is defined as a war crime by ICC".

It is not the first time, Armenia commits a war crimes in relation to children. According to the "Child Soldiers Report 2001- Armenia", "Recruitment of children has been reported to occur in practice. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, at its January 2000 session, raised questions regarding reports of refugee children from Azerbaijan being forced to join the Armenian army. The delegation responded that Armenian children in Nagorno-Karabakh had been known to take up arms against Azerbaijan "in defence of their territory". The Committee recommended that Armenia should refrain from conscripting children into the armed forces and should take special protection and rehabilitation measures for children affected by armed conflict" (see the UN press release, UN CRC concluding observations on the status of children's rights in Armenia, 20/1/00, HR/CRC/00/15 and also UN document reference CRC7C794).

Absolutely no actions have been taken by Armenia in regard to the recommendations of the report. Furthermore, they keep repeating to commit this war crime. Now, in 2020, again in Karabakh armed conflict.



International legal framework for prohibition using child soldiers

UN Secretary General in its report titled “Children and Armed Conflict” at the 74th session in June 2020, called upon Member States to respect the rights of the child, including through accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and the endorsement and implementation of the Paris Principles and Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers.

International Humanitarian Law prohibits the recruitment and use of children in hostilities. The article 50 of the IV Geneva Convention, stated that, an Occupying Power must not enlist children on the occupied territory (GC IV, Art. 50). This provision is understood to relate only to children below the age of 15 years.

The prohibition is applicable in both international and non-international armed conflicts (such as a current Karabakh armed conflict, between Armenia and Azerbaijan). The bans on recruitment of children below the age of 15 enshrined in Article 77 of Additional Protocol I, and in Article 4 of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 are also considered to prohibit accepting voluntary enlistment (P I, Art. 77 (2); P II, Art. 4(3)(c)).

Article 77 states that, the Parties to the conflict shall take all feasible measures in order that children who have not attained the age of fifteen years do not take a direct part in hostilities and, in particular, they shall refrain from recruiting them into their armed forces. Paragraph 3 of the Article 4, of Additional Protocol II is devoted more particularly to the protection of children and reiterates some principles contained in the fourth Convention. Provisions of the protocol includes protection from the effects of hostilities (sanitary zones, evacuation), provision of special care and aid (medicine, food, clothing), protection of personal status, family and community ties (identity, registration, reunification, news), cultural environment, education, or limits to the death penalty. Other provisions specifically regulate the treatment of detained or interned children.

Children are protected also by general human rights instruments. In addition, they are entitled to the protection provided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which has been ratified by all states in the world, apart from Somalia and the United States of America. Article 38(3) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child prohibiting the recruitment of children below the age of 15 is similarly interpreted as banning voluntary enlistment of such children and, hence, completely outlawing child soldiers.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child differentiates between States and non-State armed groups in setting the age-limit for recruitment and use in hostilities. Armed groups that are distinct from the armed forces of a State should not, under any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18 years.

States Parties shall take all feasible measures to prevent such recruitment and use, including the adoption of legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practices.

Under the Statute of the International Criminal Court, conscripting or enlisting children into armed forces or groups constitutes a war crime in both international and non-international armed conflicts (ICC Statute, Article 8(2)(b)(xxvi) and (e)(vii)).

Paris and Vancouver principles

Another important documents in the sphere of protection of child soldiers are the Paris Principles and the Vancouver Principles.

Paris Principles were adopted in 2007 at the "Free Children from War" conference organized by France and UNICEF. In the last 10 years, 105 states have endorsed these Principles. The signatory States have declared that they are prepared to identify and implement durable solutions to combat the unlawful use and recruitment of child soldiers in conflicts. The Paris

Principles has the priority to put an end to the use or recruitment of child soldiers and one the goal is to release children enlisted into armed groups and achieve sanctions against people having unlawfully recruited children. I have a big doubts that Paris Principles will achieve its goals in relation to Armenia.

In November 2017, Canada launched the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers at the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Vancouver Principles are a set of political commitments focused on child protection, including all stages of a conflict cycle. They comprise 17 principles that focus on preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers by armed forces and armed groups.

In 2017, 54 UN Member States were founding endorsers of the Vancouver Principles. The number of endorsing countries is now close to 100. Armenia is among the states which had endorsed the Vancouver Principles. However, as we can see from the practice, their acts in Karabakh are not in line with those principles.

Use of the educational facilities for military purposes by Armenia

Recently, the Armenian media outlets informed that, Karabakh, separatists' leader Arayik Harutyunyan discussed the fighting situation with militaries in the kindergarden.

Harutyunyan's photo from the discussion of the "state of war" was rightly criticized on social networks.



It was also revealed that the place where Harutyunyan held a "meeting" was not "the south-eastern direction of the front", but in fact the kindergarten No. 3 in Khankendi.

It should be noted that this is a method constantly used by the Armenian army. So, they choose either a house of culture, or a school, or a kindergarten as a military base. When the

Azerbaijani Army strikes the area, it is rumored that Azerbaijan is firing on civilian targets. However, Azerbaijan strikes only the legitimate military facilities. They use civilian objects, as a "human shields" which is prohibited in the context of armed conflicts. This rule is set forth in the Third Geneva Convention (with respect to prisoners of war), the Fourth Geneva Convention (with respect to protected civilians) and Additional Protocol I (with respect to civilians in general).

Under the Statute of the International Criminal Court, "utilizing the presence of a civilian or other protected person to render certain points, areas or military forces immune from military operations" constitutes a war crime in international armed conflicts.

It is a clear violation of the educational rights of children which are stipulated at the articles 28 and 38 of the Child Rights Convention and also the principles stated at the Safe Schools Declaration.

