



**INTERNATIONAL AND
COMPARATIVE LAW
CENTER - ARMENIA**

TATOYAN
FOUNDATION
Center for Law & Justice

**The ongoing
Armenophobic state
policy of Azerbaijan: the
nexus of Azerbaijan's
atrocities against
ethnic Armenians**



Report, 2023

This joint report is prepared by the Center for Law and Justice “TATOYAN” foundation and International and Comparative Law Center Armenia. It provides factual information on Azerbaijani’s anti-armenian policy, focusing on the gross violations of the Azerbaijani armed forces during the 2022 September 13-14 military aggression against Armenia. The report also focuses on continuous existential threats as a result of the Azerbaijani policy of hatred towards ethnic Armenians.

On the night of September 12-13, 2022, the armed forces of Azerbaijan launched a large-scale aggression against the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, using large-calibre weapons, artillery, missile systems, and UAVs, and also targeting civilian objects. The armed forces of Azerbaijan targeted 36 settlements, including Goris, Sisian, Kapan, Jermuk, Vardenis, Tegh, and the Geghamasar communities, as a result of which 192 houses, 3 hotels, 2 schools, 1 medical facility, 1 banquet hall, 4 cattle barns were partially or completely destroyed. 7 electrical infrastructures, 5 water infrastructures, 3 gas pipelines, 1 bridge, 2 highways, 1 street were damaged. 2 ambulances and 4 private cars were targeted.¹

As a result of the aggression, the number of dead and missing persons reached 207, including 3 civilians killed, the location of 2 civilians is considered unknown, 293 servicemen, 7 civilians were injured, 20 servicemen were captured. Analysis of the publicly available materials (video, photo) and interviews carried out with repatriated prisoners of war (PoW) prove cases of torture, execution (extrajudicial killing) mutilation of dead bodies were committed by the Azerbaijani armed forces.

These violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law must be considered in the context of the Armenophobic policy of Azerbaijan and the impunity for war crimes during previous atrocities. This policy is based on ethnic hatred, keeping Armenians and Azerbaijanis in tension and animosity throughout the world. This undermines security in the region, destroys prospects of peace and nullifies the normal life of people.

This policy always results in atrocities and torture, beheadings and willful killings, destruction of civilian communities, and provocation of hatred. This was proved by the Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) 2020 44-day war; the Artsakh 2016 April war, and other Azerbaijani military attacks against Armenia or Artsakh.

Countless members of the international community have referred to Azerbaijan’s attack on Armenia’s sovereign territory as “unprovoked”.² U.S. House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, during her visit to Armenia, strongly condemned the “illegal and deadly attacks by Azerbaijan on Armenian territory” and the “assault on the sovereignty and border of Armenia”.³

Freedom House also called on Azerbaijan to “immediately cease their deadly attacks on Armenian territory and commit to the ongoing peace process”.⁴

1. Statement of the Security Council of the Republic of Armenia (19 September 2022), available at: <https://www.seco.am/information/announcements/47?lang=en>.

2. “The US Might be the Surprising Determining Factor in the Future of Armenia”, <https://time.com/6219263/armenia-azerbaijan-us-involvement/>

3. U.S recognizes that Azerbaijan initiated attacks on Armenia, says Pelosi https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNh_6RcAcL8, please see from minute 2.27 to 2.40

4. “Freedom House Condemns Azerbaijani Attacks on Armenia, Calls for Diplomacy”, <https://freedomhouse.org/article/freedom-house-condemns-azerbaijani-attacks-armenia-calls-diplomacy>

Similarly, Member of the European Parliament François-Xavier Bellamy said that nothing could justify the “criminal aggression” of Azerbaijan against Armenia.⁵ French President Emmanuel Macron told the President of the respondent Government in a telephone conversation on September 13 that the fact the “border is not demarcated cannot justify any advance into the territory of another country”.⁶

Currently the unlawful armed presence in the sovereign territory of Armenia and criminal behavior provoke ongoing escalations that result in a lack of hope, fear, and humiliation for the peaceful population in Armenia and Artsakh. Moreover, this situation makes it impossible for civilians to enjoy basic human rights without risks. The families simply lack the opportunity of the right to life and security, possessing their property; their children do not get an education, and the lives of soldiers and civilians are being targeted by periodic armed attacks.

I. THE AZERBAIJANI STATE-SUPPORTED POLICY OF HATRED TOWARD ETHNIC ARMENIANS: ROOT CAUSES FOR ATROCITIES

A. The scope of the Azerbaijani state policy of hatred against Armenians

1. The Azerbaijani state policy of hatred and enmity toward Armenians has been the primary source of the human rights violations before and during the 44-Day-War (27 September to 9 November 2020) that started with Azerbaijan’s military aggression against Artsakh and Armenia.⁷

2. This state policy has been continued by the Azerbaijani government even after the ceasefire of 9 November 2020. The developments in the Azerbaijani government’s policy discussed in the current report were demonstrated particularly during and after the explicit military aggression of 13-14 September 2022, when undisputed sovereign territories of the state of Armenia were unlawfully occupied.⁸

3. In principle, the Azerbaijani state policy of hatred and enmity is two-fold. First, it is a tool used by the authorities to stay in power by directing internal grievances of the population of Azerbaijan toward “an external evil” [i.e.: Armenia and ethnic Armenians]. For the Azerbaijani authorities, Armenophobia is a domestic and foreign policy tool, a source of nourishment. The policy deliberately instills hatred against ethnic Armenians with the purpose of diverting them from real and ongoing internal problems. And, secondly, it is a part of the Azerbaijani strategy that aims to occupy not only the whole territory of Artsakh,⁹ but also some regions of the Republic of Armenia¹⁰.

4. This is a closed chain being generated through state policy in Azerbaijan, sponsored and managed by high-level political and military leadership, the president of Azerbaijan in particular, as well as encouraged by the cultural, religious, and several public figures that have been seeded in the society of Azerbaijan.

5. “Nothing can justify the criminal aggression of Azerbaijan against Armenia- MEP François-Xavier Bellamy <https://en.armradio.am/2022/09/13/nothing-can-justify-the-criminal-aggression-of-azerbaijan-against-armenia-mep-fx-bellamy/>

6. “France demands that Azerbaijani forces return to their initial positions” <https://www.primeminister.am/en/press-release/item/2022/09/26/Nikol-Pashinyan-met-with-Emmanuel-Macron/>

7. The Azerbaijani president has continuously stated that Azerbaijani authorities solved the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on their own military might, “restoring” their territorial integrity.

8. Azerbaijani military units have unlawfully invaded the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia since May of 2021.

9. Shushi and Hadrut district of the Former Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Oblast have been also occupied by Azerbaijan during the 44-Day-War.

10. See the subsection below in regard to the state policy of Armenophobia as a method to unlawfully occupy the sovereign territories of Armenia.

5. The Azerbaijani government intends to deceive the international community into believing that they have peaceful minds and fair purposes.

6. However, the recent examples of Azerbaijan's violations of the 9 November Trilateral Statement show the ways in which Azerbaijan has sabotaged peacebuilding goals.

7. Particularly, in early March 2023, a group of Azerbaijani soldiers attacked a police van, killing three Armenian officers near a place called Khapalu, not far from Stepanakert. The Armenian officers were from the Police Passport and Visa Department and were travelling from the Artsakh capital Stepanakert to the village of Lisagor.

8. The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, referring to the incident, accused the Armenian side of "attempting to transport military equipment and soldiers along the Stepanakert-Ghaibalish-en-Lisagor highway". According to the Azerbaijani statement, "Azerbaijani border guards stopped the convoy for the purpose of checking documents, after which a shootout began."

9. Nevertheless, the video footage available has shown that the ambush was prepared in advance, while the police car was not carrying the weapons or landmines that Azerbaijan claimed.

10. The circumstances surrounding the ambush of the 3 Artsakh police in early March 2023 and the discrepancies in Azerbaijan's statements on the matter serve as evidence of Azerbaijan sabotaging the peace efforts.

11. The Human Rights Defenders of Armenia and Artsakh have published an ad-hoc report on the facts of the fake peace promotion of Azerbaijan, as a long-term threat to human rights.¹¹

12. This report documents an alarming practice of engaging the civil society organizations and the activists in implementation of anti-Armenian policy.

B. The state policy of hatred supported by the president of Azerbaijan

13. Some of the most alarming cases of hate speech can be found in the addresses and statements of the president of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev himself – who uses direct hate speech in addressing Armenians and Armenia in general.

14. Armenians are being regularly compared to uncivilized "barbarians" by him, and even "dogs" ["gyaur"] driven away by the "glorious soldiers of the Azerbaijani army"¹².

