



**Permanent Mission
of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other
International Organizations**

GENEVA

Ref: 0084/12/23/27

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and has the honour to transmit herewith the reply by the Republic of Azerbaijan to the communication by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights dated 29 October 2021 (Ref: AL AZE 3/2021).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 21 February 2023

Enclosure: 30 pages

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights
Geneva

Ms. Alexandra Xanthaki
Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights

Ref: AL AZE 3/2021, AL AZE 1/2021

The Republic of Azerbaijan (“*Azerbaijan*”) acknowledges receipt of the communication dated 29 October 2021 from Ms. Karima Bennouna, then-Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (the “*October 2021 Communication*”), and welcomes this opportunity to correct factual inaccuracies, as well as clarify and provide further information on the matters regarding cultural rights and cultural heritage raised in those communications.

Azerbaijan is firmly committed to protecting cultural rights and cultural heritage on an equal basis. Azerbaijan’s highest Government officials have repeatedly and publicly affirmed their commitment to protect cultural heritage and promote the cultural rights of all citizens in Azerbaijan’s multicultural society, including in the territories liberated from Armenia’s thirty-year occupation in November 2020.¹ Azerbaijan’s commitment to protecting cultural rights is manifest in its international obligations,² including under the

¹ See, e.g., Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, No:447/22, Information of the Press Service Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the meeting held between Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Miguel Ángel Moratinos (24 September 2022), <https://mfa.gov.az/en/news/no44722> (discussing the “steps taken in the field of restoration and protection of cultural heritage of Azerbaijan in the areas affected by the conflict, regardless of its ethnic or religious origins”); Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, No. 104/21, *Commentary of the Press Service Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan about unfounded claims by Armenia on committing “cultural crimes” in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan* (March 2021), <https://mfa.gov.az/en/news/no10421-commentary-of-the-press-service-department-of-the-ministry-of-foreign-affairs-of-the-republic-of-azerbaijan-about-unfounded-claims-by-armenia-on-committing-cultural-crimes-in-the-liberated-territories-of-azerbaijan> (“The Republic of Azerbaijan remains committed to its international obligation to protect and uphold historical cultural and religious heritage in the liberated territories.”); Minister of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Statement by H.E. Anar Karimov at the 48th session of the Human Rights Council (22 September 2021), https://hrmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/HRCDocuments/46/OTH/OTH_1951_76_d95b204d_d6b6_4946_a458_e2c459717303.docx (“Azerbaijan is a unique bridge on the crossroads of East and West, North and South where different cultures, civilizations and religions meet and exist in a presenting unique harmony. To preserve and promote these values and traditions in all dimensions the Government has taken necessary steps including legislative and institutional measures, provision of support to ethnic and religious communities, restoration of diverse heritage, conduction humanitarian activities, and initiated global movement for intercultural dialogue.”); Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *We Will Always Show Due Diligence and Care Towards the Protection of the Christian Religious Heritage in the Territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan* (12 November 2020), <http://mct.gov.az/en/common-news/13315>.

² See UNESCO Country Page for Azerbaijan, <https://en.unesco.org/countries/Azerbaijan> (noting that in addition to hosting three World Heritage Sites and participating in the Creative Cities network, Azerbaijan is party to six treaties regarding protection of cultural heritage, including 1954 Hague Convention, 1972 World Heritage Convention, and 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage).

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).³ Azerbaijan's domestic law is also protective of cultural rights and protections, without distinction, including under the Law on the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments and its Criminal Code, which prohibit the deliberate destruction or damage of over 6,300 sites that are designated as monuments on the State Registry.⁴ Azerbaijan's applicable legal regime thus includes protections for cultural rights and heritage on a non-discriminatory basis. In recent years, Azerbaijan restored a Russian Orthodox Church in Baku,⁵ constructed a Catholic cathedral on land donated by the Government,⁶ and restored an Armenian Church in Baku, damaged in 1990, which houses a library of some 5,000 Armenian manuscripts.⁷

Azerbaijan has taken specific actions to protect cultural rights and heritage on a non-discriminatory basis both during and after the Second Garabagh War. These actions are detailed below in Azerbaijan's responses to the requests of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights.

Conduct During Hostilities

Both Communications, including in **Request 2 in the October 2021 Communication** have repeated unsupported allegations concerning Azerbaijan's conduct during the Second Garabagh War and its compliance with international law. As detailed below, Azerbaijan has complied with its legal obligations.

Azerbaijan's domestic legal regime and international obligations under the 1954 Hague Convention and its Protocols provide protection for cultural property during times

³ See, e.g. *Case Concerning the Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)* ["*Azerbaijan v. Armenia*"], Application Instituting Proceedings, paras. 11, 46, 56–64, 97–98; see also *Case Concerning the Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan)* ["*Armenia v. Azerbaijan*"], CR 2021/21, p. 21, para. 21(c), <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20211014-ORA-02-00-BI.pdf>; *Armenia v. Azerbaijan*, CR 2021/23, p. 25, para. 13, <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20211015-ORA-02-BI.pdf>.

⁴ See Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments, Arts. 6, 13, 14, 28, 29; Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Arts. 116, 246; *Armenia v. Azerbaijan*, CR 2021/21, p. 47, para. 11.

⁵ "His Holiness Patriarch Kirill visits Cathedral of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God in Baku", *Russian Orthodox Church* (14 November 2019), <http://www.patriarchia.ru/en/db/text/5532265.html>.

⁶ Hikmet Hajiyev, "Azerbaijan has restored Christian buildings everywhere 'Why would we do otherwise in liberated Karabakh?'" , *Washington Times* (7 December 2020), <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/dec/7/azerbaijan-has-restored-christian-buildings-everyw/>.

⁷ *Id.*

of conflict. Azerbaijan's statutory law⁸ prohibits deliberate damage to over 6,300 sites that are listed on Azerbaijan's State Registry,⁹ including in times of armed conflict. This Registry includes sites of diverse cultural and ethnic origin. There are robust criminal, administrative, and civil consequences for violations, including the payment of reparation.¹⁰ Further, the duty to protect historical and cultural monuments, regardless of the monument's nature or origin, is enshrined in Azerbaijan's Constitution.¹¹

As Azerbaijan has explained to the UNESCO Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, "during the conduct of military operations, the Ministry of Defense worked in coordination with the Ministry of Culture to ensure the effective identification and exclusion of cultural property" from target lists.¹² Moreover, the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan were instructed to follow the best practices set forth in the "Military Manual – Protection of Cultural Property" published in 2016 by UNESCO with the support of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and accordingly refrained from any use of cultural property or its immediate surroundings which were likely to expose them to destruction or damage.¹³ No military operation was conducted in the vicinity of cultural property that was not justified by military necessity as defined under international law.¹⁴

⁸ See Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments, Arts. 13, 14, 29.

⁹ See Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Art. 246. See also *id.* Art. 116.

¹⁰ See Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan On Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments, Arts. 28–29.

¹¹ Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Art. 77.

¹² Report submitted by the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, *Destruction of cultural property in the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the course of the armed aggression and military occupation by Armenia*, C54/20/15.COM/16 (30 November 2020), ¶ 14 (enclosed with this letter).

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.*

With regards to reports of damage to the Gazanchi Church in Shusha,¹⁵ Azerbaijan government officials have repeatedly and publicly stated that the Church was not a marked military target. While Armenia has continued to assert that this site is in jeopardy from construction or restoration activities conducted by Azerbaijan,¹⁶ there is no active restoration work at the site, and protective installations (such as scaffolding) remain in place.



Exterior and Interior of Gazanchi Church, October 2021

¹⁵ See Communication AZE 1/2021 from the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights; and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, dated 2 February 2021, p. 3.

¹⁶ See Letter dated 27 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, UN doc. A/76/822-S/2022/358 (“Armenia’s April 2022 Letter to the UN”), Annex (“Ad Hoc Report of the Armenian National Commission for UNESCO”, dated 15 April 2022), p. 7/40, referring to the church as “Ghazanchetsots Cathedral”).

Conduct After Hostilities

In response to **Requests 1, 3, and 6 in the October 2021 Communication** Azerbaijan affirms that it is employing its multicultural and non-discriminatory approach to the protection of, restoration, and access to cultural sites in the liberated territories. The allegations contained in the October 2021 Communication, based on unspecified sources, are incorrect.

Azerbaijan was unable to protect the sites in Garabagh and the surrounding districts when those territories were under Armenian occupation for nearly thirty years. Since the liberation of its sovereign territory, Azerbaijan has been working to identify and rectify the damage that was done during that time, and undertaking massive recovery and reconstruction efforts, to repair and rebuild after the devastation inflicted during Armenia's aggression and occupation. This important work is a necessary precursor to the safe and dignified return of more than 700,000 Azerbaijanis displaced by Armenia's war of aggression and occupation to their homes.¹⁷ As part of that process, and pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1170 dated 29 October 2020, Azerbaijan is currently conducting a large-scale inventory of culturally significant sites in the region with a view to mapping damage, understanding restoration needs, and adding sites to its national registry of protected sites on an equal basis, including with the assistance of international experts. The Office of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has also issued formal instructions to ensure that construction crews are instructed on procedures to minimize the risk of damage to cultural heritage sites during reconstruction activities.