According to the Article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), State undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child. State have obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, and shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.

It should also noted that according to the Safe Schools Declaration, it is prohibited to use educational facilities as basis bases, barracks or detention centres during the armed conflict. Such actions expose students and education personnel to harm, deny large numbers of children and students their right to education and so deprive communities of the foundations on which to build their future. Where educational facilities are used for military purposes it can increase the risk of the recruitment and use of children by armed actors or may leave children and youth vulnerable to sexual abuse or exploitation. In particular, it may increase the likelihood that education institutions are attacked.

The Safe Schools Declaration is an inter-governmental political commitment that was opened for endorsement by countries at an international conference held in Oslo, Norway, on 28–29 May 2015. The Declaration provides countries the opportunity to express political support for the protection of students, teachers, and schools during times of armed conflict; the importance of the continuation of education during armed conflict; and the implementation of the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict.

International law aspects of the special protection of children

In non-international armed conflicts, children are protected by the fundamental guarantees relating to the treatment of persons taking no active part in the hostilities, set forth in article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions. Under this article, children have at least the right, during these conflicts which are often very cruel, to be treated humanely. There should not be any violence to their lives and persons or their dignity.

The principle of the special protection of children during non- international armed conflicts is thus explicitly laid down. Protocol II of the Geneva Conventions, Article 4, entitled " Fundamental guarantees " , comprises a paragraph devoted exclusively to children. It stipulates that: "Children shall be provided with the care and aid they require " . This article then enumerates special measures relative to children, giving substance to the general rule stated above. The structure of article 4 shows how important the authors of Protocol II considered the protection of children during non-international armed conflicts, and it enables us to maintain that the principle of special protection of children during these conflicts is thereby affirmed.

The protection of children in armed conflict demands to be at the center of the global agenda. The laws, rights and norms governing the protection of civilians in conflict were drafted in response to 20th century wars that illustrate the worst of humanity. Even though international community falling short in their moral duty of protecting children adequately, in increasingly

fractured world children can serve as a unifying force. Their rights and their claim on international protection transcend national borders, cultures and faiths.

As Eglantyne Jebb, the founder of Save the Children, once put it: 'Every generation of children offers mankind the possibility of rebuilding his ruin of a world.' If humanity cannot come together to protect children from the horror of war, what hope is there for international cooperation in other areas?

Children are protected not only by the International humanitarian law, but also by the International human rights law. According to the Article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), State undertake to respect and to ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to them in armed conflicts which are relevant to the child. State have obligations under international humanitarian law to protect the civilian population in armed conflicts, and shall take all feasible measures to ensure protection and care of children who are affected by an armed conflict.

Thus, by targeting the civilian population, the Armenian armed forces are not only committing war crimes under humanitarian law, but also grossly violating the principles and provisions of international human rights.

UNICEF statement on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

Recently, UNICEF is made a public statement on the conflict, by saying that, "the ongoing conflict in and beyond Nagorno-Karabakh is inflicting an appalling and unacceptable toll on children. In addition to the mounting number of child fatalities and injuries, dozens of homes and schools have been damaged or destroyed. Countless children and families have endured extreme psychological trauma and distress for weeks.

UNICEF appeals, in the strongest possible terms, for an immediate implementation of the humanitarian ceasefire which both parties agreed to on 9 October. Children, families and the civilian facilities that they depend upon must be protected, in line with international human rights and humanitarian law. A complete cessation of hostilities is in the best interest of all children".

[GÜNCEL](#) [KIRIM TARİHİ](#) [KÜLTÜR SANAT](#) [TÜRK DÜNYASI](#) [AŞKANA](#) [KIRIMIN SESİ GAZETESİ](#) [GALERİ](#) [KIRIM HALK TÜRKÜLERİ](#)



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Mercenaries in Karabakh conflict in Armenian side are the threat to civilians

According to investigations conducted by the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan, members of various terrorist organizations, including foreign nationals, have illegally crossed the state border into Armenia and established illegal armed groups. It has also been determined that they are used as mercenaries in the aggressive war aimed at occupying our territories. In the Armenian army, people from other countries are fighting as mercenaries. According to reports, Armenians from Syria, Lebanon, the United States, Canada and France are joining the Armenian army. We also have some concerns about the involvement of the PKK terrorist organization in the war.

The concept of mercenary is enshrined in Article 47 of Additional Protocol I (1977) to the 1949 Geneva Convention for the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflict. According to this article, a mercenary has no right to receive the status of a combatant or prisoner of war.

The International Convention on the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, adopted by the 44th session of the UN General Assembly on 4 December 1989 (44/34), criminalizes their use and training.

Unlike Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan acceded to the Convention in 30 September 1997. In order to combat the involvement of mercenaries in military conflicts under the Convention, States Parties shall provide for criminal liability in national law for such offences.

According to Article 114 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, it is a crime to recruit, train, finance and provide other material support to mercenaries, as well as to use them in a military conflict or military operation.

Even Article 395 of the Criminal Code of Armenia criminalizes the involvement of mercenaries. Pursuant to Article 15 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted in 1966, "any act or omission committed by any person which is a crime in accordance with the principles of law accepted by the international community shall be prosecuted. It does not prevent him from being extradited and punished."

The UN General Assembly's Declaration on the Principles of International Law on Friendship and Cooperation between States, 1970, prohibits UN member states from engaging in mercenary conflicts. Apparently, mercenaries are recognized as criminals under international law and must be brought to justice as international criminals. Universal jurisdiction has been established in accordance with the principle of "aut dedere aut judicare" (obligation to prosecute). At the same time involvement of mercenaries under the customary norms of international humanitarian law, is prohibited.