15. Examples of the previous statements made by Ilham Aliyev during his official appearances and in his public addresses in 2020-2021 are presented below.¹³

11. Available at: <https://www.ombuds.am/images/files/f3caae1085fb33cb2ad98365cc3e88ce.pdf>.

12. This abuse may not be acknowledged as very offensive or deep-hearted, but there is in fact a much deeper connotation to it. Traditionally, in Islam dogs have been seen as something "impure" (similar to pigs) and the Islamic legal tradition has developed several references as warning against contact with dogs. Additionally, according to a M. Popov Dictionary of 1911, the word "**gyaur**" – or literally a "**dog**" had been used as a slur by **Turkic people to refer to those who did not follow the Islamic tradition (infidels, non-believers)**.

YouTube link to the video available in Russian at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eAVs7fjUfM> [04:18 minute], <https://defence.az/en/news/146240/president-aliyev-azerbaijani-soldiers-drive-them-away-like-dogs>.

13. Most statements are published on the official webpage of the president of Azerbaijan and in other official sources.

- a. *"Armenia as a country is of no value" ¹⁴, "We will continue to expel these liars [meaning Armenians]. They have neither conscience nor morality. They don't even have a brain."¹⁵, "I was saying that they need to be treated. They are sick, a virus more dangerous than coronavirus has permeated them."¹⁶*
- b. *"I used the expression "Iron Fist" several times during my appeals to the Azerbaijani people, when I reported on the liberated cities and villages. I used this term several times and said that our "Iron Fist" would smash the enemy's head if they did not voluntarily leave all the occupied territories. And, as it were, this term was received well in our society, and then I decided to formalize it, if I may say so, and give the operation this name. But again, this happened during the course of military operations."¹⁷*
- c. *"For 30 years, it [meaning Artsakh] was in the hands of wild beasts, in the hands of predators, in the hands of jackals. The remains of the city of Fuzuli are a manifestation of Armenian fascism and a witness to Armenian fascism."¹⁸*
- d. *"An Armenian is a barbarian who digs graves, digs and removes golden teeth of dead bodies."¹⁹*
- e. *"Armenians have a distorted psychology, they need a good doctor, the poison of Armenians is from the Diaspora".²⁰*
- f. *"Various generations of our compatriots have contributed to and invested their efforts into this Victory. However, I must mention that the biggest weight, the main responsibility is vested in the young generation. Those who were 10-15 years old in 2003 are now 27-32. It is their upbringing with the spirit of patriotism, their hatred toward the enemy that has brought us to Victory and restored Azerbaijan's historic justice."²¹*

16. Even today, the president of Azerbaijan continues to insult, spew ethnic hatred and Armenophobia, as well as carry out public propaganda of enmity against Armenians in his public speeches and messages.

17. After the 44-Day-War of 2020, the president of Azerbaijan announced:

"The younger generation has grown up with love for the Motherland and hatred for the enemy, and this young generation has liberated our lands from the invaders. I said that representatives of all generations performed successfully in the liberation of our lands, but

14. Available at <https://twitter.com/presidentaz/status/270827003521929216> (20 November, 2012).

15. Nationwide address of President of Azerbaijan (20 October 2020)

<https://defence.az/en/news/147408/azerbaijani-presidentilham-aliyev-addresses-nation-on-tv-%C2%A0live>.

16. Excerpts from the speech of the president of Azerbaijan, available at <https://en.president.az/articles/50798> (5 March, 2021).

17. Excerpts from the interview of the president of Azerbaijan to Russian influential "Natsionalnaya oborona" magazine (24 September, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/53199>.

18. The president of Azerbaijan addresses the nation (17 October 2020)

<https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3318553.html>; the video is available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvDwKPPllE4>.

19. Available at <https://president.az/articles/51067>.

20. Available at <https://en.president.az/articles/51216>.

21. Available at

https://president.az/articles/50184?fbclid=IwAR0-NIZ5FIRtBmZEAHGekhibz11G-Zf2MOWsEkaaXFqk_8BQJ5gy_b3Edw (the visit of January 27, 2021).

*the absolute majority of those across the battlefields have been the people who were children when I came to power in 2003. They matured, showed patriotism and dedication, sacrificed their lives, became martyrs, became wounded, showed heroism and restored historical justice.”*²²

18. The president of Azerbaijan follows his previous rhetoric: *If Armenians do not agree with maximalist Azerbaijani requirements and continue to raise the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan will launch another war and destroy both Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia.*²³

19. He further implies that, *“the Armenian army is in poor shape, and thus Armenians should accept the situation and all Azerbaijani demands.”* At the same time, he threatens that, *“if Armenia tries to restore its armed forces or get access to the new modern weapons, Azerbaijan will immediately launch a military offensive and destroy it.”*²⁴

20. The Azerbaijani president goes on with generating another level of enmity:

*“We have defeated Armenian fascism, but it is not over yet. We will continue to wipe out all manifestations of Armenian fascism, and we can do that. But other countries and the international community must also be united on this issue. The destruction committed by Armenian fascism in the 21st century should be an example for everyone that fascism is fascism. Armenia’s patrons, the circles behind Armenia, must know, understand and appreciate our historical mission; they must understand whom we have destroyed. We have not only liberated our lands, but we have also cleansed the region, the South Caucasus, of these savage forces. I repeat that they are humiliated now, but no one can guarantee that they will not rise again. We will never allow Armenian fascism to rise in our region. We can never allow Armenia to become a potential threat to Azerbaijan again. If we see that, we will destroy it on the spot. Everyone should know this.”*²⁵

21. And he continues:

*“Finally, we have crushed the head of the enemy with an “iron fist” and restored historical justice and national dignity. Therefore, these historical moments must always be on the agenda of diaspora organizations.”*²⁶ *“If they want another war, it will be a catastrophe for them and they clearly understand it and I think that the government and the revanchist forces in Armenia clearly understand that will be the end of their statehood. Therefore, I think we need to get a clear answer from Armenia.”*²⁷

22. The Azerbaijani president’s rhetoric is, hereby, an allusion to the premise of the rebirth of the national spirit, culture and society that had been initiated since the beginning of his first presidential term in 2003.

22. The full text of the interview is available on the official website of the president of Azerbaijan (5 March, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/50798>.

23. Available at https://evnreport.com/politics/azerbajans-war-of-narratives-against-armenians-part-i/?fbclid=IwAR2eHFS8R57RP_vnkmg-XY12yc7ICopvoRNVjgf-SRPxuVRIA3vrbTtFCzo.

24. Available at https://evnreport.com/politics/azerbajans-war-of-narratives-against-armenians-part-i/?fbclid=IwAR2eHFS8R57RP_vnkmg-XY12yc7ICopvoRNVjgf-SRPxuVRIA3vrbTtFCzo.

25. Excerpts from the interview of the president of Azerbaijan to “AZERTAC” (31 January, 2022) <https://president.az/en/articles/view/55326>.

26. Excerpts from the speech of the president at the 5th Congress of World Azerbaijanis in Shushi (22 April, 2022) <https://president.az/en/articles/view/55326>.

27. Excerpts from the speech of the president at the military unit of Defense Ministry’s Special Forces (16 June, 2022) <https://president.az/en/articles/view/56458>.

23. Another important component of anti-Armenian hate speech is highlighted in recent public statements of the president of Azerbaijan.

24. In the plenary session of the 6th Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, which took place on 13 October 2022 in Astana, Kazakhstan, the president of Azerbaijan stated as follows:

"Our cities and villages, cultural and religious monuments, and mosques have been purposefully destroyed, desecrated and plundered throughout almost 30-year occupation by Armenia. Even mosques were used as stables for keeping animals. Unfortunately, during three decades, we never heard any opposition from Armenian society to such vandalism. On the contrary - this destruction, Armenian vandals and war criminals were even glorified and presented as heroes. Armenia committed systematic war crimes against Azerbaijani civilians and military personnel." ²⁸

25. The Azerbaijani government and the president himself, therefore, not only intend to deceive the international community into believing that they have peaceful intent, but also try to make counter-accusations against Armenians, blaming them for war crimes that in fact were [and are still being] committed by Azerbaijan itself.

C. The state policy of hatred supported by military leadership, state officials and institutions of Azerbaijan, as well as public figures

26. The military leadership, governmental institutions and high-ranking officials have systematically echoed their president's racist lead. They reiterate the state-sponsored policy of discrimination against ethnic Armenians.

27. For example, in a video speech of Camal Huseynov, an Azerbaijani military servicemen, addresses Armenians as "dogs", underlining as follows:

*"Armenia is ours ... we will come, after Karabakh we will come and you will see what we do, you dogs, you are dogs – we will come for you until the end"*²⁹.

28. The Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense announced the production of military drones formally emblazoned with the words "Iti Qovan" or "dog chaser" in Azerbaijani. ³⁰

29. Furthermore, the Azerbaijani state officials at the highest level have frequently been involved in fueling anti-Armenian xenophobia, hatred, and glorifying murderers of Armenians.

28. Ilham Aliyev takes part in the plenary session of 6th Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia in Astana, available at <https://president.az/en/articles/view/57553>.