Azerbaijan is also working to restore safe access to cultural sites on an equal basis for all individuals lawfully present in Azerbaijan by removing the hundreds of thousands of landmines that Armenia laid throughout the formerly occupied territories, rendering that area "one of the most contaminated mine and unexploded ordnance regions in the world."¹⁸ Azerbaijan has undertaken an extensive land mine clearance operation, which is increasing access to certain cultural sites, but access by security personnel, let alone civilians, to numerous cultural sites remains limited due to the ongoing security considerations. Since the end of the Second Garabagh War in November 2020, more

¹⁷ See, e.g., United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Experts of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Commend Azerbaijan on its Regional Legal Counselling Centres, Ask Questions about the Conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh Region and the Baku Multiculturalism Centre* (16 August 2022), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/08/experts-committee-elimination-racial-discrimination-commend-azerbaijan-its-regional> (summarizing Azerbaijan's statement to CERD committee, including explanation that "[t]he immediate priority of the Government was to allow a safe and dignified return to those who had been forced to leave the territories. A huge challenge was to demine the heavily contaminated mine territory, and remove the threat from unexploded ordnance. The national mine agency was working with national partners, as well as private agencies, to complete this task.").

¹⁸ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, resolution 2391 (27 September 2021), para. 10, <https://pace.coe.int/en/files/29483/html>.

than 282 people have been killed or injured by landmines¹⁹—a toll that will continue to climb until the mine clearance operation is complete.²⁰ As vividly illustrated in the recent discovery in the liberated territories of more than 1,600 landmines deliberately laid by Armenia in or close to civilian areas after the November 2020 Trilateral Statement,²¹ the current security risk remains substantial.

In addition, while Azerbaijan is unable to guarantee access to certain sites in areas where Russian peacekeepers are temporarily deployed, there is a protocol in place for processing requests for visits in consultation with the Russian peacekeepers and for providing protection to Armenian pilgrims on such visits. Azerbaijan has publicly committed that all persons who are lawfully present in Azerbaijan, including Armenians, will be able to visit historical, cultural, and religious sites in the territory of Azerbaijan that are safely open to the public, on an equal basis.²²

In response to **Request No. 5 in the October 2021 Communication**, Azerbaijan notes that, in addition to measures of physical protection, Azerbaijan has taken concrete steps to ensure that individuals who deliberately damage cultural sites or objects are held accountable.

Azerbaijan is investigating and prosecuting credible allegations of damage to protected cultural objects, and its competent agencies have publicly committed to provide support for investigations of all credible allegations of vandalism, destruction, and unauthorized alteration of historical and cultural monuments and cemeteries used by Azerbaijan's citizens of Armenian origin.²³ Azerbaijan also took steps to investigate and prosecute allegations that Azerbaijani servicemen had violated international and Azerbaijani law in their treatment of cultural monuments and objects. For example, Azerbaijan has charged and convicted two Azerbaijani servicemen for destroying Armenian gravestones in a

¹⁹ *Azerbaijan v. Armenia*, CR 2023/3, pp. 13–14, para. 4.

²⁰ See President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Ilham Aliyev takes part in plenary session of 6th Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia in Astana*, (13 October 2022), <https://president.az/en/articles/view/57553> (based on discovery of additional mines laid in or after 2021, providing updated estimate of up to 30 years to complete mine clearance work).

²¹ See, e.g., *Azerbaijan v. Armenia*, CR 2023/3, p. 13, para. 2.

²² See *Armenia v. Azerbaijan*, CR 2021/21, p. 21, para. 21(c), <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20211014-ORA-02-00-BI.pdf>; *Armenia v. Azerbaijan*, CR 2021/23, p. 25, para. 13, <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20211015-ORA-02-BI.pdf>.

²³ See *Armenia v. Azerbaijan*, CR 2021/21, p. 48, para. 12.

cemetery;²⁴ it has also expressly—and publicly—denounced such vandalism as “unacceptable”.²⁵

Azerbaijan’s Office of the Prosecutor General is also currently investigating conduct by Armenians including, as relevant to **Request No. 4 in the October 2021 Communication**, the theft of cultural objects such as Azerbaijani carpets during the departure of Armenian forces from the liberated territories, numerous instances of desecration of Azerbaijani tombstones, and other damage to Azerbaijani cultural sites caused during the occupation and Second Garabagh War.

International Engagement

Azerbaijan is a state comprised of more than fifty ethnic groups and many different religious traditions,²⁶ and has a long-standing policy and practice of promoting multiculturalism, including to promote and protect the cultural heritage of all. As President Ilham Aliyev has stated, “[t]he preservation of ethnic and cultural diversity in [Azerbaijani] society, the promotion of a culture of coexistence based on mutual respect and trust is one of the main priorities of our state policy.”²⁷

In response to **Request No. 7 in the October 2021 Communication**, Azerbaijan states that, in accordance with its commitment to a multicultural society, it is actively engaged in numerous international efforts to protect and promote the culture of all peoples. For instance, Azerbaijan was recently elected as a Member of UNESCO’s Executive Board in November 2021,²⁸ launched the “Peace4Culture” campaign with the

²⁴ See Office of the Prosecutor General of Azerbaijan, “Detained four servicemen accused of insulting bodies of Armenian servicemen and tombstones belonging to Armenians,” 14 December 2020, <https://genprosecutor.gov.az/az/post/3272>; [Azerbaijan’s response to November 2022 & February 2021 Joint Communications], p. [4].

²⁵ See Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan, “Detained four servicemen accused of insulting bodies of Armenian servicemen and tombstones belonging to Armenians,” 14 December 2020, <https://genprosecutor.gov.az/az/post/3272>.

²⁶ See, e.g., Presidential Library of Azerbaijan, *Azerbaijani Multiculturalism*, *Azerbaijan: A Caucasian Mosaic* (31 May 2013), https://multiculturalism.preslib.az/en_others-QfFHMZu0B.html; State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Population of Azerbaijan* (2021), p. 21, <https://www.stat.gov.az/source/demography/ap/?lang=en>; F. Humbatli, *Multiculturalism in Azerbaijan: Multiculturalism in Architecture, Art and Social Life*, *Azerbaijani Multiculturalism* (2 September 2016), https://multiculturalism.preslib.az/en_others-hpt5PRUsV3.html.

²⁷ President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *To the Orthodox Christian Community of Azerbaijan* (30 April 2021), <https://en.president.az/articles/51335>. See also Baku Process, *President Ilham Aliyev attended the opening ceremony of the 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue* (3 June 2019), <https://bakuprocess.az/presidentilham-aliyev-attended-the-opening-ceremony-of-the-5th-world-forum-on-intercultural-dialogue/>.

²⁸ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, “List of Members of the Executive Board” (updated 23 November 2021), <https://www.unesco.org/en/executive-board/members>.

UN Alliance of Civilizations and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (“ICESCO”) in August 2021,²⁹ and founded the Baku Process, a global forum on intercultural dialogue, in 2011.³⁰

Azerbaijan is fully committed to transparency to allow the international community to bear witness, for the first time in thirty years, to what has happened in the territories formerly occupied by Armenia. In the last two years, Azerbaijan has hosted a preliminary site visit by the Director-General of ICESCO;³¹ a visit by the Vice-President of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS);³² a Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment scoping mission visit by experts from the United Nations, the World Bank, and the European Union;³³ an environmental scoping mission by experts from the United Nations Environment Programme;³⁴ and a visit by an ICESCO mission with experts on Islamic and Christian cultural heritage to dozens of sites in the districts of Aghdam, Fuzuli, Zangilan, Gubadly, Shusha, Jabrayil, and Lachin in the liberated territories.³⁵ In particular, the technical mission organized by ICESCO, which included independent specialists in archaeology, architecture, and cultural heritage protection, preservation, and restoration,³⁶ visited 46 cultural heritage sites in these districts over the course of 10 days. The technical expert team confirmed the destruction of mosques and cultural sites, as well as the vandalism and looting of museums and enduring evidence

²⁹ See *Azerbaijan has Launched “Peace4culture” Global Campaign with UN Alliance of Civilizations and ICESCO*, Baku Process (10 August 2021), <https://bakuprocess.az/azerbaijan-has-launched-peace4culture-global-campaign-with-un-alliance-of-civilizations-and-icesco/>.

³⁰ See *About Process: Global Strategy for Intercultural Dialogue*, Baku Process, <https://bakuprocess.az/baku-process/about-process/>.

