

REPORT

**ON THE USE OF FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS BY THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA IN
ITS RECENT AGGRESSION AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

NOVEMBER 2020

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A. OVERVIEW

In blatant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law Armenia has been occupying for almost 30 years now one fifth of internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan. As a result of military aggression by Armenia hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis were forcefully expelled from their homes and became internally displaced persons.

Over the years Armenia systematically and deliberately pursued the goal of securing the annexation of the occupied territories. Being against the political settlement which rejects the status-quo based on illegal use of force, Armenia has undertaken a chain of provocative statements and actions undermining this process. This included, among others the movement of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and their recruiters from Syria, Iraq and Lebanon through specific geographic routes into the occupied Azerbaijani territories. Some of them, according to the intelligence information, have been moved together with women and children illegally settled by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan following the crises broke out in Syria and Lebanon.

Throughout the years the Government of Armenia organized accommodation, training and logistical maintenance of FTFs in the occupied territories for preparing them to carry out terrorist activities against Azerbaijan. They have undertaken extensive trainings in the training camps established by Armenia under the instruction of skilled terrorists of PKK and ASALA terrorist organizations. The movement of FTFs has been intensified immediately after the recent aggression by Armenia starting from 27 September 2020.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly brought this growing threat to the attention of world community. In its communications Azerbaijan called all states to condemn Armenia of its illegal settlement policy in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, to strengthen border control measures for preventing the movement of foreign terrorist fighters into the territories of Azerbaijan, to suppress the financing of terrorism undertaken under the cover of charity activities by Armenian organizations, as well as to prevent the abuse of civilian aviation for the purpose of transportation of FTFs and armament into the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Armenia in an open attempt to cover-up its above-mentioned wrongdoings, brazenly accuses Azerbaijan of the same with a view to diverting the attention of the international community, and to that end carries out a massive campaign of fake news. Professional analysis of video and photo materials presented by Armenia to substantiate its claims proves that all these are nothing more than pre-fabricated falsifications.

B. Recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) by Armenia – data from open media sources

In the course of its recent military aggression against Azerbaijan Armenia recruited foreign nationals, including Armenians from different countries into its armed units illegally deployed in the temporarily occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Immediately after the outbreak of recent hostilities on 27 September 2020 Prime Minister of Armenia – Nikol Pashinyan called all Armenians (including foreign nationals of Armenian origin) to stand united in defence of “homeland”.

The leadership of Armenia, in order to boost its ideological campaign of terrorist nature, refers to the term “homeland” while calling all Armenians to unite for. It must be particularly noted that Azerbaijan carried out its counter-offensive operation in its sovereign territories. Therefore, by calling all Armenians to be united in defence of the “homeland” that does not belong to them, the leadership of Armenia brings the elements of nationalism, chauvinism and ethnic hatred to the conflict.



Nikol Pashinyan 
@NikolPashinyan

All #Armenians must unite to defend our history, our homeland, identity, our future and our present. And we will win and there is only one prerogative, that we promise ourselves that we won't retreat a single millimeter from defending our people and our #Artsakh.

22:41 · 27.09.20 · Twitter Web App

On his interview to *Ria Novosti* on 15 October 2020, Prime Minister Pashinyan confirmed the participation of foreign nationals, including those of Armenian origin in the recent hostilities against Azerbaijan¹.

The evidences and facts gleaned before and throughout the aggression clearly indicated that Armenia had been recruiting foreign mercenaries and terrorist fighters (hereinafter “foreign terrorist fighters”).

Armenia has a long history of using foreign fighters, including terrorist groups of Armenian origin to advance its malign foreign and security policy goals. Terrorist organizations such as ASALA and Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide (JCAG) have been actively involved in aggression against Azerbaijan in early 1990s. Monte Melkonyan, a notorious ASALA terrorist who participated in these operations with his armed unit was posthumously named a national hero by Armenia².

¹<https://ria.ru/amp/20201015/karabakh-1580006838.html?>

²Monte Melkonian A Commander During The Karabakh War A National Hero of Armenia & N.K.Republic. (2012a, April 23). [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLxSdRcrw-Y>

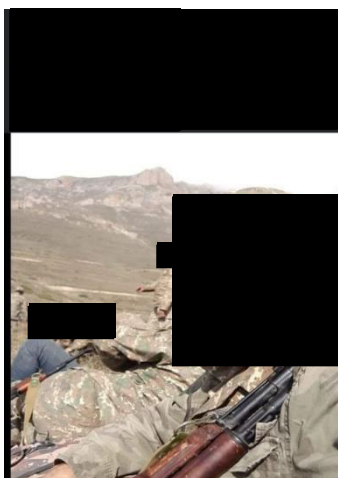
I. PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party)

PKK is one of the internationally recognized terrorist organizations in close collaboration with Armenia. Armenia has always supported the PKK due to animosity with Turkey and used its ties with the PKK and its affiliates as a leverage vis-à-vis Turkey³.

Before the latest aggression, there have been numerous reports on “300 militants belonging to the PKK transferred by Armenia from various countries in the Middle East and placed in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, where they have subsequently begun training with Armenian military”⁴.

Armenian government reportedly set up shelters and camps for the PKK in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and even has a PKK office in one of Yerevan's central streets. In addition to the current deployment of PKK terrorists from Iraq and Syria in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region⁵, in the past, there were even reports of Kurdish civilians from those countries relocated to occupied Azerbaijani territories and provided with one-time cash benefits or 20-year low-interest loans.

Armenia is reportedly supplying missile systems to the PKK that would be used to combat drones in exchange for the use of PKK militants in operations against Azerbaijan. The delivery of these missile systems is said to be coordinated by the PKK commander, one of the organization's five founders, Jamil Bayik, and the missiles are expected to be delivered to PKK strongholds in Qandil shortly.



Some sources⁶ suggest that the members of **Nubar Ozanyan Brigade**, an Armenian-run terrorist group based in Qamishli city of Syria with strong ties to Yerevan, have left for joining armed forces of Armenia illegally deployed in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The Brigade was formed under the leadership of the YPG, the Syrian wing of PKK.

On the left: Photo of the member of Nubar Ozanyan Brigade. Text in the post (in Arabic): “*We are proud of you brave son of Qamishli*” (Syria).

³Barkey, Henri J.; Fuller, Graham E. *Turkey's Kurdish Question* (Carnegie Corporation of New York, 1998) pp 32, 166.

⁴Turkey: Armenia transports hundreds of PKK militants to fight Azerbaijan. (2020, September 30). Middle East Monitor. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20200930-armenia-transport-hundreds-of-pkk-militants-to-fight-azerbaijan/>

⁵<https://twitter.com/LukeDCoffey/status/1312063454975590401>

⁶<https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/are-pkk-linked-terrorists-fighting-alongside-armenia-in-occupied-karabakh-40201>

Armenia transferred hundreds of armed terrorists from **Suleymaniyah**, which is considered to be a stronghold of the PKK in Iraq, to the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan⁷.

Flight data acquired from open internet resources suggests that there have been growing number of flights from Suleymaniyah to Yerevan in the month of October 2020, while there had not been single flight before the start of military operations.

The flights took place on 9 and 19 September, as well as on 8 and 13 October 2020 (each time carrying at least 300 terrorists on board) and conducted by the aircrafts of Olympus Airways of Greece.



Some media sources report that the contact with the PKK terrorists in Syria and Iraq was established by ██████████, Armenian Ambassador ██████████. ██████████ convinced the groups in meetings and agreed with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan for the transfer of terrorists from Syria and Iraq to Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

According to some media sources⁸ Armenia had made YPG/PKK terrorists, it brought and reportedly deployed in Shusha city of Azerbaijan, to wear Azerbaijani soldiers' uniforms.

With this tactic Armenia aimed to confuse Azerbaijani forces and to create a condition when those terrorists are killed, to claim that they were mercenaries brought from Syria by Azerbaijan.

Armenian soldier ██████████, who was taken as prisoner of war in the course of counter-offensive operations of Azerbaijan, also admitted that foreign terrorist fighters were fighting in the Armenian ranks in Nagorno-Karabakh with a monthly salary of \$600.

II. Syrian and Lebanese nationals

Exploiting the consequences of the Syrian and Lebanese crisis and the grievances of the people from this region, Armenia had taken the advantage of those hopeless people and actively recruited them as foreign fighters⁹.

Just in 2011-2017 Armenia has settled more than 20 000 Syrian nationals on its territory and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan¹⁰. In 2016, former residents of the Syrian village of ██████████ were enticed to settle en masse to Nagorno-Karabakh region¹¹.

⁷ <https://www.eupoliticalreport.eu/pkks-involvement-in-the-armenia-azerbaijan-conflict-would-jeopardise-european-security/>

⁸ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/azerbaijan-front-line/armenia-making-pkk-terrorists-wear-azerbaijani-uniforms/2018969>

⁹ Radio Liberty, R. (2016, September 05). From The Turmoil Of Aleppo To Conflict In Nagorno-Karabakh. Retrieved October 03, 2020, from <https://www.rferl.org/a/nagorno-karabakh-syrian-armenians/27967773.html>

After liberation of Zangilan district of Azerbaijan from Armenian occupation in October 2020, official documents have been revealed in one of the buildings belonging to Armenian intelligence services, where the list of names of 60 Syrian nationals (19 families) moved from Syria¹² to the occupied territories had been reflected.