29. Nail Kemerlinin Kanali, "Bilsəydilər erməni dilini bilirəm dərimi soyardılar - General Camal (ALL SUBTITLES AVAILABLE) [If they knew I spoke Armenian, they would have peeled my skin - General Camal]," YouTube (13 November 2020), at 13:21, available at <https://youtu.be/YworvLKGyQ?t=800>, translated from Azerbaijani).

30. Azerbaijan starts production of 'Iti Qovan' (22 October 2020), see full text available at https://defence.az/en/news/147499/azerbaijan-starts-production-of-%E2%80%9Citi-qovan%E2%80%9D-uavs-photos?__cf_chl_jschl_tk__=pmd_Mg2Vf1zmQDNKqhw6edW7KcVkYXV.wFP7p.3IEeYFCi4-1629830372-0-gqNtZGzNAnujcnBszQh9 (Попов, М., Словарь иностранных слов, вошедших в употребление в русском языке, и.д. Сытина, 1911).

30. Anti-Armenian rhetoric and actions of the president Ilham Aliyev is well documented in a human rights case of *Makuchyan and Minasyan v. Azerbaijan and Hungary* (<https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/fre?i=001-160675>), which is remarkable both on account of its facts and the peculiar legal issues it raised.

31. In 2004, an ax-wielding Azerbaijani army officer (R.S.) beheaded one Armenian officer, and attempted to kill another, while attending a NATO-organized training course in Budapest. R.S. was prosecuted and convicted in Hungary and given a life sentence. Eight years later, R.S. was transferred to Azerbaijan to serve the remainder of his sentence. However, upon his arrival, Azerbaijani president reinvigorated R.S.'s status as a national hero. He was released, pardoned, promoted, and awarded salary arrears for the period spent in prison, as well as the use of a state apartment in the capital.

32. Even the Ombudsperson of Azerbaijan expressed gratitude to the president for all the efforts in bringing this murderer back and pardoning him. In one of her speeches, the Ombudsperson stated that Safarov [this butcher] *"must become an example of patriotism for the Azerbaijani youth."*³¹

33. The opening of the Military Trophy Park in Baku is another clear example of Armenophobia, demonstrating a policy of racism and propaganda of enmity amounting to fascism. In this "park", along with Armenian military equipment, wax figures of Armenian military servicemen had been displayed and illustrated, and presented in a degrading manner violating human dignity. Sponsored by state authorities, and managed by the military, this "park" was made to ensure the widest possible publicity. It is obvious from the published videos and photos that the exhibition was designed to increase and encourage humiliation against Armenians and enmity toward the citizens of Armenia and Artsakh. Exhibitions publicly humiliated the memory of the victims of the war, openly violating rights and dignity of missing persons, captives and their family members.

34. What is important here to highlight is that several international observers criticized this "park" in Baku. The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights expressed concern in this regard, noting that the park displayed military equipment taken as a trophy during the war and showed "dehumanising scenes, including wax mannequins depicting dead and dying Armenian soldiers." "I consider such images highly disturbing and humiliating," said the Commissioner for Human Rights. The response to those concerns was cynical, as the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Azerbaijan stated that "this practice exists in military museums in many countries of the world" and that "Azerbaijan has every right to perpetuate its victory through parades, parks, etc."³²

35. The wax figures and the helmets were removed from the main display in October 2021, but – without a doubt – this was done in the period after Armenia filed the lawsuit at the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Armenia's demand is the full closure of this barbaric "museum of human sufferings and promotion of racism."³³

31. See the documented words available at <https://artsakhombuds.am/hy/document/570>. These words are also documented in the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Makuchyan and Minasyan v. Azerbaijan and Hungary*, 26 May 2020. This case was assessed by the Court as an ethnically based crime.

32. Reference to the Commentary of the Press Service Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Azerbaijan available at <https://www.mfa.gov.az/en/news/7288/view>.

33. For more information about this "park", see Ad Hoc Report by Armenia's Human Rights Defender Mr. Arman Tatoyan (2016-2022), <https://www.ombuds.am/images/files/fec534aee0fe528fe043e41c90cd83b5.pdf>.

36. Another example is the “Azerbaijan 2020” postage stamp. Immediately after the 44-Day-War of 2020, the Ministry of Transport, Communication and High Technologies of Azerbaijan, inspired by disinfection methods against the COVID-19 global pandemic, issued a new postage stamp that constitutes open propaganda of the extermination of the Armenians of Artsakh. The stamp depicts a man in an “exterminator” uniform “disinfecting” Artsakh from Armenians, openly presenting them as “infection,” or “dirt”.³⁴

37. The high level of hatred against ethnic Armenians in Azerbaijani society is proved by the analysis of the statements of public figures from various fields. Some of them are presented below.

38. Former Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, also known for his positions as the Mayor of Baku, Hajibala Abutalybov, was inspired to reiterate that Azerbaijan’s goal is “the complete elimination of Armenians.”³⁵

39. Aybeniz Garagile Gafarli, Founder and editor-in-chief of “Turkish World” newspaper, writer-publicist, member of the Union of Journalists of Azerbaijan stated: *“From now on we will never come to peace because the predatory creature called Armenian killed our feelings of peace. Khojalu’s wound did not heal, we were hit with Ganja. This wound will not heal as long as the Armenian nation exists in the world, even if we take revenge. Allah, listen to our voice and punish these devils.”*³⁶

40. Tural Isagov, “Metaverse Azerbaijan” founder-director, published a statement: *“With all our abilities, we must tell the whole world about Armenian terrorism, make it acceptable to everyone and completely eliminate it from the face of this world...There is no place for them in the Caucasus.”*³⁷

41. In another statement, Tehran Orujoghlu, Political analyst at Turkish Gündeme Dair Her Şey (All About the Agenda), ARB TV political commentator, mentioned: *“I don’t know a second shameless, charlatan, immoral nationalist (Armenians) like them.”*³⁸

42. While talking about the latest escalations starting from the 2020 September-November war in Artsakh, Azerbaijani Military expert Adalet Verdiyev mentioned the following:

*“I think that the Azerbaijani side should immediately destroy any position of the enemy, from where they will open fire, without any doubt. An Azerbaijani soldier should be deployed in that position and the flag of Azerbaijan should be flown. In any case, it is our historical lands, we have enough facts to base it on.”*³⁹

43. Elshad Davutoglu, Poet, Member of the Union of Writers of Azerbaijan, published an article entitled *“The territory of the state called Armenia is the historical land of Azerbaijan”*.⁴⁰

44. This deeply rooted phenomenon which goes against the foundations of democracy and human rights requires fundamental safeguards to properly ensure that the human rights of the population of Armenia and ethnic Armenians are protected. This also had its influence on other areas of the country’s life (sport, culture, etc.), which is obvious from speeches and interviews of public and influential figures.⁴¹

34. Available at https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1485.

35. See the documented words, available at <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20210916-APP-01-00-EN.pdf>.

36. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/aybeniz.qafarli>.

37. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/tural.isaqov.106?mibextid=LQQJ4d>.

38. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/TeoTatico>.

39. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPUnd1EOYAk>.

40. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100006924813925>.

41. For more details about this group of hate speech, including incitement toward Armenians on religious grounds and hatred-policy influence in the Azerbaijani society, see Ad Hoc Report by Armenia’s Human Rights Defender Mr. Arman Tatoyan (2016-2022), available at <https://ombuds.am/images/files/3101f60c869b0f378dbc737b002e5054.pdf>.

Azerbaijani officials, spokespersons, and media frequently employ terms such as “barbaric” and “wild” to refer to Armenia and Armenians. There is a depiction of Armenians as being averse to peace and supportive of terrorism and terrorists. There is an explicit prevalent denial of the Armenian genocide, the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Lachin Corridor, and war crimes committed by Azerbaijani forces against Armenian soldiers and civilians. Azerbaijan also alleges that Armenia has perpetuated acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing in order to achieve a mono-ethnic state.



PRESIDENT OF AZERBAIJAN ILHAM ALIYEV

5 October, 2022

Statement by the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev: Urban Planning and Architecture of Azerbaijan Forum

“The scope of Armenian barbarism and vandalism is so impressive that many people who come to this part of Azerbaijan feel absolutely exhausted morally.”

[\[https://president.az/en/articles/view/57481\]](https://president.az/en/articles/view/57481)

18 March, 2023

Speech by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev: Talish Village

“We are a nation of builders. Unlike Armenia, we build and create in our own territory.”

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2538773\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2538773)

18 April, 2023

Speech by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev: Talish Village

Armenia’s patrons, the countries involved in Armenia’s policy of aggression have declared an information war on us.

They are showing to the world again how treacherous and ungrateful they are.