³¹ See Islamic World Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, *ICESCO DG Visits Several Historic Sites in Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan* (13 January 2021), <https://www.icesco.org/en/2021/01/13/icesco-dg-visits-several-historic-sites-in-nagorno-karabakh/>.

³² “ICOMOS Vice President Visits Aghdam”, *Azertac* (18 April 2022), https://azertag.az/en/xeber/ICOMOS_vice_president_visits_Aghdam-2098010.

³³ “International mission visiting liberated lands to assess rehabilitation”, *AzerNews* (11 March 2022), <https://www.azernews.az/nation/190559.html>.

³⁴ “UNEP to assess ecological restoration of Azerbaijan’s liberated territories”, *AzerNews* (18 March 2022), <https://www.azernews.az/business/190859.html>.

³⁵ ICESCO, *Post-Conflict Condition Assessment of the Cultural Heritage in the Karabakh and East Zangezur Regions, Azerbaijan – International Technical Mission Report* (15 June 2022), <https://culture.gov.az/medias/report.pdf>, p. 5.

³⁶ *Id.* Annex 1 (listing qualifications of international experts from Spain, Iraq, Morocco, Italy, and Belgium).

that mosques throughout the liberated territories had been used as animal pens for pigs and cows during occupation.³⁷

With specific reference to your request regarding UNESCO, Azerbaijan notes that on multiple occasions during the Armenian occupation, it repeatedly sought UNESCO's assistance to monitor damage to cultural sites caused by Armenia. Despite these requests, UNESCO refused to visit because of its inability "to enter these territories since their occupation by Armenian military forces."³⁸ In November 2020, UNESCO finally proposed a site visit by independent technical experts after Azerbaijan's liberation of occupied territory. Azerbaijan promptly agreed to host such a visit and has been working collaboratively with UNESCO to define the terms of references and list of sites to be visited ever since. Regrettably, Armenia politicized and obstructed the process to the extent that UNESCO refused to recognize the fact that the site visit will occur in the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan, a fact recognized by the Security Council and every nation in the world.³⁹ Azerbaijan has repeatedly expressed its readiness for bilateral consultations on the logistical aspects of the mission to avoid further delay in the process and requested that the Secretariat submit a final Terms of Reference so the mission could be launched as early as possible.⁴⁰ Following a 4 February 2022 quadrilateral meeting with the participation of President Emmanuel Macron, President Charles Michel, President Ilham Aliyev, and Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, it was agreed that a separate UNESCO missions will be sent to both Armenia and Azerbaijan.⁴¹ Azerbaijan

³⁷ *Id.*, pp. 39, 48 (reporting that "14 mosques and emblematic buildings" visited by the mission "have been used for the stabling of livestock, especially cows and pigs"). See also Letter dated 26 May 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary General, document A/76/848-S/2022/437 (31 May 2022), p. 10 (photos showing pigs and cows in mosques).

³⁸ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Report on the Implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and Its Two 1954 and 1999 Protocols*, UN doc. CLT-2005/WS/6 (2005), p. 7, para. 54, <https://uscbs.org/assets/unesco-report-1995-2004.pdf>.

³⁹ See *Armenia v. Azerbaijan*, CR 2021/21, p. 51-52 para. 22, <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20211014-ORA-02-00-BI.pdf>; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, *Interview of the Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan to "Ria Novosti" News Agency* (1 September 2021), https://www.mfa.am/en/interviews-articles-and-comments/2021/09/01/Mirzoyan_Interview_Ria/11053.

⁴⁰ See, e.g., Statement by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 30 August 2022, <https://apa.az/en/foreign-policy/mfa-government-of-azerbaijan-appreciates-constructive-dialogue-with-cerd-committee-383691> ("Azerbaijan was also pleased to see the [CERD] Committee agree that a UNESCO technical mission was essential to provide independent oversight of its efforts to protect these sites. Azerbaijan has been publicly calling for such a mission earlier than 2005, and remains committed to facilitating the mission as soon as possible.").

⁴¹ See Ministry for Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Statement by the Ministry for Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan* (9 February 2022), <http://mct.gov.az/en/common-news/14104>.

looks forward to UNESCO's constructive engagement to finalize independent and objective terms of reference for the contemplated mission.

Azerbaijan has given serious consideration to the Special Rapporteur's proposal for a site visit and joint consultative mechanism but is unable to agree to either at this time, and prior to a visit by the UNESCO Mission, which has been under discussion for more than two years. Azerbaijan will keep this proposal in mind for possible deployment at a future time.

* * *

Azerbaijan is committed to respecting its international obligations and remains open to constructive dialogue and cooperation with human rights mandate holders. Azerbaijan takes note of the duty of mandate holders to act impartially⁴² and to "seek to establish the facts, based on objective, reliable information emanating from relevant credible sources, that they have duly cross-checked to the best extent possible."⁴³ As the information provided in this letter makes clear, the sources underlying the allegations contained in the Special Rapporteur's communication are unreliable and Azerbaijan trusts the Special Rapporteur will take account of the facts presented herein on an objective basis.

Azerbaijan notes that Armenia's response to the Special Rapporteur dated 28 December 2021 failed to engage meaningfully with the allegations contained therein.⁴⁴ Frankly, this is unsurprising, as Armenia cannot explain or justify its long-standing campaign and State policy of destruction and erasure of Azerbaijani culture.⁴⁵ Since the end of 2020, Azerbaijan has been investigating and mapping the significant damage to cultural heritage during Armenia's waging of the First Garabagh War starting in 1991, the ensuing occupation of a significant portion of Azerbaijan's sovereign territory for nearly thirty years.

⁴² Human Rights Council, 5/2. *Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council*, UN doc. A/HRC/RES/5/2 (18 June 2007), provision (a). *See also* (d) and (e) (describing the "fundamental obligations of truthfulness, loyalty and independence" and the obligation to "Uphold the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, meaning, in particular, though not exclusively, probity, impartiality, equity, honesty and good faith."); Article 5 (solemn declaration to exercise functions from a "completely impartial" standpoint).

⁴³ Human Rights Council, 5/2. *Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council*, UN doc. A/HRC/RES/5/2 (18 June 2007), Article 6(a).

⁴⁴ *See* Information provided by the Government of the Republic of Armenia in response to the questions contained in letter AL ARM 2/2021, dated October 29, 2021, of the UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (28 December 2021) ("Armenia's December 2021 Letter to the Special Rapporteur").

⁴⁵ *See, e.g.*, A/76/848-S/2022/437, A/75/899-S/2021/512, A/75/872-S/2021/429 (Azerbaijan's letters to the United Nations setting out the details of Armenia's attacks on Azerbaijani cultural heritage); *Azerbaijan v. Armenia*, Memorial of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 23 January 2023, paras. 148–217.

Based on historical records, Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Culture estimates that before Armenia’s aggression, the territories that it would occupy were home to a total of 706 historic and cultural Azerbaijani monuments, more than 20 museums containing thousands of Azerbaijani cultural exhibits, more than 900 libraries, and numerous schools representing and teaching cultural techniques and forms of expression unique to Azerbaijanis.

During the First Garabagh War and the ensuing decades of occupation by Armenia, entire Azerbaijani towns and villages, including the Azerbaijani cultural monuments and objects contained therein, were destroyed.⁴⁶ By the end of 2020, the *New York Times* reported that entering the now-liberated territories “is a journey into a devastated wasteland reminiscent of a World War I battlefield. The road passes miles of abandoned trenches and bunkers, and village after village of ruins, the white stones of homesteads scattered, every movable item—roofs, doors, window frames—picked clean.”⁴⁷ As a rapporteur for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe concluded in 2021, “[t]he extent of damage to homes and cultural heritage in particular in the seven districts returned to Azerbaijan during and after the conflict is massive and shocking and [it] will take many years and substantial resources to bring the area back to life”.⁴⁸ And in June 2022, the United States Department of State noted that “hundreds of sites” used by “the region’s ethnic Azerbaijani communities,” including “most mosques, shrines and cemeteries”, were “looted, vandalized, desecrated, and/or destroyed while under Armenian control.”⁴⁹ Like the Special Rapporteur, Azerbaijan also has evidence that cultural objects have been removed from the Garabagh region and transported to Armenia.

* * *

Azerbaijan notes that it is compelled to reiterate its objections to the use of geographical names that are inconsistent with the official names used by Azerbaijan and in international documents, including those of the United Nations, in referring to

⁴⁶ See, e.g., *Azerbaijan v. Armenia*, Application Instituting Proceedings, paras. 39, 56, 58[; *Azerbaijan v. Armenia*, Memorial of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 23 January 2023, paras. 148–217].

⁴⁷ C. Gall & A. Troianovski, “After Nagorno-Karabakh War, Trauma, Tragedy and Devastation”, *New York Times* (11 December 2020). See also “No-Man’s-Land: Inside Azerbaijan’s Ghost City Of Aghdam Before Its Recapture”, *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* (25 November 2020), <https://www.rferl.org/a/inside-agdam-the-ghostcity-of-the-caucasus-after-1990s-conflict/30966555.html> (photographs by Stepan Lohr).