Immediately after the Beirut Port explosion in Lebanon on 4 August 2020, Armenia misused the situation and purposefully organized the movement of the people suffered from the consequences of this tragic event to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Since August 2020, nine Lebanese families have been settled by Armenia in the occupied NK region¹³, while Armenian authorities expressed their readiness to settle 100-150 families¹⁴ there.

The video footage appeared on 29.10.2020 where Lebanese national acknowledged fighting in the ranks of Armenia's Army against Azerbaijan¹⁵.

According to Radio France International (RFI), fighters from Lebanon, Syria, Latin America arrived in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan to fight for Armenia. The report reveals that, around 30 fighters received "express training" before joining the attacks. The volunteers who spoke on the condition of anonymity described their experiences. "Since the start of the conflict, so many (volunteer fighters) have been registered that some are still waiting in Yerevan to be called in to support those who are fighting," the RFI reports¹⁶.

Associated Press (AP) reported that Lebanese Armenians joined the fight against Azerbaijan. Several residents of Beirut's main Armenian district, Bourj Hammoud, told AP that they too are ready to abandon their lives in Lebanon to fight against Azerbaijan¹⁷. "We will fight until the last Armenian soldier," one shop owner was quoted as saying. Opera singer ██████████, who was known for his rousing renditions of nationalist Armenian songs, was killed in combat.

██████████ y/o Lebanese national of Armenian origin in his interview to Associated Press¹⁸ expressed his intention to leave for Armenia and join the ongoing military hostilities against Azerbaijan. He confirmed that many of his compatriots of Armenian origin have already left for that purpose.

¹⁰Babajanyan, P. B. A. B. T. A. C. B. A. K. A. A. (2018, January 16). Karabakh: Syrian Refugees Flee One War Zone for Another. Eurasianet. <https://eurasianet.org/karabakh-syrian-refugees-flee-one-war-zone-for-another>

¹¹Balanche, F. (2016, February 24). Two Potential Safe Zones in Northern Syria. Retrieved October 02, 2020, from <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/two-potential-safe-zones-in-northern-syria>

¹² <https://m.haqin.az/news/193308>

¹³Ghazanchyan, S. (2020, August 27). Nine more Lebanese Armenian families to settle in Artsakh. Public Radio of Armenia. <https://en.armradio.am/2020/08/27/nine-more-lebanese-armenian-families-to-settle-in-artsakh/>

¹⁴ <https://jamestown.org/program/armenian-resettlement-from-lebanon-to-the-occupied-territories-of-azerbaijan-endangers-peace-process/>

¹⁵Soylu, R. S. (2020, September 29). Ragip Soyly on. Twitter. <https://twitter.com/ragipsoylu/status/1311035752847937539>

¹⁶<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/foreign-fighters-from-lebanon-syria-latin-america-fight-for-armenia-in-conflict-reports-say/news>

¹⁷<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20201013-lebanese-armenians-join-fighting-in-nagorno-karabakh/>

¹⁸<https://www.unian.net/world/nagornyy-karabah-armyane-iz-livana-edut-na-voynu-s-azerbaydzhanom-novosti-mira-11176991.html>

██████████ young Lebanese national of Armenian origin who had asked not to be identified by his last name told Reuters that he wanted to go to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan for joining battles. ██████████, the combat instructor in Yerevan, who trained local and foreign volunteers, informed that around 10 Lebanese-Armenians had received training in his camp. He said they had arrived from Beirut after the fighting broke out in late September to go to the frontline¹⁹.

III. Other nationals

Besides PKK and Middle Eastern nationals Armenia deployed foreign terrorist fighters from other countries as well.

Greek City Times revealed that the first batch of Greek fighters would consist of approximately 80 Greek citizens, around 50 of Armenian origin and around another 30 ethnic Greeks²⁰. According to the Greek media, Armenian recruitment involves around 500-800 Greek nationals, some with combat experience in NATO missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo²¹.

██████████, a US national, was visiting family in Armenia when hostilities resumed in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan on September 27. He did not leave for US and joined the ongoing battles. His relative, another US national, ██████████ also left ██████████ US for the occupied territories of Azerbaijan to take part in ongoing hostilities²².

██████████²³ was also among tens of US nationals who have reportedly joined the armed forces of Armenia as foreign terrorist fighter. He is a famous mountain skier coach in the US who has taken part in Winter Olympics as part of US national team.

There are plenty of sources attesting the involvement of French nationals to the armed units of Armenia against Azerbaijan.

Referring to French media, *Daily Sabah* reported that "scores of Armenians living in France have arrived in the illegally occupied Azerbaijani territory of Nagorno-Karabakh to fight alongside Yerevan forces". "Armenians from France are starting to arrive in Armenia to fight the Azerbaijani army on the Nagorno-Karabakh front," ██████████, a senior reporter of French newspaper *Le Figaro* said in a tweet. According to France 24 report, "██████████ an Armenian builder living in western France, flew back to Armenia to fight in the conflict with Azerbaijan."

¹⁹<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-armenia-azerbaijan-lebanon/despite-lebanons-woes-armenians-spring-to-action-for-nagorno-karabakh-idUKKBN27H157>

²⁰<https://greekcitytimes.com/2020/10/01/greeks-going-to-artsakh-battlefront/>

²¹<https://greekcitytimes.com/2020/10/03/former-non-commissioned-officer-im-going-to-artsakh-with-500-800-greeks-to-crush-the-turks/?amp>

²²<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-10-09/armenia-azerbaijan-los-angeles-artsakh-war-connections>

²³<https://defence.az/en/news/147955>

██████████ (photo on the right), ██████ y/o French citizen, who was born in ██████ Syria to an Armenian family, came to Nagorno- Karabakh with his eldest son to participate in the operations immediately after the start of hostilities on September 27²⁴.



██████████, 31 y/o French national from ██████ and ██████ French national of Armenian origin are also among those French citizens taking part in ongoing hostilities.

It is worth reading the following passage of Arthur Ohanissian's interview²⁶ to Russian *Novaya Gazeta* which draws the solid picture of disappointment of foreign terrorist fighters fighting in the ranks of Armenian army:

- *"They - the Armenian government deceives the people! They sent 18-year-old soldiers to the front only with machine guns. They say, "Sorry, no bullets, sorry, no tanks." Bulletproof jackets are completely useless. There is nothing there. The food truck unloads everything on the road, and if you want to eat, you have to walk 4 kilometers under the Grads. We, 8 friends, went for 4 nights and carried food for all four lines on our shoulders"*
- *How did you get to the front?* - The journalist clarifies
- *"I just came, I don't even have any documents, I bought a machine gun and went ahead. I had two brothers there and I followed them and stayed. I am a French citizen. I came from there two weeks ago. Everything is very bad there. The authorities say the losses are about 200. But 200 people died in front of me, on our line! There are thousands of dead in total!"*



The leader of the extreme right-wing group Zouaves Paris (ZVP), ██████ ██████, reported on Instagram that he had arrived in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan to fight alongside Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh in conflict with Azerbaijan, *Libération* reported on Friday, October 30. To illustrate his commitment, ██████ broadcasted a picture of him in uniform with an assault rifle in his hands that could be a Kalashnikov. On his bust were two patches: an Armenian flag and a totenkopf, the skull used by some SS units. The



²⁴<https://www.azerbaycan24.com/en/french-citizens-fight-against-azerbaijani-army-in-nagorno-karabakh-nbsp/>

²⁵<https://www.lefigaro.fr/international/tout-le-monde-doit-combattre-les-volontaires-armeniens-affluent-vers-le-haut-karabakh-20201006>

²⁶<https://novayagazeta.ru/articles/2020/10/07/87416-voyna-u-yuzhnyh-vorot>

Another foreign terrorist fighter - ██████████ German national of Armenian origin, who was an IT specialist in Germany before arriving in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, took part in terrorist activities against civilian population of Azerbaijan.

Russian media sources report that³², the Union of Armenians in Russia compiled a list of 20,000 volunteers willing to join the fighting. Some of those who had already traveled to the region were turned away from the battlefield. The source cited a student from Moscow, ██████████ who went to Nagorno-Karabakh region with three friends as saying "I was in Stepanakert (Khankendi) a few days ago, they wrote my name down but said I was not yet needed. At the moment they are only accepting fighters with experience."

Reuters confirmed that ██████████ y/o Russian national from Moscow, joined the Armenian forces immediately after the hostilities started.

IV. Public military-patriotic organization – VoMA

According to the information available to the law-enforcement agencies of Azerbaijan Russian/Armenian citizen ██████████ (date of birth: ██████████) and others, having created the armed formation called "VoMA" ("VoxjMnaluArvest" - the art of survival), attracted citizens of different nationalities from other countries into the terrorist training.

The members of this armed formation were in preparation of committing terrorist acts in the occupied Azerbaijani territories, and their major means of communication was internet.

Immediately after the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan resumed on 27 September 2020 VoMA posted an announcement (*in the Annex*) on social network calling for Armenians aged between 18-55 to join fighting. For volunteers VoMA organized a charter flight from Moscow to Yerevan and expressed readiness to provide the flight tickets free of charge to those who are not able to afford them³⁴. Activities of VoMA has reportedly been funded by Ministry of Defence of Armenia and Armenian Diaspora acting in different countries. There has been a separate link in the website of VoMA for donation.

Vartanov and others attracted foreign nationals, as well as members of ASALA, PKK and other terrorist groups to "VoMA", organizing their participation in military exercises within the "Mountain Rifle Reserve Battalion" ("VoMA" battalion).