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2539499\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2539499)

18 April, 2023

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev: European Weightlifting Championships

“Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva and I congratulated our dear girls, Cansu and Gamze. First, because they achieved this great victory in Armenia – the enemy state, the state that is the eternal enemy of both Azerbaijan and Türkiye, and had the Turkish flag raised there. The Armenians burned our flag, but the Turkish flag flew there. They played the National Anthem of Türkiye. The National Anthem of Türkiye must have deafened all the enemies sitting in the hall. They dedicated this victory to Azerbaijan and the people of Azerbaijan. What a wonderful move! This is why they won the love of the entire Azerbaijani people. I want to congratulate them again”.

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2579147\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2579147)

8 April, 2023

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev Interview with Azerbaijan Television in Salyan

“Because despite the occupation, Armenian savagery and barbarism, it was Azerbaijan that proposed to sign a peace treaty between Azerbaijan and Armenia and it was Azerbaijan that put forward the well-known five principles.”

"The separatists, who are currently inventing some fictitious names for themselves – one calls himself a president, another calls himself a minister, another one calls himself a speaker of some parliament – this group of clowns must finally understand that they cannot play with our patience. We have tried to explain to them many times in different ways that they will either follow our word or they will be rejected from there and leave the Armenians there, who have actually become their hostages and captives, in peace. I am sure that the majority of the Armenian population currently living in Karabakh is ready to accept Azerbaijani citizenship. Simply put, these leeches, these predatory animals won't let them do that. They won't let these people live comfortably, having kept them as hostages for 30 years. Therefore, my position is this. Let everyone hear it – both the Armenian leaders and the forces standing behind them today. No-one can influence our will. We have proven it – both during and after the war. If necessary, we will prove it again in any form."

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2578949\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2578949)

18 April, 2023

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev Interview with Azerbaijan Television in Salyan

"It did not happen by chance, it was not an act by some individual. This is yet another dirty act of the Armenian government. There are many reasons to believe in this. First, the humanoid creature who committed this incident was in direct contact with high-level officials of the ruling circles of Armenia. Secondly, no punishment was given to this creature. On the contrary, they have made him a hero in Armenia," the head of state pointed out.

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2578988\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2578988)

18 April, 2023

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev: Interview by Azerbaijan Television in city of Salyan

"The separatists should also understand that they have two options: either they will live under the Azerbaijani flag or they will leave. We have chased Serzhik Sargsyan, Robert Kocharian and Seyran Ohanyan, the main figures of the separatists, out of Karabakh like dogs and brought them to their knees. They came to Karabakh during the Second Karabakh War supposedly to fight against us. All three ran away from our lands like rabbits. None of them can poke their nose into Khankendi or any other place now. The separatists, who are currently inventing some fictitious names for themselves – one calls himself a president, another calls himself a minister, another one calls himself a speaker of some parliament – this group of clowns must finally understand that they cannot play with our patience. We have tried to explain to them many times in different ways that they will either follow our word or they will be rejected from there and leave the Armenians there, who have actually become their hostages and captives, in peace. I am sure that the majority of the Armenian population currently living in Karabakh is ready to accept Azerbaijani citizenship. Simply put, these leeches, these predatory animals won't let them do that. They won't let these people live comfortably, having kept them as hostages for 30 years. Therefore, my position is this. Let everyone hear it – both the Armenian leaders and the forces standing behind them today. No-one can influence our will. We have proven it – both during and after the war. If necessary, we will prove it again in any form."

"...The Azerbaijani flag flies in Karabakh today. The Azerbaijani flag flies in Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadli, Kalbajar, Lachin, Shusha, Hadrut, Talish, Sugovushan, and hundreds of villages. Today, the Azerbaijani flag flies in Zangezur mountains. Let them not forget that. Can they approach those flags? Can that humanoid creature and his ilk approach those flags? They are afraid even to look at those flags from afar. By burning our flag, they only showed their ugly qualities to the whole world. I want to say again that behind this is the Armenian state, the Armenian government, the anti-Azerbaijani campaign conducted in Armenia for many years, the Azerbaijanophobia conducted in Armenia for decades. This is not an ordinary event. I also want to note that this incident cannot shake us, of course. It cannot have any impact on our determination. But they should think carefully. One day they may wake up to see the Azerbaijan Flag above their heads."

[\[https://president.az/en/articles/view/59451\]](https://president.az/en/articles/view/59451)

23 September, 2023

**President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev: 10th Global Baku Forum on
"The World of Today: Challenges and Hopes"**

"They've seen the destruction in Fuzuli, in Shusha, and it's really the sign of barbarism, it is urbicide, culturicide, ecocide. And that was done by our neighbors. The people of Azerbaijan have a moral right to demand revenge, and I can understand it. But my message is that we took revenge on the battlefield.

We did not commit any war crimes, unlike Armenians. We did not commit genocide, unlike Armenians did to us. We took revenge on the battlefield. So, now it's time for peace. Therefore, right after the war ended in November 2020, we launched an initiative to start peaceful negotiations and presented the famous five principles, which could be a basis for peace agreement with Armenia. We hope that international actors, which try to facilitate will persuade Armenia not to lose this chance. They lost the chance to become an independent country. They become totally dependent, kind of a colony of other country, and now maybe other countries. So, they lost their chance to become really independent and to build their future, because of aggression against us."

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/10th_Global_Baku_Forum_on_The_World_of_Today_Challenges_and_Hopes_gets_underway_President_Ilham_Aliyev_attended_opening_ceremony_of_the_Forum_VIDEO-2523251|2523251\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/10th_Global_Baku_Forum_on_The_World_of_Today_Challenges_and_Hopes_gets_underway_President_Ilham_Aliyev_attended_opening_ceremony_of_the_Forum_VIDEO-2523251|2523251)

8 November, 2022

Speech by the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev: Victory Day

"As a matter of fact, Armenia was in panic from the first days of the war. In some cases, it was gripped by panic and hysteria. This is exactly why there were more than 10,000 deserters in the Armenian army, according to their own admission. There was not a single deserter in the Azerbaijan Army. This indicates the high moral qualities of our people."

"Unfortunately, international media controlled by Armenia, bent politicians, their patrons abroad, the Armenian lobby – they had created an opinion that Azerbaijan is an aggressor."

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2367395\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2367395)

11 November, 2022

Speech by the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev at the 9th Summit of Organization of Turkic States

"Islamophobia and Turkophobia form the basis of Armenia's official ideology."

[\[https://president.az/en/articles/view/57856\]](https://president.az/en/articles/view/57856)

25 November, 2022

**Speech by the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev: "Along the Middle Corridor:
Geopolitics, Security and Economy" Baku Conference**

"The Armenian society was poisoned for decades. They were poisoned by propaganda of the diaspora and Armenian nationalists....The answer is that their education is poisonous. They raise their children in the atmosphere of hatred towards Turkiye and Azerbaijan. So, the Turkophobia and Azerbaijano-phobia is their ideology. And also they have invented so many legends about their history and their historical personalities that they started to believe in these fairy tales. All their history, all their historical products are fake. They take the history of other nations and present it as their own history. And I think, this ideology has led them to a disaster, because at a certain moment they really started to think that they are the bravest soldiers, the greatest nation, the cradle of civilization and the center of the world. This damaged reality played a bad joke with them. So the result of the war was a kind of a cold shower for them. They did not expect it to happen. They did not expect to be so humiliated by this defeat. And they themselves admitted that they had more than 10,000 deserters who ran away during the war.

What is happening now I hope could be a remedy because they need treatment. Their society needs psychological assistance. I am not trying to insult them. Absolutely not! I am just trying to say what I feel and what I see during this post-war period.

"I do not know to what degree it is sincere and whether they will need another cold shower to be treated completely and to get rid of this poisonous brainwashing or not. But they need to change the full paradigm of their education, they need to change their ideological grounds."

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2385295\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2385295)

24 December, 2022

Speech by the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev

Because Armenia today is a mono-ethnic state. When we say this, we rightly tell the world that this is unacceptable. What other country on the Eurasian continent and our region is mono-ethnic? It begs the question, why is Armenia a mono-ethnic state? The answer is clear – they did not allow other nationalities to live there. They expelled all ethnicities from there in every possible way, killed some, threatened others, and burned down their livelihoods. They expelled all other nationalities from there and established a state for themselves in someone else's land. Armenia was never present in this region before. Present-day Armenia is our land. When I repeatedly said this before, they tried to object and allege that I have territorial claims. I am saying this as a historical fact. If someone can substantiate a different theory, let them come forward.

[\[https://president.az/en/articles/view/58470\]](https://president.az/en/articles/view/58470)

10 January, 2023

Speech by the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev: Interview with local TV channels

"I repeat that we have no intention of starting a third war. Those accusing us of this are either victims of Armenian propaganda or are pursuing a fabrication and slander campaign against us again. I must also note that a new wave of a repulsive campaign of slander against us is circulated in some Western media. We see its first manifestations, but more sordid actions will likely follow. But that will not stop us. That is why I think and hope that 2023 brings an actual end to the Second Karabakh War and that such incidents do not happen this year. Let me say again – if we see a threat against us and Armenia and its patrons are planning some provocation against us, we will immediately eliminate this threat with all the means at our disposal. We are warning them and those behind them."