⁴⁸ PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, *Report on the Humanitarian consequences of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Explanatory memorandum by Mr Paul Gavan, rapporteur*, document 15363 (13 September 2021), <https://pace.coe.int/en/files/29401/html>, para. 120.

⁴⁹ United States Department of State, Office of International Religious Freedom, *Armenia 2021 International Religious Freedom Report* (2 June 2022), <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-report-on-international-religious-freedom/armenia/>, p. 10.

Azerbaijan's sovereign territory.⁵⁰ Azerbaijan trusts that, going forward, the Mandate Holder will refer to the official geographical names of the territorial units.

Azerbaijan trusts that the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights will fully investigate Armenia's violations of cultural rights and continue the process of objective and constructive engagement with Azerbaijan based upon verified facts.

⁵⁰ See Letter dated 27 January 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, UN doc. A/76/666-S/2022/61 (28 January 2022), p. 2 (explaining that official list is contained in the report submitted to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names). Compare, e.g., 2 February 2021 Joint Communication (referring to "Nagorno-Karabakh" and "Stepanakert") with Report by the Republic of Azerbaijan submitted to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, UN doc. GEGN.2/2021 (22 April 2021) https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/documents/GEGN.2_2021_CRP134_AZE_national_report_final.pdf, Annex 1, at 2, 6 (listing the correct official names of "Garabagh" and "Khankendi").



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
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la science et la culture



Convention for the Protection
of Cultural Property in
the Event of Armed Conflict

Convention
pour la protection
des biens culturels
en cas de conflit armé

15 COM16

C54/20/15.COM/16
Paris, 30 November 2020
Original: English

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

SECOND PROTOCOL TO THE HAGUE CONVENTION OF 1954 FOR
THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF
ARMED CONFLICT

COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN
THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

FIFTEENTH MEETING

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters

10 and 11 December 2020

Item 16 of the provisional agenda :

**Destruction of cultural property in the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan
in the course of the armed aggression and military occupation by Armenia**

(submitted by Azerbaijan)

Taking into account that the mandate of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (hereinafter "the Committee") is to monitor and supervise the implementation of the 1999 Second Protocol, as stipulated under Article 27(1)(c) of this treaty, Azerbaijan submits the present document on the destruction of cultural property in the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan affected by the armed aggression and military occupation by Armenia.

Draft Decision: 15.COM 16, see paragraph 17.

This working document has neither been drafted nor edited by the Secretariat of UNESCO. The sole responsibility of its content lies with the State Party of Azerbaijan



Introduction

1. Taking into account that the mandate of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (hereinafter “the Committee”) is to monitor and supervise the implementation of the 1999 Second Protocol, as stipulated under Article 27(1)(c) of this treaty, Azerbaijan submits the present document on the destruction of cultural property in the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan affected by the armed aggression and military occupation by Armenia.
2. The document is submitted pursuant to Rule 12(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee as a new item: “Document on the destruction of cultural property in the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the course of the armed aggression and military occupation by Armenia”.
3. Oral update may be provided at the 15th meeting of the Committee, by the delegate(s) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

Situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and surrounding Azerbaijani territories occurred due to the armed aggression and military occupation by Armenia

4. Cultural heritage is essential factor determining national identity of peoples and reflects a common interest of the international community. Therefore, provisions of international legal instruments regarding protection of cultural heritage are considered “jus cogens” norms of international law, which all the states have to comply with them.
5. Property of “great importance to the cultural heritage of every people” is granted special protection under the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (to which both Armenia and Azerbaijan are parties). Under Article 4(1) and 4(2) of this instrument, parties must refrain from any act of hostility, directed against such property”, a rule which “may be waived only in cases where military necessity imperatively requires such a waiver”. Article 53 of Additional Protocol I provides that:

“Without prejudice to the provisions of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 14 May 1954 and of other relevant international instruments, it is prohibited:

 - (a) to commit any acts of hostility directed against the historic monuments, works of art or places of worship which constitute the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples.
6. In the aftermath of the armed aggression of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan during the 1991-1994, the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan – Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent districts (Lachyn, Kalbajar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Gubadly, Zangilan and Jabrayil) have fallen under occupation. In 1993, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), condemning the use of force against Azerbaijan and occupation of its territories and reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its internationally recognized borders. In those resolutions, the Security Council demanded immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all occupying forces from all the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On 14 March 2008 UN General Assembly adopted the resolution A/62/243 entitled “The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan” demanding immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Armenian forces from all occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Other international organizations have taken a similar stance. The European Court of Human Rights, also in its judgement *Chiragov and Others vs. Armenia* which clearly states that “Armenia exercises effective control over Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories”, confirmed the occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh region and surrounding

territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan by Armenia. In Resolution 1416 (2005), adopted on 25 January 2005, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe points out that considerable parts of the territory of Azerbaijan remain occupied by Armenian forces.

7. Although the cease-fire was agreed in 1994, Armenia regularly violated cease-fire regime. Between 1 January 2020 and 26 September 2020, the breaches of cease-fire had been significantly increased by the armed forces of Armenia along the Line of Contact and the state border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. On 27 September 2020 the armed forces of Armenia blatantly violating the cease-fire regime launched another act of armed aggression against Azerbaijan, by intensively shelling the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the frontline, as well as the villages of Qapanli of Terter district, Chiragli and OrtaGaravend of Aghdam district, Alkhanli and Shukurbeyli of Fuzuli district and JojuqMerjanli of Jabrayil district, using large-caliber weapons, mortar launchers and artillery. On the following days, the armed forces of Armenia even further expanded the geography of offensive through launching missile attacks on large cities and other civilian settlements far from the frontline, such as the city of Ganja, Barda, Mingachevir, Yevlakh and others. In order to repel military aggression by Armenia and provide the security of densely populated civilian residential areas the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan undertook counter-offensive measures on the sovereign soil of Azerbaijan within the right of self-defense and in full compliance with international humanitarian law. Since the resumption of hostilities until 10 November 2020, when a Statement was signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation on complete ceasefire and cessation of all hostilities, totally 94 Azerbaijani civilians, including children, women and elderly were killed, 414 civilians have been hospitalized with serious injuries. Around 3410 private houses, more than 120 apartment buildings and 512 civilian infrastructures were damaged and became unserviceable as a result of Armenia's deliberate, widespread and systematic attacks.
8. It is to be noted that there are hundreds of cultural institutions, including 927 libraries, with total of 4.6 million books, 808 cultural sites, 22 museums and their branches with over 100,000 artefacts and 706 historical and cultural monuments located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and surrounding Azerbaijani territories. The most of this cultural and religious heritage have been already severely damaged or destroyed as a result of military occupation by Armenia. Over 30 years Armenia has pursued systematic policy to deny historical and cultural Azerbaijani roots of the occupied territories with a view to consolidating the results of illegal use of force and notorious practice of ethnic cleansing. The obvious goal of Armenia is to erase cultural, historical and scientific evidence of millennia-old presence of the Azerbaijani people in these territories with a view to securing their annexation. As a result, thousands of unique examples of Azerbaijani cultural heritage in the occupied territories have been subjected to destruction, pillage and looting. Furthermore, Armenia has been engaging in systematic actions aimed at altering the character and origins of cultural-historical monuments in the occupied territories including through illegal excavations therein. Deliberate activities of Armenia in this direction are defined as cultural cleansing against Azerbaijan. The report of Armenia on the Implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols provides no information on the implementation of the provisions related to the occupation.¹
9. In this context, the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan wishes to stress that significant damage has been inflicted on cultural properties during yet another act of the armed aggression since 27 September 2020 (See Annex 1 and Annex 2). A mausoleum of 13th century built on the memory of great Sufi Sheykh Babi Yagub, which is a sacred shrine for the Azerbaijani people, the Museum of History-Ethnography in Fuzuli region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, historical men gymnasium (school) of Ganja (Ganja Gymnasium)

¹ See the [report](#) submitted by Armenia, 2017

(inventory number 3838), built in 1881, which was the alma mater of the founders of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic of 1918 were damaged due to Armenian armed forces' shelling. Other monuments, such as the Imamzade mosque of 9th century, the 19th century Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Church were also damaged due to the constant missile attacks by Armenia.