The General Prosecutor's Office of Azerbaijan revealed that these foreign terrorist fighters crossed the internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan outside the checkpoints,

³¹<https://www.jpost.com/international/armenian-nationals-abroad-return-to-fight-in-nagorno-karabakh-conflict-647381>

³²<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/10/07/i-want-to-join-the-final-battle-armenians-in-russia-flock-to-karabakh-a71686>

³³<https://www.reuters.com/article/armenia-azerbaijan-volunteers-int-idUSKBN26U13N>

³⁴https://vk.com/voma_official

arrived in Khankendi city and other occupied settlements of Azerbaijan in order to fight against Azerbaijani army.

Moreover, the General Prosecutor's Office revealed that the members of this organization, using ammunition and military equipment, committed numerous criminal acts motivated by ethnic hatred, as well as carried out terrorist activities with special cruelty against civilians living in different Azerbaijani districts who have not been involved in military operations. The list of volunteers registered for VoMA trainings is enclosed herewith to the present report in the Annex.

C. Recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) by Armenia – data from intelligence sources

██████████ ██████████ (photo on the right), US national (date of birth: ██████████ resident of ██████████, ██████████ and ██████████ y/o US national, resident of ██████████ ██████████ joined the illegal armed groups in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan at the end of September, early October.



██████████, Iraqi national, is a major of Armed Forces of Iraq. His armed group consists of Iraqi nationals of Armenian (36 fighters) and Assyrian origin. He and his group reported to have been in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan fighting against Armed Forces of Azerbaijan.

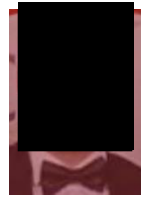
██████████ y/o Iranian national, has taken part in the military operations since the very beginning of the recent aggression. On 10 October 2020 he was wounded and hospitalized. He is a member of Iranian chapter of radical “Dashnaksutyun” party of Armenia.

██████████, Belarus national (date of birth: ██████████, passport number: ██████████ from ██████████ city of Belarus, resident in ██████████ Russian Federation joined the illegal armed groups in occupied Khankendi city of Azerbaijan on 1 October 2020 together with other fighters he recruited. He was reportedly wounded on 5 November 2020. Criminal case has been launched against him in accordance with penal legislation of Azerbaijan.

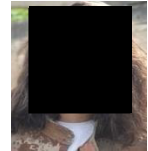


██████████, is another Belarus national who has joined the illegal armed groups in late September – early October 2020.

██████████ is a Belgian national (date of birth: ██████████ from ██████████ region of Syria. He is resident of ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ Besides his personal involvement to the ongoing military operations as a foreign terrorist fighter, he has reportedly brokered the illegal shipment of armament from Iraq to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.



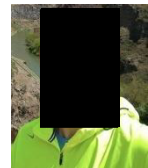
██████████, Palestinian national reportedly has illegally crossed the state border between Azerbaijan and Armenia in early October and joined the illegal armed groups in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.



██████████ y/o French national from ██████████ is also among the foreign terrorist fighters fighting against Azerbaijani army in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. He was the head of “Young Communists” movement in France in 1970s.



██████████, French national (date of birth: ██████████), resident of ██████████ has committed several terrorist acts in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Besides his participation in the military operations, he organized fundraising activities in ██████████ for purchasing armament for the illegal forces.



██████████ (photo on the right), ██████████ y/o) and ██████████ ██████████ y/o), all of them being French nationals, have joined the Armenian illegal armed units in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in September-October 2020.



██████████ (surname unidentified), ██████████ y/o French national, resident of ██████████ ██████████ before joining the ongoing hostilities against Azerbaijan.

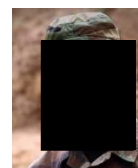
██████████, Georgian nationals from ██████████ region of Georgia, have reportedly carried out terrorist activities in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and consequently criminal cases have been launched in relation to them in accordance with the Penal Code of Azerbaijan.

██████████ y/o from ██████████ region), ██████████ y/o from ██████████ region), ██████████ y/o from ██████████ region) and ██████████ y/o from ██████████ region), all of them being Georgian nationals, were also among the foreign terrorist fighters in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

██████████ y/o), ██████████ (journalist), ██████████ y/o), ██████████ y/o, employee of the Call Center) and ██████████, all of

them being nationals of Greece, have reportedly joined the illegal armed groups in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

██████████ y/o Syrian national, priest, have been involved in terrorist activities against civilian population of Azerbaijan in September – October 2020. He was wounded during military operations. Criminal case has been launched against him in accordance with Penal legislation of Azerbaijan.



██████████, Syrian national from ██████████ region and member of “Nubar Ozanyan” terrorist organization have joined the illegal armed groups in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in late September – early October.



██████████, Syrian national, joined the recent hostilities in late September.

██████████ y/o national of Spain, resident of ██████████ city of ██████████ province, was a chief of private security company before joining the illegal armed groups in the occupied territories. He has committed terrorist acts against civilian population of Azerbaijan and criminal case was launched against him in accordance with Penal legislation of Azerbaijan.



██████████, Spanish national (date of birth: ██████████), resident of ██████████ city of ██████████ province, was a manager of restaurant before joining illegal armed groups. He was killed in action on 10 October 2020.

██████████, resident of ██████████ city was a cook before joining the recent military hostilities in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. He is the cousin of ██████████

██████████, Jordanian national from Amman, has joined the illegal armed groups in September-October.



██████████ national of Russian Federation known with his pseudonym “██████████” – Nazi SS general. He has organized illegal armed unit called “Garegin Nzhdeh troop” and came to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan from Moscow via Yerevan. He has been involved in terrorist activities against civilian population of Azerbaijan.



██████████ y/o national of Russian Federation, presented himself as a journalist, but in fact has been involved in military operations as combatant with military uniform. His reports from the areas of military operations have been motivated by terrorist ideology. Criminal case has been launched against him in accordance with Penal legislation of Azerbaijan.



“Hello dear [REDACTED] I am in Yerevan. I hope the current situation will be over soon and ceasefire will be established. I arrived in Yerevan on Saturday. I should have been in Artsakh with my fellow compatriots, but we have been strictly suggested to limit our numbers. Therefore, we decided to be only two of us”.

[REDACTED] holds important position at [REDACTED]. He is a member of “[REDACTED] Armenian [REDACTED] team of Lebanon. It is not excluded that while referring to his “fellow compatriots” [REDACTED] meant his teammates from the mentioned [REDACTED] team.

[REDACTED] Lebanese national, arrived in Armenia at the end of September 2020, illegally crossed the border of Azerbaijan and moved to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan where he committed terror acts as a member of illegal armed group. Criminal case has been launched against him.

[REDACTED] (journalist), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] nationals of Lebanon illegally crossed the border of Azerbaijan and moved to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in September-October 2020 to participate in military operations.

[REDACTED], born in Beirut [REDACTED], Lebanese national and resident of Beirut, used to work as a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Previously, she repeatedly visited illegally the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. She arrived in Yerevan, Armenia on October 6, 2020 and reportedly crossed illegally the border of Azerbaijan, moved to the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan to participate in military operations.

[REDACTED], Lebanese national, from [REDACTED] took part in military operations as a member of illegal armed groups in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

[REDACTED] y/o, Canadian citizen of Lebanese origin, participated in military operations in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, killed in action.

[REDACTED] y/o Lebanese national, born in [REDACTED] in south Lebanon, resident of Beirut and graduate of [REDACTED], reportedly moved to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and joined illegal armed groups to participate in military operations.

[REDACTED], Lebanese national, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

reportedly moved to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and joined illegal armed groups to participate in military operations.

██████████, Lebanese national, ██████████
██████████ reportedly moved to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and joined illegal armed groups to participate in military operations.

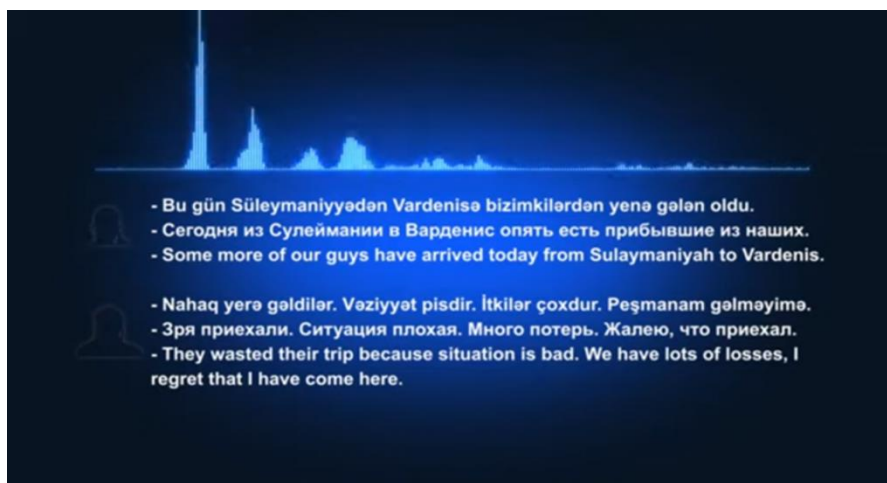
██████████, Lebanese national, lives in Beirut and graduated from the ██████████
██████████ He is a member of “dashnak” party, received training within Armenian terror organizations. He illegally crossed border of Azerbaijan on March 3, 2020, moved to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and reportedly joined illegal armed groups since the start of military operations.

██████████, Beirut-born Lebanese national, graduated from the “██████████
██████████”, reportedly moved to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and joined illegal armed groups to participate in military operations.