Involvement of mercenaries is generally a human problem. The social danger of mercenaries lies not only in the fact that mercenaries commit murder, robbery, violence and other crimes, but also the development of a profession of murder and other crimes. Armenia is once again violating the norms of international law by actively involving mercenaries against Azerbaijan

Peace enforcement operations (PEOps) by Azerbaijan to protect civilians

The key question is, how to stop Armenian attacks on civilians in Azerbaijan?

The Aide to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Hikmet Hajiyev in its briefing for diplomatic corps representatives, in September 28, 2020, said that "The Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan operate in the sovereign territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and organize the defense of Azerbaijan. These are defensive operations. Here, too, the main goal is to ensure the security of the Azerbaijani civilian population living close to the line of contact and

to implement counter-offensive measures to prevent such provocations by Armenia. These operations can even be called Peace Enforcement. In this way, Armenia will finally be forced to make peace and participate constructively in the negotiation process. "

If we turn to international law, we will see that operations by Azerbaijani forces to stop Armenian occupation of Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and force Armenia for peace are completely legitimate from the point of view of international law.

Azerbaijan has an inherent right of self-defense against Armenia's aggression—including the right to organize its self-defense collectively and implement Peace Enforcement Operations in its own territory that occupied by Armenia. By no means does international law impede other States from assisting Azerbaijan. To the contrary, international law envisages it. In December 2010, both countries signed a Treaty that makes each other a guarantor in case of an attack by foreign forces.

Second, the territory of occupied Karabakh region is the territory within the borders of Azerbaijan that every state in the world has recognized.

What is the Peace Enforcement operation (PEOps) according to the international law? PEOps are forcible military interventions by one or more states into a third country with the express objective of maintaining or restoring international, regional or local peace and security by ending a violent conflict.

The formal legal basis for PEOps is under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. Thus, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, as a rule, with the use of elements of coercive action, in order to prevent aggression or threats to international peace and security by any state, or by the parties to the conflict or the state in conflict. These are peace enforcement operations carried out by the without the consent of the international community. These operations can be carried out only on the basis of a UN Security Council resolution. As we know, 4 UN Security Council resolutions have been adopted on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The resolutions noted that stability and peace in the region were under threat, expressed concern over the growing number of IDPs and stressed the need to address the problems caused by the state of emergency in the occupied territories. The UN Security Council called for an end to the occupation in order to achieve a permanent ceasefire and the withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. At present, Azerbaijan is exercising the right to self-defense enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter within the framework of these resolutions, as well as the use peace enforcement operations provided for in Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

According to the Paragraph 138 of the Resolution on the Outcomes of the World Summit, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 September 2005, at the World Summit of the Heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005, the Heads of States reaffirmed that each individual State has the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means. Azerbaijan is acting in accordance with it. The international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility. The international community, through the United Nations, also has the responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means, in accordance with Chapters VI and VIII of the UN Charter, to help to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

In international practice, the doctrine of peace enforcement has been used in several cases. For example, the principle of peace enforcement was applied in Bosnia-Herzegovina under the 1995 Dayton Agreement. At that time, the country was effectively divided into the "Serbian Republic" and the Muslim-Croatian Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and there was a conflict between them. But in the end, as a result of peace enforcement measures, the separatist regime of the "Serbian Republic" which was created within Bosnia and Herzegovina was forced into peace and the conflict was resolved.

Another example is the Ulster conflict between the British and the Irish, where there has been a confrontation between Catholics and Protestants loyal to England since the early twentieth century, demanding the annexation of the territory to the Republic of Ireland. As a result of peace enforcement measures, the area is currently not annexed to Ireland. The concept of peace enforcement has been applied by in the context of the UN Charter and the UN peacekeeping doctrine during various periods of armed conflicts in African countries.

Immediately after Iraq's military intervention in Kuwait on August 2, 1990, sanctions were imposed on the country by a UN Security Council resolution, which began to be implemented and lasted until 2003. As sanctions continued, the Iraqi government was forced to step back over disputed territories with Kuwait. We can cite the precedents of Cambodia, East Timor, Rwanda, Somalia and Yugoslavia for the immediate implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and the immediate implementation of peace enforcement mechanisms.

Finally, I have to say that, it is easy to start a war, but very difficult to end it. The peace process is always complicated and almost never leads to a full settlement of the conflict. Peace enforcement operations are important for a completely fair settlement of the conflict.

Conclusion and appeal to international community

We call on international organizations to take serious steps against Armenia, which hypocritically violated the ceasefire and killed many innocent children and women, and stop the aggressor. The international organizations responsible for the protection of peace and security in the world, the protection of human rights and freedoms, the observance of the norms and principles of international law, the implementation of international conventions prohibiting the killing of civilians, cannot ignore the fact that Armenia is blatantly and grossly waging war against Armenia in front of the whole world. Indifference attitude of international organizations to this aggression against Azerbaijan will be assessed as open disrespect for human values, international law and international humanitarian law.

We hope that international organizations will strongly condemn these crimes against humanity committed by Armenia and take necessary measures to sanction the aggressor.

REPORT
**On the civilian casualties
and destructions caused by attacks
of Armenia on densely populated
areas of Azerbaijan**

between 27 September – 30 October 2020

2 November 2020

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INTRODUCTION

Background of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

The Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict is one of the longest-standing protracted conflicts in the region, which has been going on for nearly 3 decades. As a result of this, the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and 7 adjacent districts of Azerbaijan, namely Lachin, Kalbajar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadli and Zangilan, were occupied by Armenia.