10. During the first monitoring mission conducted by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the liberated territories after the Statement of 10 November, 180 cultural facilities were identified, including 86 libraries, 44 houses of culture, 1 cultural center, 27 clubs, 8 museums, 10 children's music schools and 4 other cultural facilities. Almost all of them (172 out of 180) are in a completely destroyed state. 71 historical and cultural monuments and objects having historical, cultural, architectural, and archaeological importance were identified, including a Caucasian Albania temple in Hadrut settlement, Khojavand district (dating back to 1170), Maiden Tower (12th century) in the village of Amirkhanli, and an eight-pointed mausoleum in the village of Mammadbeyli, Zangilan district, as well as Karavansaray (17th century) in the village of Garghabazar, Fuzuli district. 38 monuments out of 71 identified were completely destroyed as a result of the occupation by Armenia. All mosques in the liberated territories, including 18th century Mamar mosque, 18th century mosque in Alkhanli village of Fuzuli, ancient mosque in Afandilar village of Gubadly, and many others have been almost destroyed and transformed to pigpen (See Annex 3). State of the mosques in Shusha, historical and cultural capital of Karabakh will be verified once the conditions allow.
11. In addition, it must be noted that after the Statement, according to Armenian media reports, the bells, crosses and ancient manuscripts of 13th century Caucasian Albania Khudavang monastery have been illegally removed to Armenia (See Annex 3). Besides that, precious artefacts reportedly found during illegal archaeological excavations near Shahbulag fortress of Aghdam district and kept in the local museum were also illegally transported to Armenia. All these acts constitute a gross violation of the 1954 Hague Convention and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols.
12. An occupying power must prevent the illicit export of cultural property from occupied territory and must return illicitly exported property to the competent authorities of the occupied territory. In particular:
 - (a) The First Protocol (1954) to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict requires States "to prevent the exportation, from a territory occupied by it during an armed conflict, of cultural property" (Article 1 (1) and to return, at the close of hostilities, to the competent authorities of the territory previously occupied, cultural property which is in its territory" (Article 1(3)).
 - (b) Article 2 (2) of the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transport of Ownership of Cultural Property obliges States to oppose the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property, while Article 11 of Convention states that "the export and transfer of ownership of cultural property under compulsion arising directly or indirectly from the occupation of a country by a foreign power shall be regarded as illicit".
 - (c) The Second Protocol (1999) to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (to which both Armenia and Azerbaijan are parties) requires that an occupying power prohibit and prevent "any illicit export, other removal or transfer of ownership of cultural property" (Article 9 (1)) and to suppress such violations (Article 21).
13. Aside from binding Armenia and Azerbaijan as States parties to the relevant treaties, all of

the above rules have been recognized as reflecting rules of customary international law.

14. Of particular importance is to note that Azerbaijan is fully committed to its obligations under relevant international conventions for protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage and our support to their practical implementation. The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan also wishes to underline that, during the conduct of military operations, the Ministry of Defense worked in coordination with the Ministry of Culture to ensure the effective identification and exclusion of cultural property from a target list. In compliance with Article 4 of the 1954 Hague Convention, the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan refrained from any use of cultural property or its immediate surroundings which are likely to expose them to destruction or damage. No military operation has been conducted in vicinity of cultural property, which is not justified by military necessity as defined under international law. The personnel of the armed forces of Azerbaijan have been instructed to follow good practices as indicated in the “Military Manual - Protection of Cultural Property” published in 2016 by UNESCO with the support of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Also it should be noted that on the occasion of 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Azerbaijan in 2019, Baku Declaration calling for enhanced actions to protect heritage in times of conflict was adopted.
15. As a State party to the 1999 Second Protocol, Azerbaijan will keep the Committee informed on any matter related to the implementation of the 1999 Second Protocol in the conflict area.

Ensuring the compliance with the 1999 Second Protocol

16. The mandate of the Committee to monitor and supervise the execution of the provision of the 1999 Second Protocol, under Article 27(1)(c), is essential in attaining the compliance with the rules of armed conflict on the protection of cultural property. This mandate equips the Committee with a broad power to seek information from the States Parties concerned or to establish impartial and effective procedures to obtain such information. The mandate to monitor and supervise also enables the Committee to adopt decisions, based on information received, with an objective to improve the application of the 1999 Second Protocol.
17. Taking the above-mentioned into account, the Committee may adopt the following decision:

Draft Decision 15.COM 16

The Committee,

1. Having considered Document [Ref. number to be added by the Secretariat];

2. Referring to the provisions of the 1954 Hague Convention on protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and its two Protocols;
3. Recalling the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993);
4. Also recalling the UNESCO's statement concerning the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, issued on 9 October 2020;
5. Notes with grave concern the destruction of the cultural heritage, illegal export of cultural property, illegal archaeological excavations and alteration to, or change of use of, cultural property referred to in the present Document [Ref. number to be added by the Secretariat] in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and adjacent Azerbaijan territories;
6. Deplores the indiscriminate missile attacks on Ganja, Barda, Tartar and other residential areas in Azerbaijan, including damage inflicted upon the religious shrines, cemeteries and cultural monuments;
7. Demands the immediate return the cultural property illegally exported or removed in the course of military occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The list of cultural and historical sites damaged due to shelling of armed forces of the Republic of Armenia

As of 10.11.2020

Agjabadi district

- On 27.09.2020, at about 17:10, 2 shells fell on the area of Hajilar village (population: 1424 people) mosque of Agjabedi district, as a result 6 graves were damaged.
- On 02.10.2020, at about 17:00, as a result of a shell falling on the area of Muganli village mosque, the windows of the mosque were broken, and the ceiling of the auxiliary building collapsed.
The construction of the mosque in Muganli village (population: 1725 people) began in 1999, and it was opened for use in 2009. The religious community of "Seyid Ismail Agha" mosque is based in the mosque.

Tartar district

- On 05.10.2020, 2 shells fell on the cemetery of Borsunlu village (population: 1190 people), as a result 6 graves were damaged.
- On 05.10.2020, 3 shells fell on the cemetery of Gainag village (population: 1752 people), as a result 4 graves were damaged.
- On 07.10.2020, 4 shells fell on the cemetery of Juyarli village (population: 889 people), as a result 10 graves were damaged.
- On 07.10.2020, 2020, 5 shells fell on the cemetery of Sahlabad village (population: 2142 people), as a result 15 graves were damaged.
- On 08.10.2020, 5 shells fell on the cemetery of Tartar city (population: 25,000 people), as a result the graves were damaged;
- On 08.10.2020, 2 shells fell on the cemetery of Kovdadikh village (population: 179 people), as a result the graves were damaged.
- On 08.10.2020, 4 shells fell on the cemetery of Garadagli village (population: 2310 people), as a result the graves were damaged.

Fuzuli district

- On 29.09.2020, a mausoleum of 13th century built on the memory of great Sufi Sheykh Babi Yagub, which is a sacred shrine for the Azerbaijani people and the Museum of History-Ethnography in Fuzuli region of the Republic of Azerbaijan were damaged

Ganja city

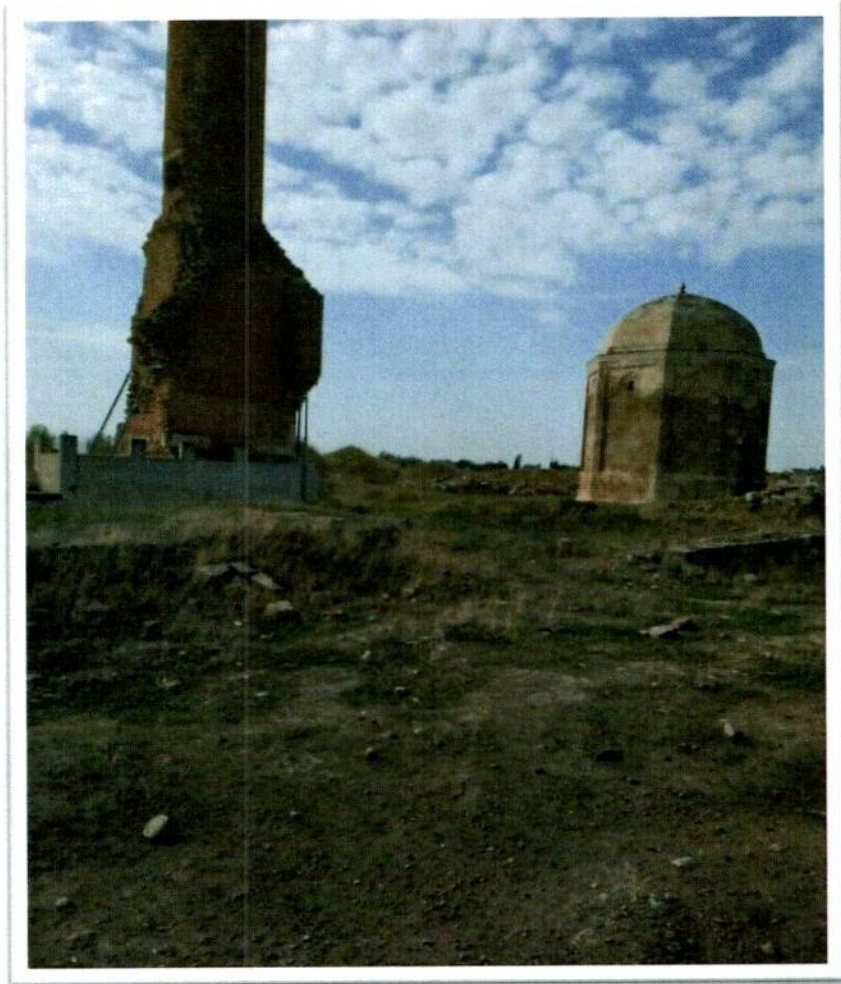
- On 04.10.2020, Armenia launched missile attack on Ganja, Azerbaijan's second largest city, killing one civilian and injuring dozens. Attacks that target innocent people, women, children and infrastructure, also severely damaged school and historical men's gymnasium of Ganja (inventory number 3838). Built in 1881 Ganja Gymnasium was the alma mater of the founders of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic of 1918. The Armenian armed forces use cluster bombs, which are prohibited by international conventions. The Imamzade Mosque of 9th century, the 19th century Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Church were also damaged due to the constant missile attack by Armenia.