██████████, Lebanese national, resident of Beirut, graduated from the “Armenian Evangelical College” and “American University of Lebanon”, reportedly moved to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and joined illegal armed groups to participate in military operations.

██████████, Lebanese national, received military training in Lebanon, arrived in Armenia in September-October 2020, illegally crossed the border of Azerbaijan through Armenia reportedly to participate in military operations within illegal armed groups in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. He was killed in action on October 2, 2020.

State Security Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan has intercepted radio-communication (*full recording is in the Annex – “Useful links”*) of terrorists linked to PKK who are taking part in ongoing hostilities against Azerbaijan. They discuss the miserable situation that the armed forces of Armenia currently experience and their own hardships, as well as effective use of UAVs by Azerbaijani Army. Thus they express their regret for being deceived by Armenian side and their arrival at the conflict zone. One of them informs the other one about the arrival of another group of terrorists from Suleymaniyah (Iraq) to Vardenis (Armenia).



D. International framework on the use of FTFs

Under the UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) *“individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict”* are defined as *“foreign terrorist fighters”*.

Regardless of their ethnic origin (Armenian or non-Armenian), intention (voluntary or involuntary) or material motivation (paid or unpaid), all individuals leaving their countries of residence or nationality for the purpose of joining ongoing armed conflict are considered as foreign terrorist fighters.

In the course of military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan, as of 06 November 2011, 92 Azerbaijani civilians have been killed, more than 400 injured, most of them as a result of terrorist attacks by Armenian forces. Azerbaijan carries out counter-offensive operations in its sovereign soil. Therefore, Azerbaijan considers members of all armed groups, illegally deployed in its internationally recognized territories for the purpose of fighting against its Armed Forces and organizing terrorist attacks against its civilians, as terrorists.

Armenia bears international legal liability for bringing terrorist groups and individuals into the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and for organizing terrorist activities against Azerbaijani civilians.

At the same time according to the relevant operative paragraphs of the above-mentioned resolution and the UN Security Council Resolution 2396 (2017): the UN Member States *“shall prevent the movement of terrorists and terrorist groups by effective border controls and undertake necessary punitive measures under their penal legislation”*.

In accordance with the UN Security Council resolution 2253: *“Member states shall prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale, or transfer to these individuals, groups, undertakings and entities from their territories or by their nationals outside their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned, and technical advice, assistance or training related to military activities”*.

Pursuant to the UN Security Council resolution 2462, the Security Council *“calls upon Member States to conduct financial investigations in terrorism related cases and to seek ways to address the challenges in obtaining evidence to secure terrorist financing”*

convictions". The Security Council "further calls upon Member States to more effectively investigate and prosecute cases of terrorist financing and to apply, as appropriate, effective, proportionate, and dissuasive criminal sanctions to individuals and entities convicted of terrorist financing activity".

Article 5 of the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries prohibits States Parties to recruit, use, finance or train mercenaries and shall make offences related to mercenarism punishable by appropriate penalties. The Convention also contains provisions outlining the responsibility of States to cooperate in preventing mercenary offences (Article 6) and implementing Convention (Article 7).

According to common Article 1 of Geneva Conventions States are required to adopt all measures necessary to ensure respect for Geneva Conventions not only by their organs, but also by private individuals within their jurisdictions as well.

Both international humanitarian law and international human rights law require States to take appropriate measures to bring perpetrators of violations to justice and to provide effective remedies to victims.

In addition to their obligations deriving from international law and national legislation, the states of origin should also bear in mind that the foreign terrorist fighters taking part in military operations against Azerbaijani Army once being able to return to their countries of origin would represent a serious threat to their societies as persons involved in terrorist training.

In view of the above-mentioned, the Republic of Azerbaijan strongly urges the respective authorities of all states, origin or transit, to exercise due diligence in light of increased intensity of travel by their nationals to Armenia and put in place necessary preventive border control measures, as well as take all steps required for not allowing their territories to be used for supporting or financing terrorist activities against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its civilian population.

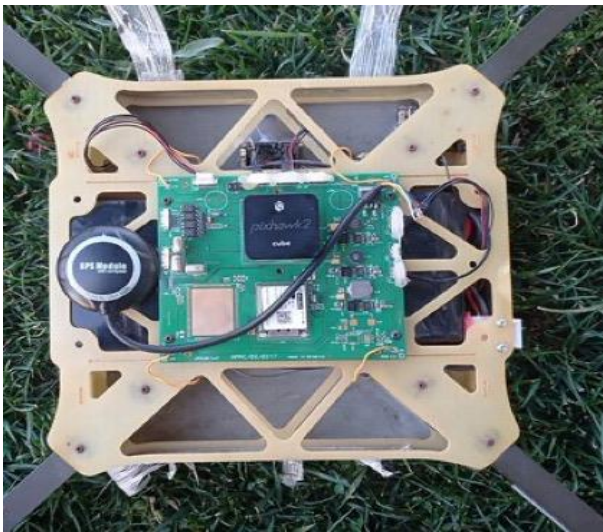
The Azerbaijani side is determined to take all measures stemming from its rights under relevant bilateral and multilateral mechanisms with a view to curbing terrorist activities within its internationally recognized territories and against its civilian population and bring the perpetrators to justice.

ANNEXES

PKK/Kurdish fighters in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan



Military experts confirmed that Armenian combat UAV – BZEZ destroyed by Azerbaijani Army at Jabrayil (Azerbaijan) direction on 25.10.2020 has been designed in a style widely used by terrorist organizations, like ISIS and PKK



VOMA announcement/trainings



Общественная организация ПУУ | VOMA

Дорогой соотечественник! Пришел тот заветный день, когда армянская нация должна стать армией. У тебя есть уникальная возможность участвовать в защите Родины. Если ты готов быть причастным к этому Великому делу, мы ждем тебя в Армении.

Важная информация:

25 октября состоится чартерный рейс в 15:00 из аэропорта Домодедово (Москва). Необходимо к 11:00 быть в аэропорту.

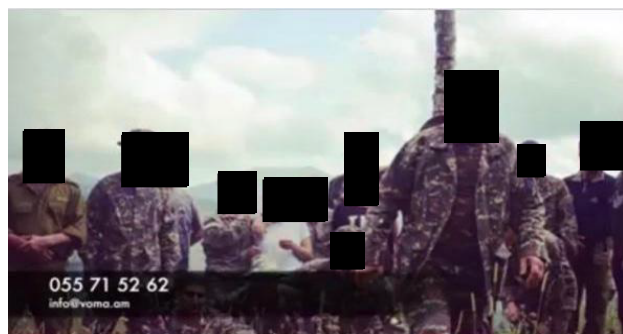
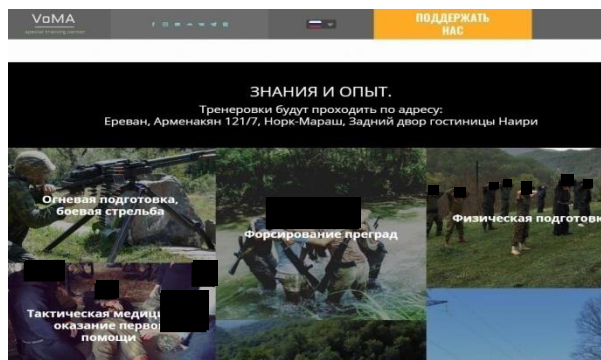
Внимание! Мы готовы оплатить билеты в Ереван тем, у кого есть финансовые трудности. Для этого нужно отправить паспортные данные на почту:

[Redacted]

Огромная просьба присылать данные тем, кто точно уверен в своей поездке и желанием стать добровольцем.

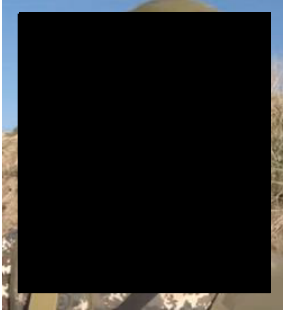
Обратная связь в РФ:

[Redacted]



Foreign terrorist fighters of different nationalities

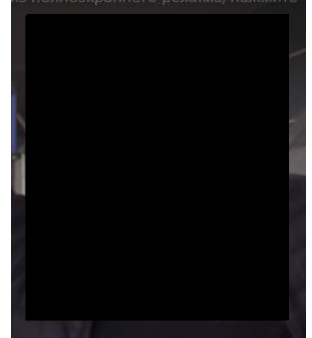
██████████ (FRA)



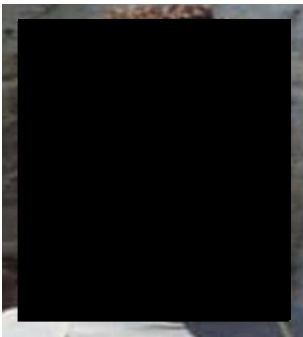
██████████ (FRA)