"Armenia has done none of the things it should have. If we leave aside the rhetoric and intonation of complaints. They complain in every meeting with the heads of foreign states. I cannot find another name for it. This is just petty gossip and slander."

"They believed that they would live in these lands forever. They believed that they could succeed. They saw several countries patronizing them, and the organization dealing with these issues turned a blind eye to their crimes. It seemed as though they were encouraged in what they were doing and became even more arrogant. At the initial stage of the occupation, they destroyed all our settlements, but then they felt that their crimes were going unpunished. So, they started illegal construction, including in the city of Lachin and the villages of Zabukh and Sus."

"On the contrary, to perpetuate this occupation, Armenia, Armenians of the world and their patrons wanted to join forces and realize their sordid intentions."

[\[https://president.az/en/articles/view/58555\]](https://president.az/en/articles/view/58555)

16 March, 2023

Speech by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev at the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State of Organization of Turkic States

"As in Karabakh and East Zangezur, Armenia has also destroyed our cultural heritage, mosques and historical sites in present-day Armenia – in Western Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani community has

repeatedly appealed to UNESCO to send a fact-finding mission to monitor the Azerbaijani people's cultural heritage in present-day Armenia and still awaits a positive response from UNESCO. Our fellow compatriots who suffered from ethnic cleansing in Western Azerbaijan have now united in the Western Azerbaijan Community. They have set the goal of a peaceful return to their historical lands. According to the Concept of Return developed by the Western Azerbaijan Community, an international legally binding agreement with an appropriate verification and guarantee mechanism for the return of Azerbaijanis forcefully deported from the territory of present-day Armenia should be put in place."

[\[https://president.az/en/articles/view/59195\]](https://president.az/en/articles/view/59195)

18 March, 2023

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev: Message of congratulation to the people of Azerbaijan on the Novruz holiday

"For 44 days, we were only moving forward and did not take a single step back. We showed the strength and high moral qualities of the Azerbaijani people on the battlefield for 44 days. Not a single person deserted our Army. According to the latest information, there were not 10,000 but 11,000 deserters in the Armenian army. They should not forget this, and if they do, we will remind them. Let no-one forget the results of the Second Karabakh War. Everyone should accept the new realities. No-one should forget that our lands had been under occupation for 30 years, and these important factors for the future peace agreement should not be forgotten. Because we see situations sometimes that as if there was no war, as if there was no occupation, as if no-one turned Aghdam into the "Hiroshima of the Caucasus". They want to forget it and make us forget it. It will never be the case. The realities of the occupation, the realities of the war and the post-war realities must and will be reflected in the peace negotiations. Otherwise, there will be no peace agreement. If Armenia doesn't need it, we don't need it either. Let's see what the end will be."

[\[https://president.az/en/articles/view/59221\]](https://president.az/en/articles/view/59221)

28 March, 2023

Speech by the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in Lachin District

"During the occupation, Armenians conducted a policy of illegal settlement in Lachin. Armenians were brought to the city of Lachin and several villages from foreign countries and settled there. This is considered a war crime according to all international conventions. Unfortunately, the Armenian state has not yet been brought to justice for this war crime."

Special Representative of the President in Lachin district Masim Mammadov

"Honorable Mr. President, let me express my gratitude for the high confidence being placed in me. I would like to note that, going to the liberated territories and seeing the great devastation caused by Armenian barbarians, one cannot help but be deeply shaken as an Azerbaijani."

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2546576\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2546576)



AZERBAIJAN FOREIGN MINISTRY

26 April, 2022

Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry: Statement Regarding Nemesis Monument

Armenian terrorism, extremism, aggressive separatism, and all forms and manifestations of racial discrimination must be fought decisively without any ambiguity or double standards.

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2587637\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2587637)



26 December, 2022

Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry

Interpretation of the ideas that a number of territories in present-day Armenia are historical territories of Azerbaijan as stated in historical works, maps and adopted documents as territorial claims against Armenia, as well as accusation against Azerbaijan of ethnic cleansing are hypocritical and prove that Armenia is ignorant of the historical facts.

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2424800\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2424800)



AZERBAIJAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

21 December, 2022

Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs: UN Security Council

"Despite the obvious attempts of Armenia to exploit this institution for the purpose of manipulation campaign against Azerbaijan, the discussions at the UN Security Council provided yet another platform for Azerbaijan to raise its legitimate concerns..."

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2418947\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2418947)

31 March, 2023

Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Statement on March 31- Day of Genocide of Azerbaijanis

"The systematic and planned nature of the massacres, which were an integral part of the radical nationalist Armenians' policy of racial discrimination and ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis, manifests itself in the confessions of Stephan Shaumyan, Extraordinary Commissioner of the Caucasus, an ethnic Armenian, that 6,000 armed soldiers of the Baku Soviet and 4,000 armed soldiers of the Dashnaksutyun Party took part in the massacres."

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2551655\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2551655)

26 April, 2023

Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Nemesis Monument

"The support of terrorism at the state level, which has been used by radical Armenian groups throughout history, must be strongly condemned by the international community, and in order to ensure peace and tranquility in the region, the policy of terrorism should be stopped by Armenia", said Azerbaijan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement regarding the monument to the terrorist "Nemesis" operation in Armenia.

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2587640\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2587640)

26 April, 2023

Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Nemesis Monument

We strongly condemn the unveiling of a monument to the terrorist Nemesis operation in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, on April 25 of this year.

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2587622\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2587622)



JEYHUN BAYRAMOV, AZERBAIJAN'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

2 December, 2022

**Jeyhun Bayramov, Azerbaijan's Minister of Foreign Affairs:
Address to the 29th meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Lodz, Poland**

Armenia launched a smear campaign against Azerbaijan to hijack the normalization agenda and distract the attention from non-fulfillment of its commitments.

The role of certain third parties to embolden Armenia's revanchist behavior is also cause for serious concern, as it tempts Armenia to resort to increased military provocations and warmongering rhetoric.

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2394047\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2394047)



WESTERN AZERBAIJAN COMMUNITY

13 March, 2023

Aziz Alakbarli, Chairman of the Western Azerbaijan Community

"We hope that the Armenian side will give up on its approach of "ethnic incompatibility" and embrace on steps based on noble values of ethnic diversity, tolerance and multiculturalism."

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2529932\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2529932)

19 March, 2023

Western Azerbaijan Community: Statement on the Armenian Foreign Ministry

It is universally known that Armenia has become a mono-ethnic state. Armenians, who only accounted for a minority in this territory until recently, now make up over 99 percent of the population. This situation has emerged as a result of notorious ethnic cleansing. The allocation of a certain number of quota seats in the parliament to the very small number of remaining people of ethnic minorities in Armenia for decorative purposes is an unsuccessful attempt to cover up ethnic cleansing and ongoing racial discrimination.

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2539907\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2539907)

30 March, 2023

**Western Azerbaijan Community: Statement on Markus Ritter,
the head of the Mission of the European Union in Armenia**

"Markus Ritter, the head of the Mission of the European Union in Armenia, made a statement these days, in which he spoke of preventing an imaginary attack by Azerbaijan on Armenia. Ritter thus tried to portray Armenia as a victim, whose recent record is full of military aggression, occupation against another State, ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis, and other crimes against humanity, and which continues its malfeasance against the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and to highlight Azerbaijan in a negative tone, who is the victim of all these crimes of Armenia.

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2549558\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2549558)

28 March, 2023

Spokesperson of Western Azerbaijan Community: Concept of Return

Ulviyya Zulfikar added that the circulation of the Concept of Return as a document of the key bodies of the UN is a great success in the way of peaceful return of Western Azerbaijanis to their native lands.

The circulation of the peaceful concept, which is fully compliant with international law, as an official document at the UN further reduces the opportunities for the Armenian government to distort the topic of Western Azerbaijan...

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2546219\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2546219)



SAHIBA GAFAROVA, SPEAKER OF THE MILLI MAJLIS

31 March, 2023

Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of the Milli Majlis: Speaks at UN High-Level Meeting

Almost 30 years of Armenian occupation of 20% of internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan was accompanied by environmental terror. According to her, Armenia had destroyed forests and natural preserves, the natural resources, and polluted the soil and the rivers – including those trans-border rivers that flow from Armenia to Azerbaijan.

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2551580\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2551580)



OTHER STATEMENTS

15 April, 2023

Elman Nasirov, Member of Azerbaijan's Milli Majlis:

"This incident is, indeed, a manifestation of raising the terrorist and fascist ideology to the level of state policy. Such an incident does not occur in a civil, cultural and democratic country. This is also an indicator of the prevalence of anti-Azerbaijani sentiment, Islamophobia, Turkophobia and racism in Armenia. In such a situation, how can a peace treaty be signed between Azerbaijan and Armenia?"