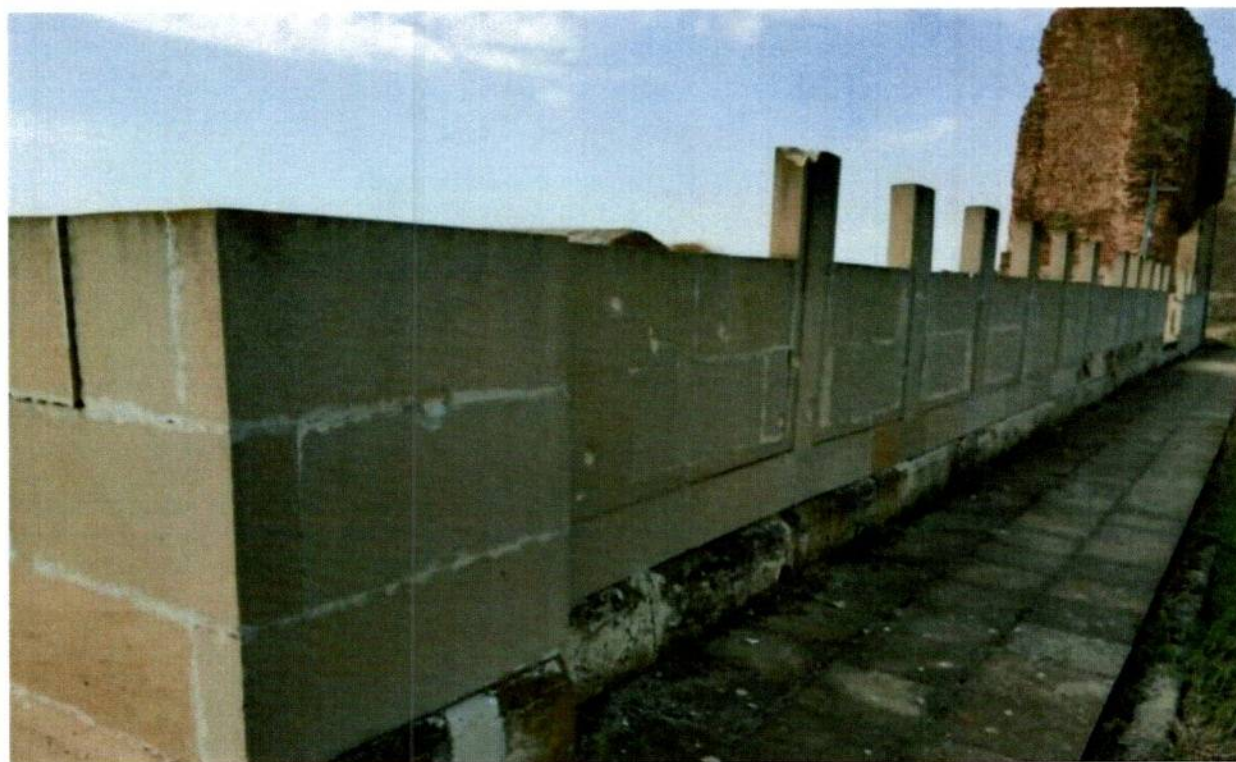
- 07.08.2020, Imamzade historical complex (inventory number 193) was damaged by missile fallen close to the complex.
- On 08.10.2020, Seferkhamly mosque (inventory number 3860) was severely damaged.

Note: As of 10.11.2020 due to the attacks of armed forces of the Republic of Armenia targeting civilians and infrastructure totally 94 civilians, including children and elderly were killed, 414 civilians have been hospitalized with serious injuries. 3410 private houses, 120 apartment buildings and 512 civilian infrastructures were damaged and became unserviceable as a result of armed attack.

29/09/2020: Constructed in 1272, Sheikh Babi Yagub Mausoleum, located in Babivillage of the Fuzuli region of Azerbaijan was heavily damaged by the Armenian Armed Forces.







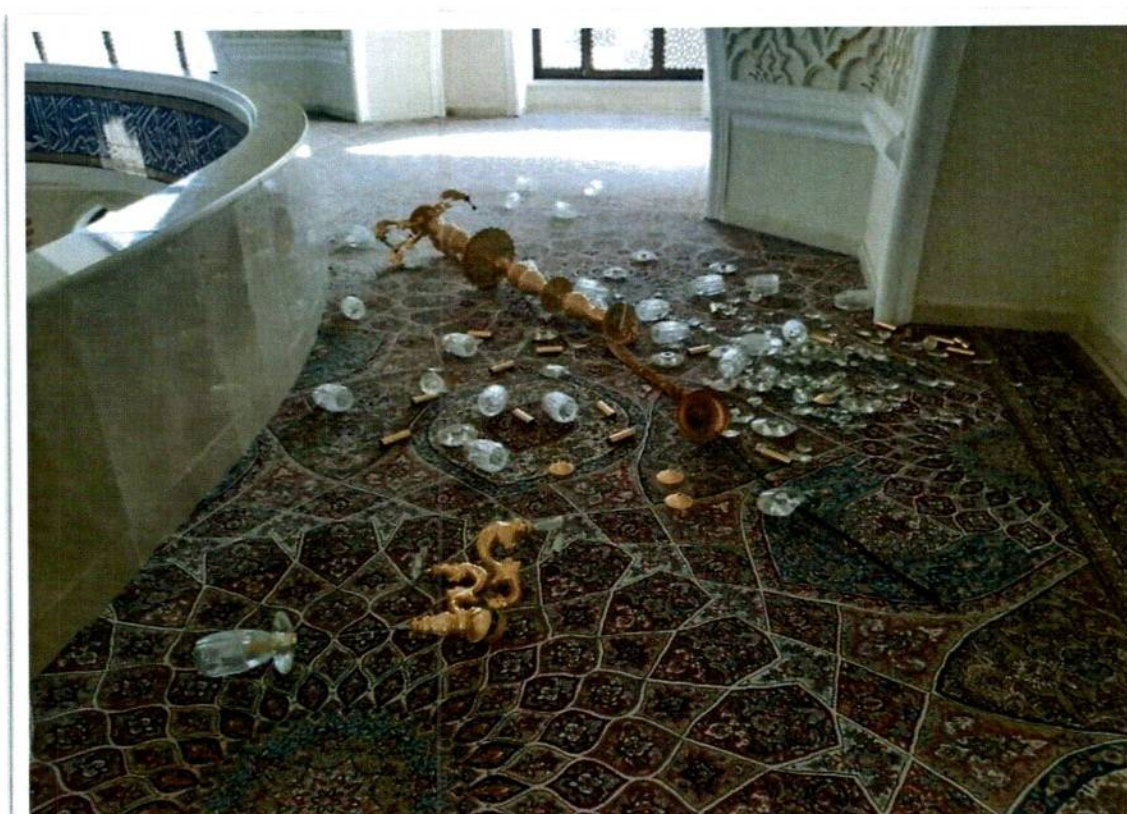
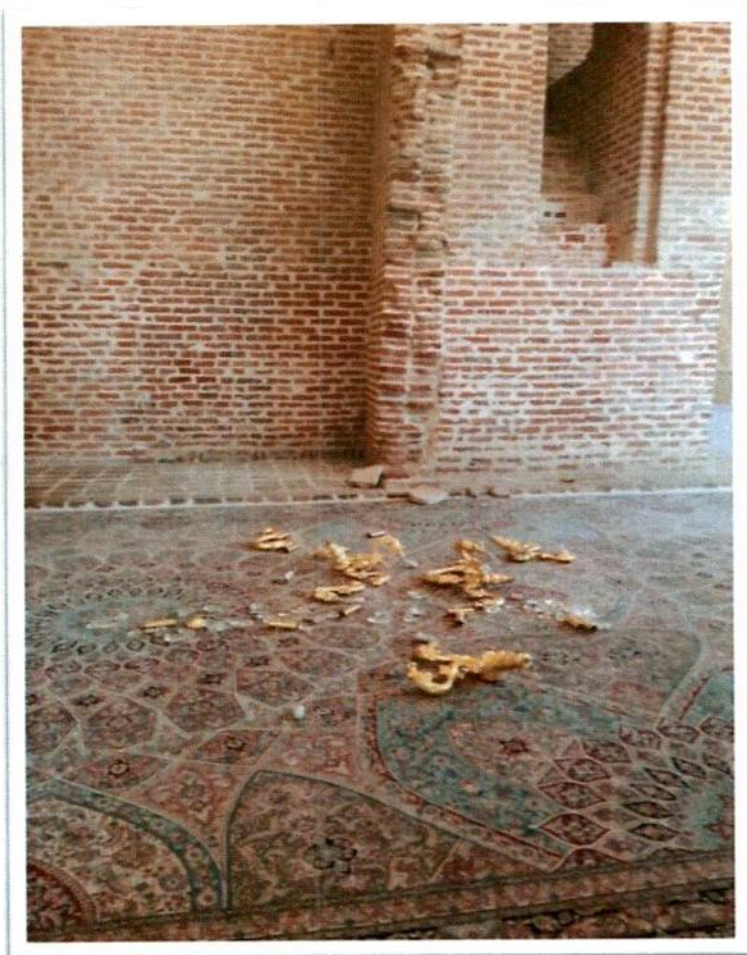
Damaged by Armenian missile a historical building in Ganja was built in 1881 as Ganja's men gymnasium. It was alma mater of the founders of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic of 1918.