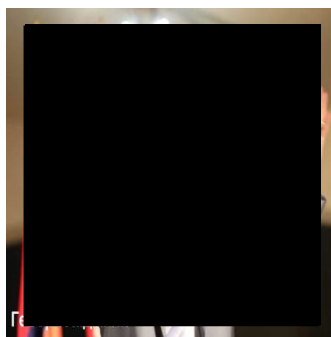
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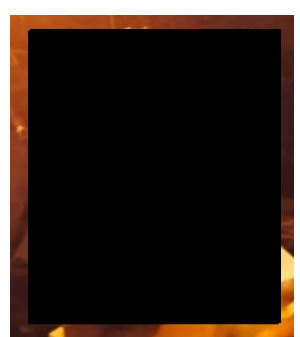
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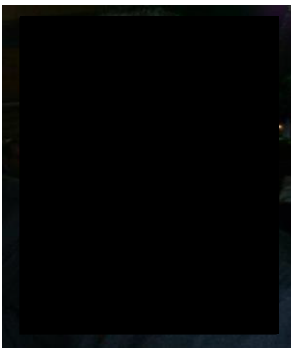
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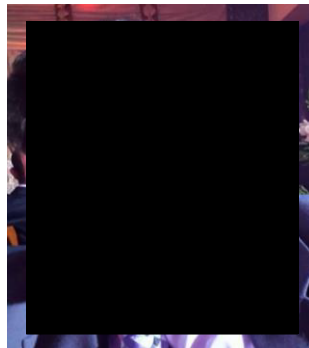
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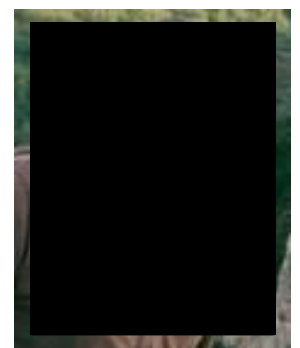
██████████ (LBN)



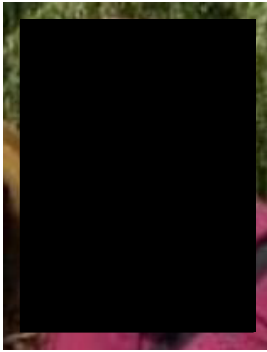
██████████ (LBN)



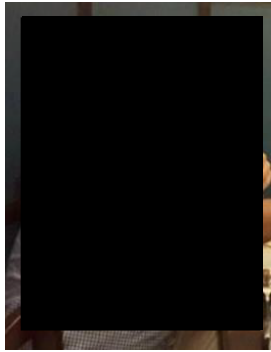
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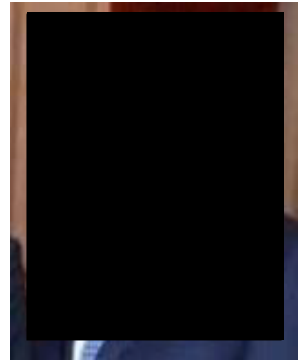
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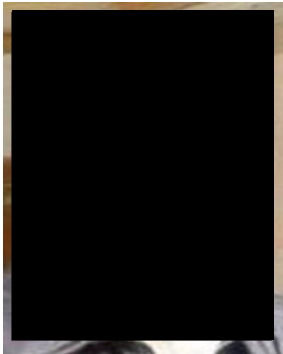
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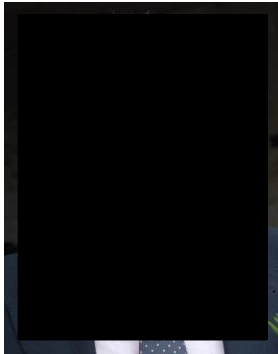
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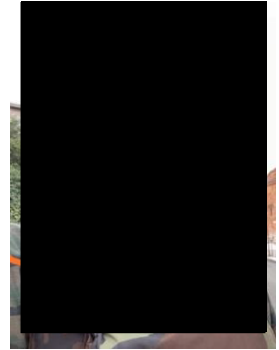
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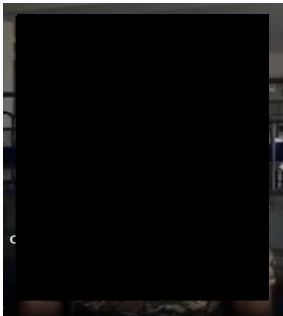
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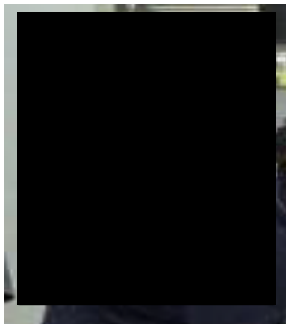
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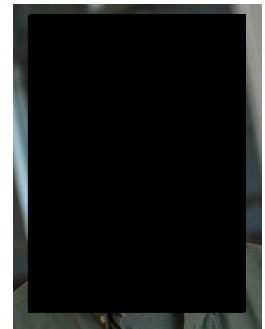
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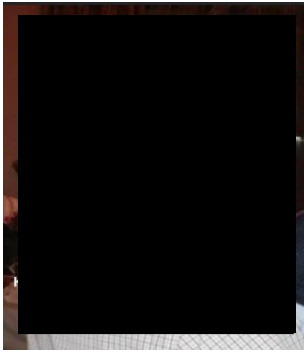
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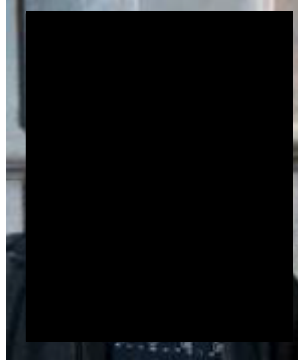
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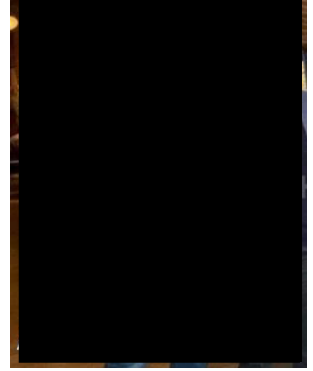
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[REDACTED] (USA)



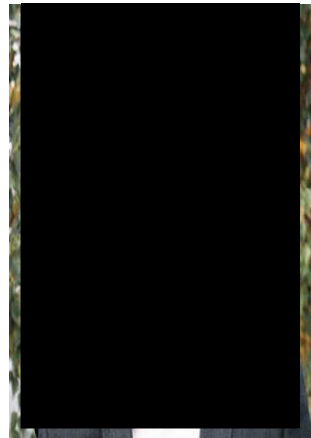
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[REDACTED] (GRE)



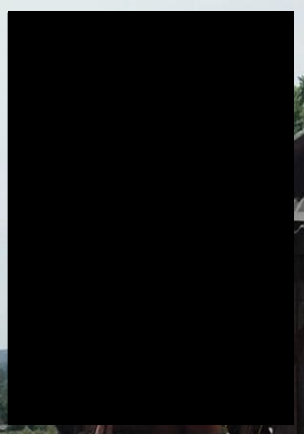
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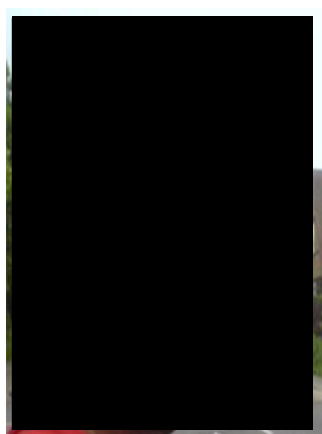
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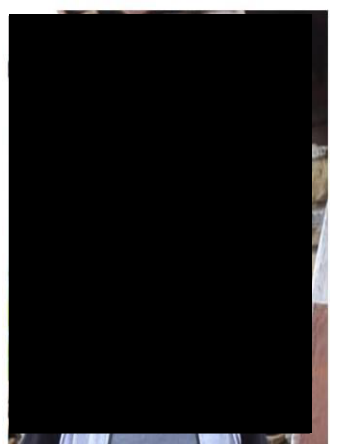
[REDACTED] (BRA)



[REDACTED] (IND)



[REDACTED] (USA)



ASALA (Armenian Secret Army for Liberation of Armenia) Terrorist Organization in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan



Other useful links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6mbK9f0oiQ>

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r98uSSN_B28

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWaUaTiIDPs&t=32s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wv-YAOD2KA>

LISTS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS INVOLVED IN ARMED GROUPS OF ARMENIA ILLEGALLY DEPLOYED IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF AZERBAIJAN

Australian nationals

№	Surname	Name	E-mail address	Phone number
█	█	█	█	█
█	█	█	█	█

Belarus nationals

№	Surname	Name	E-mail address	Phone number
█	█	█		
█	█	█		
█	█	█	█	█

Belgian nationals

№	Surname	Name	E-mail address	Phone number
█	█	█		
█	█	█	█	█
█	█	█	█	█
█	█	█	█	█
█	█	█	█	█
█	█	█	█	█
█	█	█	█	█

Brazilian nationals

№	Surname	Name	E-mail address	Phone number
█	█	█	█	█

Canadian nationals

№	Surname	Name	E-mail address	Phone number
█	█	█	█	█
█	█	█	█	█
█	█	█	█	█
█	█	█	█	█
█	█	█		

Denmark nationals

No	Surname	Name	E-mail address	Phone number
█	████████	██████	████████████████████	██████████

Egyptian nationals

No	Surname	Name	E-mail address	Phone number
█	██████	██████████	████████████████████	██████████

French nationals

No	Surname	Name	E-mail address	Phone number
█	████████	██████		
█	████████	██████		
█	██████	██████ ██████		
█	██████████ ████████	██████		
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█	████████	██████		

Georgian nationals

No	Surname	Name	E-mail address	Phone number
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█	████████	██████		
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█	██████	██████		
█	████████	██████		

Indian nationals

No	Surname	Name	E-mail address	Phone number
█	████████	██████	████████████████	████████
█	██████	██████	████████████████	████████