The conflict affected the lives of over a million of Azerbaijanis who lived in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and 7 adjacent districts of Azerbaijan, causing a number of social, economic and humanitarian problems.

The UN Security Council Resolutions 822¹, 853², 874³ and 884⁴ of 1993 define the frameworks of the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict on the basis of norms and principles of international law.

The Resolution No. 62/243 of 14 March 2008 adopted by the 86th Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly titled “Situation in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan”⁵ reaffirmed Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity supporting for its internationally recognized borders and demanding the immediate withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from all occupied territories there, and reaffirmed that no State should recognize as lawful the situation resulting from the occupation of Azerbaijan’s territories, or render assistance in maintaining that situation.

¹ <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/822>

² <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/853>

³ <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/874>

⁴ <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/884>

⁵ <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4821b6c62.pdf>

New outbreak of the conflict

On September 27, at about 6 a.m., the armed forces of Armenia launched a large-scale provocation along the entire frontline.

The armed forces of Armenia are intensively firing on the settlements, historical and cultural buildings, as well as the objects of strategic importance in the frontline and the densely populated areas situated far from the conflict zone using heavy artillery, aircraft, special missile systems and prohibited weapons.⁶

The continuous shelling of Azerbaijani civilians by Armenia is an act of genocide, which was also committed by Armenia before, including in Khojaly on February 26, 1992.

The Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict adopted by the UN General Assembly on 14 December 1974, stresses that attacks and bombings on the civilian population, inflicting incalculable suffering, especially on women and children, who are the most vulnerable members of the population, shall be prohibited, and such acts shall be condemned.⁷

All States shall abide fully by their obligations under the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949, as well as other instruments of international law relative to respect for human rights in armed conflicts, which offer important guarantees for the protection of women and children.⁸

The present report has been prepared aiming to systematize the war crimes and facts of violation of humanitarian law committed by Armenia against Azerbaijan starting from September 27, 2020.

⁶ https://azertag.az/en/xeber/Armenian_armed_forces_committed_large_scale_provocations_along_entire_length_of_the_front-1596171

⁷ <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/blog/document/declaration-on-the-protection-of-women-and-children-in-emergency-and-armed-conflict/>

⁸ <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/blog/document/declaration-on-the-protection-of-women-and-children-in-emergency-and-armed-conflict/>

Statistical data and facts on the attacks on civilian population of Azerbaijan

As of October 30, 91 civilians of Azerbaijan have been killed and more than 400 wounded, while nearly 3000 residential buildings and civilian objects are destroyed by Armenia.^{9 10}

One infant, 10 children, 27 women and 15 elderly people are among the Azerbaijani civilians killed as a result of attacks of Armenia since September 27¹¹. 7 entire families were killed.¹² 52 criminal cases are currently being investigated upon the crimes committed by the armed forces of Armenia.

As of October 19, about 24 thousand missiles are launched against Azerbaijan by Armenia¹³.

The projects of local and regional importance, including the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan and Baku-Novorossiysk pipelines, were subjected to the missile attack of Armenia.¹⁴ As a result of the heavy artillery attack, the cotton factory in Azadgaragoyunlu village of Tartar district caught fire¹⁵. Several times Armenia deliberately attempted to destroy the largest hydroelectric power station in the South Caucasus situated in the Mingachevir city. Its destruction could lead to the humanitarian catastrophe for the people of Azerbaijan and neighboring countries.¹⁶

Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International verified that the cluster munitions were used by Armenia against the Barda city of Azerbaijan.^{17 18}



⁹ <https://genprosecutor.gov.az/az/post/3111>

¹⁰ <https://genprosecutor.gov.az/az/post/3114>

¹¹ https://apa.az/az/cebhe_xeberleri/Sentyabrin-27-dn-ermni-txribati-nticsind-Azrbaycanin-oln-mulki-vtnaslarindan-1-i-korp-10-u-usaq-27-si-qadindir-612997

¹² https://apa.az/az/herbi_xeber/Bas-Prokurorluq-Sentyabrin-27-dn-bugundk-ermni-tcavuzu-nticsind-7-ail-tamamil-mhv-olub-612995

¹³ https://apa.az/en/nagorno_garabagh/Hikmat-Hajiyev-About-24-thousand-missiles-were-launched-on-Azerbaijans-residential-settlements-civilian-facilities-by-Armenia-333376

¹⁴ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/azerbaijan-front-line/armenia-reportedly-attacks-baku-tbilisi-ceyhan-pipeline/1998053>

¹⁵ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/azerbaijan-front-line/armenian-forces-hit-azerbaijans-cotton-factory/2011739>

¹⁶ <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/armenia-launches-missile-attack-on-azerbaijans-mingachevir/news>

¹⁷ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/10/armenia-azerbaijan-first-confirmed-use-of-cluster-munitions-by-armenia-cruel-and-reckless/>

¹⁸ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/10/30/armenia-cluster-munitions-kill-civilians-azerbaijan>

Major attacks on the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan located outside of the conflict zone

Use of prohibited cluster missiles by the Armed Forces of Armenia

Armenia uses missiles and cluster bombs against Azerbaijani civilians, which is strictly prohibited by the relevant international conventions¹⁹. Armenia is indiscriminately targeting the civilian population of Azerbaijan, including women, children and elderly people.

Armenia's attack against Ganja city is the first instance when an OSCE participating State used SCUD / "Elbrus" ballistic missile against civilian objects in another participating State.

Ganja, October 4, 2020

At around 10 a.m., the second largest city of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ganja, home to more than five hundred thousand civilians, was fired upon by missiles and artillery shells from the territory of Armenia. While subjecting Ganja to the rocket fire, the armed forces of Armenia have been using the cluster bombs which are strictly prohibited by international conventions.