"The event organizers are also responsible for this incident. They should understand that Armenia is not ready and is not a suitable place to host such civil events. Armenia has not given up its acts of vandalism, and the organization should have perceived this factor. Sending athletes to this country is very dangerous."

[\[https://www.news.az/news/burning-of-azerbaijani-flag-in-yerevan-another-manifestation-of-armenian-vandalism-mp\]](https://www.news.az/news/burning-of-azerbaijani-flag-in-yerevan-another-manifestation-of-armenian-vandalism-mp)

16 April, 2023

Elshad Mirbashiroglu, Member of Milli Majlis

E. Mirbashiroglu (member of Milli Majlis) said that the behavior shown against our soldiers in Armenia is not only against Azerbaijan, but against humanity. He said that the countries of the world also see that Armenians commit crimes, engage in terrorism, provocations and go unpunished. In this case, the tendency of such crimes will increase in other geographies as well. Armenia's behavior poses a serious threat to the security of the world as a whole. First of all, the world community should be sensitive to this issue and finally react. "For thirty years, Armenia occupied the lands of Azerbaijan, carried out terrorism against our people and our ecology. The world did not see this. Armenia is still trying to do this aggression and terrorism. But Azerbaijan has its history and borders recognized by the world, when it wants to take a peaceful step in the direction of fully ensuring its sovereignty over its lands, the world shows a biased position with great enthusiasm.

Of course, in the modern world, double standards have already taken place as a principle in the behavior of states and international organizations. Despite these, the world also clearly observes that Azerbaijan has a strong and determined leader. Our people have great will and determination, and we will successfully achieve all our goals in accordance with our national interests,” the deputy added. According to the deputy, if the enemy does not want to come to peace through peaceful means, Azerbaijan will force him to peace through military means. Just as we called on Armenia for thirty years, we showed with our position and behavior that we want to resolve the conflict peacefully. But Armenia failed to appreciate it. At that time, we defeated the Armenian army by military means and freed our lands from occupation.

[\[https://www.azerbaijan-news.az/az/posts/detail/ermeni-xisleti-deyismir-ki-deyismir-1681594734\]](https://www.azerbaijan-news.az/az/posts/detail/ermeni-xisleti-deyismir-ki-deyismir-1681594734)

18 September, 2022

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan, Executive Director: The Center for South Asia & International Studies (CSAIS) Islamabad

Unfortunately, the “wandering souls” of Armenian armed forces have been designing numerous provocations against Azerbaijan in the directions of Lachin, Gadabay, Dashkasan and Kalbajar regions of the state border and behaving like “wolves knocking at the doorsteps”.

[\[https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2296625\]](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/2296625)

23 November, 2022

Samad Seyidov, Chairman of the International relations and inter-parliamentary relations committee of the Milli Majlis, Head of the Azerbaijani delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe:

“The Armenian diaspora has become a cancer in Western countries.”

[\[https://www.azerbaijan-news.az/az/posts/detail/ilham-eliyevin-qetiyyetli-siyaseti-ermenistani-yeni-realliqarla-barismaga-mecbur-edir-1669153439\]](https://www.azerbaijan-news.az/az/posts/detail/ilham-eliyevin-qetiyyetli-siyaseti-ermenistani-yeni-realliqarla-barismaga-mecbur-edir-1669153439)

8 May, 2023

Ramiz Gasimov: Employee of Nakhchivan Branch of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, Ph.D. in Philology, Associate Professor

“The whole world knows that today the territory called Armenia completely belongs to Azerbaijan. Armenians usurped the lands of Azerbaijan, settled here, stole everything from the Azerbaijani people, including their culture, and carried out repressions. In general, the false state created by Armenians, which is called Armenia, is a bloody pit in the heart of the Caucasus. Groundless territorial claims against neighbors, cultural and spiritual robbery are known as characteristic features of Armenians. Armenia is perhaps the only place in the world where no other nation besides Armenians lives, especially the Azerbaijani -Turkish nation. Not only are they not residents, but the Azerbaijanis were forcibly displaced from their ancestral lands, from their homes, by which the Armenians used force, torture and oppression. Today’s Armenia acts as a center of neo-fascism in the heart of the world, with its false history, unjustified territorial claims against its neighbors, nationalist ideas and terrorist activities. The massacres carried out by Armenians against Azerbaijanis for more than two centuries will never be erased from the memory of history.”

[\[https://ikisahil.az/post/418015-qerib-elde-qalan-yurdum\]](https://ikisahil.az/post/418015-qerib-elde-qalan-yurdum)

”

D. Occupying sovereign territories of Armenia as a part of the state policy of hatred and enmity in Azerbaijan

45. "We must not **and will not** forget about our historic lands. This must determine our future activity, and **we are already working in that direction. Our historic lands are the Yerevan Khanate** [meaning, the capital city of Armenia], **Zangezür** [meaning the province of Syunik in Armenia], **Geycha** [meaning, lake Sevan in Armenia]. Both the young generation and the world should know about this (emphasis added)."

46. The above statement was made by the president of Azerbaijan during his speech in the ruling party congress.⁴² Here he manifestly speaks about their real intent and aims to occupy particular territories within the sovereign state of Armenia.

47. Similarly, İlham Aliyev delivered a speech to the "Western Azerbaijan" group at the end of 2022 (<https://president.az/en/articles/view/58470>) and he made claims on Armenian territory and declared that "No one can influence us. There may be some phone calls and some statements, but we do not need to pay attention. We take those phone calls simply out of political courtesy, but this will not change our position." This is also a confession directly from the mouth of Aliyev of his insincerity in negotiations and Western calls for peace or resolution.

48. It should be noted that the latest aggression is clear evidence of this. For years, especially during and since the 44-Day-War, the Azerbaijani authorities have openly spoken occupying the sovereign territories of Armenia and have taken concrete steps in this direction.

49. For example, one of their politicians, Elman Mamedov who is a member of the "New Azerbaijan" ruling political party, recently stated:

"The entire territory of the state called "Armenia" is our historical land. We are interested in the Zangezür corridor today, which we do claim. But we can claim, for example, the entire Western Zangezür region, as well as other regions. However, I think it is appropriate to start from Western Zangezür."

50. It is not by chance that the pocket manuals for army servicemen also have a map of their "dream state", which depicts the territories of several regions of Armenia.



Pictures 1 and 2: Pictures from pocket manuals for Azerbaijani army servicemen

42. Available at <https://ria.ru/20180209/1514274051.html>.

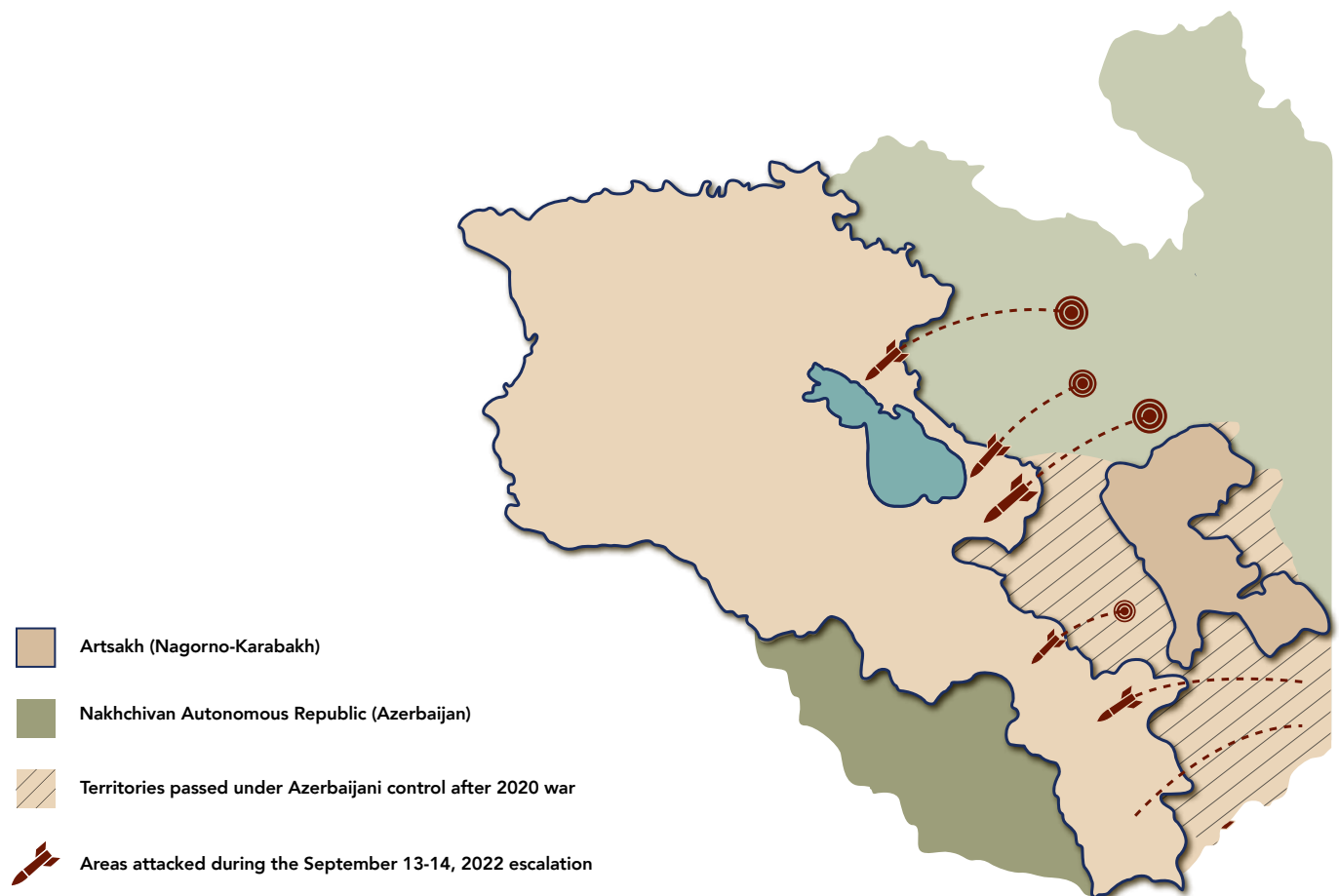
51. The aim of Azerbaijan is clear: to join Nakhichevan [the historic territory of Armenia, now bordering [South-West] Armenia as an autonomous region of Azerbaijan], by seizing the sovereign territories of Armenia and establishing a land communication with Turkey.