Iranian nationals

No	Surname	Name	E-mail address	Phone number
█	████████	██████		
█	████████	██████	████████████████	████████

Israeli nationals

No	Surname	Name	E-mail address	Phone number
█	████████	██████	████████████████	████████

Jordanian nationals

No	Surname	Name	E-mail address	Phone number
█	████████	██████		
█	████████	██████	████████████████	████████

Lebanese nationals

No	Surname	Name	E-mail address	Phone number
█	████████	██████		████████
█	████████	██████	████████████████ ██████	████████
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█	████████	██████		████████
█	██████	██████		████████
█	██████	██████		████████

List of fighters involved in terrorist trainings organized by VoMA

№	Surname	Name	Phone number	Date of birth	Nationality
■	████████	████	██████████		██
■	████████	████	██████████	██████	██
■	████████	██████	██████████		██
■	████████	████	██████████		██
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■	██████	████	██████████		██
■	████████	████	██████████		██
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■	████████	████	██████████	██████	██
■	████████	██████	██████████	██████	██

█	██████	█	██████		█
█	██████	████	██████		█
█	████	████			
█	██████	████	██████	██████	█
█	██████	█	██████	██████	█
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FIFTH INTERIM REPORT

ON

**VIOLATIONS BY ARMENIA OF
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
LAW AND INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN LAW IN THE COURSE
OF NEW ARMED AGGRESSION
AGAINST AZERBAIJAN**

27 SEPTEMBER – 31 OCTOBER 2020

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ABBREVIATIONS

Armenia SSR	Armenia Soviet Socialist Republic
Azerbaijan SSR	Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic
ECHR	European Court of Human Rights
ICRC	International Committee of Red Cross
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
MLRS	Multiple Launch Rocket System
PoWs	Prisoners of War
SC	Security Council
UN	United Nations
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

INTRODUCTION

On September 27, 2020 the armed forces of Armenia, blatantly violating the ceasefire regime have launched another aggression against Azerbaijan, by intensively attacking the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the frontline, as well as by deliberately subjecting to artillery shelling residential areas of Tartar, Aghdam, Fuzuli and Jabrayil districts. On the following days, densely populated residential areas – Shamkir, Beylagan, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Goranboy, Tartar, Barda, Aghjabadi and the city of Ganja were subjected to heavy bombardment, including with mid-range missiles.

As a result, there have been casualties among civilians and military servicemen of Azerbaijan. Extensive damage has been inflicted on many houses and other civilian infrastructure.

The new aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan is yet another blatant violation of fundamental norms and principles of international law, IHL, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and its Additional Protocols, as well as the United Nations Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874, 884 of 1993 demanding the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

According to preliminary estimation, as of October 30, totally 91 civilians, including children, women and elderly have been killed, more than 400 civilians have been wounded as a consequence of heavy artillery shelling. As of October 29, 2406 private houses, 92 apartment buildings and 423 civilian facilities were damaged and became unserviceable as a result of armed attack.

Vehicles belonging to civilians became unserviceable, and numerous small and large horned animals and haystacks were destroyed as well. Extensive damage was inflicted upon water, energy and other civilian infrastructure.

The armed forces of Armenia do not even spare ambulances and medical facilities in a blatant violation of IHL, in particular *Article 35* of the First Geneva Convention of 1949.

Also, a medical worker was seriously injured as a result of the shooting by the armed forces of Armenia of a sanitary medical vehicle, clearly marked with a white flag, collecting the bodies of Armenian soldiers in the area of Sugovshan.

Every time when the humanitarian ceasefire was agreed between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the armed forces of Armenia violated it by subjecting residential areas and civilian infrastructure in Azerbaijan, including the city of Ganja, Barda, Mingechevir and Gabala to bombardment by different types of missiles like Scud, Smerch, Tocka-U and etc, launched both from its own territory and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The latest humanitarian ceasefire of October 26 has already been repeatedly violated by the armed forces of Armenia.

Below are some of those cases recorded for the last two weeks:

- *Ganja* – the 2nd biggest city, in which more than 331 000 people reside and which is located far from the frontline, was subjected to “SCUD/Elbrus” ballistic missile attack

launched from the territory of Armenia on October 17, 2020, around 02:00. This attack on a densely populated Ganja city has taken place for the third time in a row since October 4, 2020 (See Section 3).

- *Barda* – a city located approximately 100 km from the border with Armenia and 30 km away from the Contact Line, became a subject of attack by armed forces of Armenia. The rockets with banned cluster munitions were launched from the Smerch MLRS at densely populated areas of the Barda city, including its business center and surroundings. The use of 9N235 cluster munitions from 9M55 Smerch rockets was confirmed by Amnesty International.¹ According to the preliminary reports, this terrorist attack by Armenia led to death of 21 civilians and 70 others were wounded. Civil infrastructure facilities and vehicles were extensively damaged. A day before, on October 27, Barda district has already come under the 300 mm “Smerch” cluster munition rocket attack by the armed forces of Armenia. As a result five civilians died, including a toddler and thirteen civilians were injured.
- *Mingechevir* – the 4th biggest city in Azerbaijan, in which 106 000 people reside, hosts the Mingechevir Water Hydropower Complex and is located far from the frontline was hit with missiles on 17 October 2020 around 01:00.
- *Tartar city* has been under the heavy artillery shelling since September 27. Over the last two weeks, the armed forces of Armenia have intentionally shelled private houses, civilian infrastructure, including schools and even a funeral ceremony. On October 26, Tartar city and the villages of the Tartar district became a subject of artillery attacks, including by the use of 300 mm “Smerch” MLRS again. More detailed information on civilian casualties is below.
- *Ordubad district* was hit with the missile by the armed forces of Armenia from the territory of the occupied Gubadli region on October 15 at 10:44.
- *Aghdam district* - as a result of artillery shelling of the residential areas of the district four civilians, including one journalist were injured on October 18. Artillery shelling of the villages of the Aghdam district continued on October 26.
- *Gabala, Kurdamir and Siyazan districts* located far away from the frontline became a subject of missile attacks launched from the Gafan and Jermukh regions of Armenia on October 22. The attack on these residential areas resulted in injury of a resident of Gabala and severe damage to five houses.
- *Tovuz, Dashkasan and Agjabadi districts* were also shelled by the armed forces of Armenia on October 26.
- *Gadabay, Tovuz and Dashkasan districts* were again fired upon by the armed forces of Armenia on October 28.

¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/10/armenia-azerbaijan-first-confirmed-use-of-cluster-munitions-by-armenia-cruel-and-reckless/>

In order to repel military aggression by Armenia and to ensure the security of civilians and densely populated residential areas inside the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan have launched counter-offensive measures. Azerbaijan acts on its sovereign soil exercising its right of self-defense and takes adequate and proportionate measures in full compliance with IHL to thwart the imminent threat to its civilian population and ensure their security.

The political and military leadership of the Republic of Azerbaijan has declared on numerous occasions since the start of the counter-offensive operations that only military objects and installations will be targeted and civilians residing in the occupied territories as well as civilian infrastructure therein will not be targeted. On October 04, the Ministry of Defense issued an official appeal to those civilians calling them to stay away from the conflict zone, especially from firing points, military facilities and military infrastructure of the armed forces of Armenia. The Ministry further stated that appropriate conditions will be created for their evacuation from the conflict zone and all their rights will be protected.² On October 24, the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan renewed this call and expressed the readiness to take all the necessary measures to ensure the security, food, medical care and other needs of the civilian population who will cross to the Azerbaijani side. The Ministry of Defense also appealed to the servicemen of the armed forces of Armenia to lay down their arms and surrender. As it was underlined in the call of the Ministry of Defense, all the rights of prisoners of war and civilians will be protected in accordance with International Humanitarian Law, and necessary conditions, through international organizations, will be created for persons wishing to move to third countries³.

The following served as a basis for the data presented:

1. Facts collected by the staff of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
2. Information obtained from the General Prosecutor's Office;
3. Information from verified media publications.

²<https://mod.gov.az/en/news/the-military-command-of-azerbaijan-addressed-the-peaceful-population-living-in-the-occupied-territories-32628.html>

³ <https://mod.gov.az/en/news/the-civilian-population-living-in-occupied-territories-is-advised-to-stay-away-from-military-facilities-33280.html>

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE CONFLICT

After the collapse of the USSR, the international legal doctrine of *uti possidetis juris* secured the international, regional and national legitimacy of the boundaries of newly independent States. Under this legal doctrine, the former administrative borders of Azerbaijan SSR, which had included Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, were recognized by international law as the legitimate borders of the newly independent Republic of Azerbaijan. This was later reaffirmed in the UN Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 on the conflict in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict started with the Armenians' open territorial claims to Azerbaijan's historical lands and ethnic provocations in 1988. In the early 1980s, the Armenians in the Soviet Union leadership, leaders of Armenian SSR and the Armenian Diaspora abroad exploited the weakening of the central government of the USSR to embark on a campaign to annex the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast to Armenia.

The United Nations Security Council adopted the above-mentioned four resolutions in 1993 in response to the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan. These resolutions condemn the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories; reaffirm respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, inviolability of its international borders and the inadmissibility of use of force for acquisition of territories; confirm that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is part of Azerbaijan; and demand the immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories.

The resolutions also made specific reference to violations of IHL, including the displacement of a large number of civilians in Azerbaijan, attacks on civilians and bombardments of its territory.