Aliyev Tunar Goshgar oglu, a resident of Ganja, was killed and 32 people were injured. At the same time, the city's infrastructure and houses were severely damaged.

As a result of one of the shells fired by the Armenian armed forces, that hit a large shopping center in Ganja, covering an area of about 30 hectares, 20 2-storey buildings, as well as six 1-storey buildings with 108 shops were destroyed, at the same time numerous vehicles in the parking lot in this area have become unusable, and, thus, property rights were violated, causing significant damage to more than 200 citizens.



¹⁹ <http://www.clusterconvention.org/files/2011/01/Convention-ENG.pdf>



Ganja after the missile attack of Armenia (4 October 2020) ²⁰

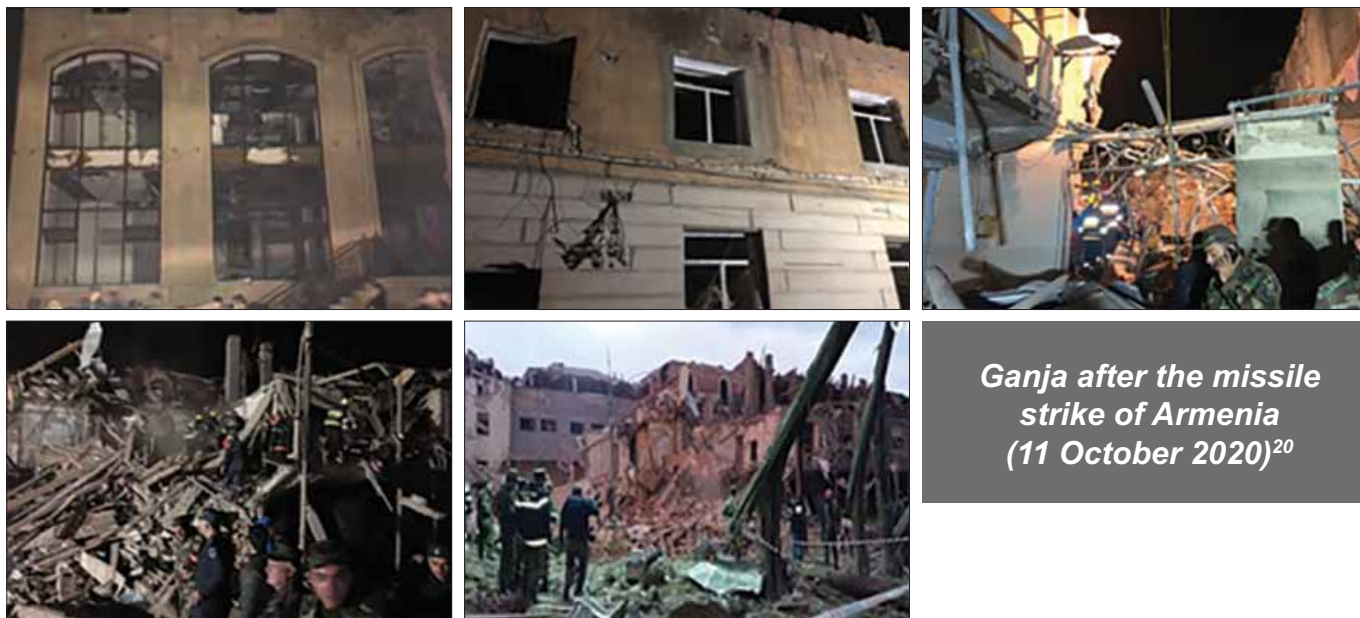
Ganja, October 11, 2020

At around 02 a.m., a multi-apartment building in Ganja city, the second largest city of Azerbaijan which is located far from the war zone, was subject to heavy shelling by the Armed Forces of Armenia. As a result, 10 civilians, including 5 women, were killed, 34, 15 of them women and 6 children, were severely wounded and numerous civil infrastructure facilities were significantly damaged. As a result of rocket fire by the Armenian armed forces, 3 children lost both parents. For this attack, Armenia used the cluster bombs, which is prohibited by the relevant international conventions.

As a result of rockets fired at apartment buildings in the central part of the city, over 10 apartment buildings and more than 100 facilities were extensively damaged.



²⁰ <https://ona.az/az/dagliq-qarabag/gence-ermenistan-erazisinden-yeniden-atese-tutulub-fotosessi%CC%87ya-24222>



Terter, October 15, 2020

At about 01 p.m., deliberate artillery shelling of Terter city cemetery during the funeral ceremony resulted in numerous civilian casualties. As a result, the city residents who were there at the time - Orujov Parviz Novruz, born in 1989, Rustamov Vasif Bahadur, born in 1962 Zamanov Shakir Khasay, born in 1988 and Amirov Isgandar Yelmar were killed. Mammadov Fizuli Ali, Allahverdiyev Elsevar Vali, Amirov Nofal Yelmar and Gazanfarli Rafael Gazanfar were hospitalized with various injuries.



Photos from the Terter cemetery after the attack of Armenia (15 October 2020)²²

²¹ <https://twitter.com/HikmethHajiyev/status/1315159794966310914>

²² <https://apa.az/az/cebhe-xeberleri/Ermenistan-ordusu-Trtrd-dfn-zamani-qbiristanligi-ats-tutub-3-mulki-sxs-hlak-olub-5-i-yaralanib-colorredFOTOcolor-colorredYENILNIBcolor-610415>

Ganja, October 17, 2020

Using SCUD/Elbrus Operative-Tactical Ballistic Missiles, at around 1 a.m. Armenia for the third time launched ballistic missile attack on the central part of Ganja city.

