

Brief report/factsheet on violations by Armenia of its obligations deriving from international humanitarian law related to the treatment with Azerbaijani captives

During Armenia's recent armed aggression against Azerbaijan starting from September 27, 2020 several Azerbaijani servicemen who took part in the military operations for liberation of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan were captured by Armed Forces of Armenia.

There are irrefutable evidences available on open media sources depicting the violations of international humanitarian law by Armenian military servicemen in relation to the Azerbaijani soldiers *hors de combat*. Azerbaijani servicemen were subjected to execution, inhuman and degrading treatment, including torture and mutilation of corpses.

For instance, in one video the Azerbaijani soldier is being brutally beaten by Armenian speaking soldiers with automatic rifle. In another one, the seriously wounded Azerbaijani soldier is insulted instead of being provided necessary medical treatment. Another video on social media showed what appear to be the Armenian soldiers executing an Azerbaijani POW, supposedly serviceman of the state border service, by pushing a knife through their throat.

A video posted on social media shows that the members of the armed forces of Armenia captures the wounded Azerbaijani soldier **Amin Musayev** (See photo 1 in the Annex). In the first part of the video footage Armenian soldier insults A.Musayev. The second part of the footage shows the Russian journalist rendering medical aid to A.Musayev whose eyebrow is bleeding, which means that between the two parts of the footage A.Musayev was hit by someone in the group while being held in captivity. While being taken to the transportation van one of the Armenian soldiers spits on him. Another video posted on social media showed A.Musayev being transported to an unknown direction. To A.Musayev's question about where he was being taken, a person answered in Armenian language with swearing. Then one of the soldiers apparently presses A.Musayev's wound, deliberately inflicting pain on him¹.

Photos of another Azerbaijani prisoner of war **Bayram Karimov** (See photo 1 in the Annex 1) being injured were also disseminated by the social media. Russian "Anna-news" agency reported the capture of both Amin Musayev and Bayram Karimov and posted the video footage on its website. However, it appears that later the video clip was removed from the website and its Youtube account². "Anna-news" reporter Aleksandr Kharchenko also published a statement on his social network account about

¹ <https://oxu.az/war/440987>

² <https://anna-news.info/spasli-zhizni-dvuh-soldat-vs-azerbajdzhana-eho-karabaha/>

the capture of the two Azerbaijani POWs, where he stated that the ill-treatment against them was possible³.

At late December another video footage was spread in the social media where Armenian soldiers pour a solid fuel on Azerbaijani captive and burn him. It cannot be identified in the video whether Azerbaijani PoW was alive while being burnt or not.

In another incident, the video shows a man wearing an Azerbaijani border guard uniform lying on the ground, whilst gagged and bound. The person filming the video speaks to the man in Armenian, then approaches him and sticks a knife into his throat. The captive man was later identified as **Ismail Irapov** (See *Photo 2 in the Annex 1*), serviceman of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan. He does not die while the video is being filmed, but independent pathological analysis confirmed that the wound sustained would have led to his death in minutes⁴.

Another recent video-footage depicts the Armenian soldiers subjecting 3 Azerbaijani PoWs to physical torture by beating them seriously. One of the PoWs has been identified as **Emin Bakhshaliyev** (See *photo 3, 4 and 5 in the Annex 1*), serviceman of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan.

In several videos, Armenian soldiers are seen cutting the ear off a dead Azerbaijani soldier, dragging a dead Azerbaijani soldier across the ground by a rope tied around his feet, and standing on the corpse of a dead Azerbaijani soldier.

The list of web-links available on social media concerning the ill-treatment of Azerbaijani servicemen by Armenian soldiers are enclosed herewith as Annex 2.

International humanitarian law expressly prohibits acts of violence against any detained person, including prisoners of war, the mutilation of dead bodies, and the filming of confessions or denunciations for propaganda purposes.