27 years after their adoption, the key demands of these UN SC resolutions remain unimplemented. At present 20 percent of the territory of Azerbaijan – Nagorno-Karabakh and 7 adjacent districts are under the occupation of Armenia. One million of IDPs and refugees fled their homes to save their lives and settled indifferent parts of Azerbaijan.

These criminal actions of Armenia shattered the foundations of IHL and were aimed at creating a new spiral of social and humanitarian crisis by disrupting the normal life of the civilian population in areas close to the line of contact.

Over almost 30 years, Armenia has been pursuing the aim to consolidate its occupation of this territory and maintain the status-quo created through illegal use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan accompanied by heinous war crimes, crimes against humanity, such as genocide and ethnic cleansing.

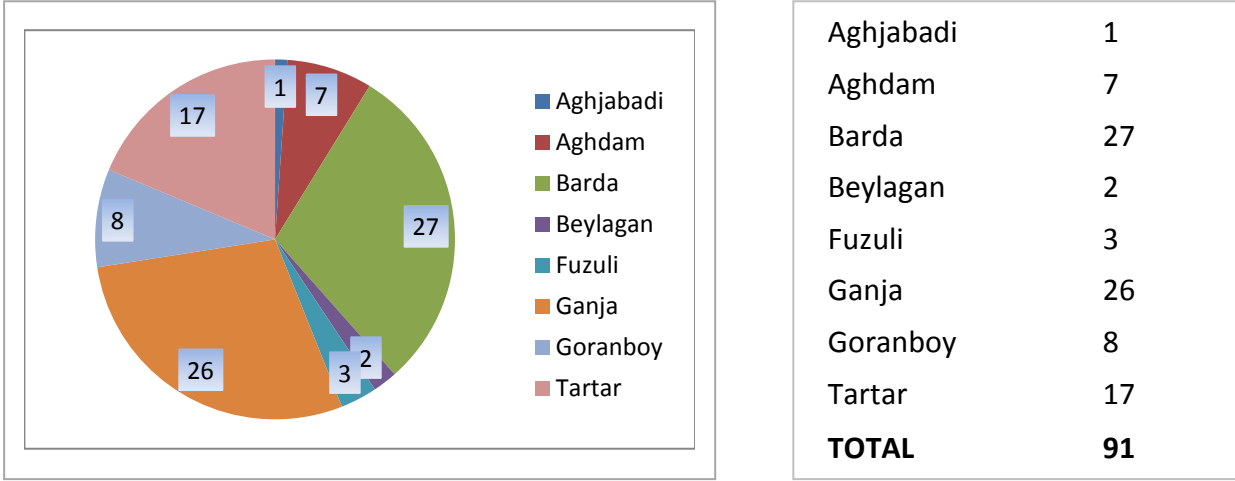
SECTION 1. VIOLATIONS AGAINST CIVILIANS

1.1. Deaths Among the Civilian Population

The armed forces of Armenia with the use of artillery, rockets and missiles shelled Shamkir, Beylagan, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Goranboy, Tartar, Barda, Aghjabadi, Khizi, Tovuz, Yevlakh, Gabala, Kurdemir and Ordubad districts and the cities of Ganja and Minghechevir.

It should be mentioned that Vagharshak Harutyunyan, the chief advisor of the Prime Minister of Armenia in his interview to "Vesti" program on Russia TV channel on October 6, 2020 confessed that strikes at peaceful settlements are of deliberate nature in order to cause panic."⁴

As a result of deliberate targeting of densely populated residential areas 91 civilians, including 10 children and 27 females were killed (see Annex 1). Thus, death toll among civilians has increased by 26 in one week since the release of the 4th Interim Report on October 26, 2020. The number of deaths among civilians in regions of Azerbaijan is as follows:



1.2. Civilian Injuries

According to preliminary estimation, totally 404 civilians were seriously wounded. 50 of them are children and 102 females.



⁴ <https://thehill.com/opinion/international/520382-washington-can-initiate-peace-in-the-south-caucasus>; <https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/pashinyans-advisor-confirms-armenias-deliberate-attacks-on-azerbaijani-civilian-settlements-2020-10-9-0/>

Below are some cases on wounded civilians:

On October 27, as a result of the 300 “Smerch” rocket attack with banned cluster munitions by the armed forces of Armenia on the Garayusifly village of the Barda district 5 civilians were killed, 13 others wounded, including minors - [REDACTED]

On October 22, [REDACTED] (born in 2003), a resident of Hajally village of the Gabala district, received various injuries as a result of rockets launched by the armed forces of Armenia. Five houses in the village were severely damaged.

On October 19, the Tartar district came under intensive rocket artillery fire of the armed forces of Armenia. A resident of Alasgarli village - [REDACTED] was hospitalized with various injuries as a result of a shell hitting the yard of his house.

On the same day, as a result of a shell falling on Banovshalar settlement of the Aghdam district - [REDACTED] were hospitalized with various injuries. [REDACTED] a resident of Pashabeyli village, was also hospitalized with various injuries as a result of artillery shelling.

On October 17, due to the intensive rocket and heavy artillery shelling in direction of Aghjabadi district by the armed forces of Armenia, [REDACTED] a resident of the village of Arazbar, has received various injuries as a result of an artillery shell falling on the yard of his house, and the house itself was severely damaged.

On October 15, early in the morning the armed forces of Armenia subjected [REDACTED] intensive rocket and artillery fire from various directions. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been injured as a result of shelling that hit their houses in Birinji Baharly settlement in Aghdam.

On October 14, a shell falling on the yard of a rural secondary school in the territory of Tartar district resulted in hospitalization with various wounds of [REDACTED] representative of Tartar District Authority for Duyarli village, [REDACTED] representative of Asgarli village and the following villagers: [REDACTED]

On the same day, [REDACTED] an employee of the Azerbaijan Television and Radio Broadcasting CJSC (AZTV) was hospitalized with various injuries as a result of the attack on journalists’ vehicle by the armed forces of Armenia. On October 19, [REDACTED] an AZTV reporter got wounds and was hospitalized with various injuries as a result of a fire by armed forces of Armenia.

SECTION 2. TARGETING CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE

2.1. Targeting Public Facilities and Private Property

As of October 29, 2406 private houses, 92 apartment buildings and 423 objects of civilian infrastructure have been damaged and have become unserviceable as a result of Armenia's armed attacks since September 27, 2020.



Photo 1 – 2: Residential building hit by indiscriminate shelling in the Tartar district



Photo 3 – 6: Private properties in Aghdam



Photo 7 – 8: Tartar city cemetery after Armenia's missile attack



Photo 9 – 11: Private property after the attack on Barda on October 27



Photo 12: Damaged elementary school in the Ganja city

Photo 13 – 14: Scene evidence from the ruins in the Ganja city (17-October-2020)



Photo 15: Interior of the Imamzade mosque damaged as a result of the attack on the Ganja city



Photo 16 – 17: *Private houses of residents of Ganja after missile attacks (17-October-2020)*



Photo 18-19: Damaged secondary school No. 1 in Tartar

PARTICULAR CONCERN IS MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ARE BEING DELIBERATE TARGETS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF ARMENIA.

Photo 20 – 23: Local ambulance was targeted by artillery fire in the Tartar district, in a blatant violation of Article 35 of the First Geneva Convention of 1949. The driver was seriously wounded



Photo 24:
Shikar Shikarov
secondary school in
Tartar district

2.2. Targeting Civilian Infrastructure

Vital civilian infrastructures, such as electricity, gas, water, communication stations have also been targeted. The armed forces of Armenia targeted the Oghuz-Gabala-Baku water pipeline, which supplies drinking water to the Absheron Peninsula and is of special strategic importance for Azerbaijan. Air Defense Forces of Azerbaijan neutralized the missile and its parts consequently fell in the 250 meters perimeter from the pipeline.

10 kV Telestudio overhead line from 35/10 kV Khangarvand substation in Goranboy, and the 35 kV Gulustan and 10 kV Azizbeyov, 2nd Subartesian overhead lines from 110/30/10 kV Naftalan substation were repeatedly fired and shelled upon in Goranboy. The 0.4 kV distribution network in Tapgaragoyunlu is badly damaged. Repair and restoration work has not yet been possible.

10 kV AzGes №3, Sarijali №11 overhead lines from 110/35/10 kV Tartar substation and 10kV Borsunlu №3 from 35 kV Demirchiler substation were fired upon.

35 kV Horadiz-BoyukBahmanli overhead line, as well as 10 kV Shukurbayli, Gazakhlar, Babi and Alkhanli overhead lines from the 35/10 kV Horadiz and Mahmudlu substation was fired upon in different places and then restored in Fuzuli. In Alkhanli and Shukurbayli villages, the 0.4 kV distribution network is damaged and out of service.

110 kV Tazakand-1, Tazakand-2, Khindiristan-1 and Khindiristan-2 overhead lines were fired upon in Agdam. These lines have also been restored. In Aghjabadi, 10 kV Minakhorlu from 110/35/10 kV Karabakh substation and 10 kV PMK-4 overhead line from 35/10 kV Qiyamadinli substation were also fired upon.

According to the latest data, the gas supply of Tapgaragoyunlu village of Goranboy remains to be limited. At present, natural gas is being supplied at about 50% of Fuzuli district. The gas supply for 53 residential settlements has been suspended, except Tartar city and 51 villages, 25 villages of Aghjabadi, a village and 5 settlements of Aghdam.