Simultaneously, the damage to row level of houses and other civilian objects being affected by the effects of explosive weapons in populated areas²³ caused widespread damage to civilians.²⁴ For that reason, 20 private houses were totally destroyed, and many houses, civilian objects around, including 4 kindergartens, one secondary school and a child clinic were damaged. A 13-year-old Russian citizen Mayakov Artur Vasilyevich who was seriously wounded on October 17 died on October 24, thus increasing the death toll to 15.



²³ <https://www.youtube.com/embed/6RWUlwPNqJ8>

²⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9XPLakibDI>



Ganja after the third missile attack of Armenia (17 October 2020)

Barda, October 27, 2020

At nearly 4:40 p.m., as a result of the Smerch MLRS missile attack by the armed forces of Armenia on the Barda region of Azerbaijan, four civilians including a 7 year old child were killed, 13 civilians including children and women were seriously injured.



Barda after the missile attack of Armenia (27 October 2020)²⁵

Barda, October 28, 2020

At nearly 1 p.m., the armed forces of Armenia launched the second missile strike on Barda city of Azerbaijan, using the prohibited cluster “Smerch” missiles. 21 civilians were killed and more than 70 wounded as a result of this attack. A volunteer of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) became one of the 21 killed civilians.²⁶

²⁵ <https://oxu.az/war/435205>

²⁶ <https://twitter.com/HikmetHajiyev/status/1321660916317016066>



Barda after the missile strike of Armenia (28 October 2020)^{27 28}

²⁷ <https://oxu.az/war/435397>

²⁸ <https://twitter.com/HikmetHajiyev/status/1321425276539162624>

Attacks on the infrastructure objects of Azerbaijan

Mingachevir, 4 October 2020

At about 11 p.m., Armenia's Armed Forces deliberately targeted the civilians of the city of Mingachevir, located more than 100 km from the theater of hostilities, with the population more than 100.000 people.

Two of the three rockets fired did not explode. One of the unexploded missiles fell in front of the building of "Azerbaijani thermal power plant " LLC, the other one is near the house where civilians live.



Unexploded missile in close proximity of energy block in Mingachevir ²⁹

As a result of the third missile hit in a private home, 5 people were injured and hospitalized with various injuries, serious damage was made to the home.

Yevlakh, October 6, 2020

At about 6:30 p.m., the armed forces of Armenia launched missiles at civilian objects in the direction of the Aran settlement of Yevlakh District, which is not involved in hostilities and is at least 50 kilometers away from the area of military operations. The 9M525 Smerch rocket, which has a large destructive power and contains 300 9N235 bombs, was neutralized in the air by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. As a result, some of the bombs inside the rocket hit the 42-inch-diameter South Caucasus Expanded Pipeline in Aran settlement, Yevlakh District. Some



²⁹ <https://twitter.com/HikmetHajiyev/status/1312849542111539201>

of the bombs scattered 120 meters from the Western Export Pipeline, which transports crude oil to the Black Sea coast, and other parts were scattered 100 meters from the Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan Oil Pipeline passing through the settlement.

At about 9 p.m., the Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan oil pipeline, the largest strategic project in the region, which plays an important role in Europe's energy security, was targeted by missiles on the part of the pipeline passing through Yevlakh District. This attempt of Armenia was prevented as a result of Azerbaijan's Army's timely measures.



Mingachevir, 11 October 2020

At around 04 a.m., the Armed forces Armenia launched Smerch missile attacks on Mingachevir, a large industrial city lying 100 km away from the frontline, targeting the largest hydroelectric power station in South Caucasus. Missiles were shot down by the Azerbaijani military air defense forces³⁰:



October 18, 2020

At about 13 p.m., Armenia's armed forces targeted non-military crude oil and condensate export pipelines in Khizi district of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Armenia's military units tried to launch rockets in the direction of Khizi district, located more than 300 kilometers away from the area of hos-



³⁰ <https://twitter.com/HikmetHajiyev/status/1315161389372243968>

ilities. As a result of neutralization by air defense forces of the Azerbaijani army, some of the explosive particles inside the rocket were scattered over a distance of 250 meters from the part of the Baku-Novorossiysk oil pipeline passing through Sitalchay village in Khizi district. The pipeline is of strategic importance in Azerbaijan-Russia economic cooperation.



By this, Armenia attempted to deliberately destroy a large amount of property belonging to infrastructure facilities, jeopardizing oil-exporting pipelines and high-capacity crude oil and condensate export pipelines, the destruction of which could cause major material consequences.

Gabala, October 22, 2020

Using massively destructive warfare methods, Armenia fired Scud ballistic tactical missiles at Gabala, Kurdamir and Siyazan districts of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which are located more than 150 km away from the frontline.

As a result of rockets launched, resident of Hajally village, Gabala district - Amirbeyov Murad Jeyhun, born in 2003, received various injuries, 5 houses in the village were severely damaged.



Missile strike of Armenia on Gabala (22 October 2020)³¹

Armenia targeted the Oghuz-Gabala-Baku water pipeline, which supplies drinking water to the Absheron Peninsula and is of special strategic importance for Azerbaijan. However, as a result of neutralization by Azerbaijan's air defense forces, parts of the missile fell within 250 meters from the pipeline.

³¹ <https://twitter.com/HikmetHajiyev/status/1319169500076453893>

Attacks on journalists and representatives of international organizations

Aghdam district, September 29, 2020

The shell fired by the Armenians fell a few meters from the car of the Public TV of Azerbaijan, nobody was injured as a result of the attack.³²

October 14, 2020

In Terter district, Gambarov Namig Malik (born in 1983), an employee of the Azerbaijan Television and Radio Broadcasting CJSC (AzTV) seconded to the frontline zone was hospitalized with various injuries as a result of the shooting of a TV service vehicle while bringing the provocations committed by Armenia against the civilian population to the attention of the world community.