52. As is foreseen from the maps, it already included a large part of the Gegharkunik province of Armenia, the Syunik province fully, and a large part of the Vayots Dzor province.

53. It is worth highlighting that the last military escalations of 13-14 September 2022 shed light on this clear-cut policy of Azerbaijan.

54. Today, Azerbaijan not only dreams about these lands but confirms through public announcements their aspirations to occupy a significant part of the sovereign territory of Armenia. This becomes obvious from the statements of various officials and through the media.

55. A clear example of this policy of occupation by the Azerbaijan is the consulate of the so-called "Turkish Republic of Zangezur" or "Republic of Goyca-Zangezur," which opened in Turkey. In the images below, it can be noted that even a new flag of such an abstract entity was presented, which makes it obvious that the two Muslim states have aspirations to occupy a significant part of the sovereign territory of Armenia.



56. The false thesis of the "Eastern Zangezur" was even discussed in one of the speeches of the president of Azerbaijan. In particular, during the event on the 30th anniversary of establishing the New Azerbaijan Party, he stated:

"[T]he economic reforms carried out today, the reforms carried out in line with our strategic line, will give us additional opportunities soon. In particular, we will need a solid economy to rebuild Karabakh and Eastern Zangazur at our own expense and to achieve all these goals because this is essential. (...) Now we are rebuilding and reviving Karabakh and Eastern Zangazur. It is an entirely new era in our life and the life of our country." ⁴³

57. Another example of the above-mentioned policy is the concept of “Western Azerbaijan” which was even discussed by the president of Azerbaijan. The idea of the fictitious theory is that certain cities, including the capital city of Armenia, Yerevan, towns, and villages in the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia are Azerbaijani historic lands. In other words, this policy intends to justify the claims on the territory and any sort of aggression against it. In the course of the meeting with a group of members from the organisation of “Western Azerbaijan” the Azerbaijani president stated:

“The names of cities and villages are of Azerbaijani origin, and we know perfectly well that the Azerbaijani people lived across present-day Armenia throughout history. The primary task now is to let the whole world know about that. Work in this direction has already started, but I am sure that the community will take on this matter in a more focused and result-oriented manner.

(...)

In one of its early decisions, the newly established Azerbaijan Democratic Republic practically presented our historical city, Iravan, to Armenia in 1918. It was an unforgivable action. It was treachery and a crime. We all know this very well, and our people should know it too. We must never allow our history to be distorted.

(...)

In 1920, by a decision of the Soviet government and on the insistence of Armenian nationalists, Zangazur, another historical land of ours, was severed from Azerbaijan and annexed to Armenia.

(...)

In other words, notice how many tragedies were unleashed on our people in a matter of two years. For anyone to believe that by handing over Iravan to Armenia in 1918, we could have insured ourselves against more significant problems, the handover of Zangazur to Armenia showed again that it was an erroneous and wrongful act. As I said, an act of treason. One must stand firm and always defend one’s rights, especially the native land, even in the face of someone stronger than you.

58. In the same speech, Ilham Aliyev also talked about Lake Sevan in the Gegharkunik province, calling it Lake Goycha (he specifically used such name to highlight the “Azerbaijani belonging” of the lake):

“This year is coming to an end. Many important events have taken place during the year. We had to carry out a military operation on the Azerbaijan-Armenia border. As a result of this military operation, the historically Azerbaijani cities are now visible to us. We are already on the shores of Bala Goycha Lake now. We can already see Lake Goycha without binoculars.”⁴⁴

43. Speech by Ilham Aliyev at the event marking the 30th anniversary of establishing the New Azerbaijan Party (21 November 2022, 12:00), available at: English link - <https://president.az/en/articles/view/57932>; Azerbaijani link - <https://president.az/az/articles/view/57932>

44. Speech by Ilham Aliyev at the meeting with a group of intellectuals from the organisation “Western Azerbaijan” (24 December 2022, 12:11), available at: English link – <https://president.az/en/articles/view/58470>; Azerbaijani link – <https://president.az/az/articles/view/58470>.



Picture 3: The abstract “state” map of “Western Azerbaijan”, where the areas in red are sovereign territories of Armenia



Picture 4: Consulate inauguration ceremony

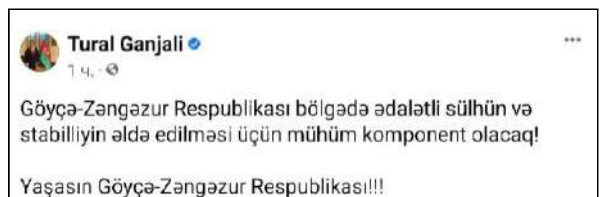
59. A similar map, where the territories of Armenia are represented as Turkey and Azerbaijan, is also circulated on various television channels and during TV programs.

60. Tural Ganjali, MP of Azerbaijan’s Milli Mejlis [parliament], also spoke about the creation of the Republic of Goycha-Zangezur, manipulatively noting that “the Republic of Goycha-Zangezur will become an important component of establishing just peace and stability in the region.”



Picture 5: A map, which was presented on BEYAZ TV, as the regional map of 2023.

61. According to the information, circulated in the Azerbaijani press, the announcement of the creation of “the Goycha-Zangezur Republic” was made by ethnic Azerbaijanis who previously lived in those regions and this initiative apparently belongs to them. But this is obviously part of a state policy, sponsored by both Turkey – where the opening of the consulate of this imaginary entity was allowed [with the participation of Turkish politicians like Mehmed Ali Arslan], as well as Azerbaijan, where separatist initiatives in the sovereign territory of Armenia are encouraged at the state level [the reference to the creation of this “republic” provided below⁴⁵].



Picture 6: Publication of Tural Ganjali, MP of Azerbaijan’s Milli Mejlis

62. This is nothing but aggression expressed with open cynicism and hostility, the main goal of which is to capture the Armenian territories and to enlarge their lands without Armenians.

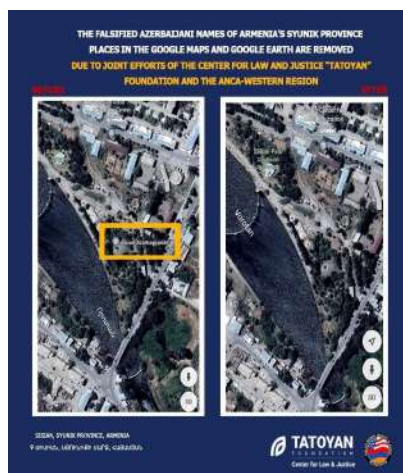
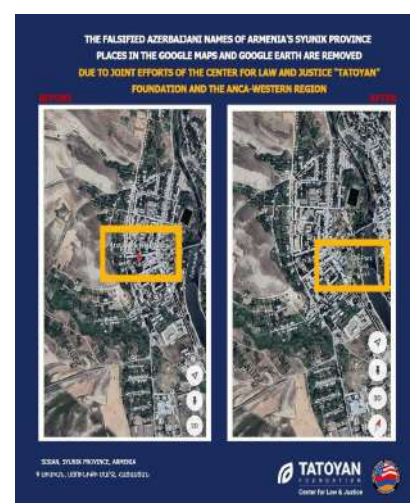
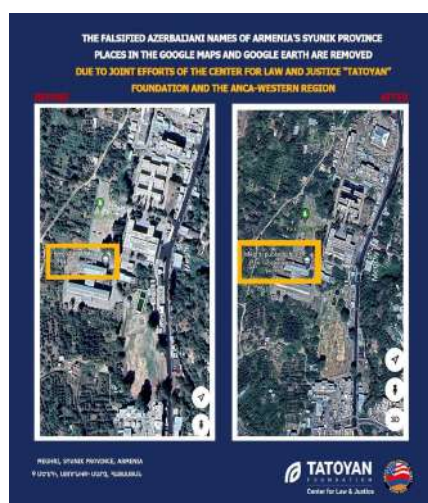
45. Göyçə-Zəngəzur Respublikası was established - BdYANAT - 7Times.Az – Latest News, World News and Multimedia. Such information is also provided at Wikipedia (Гөйча-Занзегурская Республика — Википедия (wikipedia.org)).