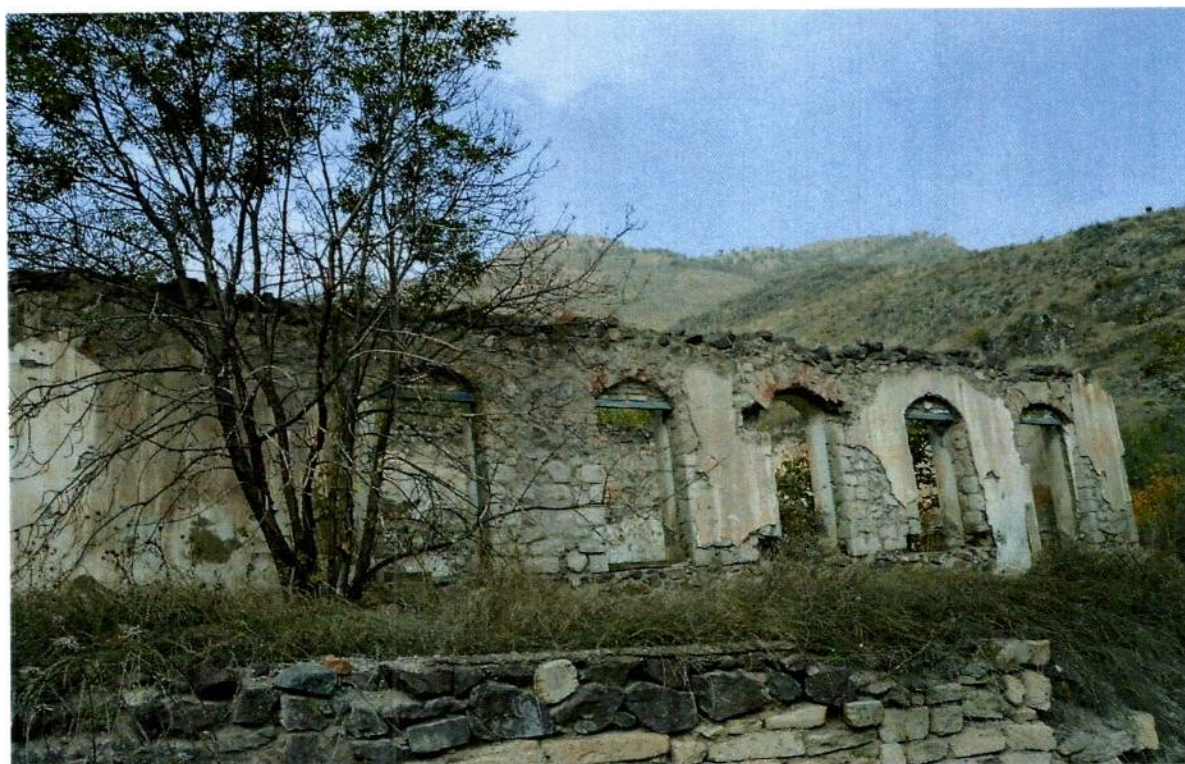
11.10.2020: 9th century of Imamzade mosque after Armenian missile attack



City of Fuzuli. Qargabazar village history museum.



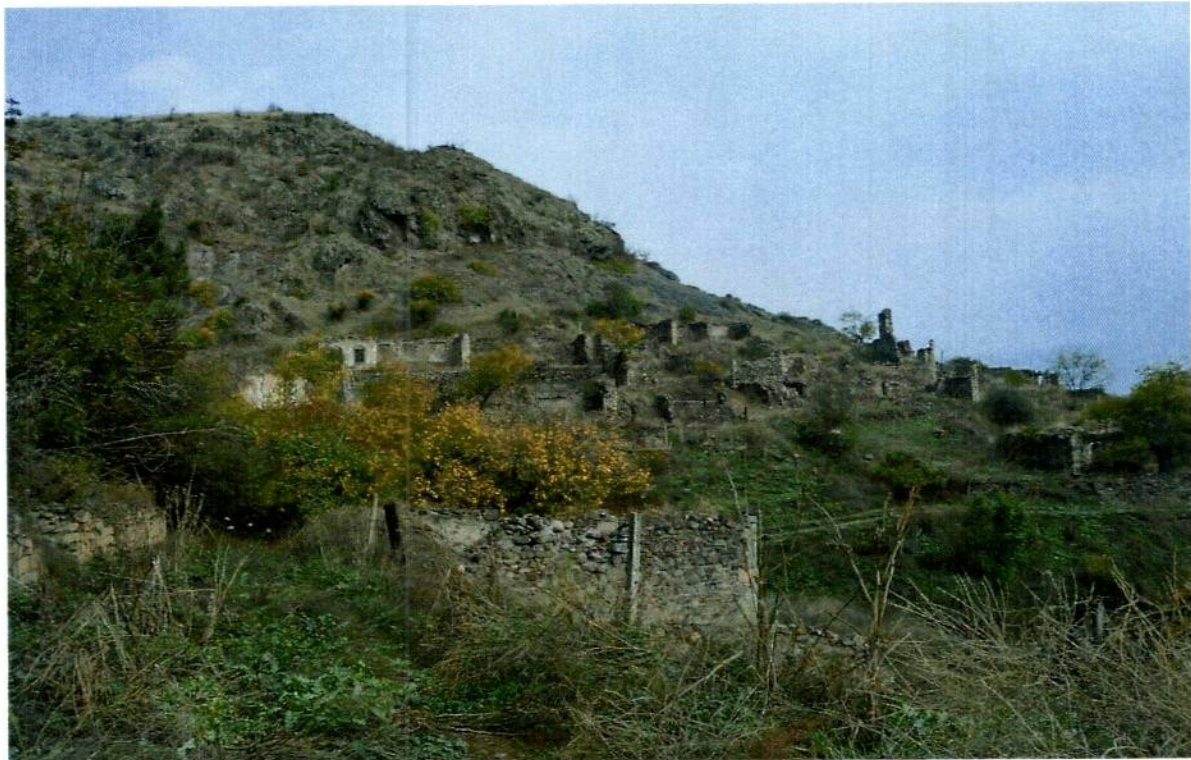
Zangilan. Cultural center.



Zangilan. Minjivan village library.



Zangilan. Bartaz village library.