The car was severely damaged ³³

Aghdam district, October 19, 2020

In Aghdam district, Hasanov Anar Beybala (born in 1982), a reporter of the Azerbaijan Television and Radio Broadcasting CJSC (AzTV) seconded to the frontline zone was hospitalized with various injuries as a result of enemy fire while informing the world community about Armenia's provocations against the civilian population.

Mahiyaddinli Chickek Ilyas, a resident of Pashabeyli village of the district, was also hospitalized with various injuries as a result of artillery shelling.

Talish and Sugovushan villages, October 26, 2020

The armed forces of Armenia, using a "Cornet"-type anti-tank missile, attacked the "Euronews" camera crew, carrying out their professional duties as journalists in the liberated Talish and Sugovushan villages of Azerbaijan.³⁴

³² <https://www.facebook.com/ictimai.tv/videos/3647464181955129/>

³³ https://apa.az/az/cebhe_xeberleri/Ermnir-trfindn-AzTV-nin-masini-ats-tutulub-bir-nfr-yaralanib-610195

³⁴ <https://vimeo.com/472347741>

Barda city, 28 October 2020

Maharram Anvar Oglu Mustafayev, a 49-year-old father of two, was killed while providing humanitarian aid in Barda city centre. Mr. Mustafayev has been an Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society volunteer for six years and was a dedicated and respected member of the Barda local branch. He was killed when his car was hit by a rocket.

Two female Red Crescent volunteers, Hajiyeve Ulviya and Babishova Fatma, were also injured while identifying the needs of people living in a temporary shelter at the Barda school No. 6, 500 metres from the scene. They have been discharged from hospital and are back on duty.³⁵

Violations of humanitarian ceasefire

According to the Article 15 of the Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field. Geneva, 12 August 1949, at all times, and particularly after an engagement, Parties to the conflict shall, without delay, take all possible measures to search for and collect the wounded and sick, to protect them against pillage and ill-treatment, to ensure their adequate care, and to search for the dead and prevent their being despoiled.

Whenever circumstances permit, an armistice or a suspension of fire shall be arranged, or local arrangements made, to permit the removal, exchange and transport of the wounded left on the battlefield.

Likewise, local arrangements may be concluded between Parties to the conflict for the removal or exchange of wounded and sick from a besieged or encircled area, and for the passage of medical and religious personnel and equipment on their way to that area.

October 10, 2020

Armenia violated such humanitarian truce agreements there times in a row. As known, a trilateral meeting of the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov, the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov and the Foreign Minister of Armenia Zohrab Mnatsakanyan was held in Moscow on October 9, 2020 on the initiative of Russian President Vladimir Putin to declare a humanitarian ceasefire.

After a meeting that lasted about 11 hours, an agreement was reached consisting of following 4 points:

1. To declare a ceasefire for humanitarian purposes starting from 12 p.m. on October 10 for the exchange of the prisoners of war, other people detained and bodies of those killed, with the mediation and in accordance with the criteria of the International Committee of the Red Cross;
2. Further parameters of the ceasefire will be agreed upon additionally;
3. The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, with the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, on the basis of the fundamental principles of the settlement, are launching substantive negotiations with the aim of achieving early peaceful resolution;
4. The sides reiterate the inalterability of the format of the peace process.³⁶

However, on October 11, at around 4 AM, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, Ganja, with a population of more than 500,000 people, located 80 km from the frontline, was shelled by Armenia. As a result of this attack of Armenia, 3 residential buildings were destroyed, more than 9 civilians, including 4 women, were killed and 34 were wounded, including 16 women and 6 children.

³⁵ <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/press-release/azerbaijan-red-crescent-society-ifrc-mourn-death-volunteer/>

³⁶ <https://mfa.gov.az/az/news/6941/view>

October 17, 2020

The second humanitarian ceasefire entered into force on 17 October 2020³⁷.

Despite the ceasefire, on October 17, Armenia once again attacked Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, firing a SCUD / Elbrus ballistic missile on the densely populated block of the city, killing 13 people and injuring more than 40. Among the dead and injured were the children, women and the elderly people.

This was the third time in the last two weeks that the city of Ganja has come under heavy rocket fire of Armenia, and so far 27 civilians have been killed and more than 100 injured.

October 26, 2020

Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry issued statement, saying that Armenia has blatantly ignored and violated the ceasefire regime with Azerbaijan for a third time in a row.

“In a gross violation of the new humanitarian ceasefire, on October 26, Armenian armed forces subjected to artillery fire the units of Azerbaijani Army located in the Lachin’s region Safiyan village. Later, the Tartar city and villages of the region were under intensive shelling by the Armenian armed forces,” the ministry stated³⁸.

Use of mercenaries by Armenia

According to investigations conducted by the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan, members of various terrorist organizations, including foreign nationals, have illegally crossed the state border into Armenia and established illegal armed groups. It has also been determined that they are used as mercenaries by Armenia against Azerbaijan.

5 criminal cases have been launched in connection with the participation of mercenaries in combat operations in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. At present, the Investigation Department of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan is investigating two criminal cases on these facts.

In the army of Armenia, people from other countries are fighting as mercenaries. According to reports, Armenians from Syria, Lebanon, the United States, Canada and France are joining the Armenian army. There are also some concerns about the involvement of the PKK terrorist organization in the war.

The concept of mercenary is enshrined in Article 47 of Additional Protocol I (1977) to the 1949 Geneva Convention for the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflict. According to this article, a mercenary has no right to receive the status of a combatant or prisoner of war.