Photo 25 – 26: Electricity and energy infrastructure damaged and settlements were cut from electricity



Photo 27-29: Barda streets after the missile attacks on October 28, 2020

SECTION 3. VIOLATIONS DURING THE HUMANITARIAN CEASEFIRE

Despite the humanitarian ceasefire agreed a few times during the month of October, armed forces of Armenia continued to target civilian property and other civilian infrastructure in densely populated residential areas. Below are some of those cases:

After October 11 (the day of heinous attack on Ganja) most of the casualties within one single day among civilians have been recorded following the attacks on Ganja on October 17, 2020, and on Barda on October 27-28.

On October 17, the Javadkhan area in the central part of Ganja was subjected to “SCUD/Elbrus” ballistic missile attack launched from the territory of Armenia. Serious damages have been inflicted upon civilians and infrastructure. Only in Ganja 25 civilians were killed and around 100 civilians were wounded since the humanitarian ceasefire was first agreed on October 10, 2020.

In view of systematic attacks on the city of Ganja, the following statement of [REDACTED] (so called “spokesperson” of the illegal puppet regime established by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan) made on October 5, 2020, should be recalled: “A few more days and I'm afraid that even archaeologists will not be able to find the place of Ganja. Get sober, before it is too late.”⁵

On October 27, as a result of the 300 “Smerch” rocket attack with banned cluster munitions by the armed forces of Armenia on the Garayusifly village of the Barda district, according to the preliminary estimation, five civilians died, including a toddler and thirteen civilians were injured. On October 28, around 1pm Armenia launched again 300mm “Smerch” rockets with banned cluster munitions at densely populated areas of the city of Barda, including its business center and surroundings. According to the preliminary reports, this act of terror by Armenia resulted in death of 21 civilians and injuries of 70 civilians. Civil infrastructure facilities and vehicles were extensively damaged.

Also, on October 15, the armed forces of Armenia have intentionally shelled a funeral ceremony in the cemetery of the city of Tartar. As a result of this attack 4 civilians – [REDACTED] [REDACTED] have been killed and four other civilians have been hospitalized with various injuries. Artillery shelling by the armed forces of Armenia of the Jamilly village of the Tartar district led to death of its two residents [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was wounded and his house severely damaged.

⁵ <https://www.1lurer.am/en/2020/10/05/A-few-more-days-and-even-archaeologists-will-not-be-able-to-find-the-place-of-Ganja-Poghosyan/328058>

Photo 30 – 31: *Children wounded as a result of the missile attack on the city of Ganja (17-October-2020)*

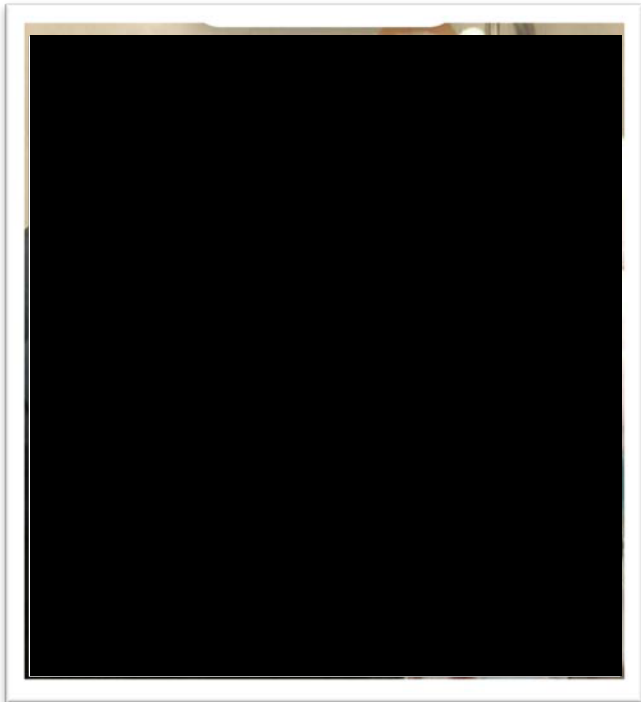
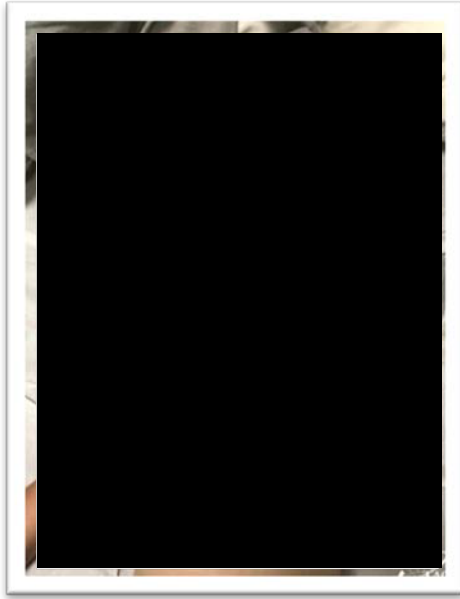


Photo 32 – 33: *Injured residents of Ganja after the attack of the armed forces of Armenia*



Photo 34 – 37: Result of the attack of the armed forces of Armenia on the city of Barda



Photo 38: Funeral of [redacted] (born in 2013) killed by armed forces of Armenia in the Garayusifly village of the Barda district



Photo 39: *Damage inflicted upon the civilian infrastructure in the city of Ganja*

Photo 40 – 41 (next page): *Destroyed residential area in Ganja (birdeye view)*





Photo 42– 43: *Operational-tactical missile exploded in the territory of the Ordubad district of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan*



Photo 44: *Minghechevir, located 40 km away from the conflict zone, which also hosts the largest water reservoir in the South Caucasus was targeted by Smerch rocket missiles by the armed forces of Armenia*

Photo 45-46 (next page) : *Kindergarten in the Baharli settlement of the Aghdam district damaged as a result of artillery shelling by the armed forces of Armenia on October 26, 2020*





Photo 47-48: *The Garadaghly village school (Aghdam district) after the artillery shelling by the armed forces of Armenia on October 26, 2020*



SECTION 4.VIOLATIONS WITH RESPECT TO CIVILIANS IN THE TERRITORIES UNDER CONTROL OF ARMENIA

There are mass media reports indicating that Armenia does not take necessary measures with a view to clearly distinguish journalists from combatants. Some photos suggest that in some instances, journalists in the theatre of active military operations also act as combatants.



Photo 49 – 51: A person claimed to be a journalist wears military uniform and holds a machin gun in his hand

There are also media footages indicating civilians, including children are recruited to participate in the military activities.



Photo 52: Children helping soldiers to clean their guns



Photo 53: Armed forces of Armenia uses civilians to attack Azerbaijan



Photo 54: *The Armed forces of Armenia uses underage named [REDACTED] to attack Azerbaijan*

These photographic evidences testify to violation of Armenia of its obligation under Article 58 (c) of the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, which oblige the Party to the conflict to take all feasible precautions to protect the civilian population and civilian objects under its control against the effects of attacks.

Furthermore, involvement of the children in armed hostilities testifies to Armenia's violations under Article 77 (2) of Addition Protocol I and Article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of Child prohibiting the recruitment of children into armed forces or not allowing them to take a direct part in hostilities.

SECTION 5. CONCLUSIONS

The irrefutable evidence contained in the present Report reconfirms that attacks of the armed forces of Armenia on civilian population and infrastructure in Azerbaijan is of systemic and widespread nature. The statements by officials of Armenia and the so called “representatives” of the illegal puppet regime established by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan also prove that the deliberate armed attacks on Azerbaijani civilians and infrastructure have been preplanned and executed as a part of Armenia’s war strategy.

The new phase of aggression by Armenia unleashed in the early morning of September 27, 2020, has already led to severe violations of human rights:

1. Armenia has been making use of missiles, artillery and other weapons to target the civilian settlements and objects as well as civilian infrastructure of vital importance deliberately, indiscriminately and systematically which is a gross violation of IHL and constitutes the war crime and crimes against humanity.
2. Armenia has been violating the right to life of the civilian population of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Art 2 of ECHR).
3. The deliberate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure resulting from discrimination based on the nationality and ethnicity in a clear violation of Art 14 of ECHR. Of particular notice is a deliberate targeting of IDPs, their houses and other private property. Being victim to 1991-1994 ethnic cleansing committed by Armenia, they became target of Armenia yet another time. This constitutes the war crime and the crime against humanity.
4. During military operations, Armenia has intensively used weapons and methods prohibited by IHL. Medical facilities and vehicles have been targeted in violation of Article 35 of the First Geneva Convention of 1949.
5. Deliberate and indiscriminate attacks on educational facilities constitute a violation of Articles 51 and 52 of the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. This is also a violation of the right to education of schoolchildren residing in areas targeted by armed forces of Armenia as stipulated, *inter alia*, in Article 13 of 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
6. Serious damage has been inflicted upon private property of civilians. As a result, their houses, livestock, vehicles and other private property have been destroyed and damaged, that constitutes a violation of their right to property (Art. 1 of Protocol 1 of ECHR).
7. Armenia violates its obligations under international human rights law and humanitarian law with respect to civilians under its own control. This includes, among others, Articles 58 (c) and 77 (c) of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, as well as Article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This survey is far from being comprehensive. However, it demonstrates the range, variety and consistency of Armenia's violations of international human rights law and IHL. Armenia bears full responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity it has committed as a matter of the international law of State responsibility, which includes its agents and officials and those for whom it must be deemed liable by virtue of direct instruction.

		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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