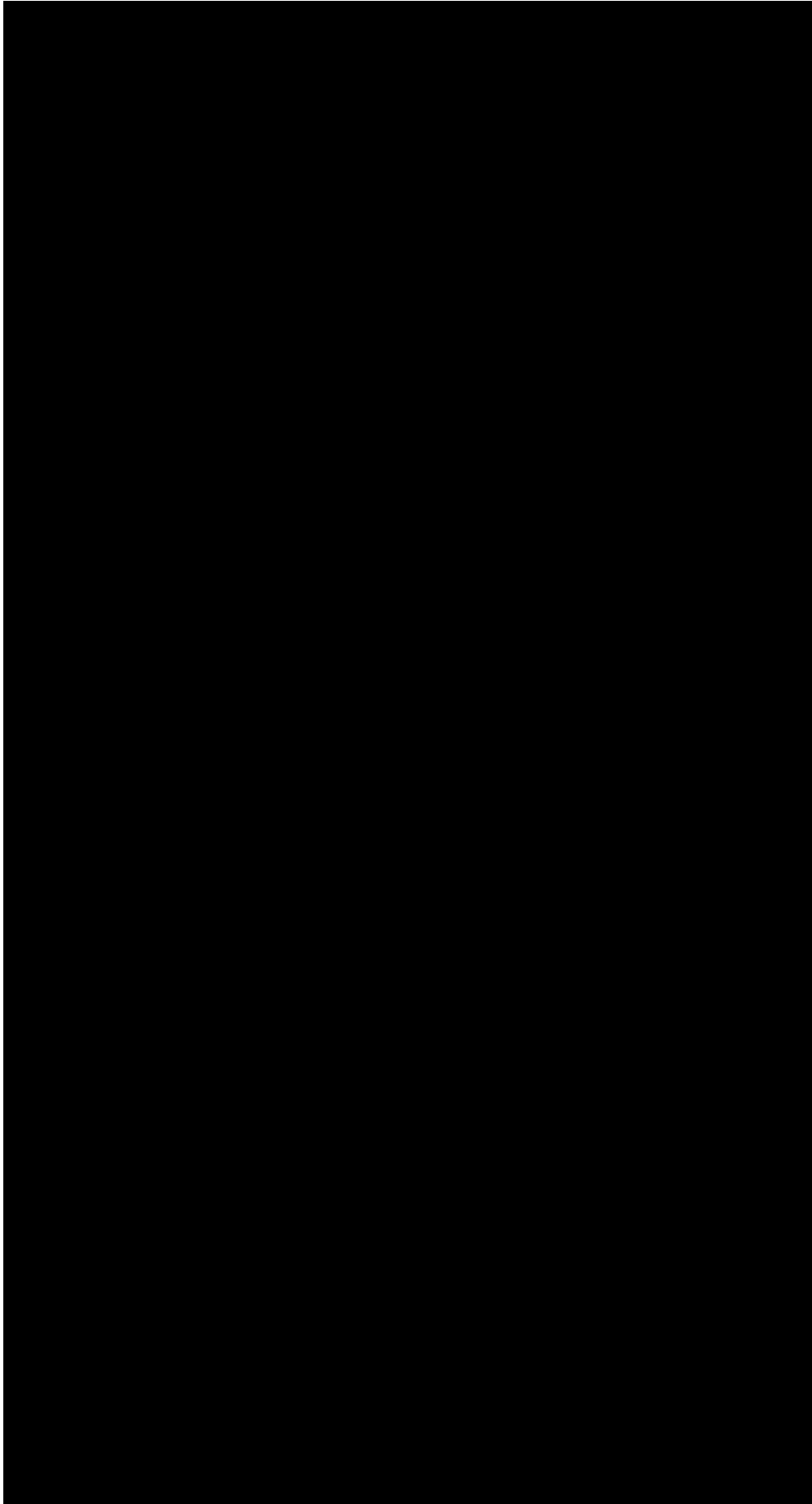
The third Geneva Convention states that “prisoners of war must at all times be humanely treated ... In particular, no prisoner of war may be subjected to physical mutilation ... Likewise, prisoners of war must at all times be protected, particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity. Measures of reprisal against prisoners of war are prohibited.”

Willful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, and committing outrages upon personal dignity - in particular humiliating or degrading treatment and desecration of the dead are considered as war crimes

³https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1051049202007631&id=100013076829993

⁴<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/12/armenia-azerbaijan-decapitation-and-war-crimes-in-gruesome-videos-must-be-urgently-investigated/>

ANNEX 1



ANNEX 2

Web-links depicting Azerbaijani PoWs ill-treated by Armenian soldiers

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qK_h9ghlQMw&has_verified=1
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEHIfZj4VDg>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQq9gZOyTEw&has_verified=1&bpctr=1609317199
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVYdLGF2Ik&has_verified=1
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5AiBfSHYL3w&has_verified=1
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycj6cZyQuFQ&has_verified=1&bpctr=1609318136
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwIDWOdcxQ&has_verified=1
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wlh-Dy8tuIM&has_verified=1&bpctr=1609318249
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuwLeR7Kp1s&has_verified=1