The International Convention on the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, adopted by the 44th session of the UN General Assembly on 4 December 1989 (44/34), , criminalizes their use and training.

Unlike Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan acceded to the Convention in 30 September 1997.

In order to combat the involvement of mercenaries in military conflicts under the Convention, States Parties shall provide for criminal liability in national law for such offences.

According to Article 114 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, it is a crime to recruit, train, finance and provide other material support to mercenaries, as well as to use them in a military conflict or military operation.

³⁷ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/azerbaijan-front-line/new-truce-between-azerbaijan-armenia-enters-into-force/2010214>

³⁸ <https://mfa.gov.az/en/news/6997/view>

Article 395 of the Criminal Code of Armenia criminalizes the involvement of mercenaries.

Pursuant to Article 15 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted in 1966, "any act or omission committed by any person which is a crime in accordance with the principles of law accepted by the international community shall be prosecuted. It does not prevent him from being extradited and punished."

The UN General Assembly's Declaration on the Principles of International Law on Friendship and Cooperation between States, 1970, prohibits UN member states from engaging in mercenary conflicts.

Apparently, mercenaries are recognized as criminals under international law and must be brought to justice as international criminals. Universal jurisdiction has been established in accordance with the principle of "aut dedere aut judicare" (obligation to prosecute).

At the same time involvement of mercenaries under the customary norms of international humanitarian law, is prohibited.

Involvement of mercenaries is generally a human problem. The social danger of mercenaries lies not only in the fact that mercenaries commit murder, robbery, violence and other crimes, but also the development of a profession of murder and other crimes.

Child soldiers in the armed forces of Armenia

Armenia employs children under the age of 15 to fight against Azerbaijan³⁹. Recruiting and using children under the age of 15 as soldiers is prohibited under international humanitarian law and is defined as a war crime by ICC, also violating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UNICEF Paris Convention.



³⁹ <https://twitter.com/HikmetHajiyev/status/1320062999453929474>

International legal framework for prohibition using child soldiers

UN Secretary General in its report titled “Children and Armed Conflict” at the 74th session in June 2020, called upon Member States to respect the rights of the child, including through accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and the endorsement and implementation of the Paris Principles and Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers.

International Humanitarian Law prohibits the recruitment and use of children in hostilities. The article 50 of the IV Geneva Convention, stated that, an Occupying Power must not enlist children on the occupied territory (GC IV, Art. 50). This provision is understood to relate only to children below the age of 15 years.

The prohibition is applicable in both international and non-international armed conflicts (such as a current Karabakh armed conflict, between Armenia and Azerbaijan). The bans on recruitment of children below the age of 15 enshrined in Article 77 of Additional Protocol I, and in Article 4 of Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 are also considered to prohibit accepting voluntary enlistment (P I, Art. 77 (2); P II, Art. 4(3)(c)).

Article 77 states that, the Parties to the conflict shall take all feasible measures in order that children who have not attained the age of fifteen years do not take a direct part in hostilities and, in particular, they shall refrain from recruiting them into their armed forces. Paragraph 3 of the Article 4, of Additional Protocol II is devoted more particularly to the protection of children and reiterates some principles contained in the fourth Convention. Provisions of the protocol includes protection from the effects of hostilities (sanitary zones, evacuation), provision of special care and aid (medicine, food, clothing), protection of personal status, family and community ties (identity, registration, reunification, news), cultural environment, education, or limits to the death penalty. Other provisions specifically regulate the treatment of detained or interned children.

Children are protected also by general human rights instruments. In addition, they are entitled to the protection provided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which has been ratified by all states in the world, apart from Somalia and the United States of America. Article 38(3) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child prohibiting the recruitment of children below the age of 15 is similarly interpreted as banning voluntary enlistment of such children and, hence, completely outlawing child soldiers.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child differentiates between States and non-State armed groups in setting the age-limit for recruitment and use in hostilities. Armed groups that are distinct from the armed forces of a State should not, under any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18 years.

States Parties shall take all feasible measures to prevent such recruitment and use, including the adoption of legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practices.

Under the Statute of the International Criminal Court, conscripting or enlisting children into armed forces or groups constitutes a war crime in both international and non-international armed conflicts (ICC Statute, Article 8(2)(b)(xxvi) and (e)(vii)).

Paris and Vancouver principles

Another important documents in the sphere of protection of child soldiers are the Paris Principles and the Vancouver Principles.

Paris Principles were adopted in 2007 at the "Free Children from War" conference organized by France and UNICEF. In the last 10 years, 105 states have endorsed these Principles. The signatory States have declared that they are prepared to identify and implement durable solutions to combat the unlawful use and recruitment of child soldiers in conflicts. The Paris Principles has the priority to put an end to the use or recruitment of child soldiers and one the goal is to release children enlisted into armed groups and achive sanctions against people having unlawfully recruited children. I have a big doubts that Paris Principles will achieve its goals in relation to Armenia.

In November 2017, Canada launched the Vancouver Principles on Peacekeeping and the Prevention of the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers at the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Vancouver Principles are a set of political commitments focused on child protection, including all stages of a conflict cycle. They comprise 17 principles that focus on preventing the recruitment and use of child soldiers by armed forces and armed groups.

In 2017, 54 UN Member States were founding endorsers of the Vancouver Principles. The number of endorsing countries is now close to 100. Armenia is among the states which had endorsed the Vancouver Principles.

**Vətən müharibəsində (27 sentyabr – 10 noyabr 2020)
Ermənistanın törətdiyi beynəlxalq cinayətlər haqqında
yerli və xarici QHT-lərin hesabatları**

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