Fuzuli, village of Kurdlar. Cultural center and library



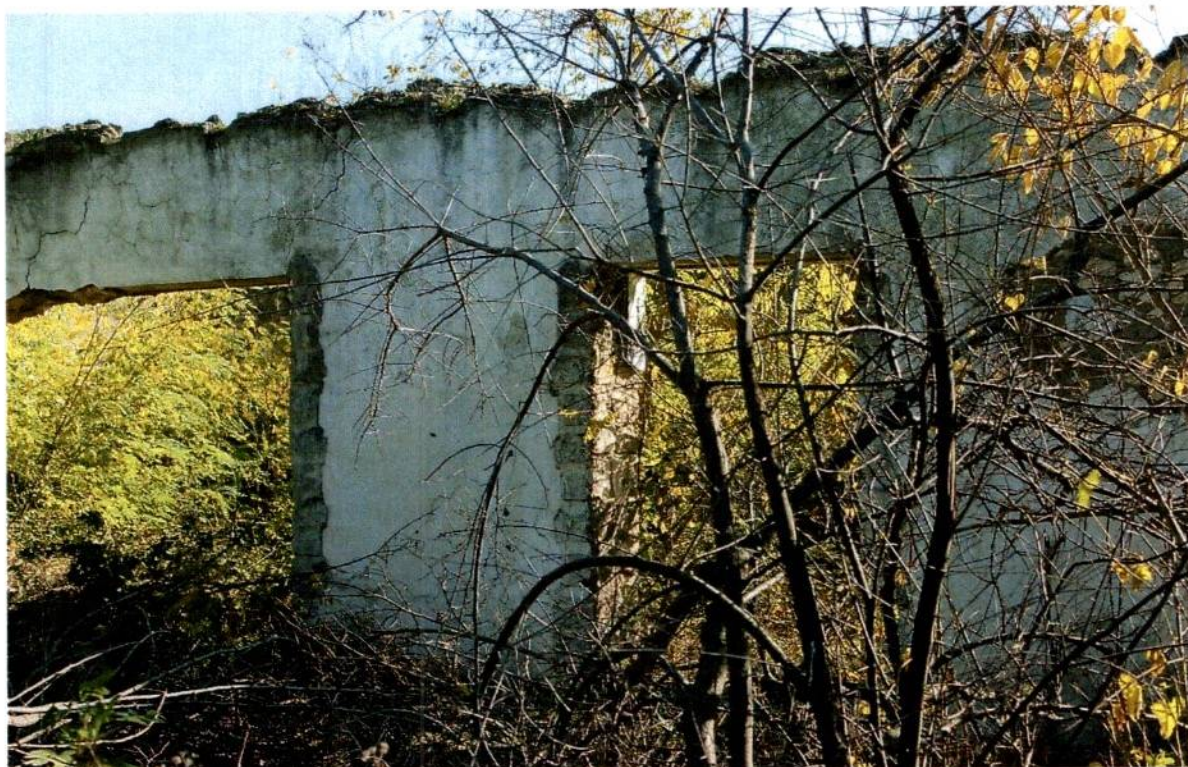
Fuzuli, village of Pirahmadli. Cultural center and library.



Fuzuli, village of Qarakollu. Cultural center.



Fuzuli. Cultural center



Bells, crosses and ancient manuscripts of Khudavang monastery being illegally removed to Armenia

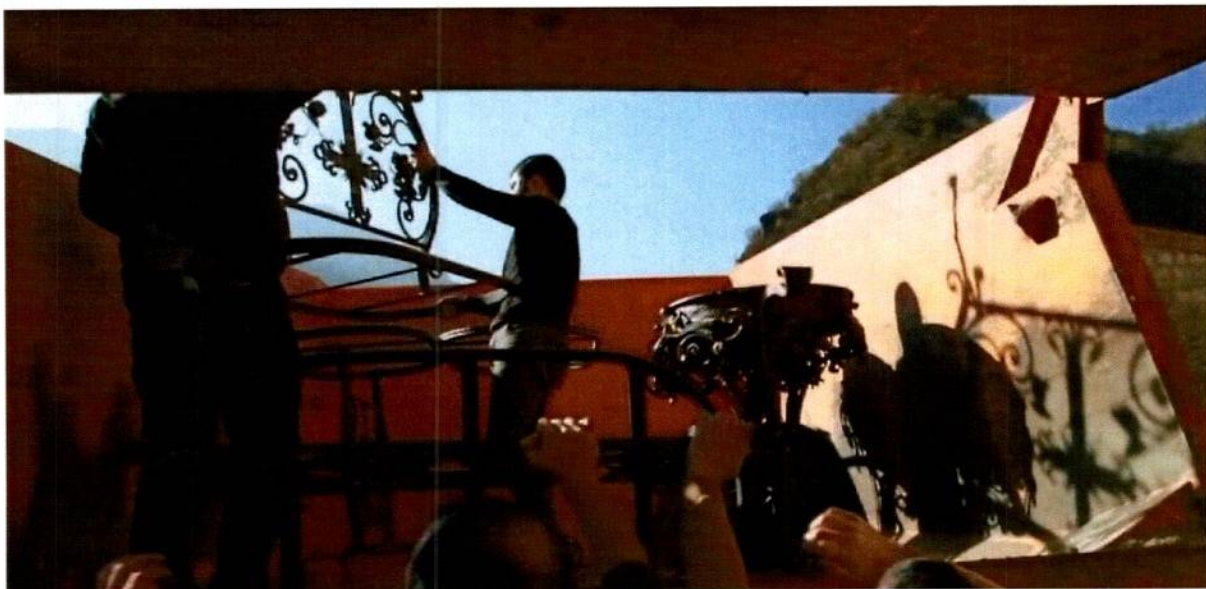
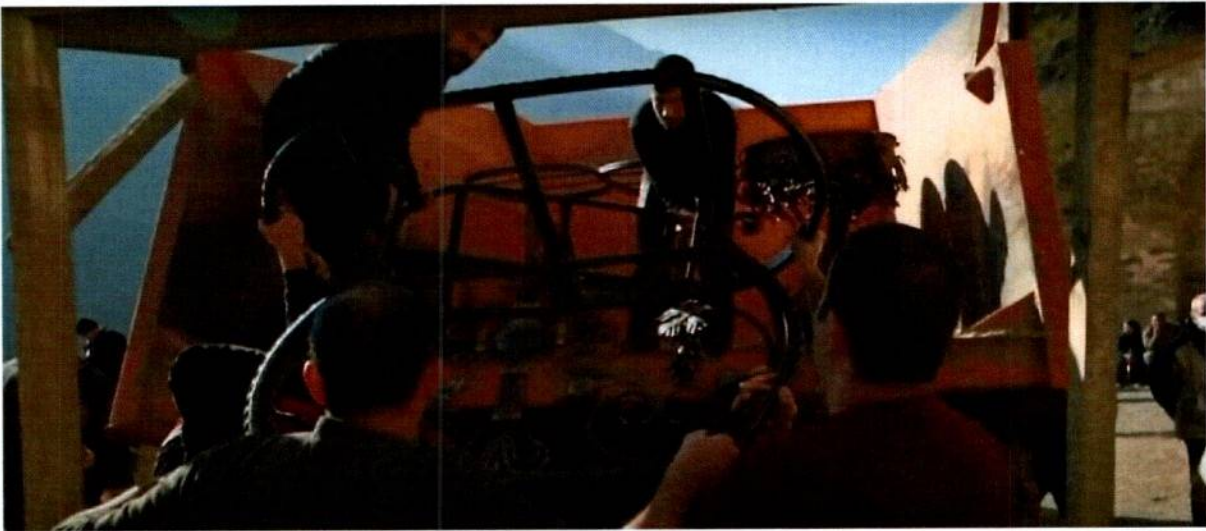






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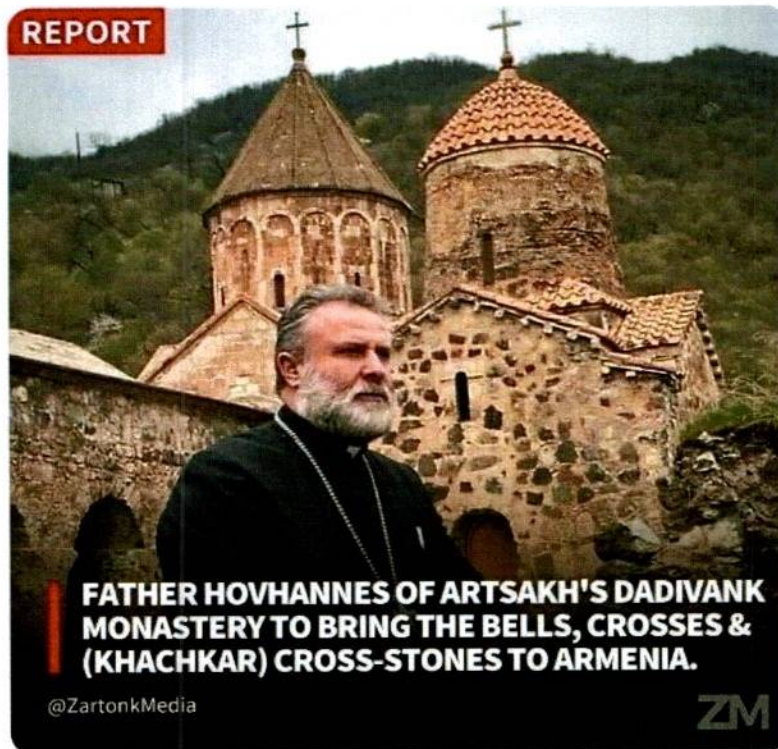


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Father Hovhannes Of Artsakh's
Dadivank Monastery To Bring The
Bells,Crosses & (Khachkar) Cross-
Stones To Armenia.



Archaeological exhibits have been illegally removed to Armenia





Zangilanmosqueturnedintopigpen