E. Names of locations of several communities in the Syunik Province of Armenia referred to as Azerbaijani names of places

63. Based on the alarm of one of the residents of the city of Sisian, the “Tatoyan” Foundation Center for Law and Justice discovered that in Google Maps and Google Earth applications, the names of locations of several communities in the Syunik Province of Armenia were referred to as Azerbaijani names of places and in the Azerbaijani language.

64. For instance, the river “Vorotan” was indicated by the Azerbaijani name “Bazarçay,” the Sisian park was falsely named after the former president of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev, another park was named after Ataturk, the location of the Syunik governorate was identified only in Azerbaijani language as “Zəngəzur Vilayəti Administrasiyası”, etc. They had even attempted to change the name of the city of Sisian to Qarakilise. A similar attempt had taken place by falsely renaming locations in Meghri and Kapan by referring to them in Azerbaijani. Other falsified Azerbaijani names were also removed. It is evident that this is a form of presenting the Azerbaijani authorities' absolutely fake thesis that Syunik is Azerbaijani. Moreover, an attempt was also made to legitimize the Azerbaijani attacks and criminal invasions on the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia.

65. Following the joint efforts of the Center for Law and Justice “Tatoyan” foundation and the Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region (ANCA-WR) the falsified Azerbaijani names of Armenia’s Syunik Province places in Google Maps and Google Earth are removed. The rapid response, communications with Google, and assertiveness of the Armenian National Committee of America, Western Region (ANCA-WR) should be specifically highlighted.



Pictures 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21:
The previous versions with the Azerbaijani falsified names compared with the ones where they are removed.

F. The video game – “Turkish indie shooter Maroon Berets: 2030”, as a manifestation of hatred against ethnic Armenians

66. A new video game – “Turkish indie shooter Maroon Berets: 2030” – was released on 19 May 2022 in the service of hatefulness against Armenians in light of Turkish nationalist ideology and propaganda thereof. This game simulates the Turkish special forces combating in several regions of Turkey and Armenia. According to the game scenario, the growing tension between Armenia and Turkey leads to war, where Turkish special forces, the “Maroon Berets,” are called upon to take on the duty of fighting against Armenia. According to the rules of the game, Turkish special forces must brutally kill Armenians and fight for their country and people.⁴⁶

67. Armenian soldiers are not portrayed as human beings, but rather figures from horror movies, who need to be executed. In contrast, the Turkish special forces are presented as decent people, ready to sacrifice for their country and capable of preventing harms, such as a nuclear attack. Users playing the role of “brave” Turkish special forces execute Armenian prisoners of war, execute incapacitated “war criminals”, without due process.

68. The game also makes extensive use of emblems of Turkishness, including quotes from Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who was the founder of the Republic of Turkey and the consummator of the Armenian Genocide. One of the missions of the player is to perform a secret operation of taking down the giant Armenian flag flying on the mast and replacing it with the Turkish one.



Pictures 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16:
Screenshots from the “Maroon Berets 2030” video game

46. See https://store.steampowered.com/app/1825380/Maroon_Berets_2030/?l=russian.

II. TORTURE AND INHUMAN TREATMENT AGAINST ARMENIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL

A. Torture and mutilation of Armenian female military personnel

69. Five Armenian female servicemen were killed during the September 13-14, 2022 aggression.

70. The criminal acts, torture and inhuman behaviour toward female soldiers in nature extremely varied by cruelty, barbarism and inhumanity. The female captives were stripped and naked. The videos where the corpses of Armenian female soldiers appear nude were widely disseminated on Azerbaijani social media proving the acts of inhuman treatment toward Armenian female soldiers. These brutalities were filmed and purposely posted on Azerbaijani social media channels so as to terrorize the Armenian people.

71. For instance, in one of the videos circulated on the Telegram channel, a number of bodies of Armenian soldiers appear, including two female soldiers.⁴⁷ One of the women appears stripped, tortured, and mutilated. She is naked with text written across her breasts and stomach, marking the name of the Azerbaijani special forces – "YAŞMA" or "YASHMA"⁴⁸ – on the tortured body, indicating that the crime had been committed by them. There is a stone placed in her left eye socket and a finger in her mouth. Her throat is cut-off and bloodstains are visible in the surrounding area. Various physical injuries are visible in the leg area. The right arm is wrapped in a bluish-coloured breastplate. Her arms are tied above her head, signifying that she may have been alive before being tortured to death. Azerbaijani soldiers filmed closeups of the genital areas displaying her purposefully lowered trousers.

72. Moreover, in that very video, the Azerbaijani soldier cynically tells in Azerbaijani language that there are two more murdered women in that place. Then he shows the tortured and injured bodies of Armenian soldiers arranged irregularly on the ground, including decapitated heads and bodies. As the videographer turns the camera, it is seen that other corpses are piled on top of each other over the legs of the above-mentioned female corpse. Here the tortured body of another female contract soldier of the Armenian army, H. S. (not the real initials), is seen in the nude with a red-coloured bra hanging out from her hand. Her body was returned in the same way as she appears in the video, with her underwear hanging out from her hand.

73. While showing the tortured bodies of Armenian female soldiers, Azerbaijani soldiers simultaneously insult and make fun of them. They target the fact that the dead soldier is female, make some gender-based remarks and point out her "non-feminine" traits. At the end of the video, a man kicks the corpse, demonstrating their true inhumane and disrespectful nature.

74. In another video Armenian woman, T. E. (not the real initials), again appears naked down to her underwear. She was not a member of the armed forces, but a medical nurse.

75. The aforementioned video materials are clear evidence of criminal crimes committed by the members of the Azerbaijani armed forces. The videos received mass support from Azerbaijanis on social media. There is no doubt that the videos were filmed and purposely published so as to disseminate in the Armenian domain in order to terrorize Armenians and especially women.

47. See Video 1, available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CUPmFPWSfmTbwT4doqe098j5rsaTo31h/view?usp=share_link.

48. See the details on Azerbaijani special forces – "YAŞMA" or "YASHMA" in the respective part of the current report.

49. See Video 2, available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/12XkZbhDv2ihzptR5QyCpFyoLQvk0qIwc/view?usp=share_link.

B. Torture and inhuman treatment of Armenian military personnel

76. The torture and inhuman treatment would begin right from the first moments the Armenian servicemen fell into captivity. Azerbaijani military forces often beat and humiliate the Armenian military personnel, filming the mistreatment and publishing the videos on different social networks.⁵⁰ Torture and inhuman treatment would continue throughout the captivity in different detention sites (i.e., Military Police Custody and Prison in Baku).

77. Captives were transported from the frontline to the detention facilities (around 10 hours), mainly without any stops, in a humiliating way and without provision of any food and nutrition. Furthermore, while transported between various penitentiary locations, they were arbitrarily subjected to physical and psychological torture.

78. The conditions that the PoWs were kept in were purposefully designed to cause them suffering. The guards would make them chant derogatory statements and regularly disturb their sleep. In some cases, PoWs were not provided with sufficient food or water, those in need received minimal medical attention, if any, and insufficient items of hygiene, making it extremely difficult for them to maintain their physical health and human dignity.

79. According to the witness statements of the returnees, on some occasions, captives were treated humanely. This was mainly in the penitentiary institution, the last point where they were held before repatriation. However, they were fabricated showcases that aimed to create a misleading public image to cover up the crimes committed by Azerbaijani officials and military personnel. The aforementioned occasions involved the participation of high-level Azerbaijani government officials, further proving the systemic and intentional nature of the committed violations. Moreover, the repatriating captives were demanded to share good insights about the penitentiary institution, otherwise, those still held captive in that institution will be subjected to torture and inhuman treatment.

80. In almost all cases, soldiers were severely beaten by Azerbaijani forces immediately following their capture and/or during their transfer to the first detention site. Arbitrary beatings and mistreatments took place at the beginning of captivity due to the absence of procedural cohesion in the treatment of those taken captive. Video materials that appeared on social media clearly show abusive treatment during the initial stage of captivity. It is manifested by severe beatings, demanding to pronounce certain phrases or sentences in Azerbaijani, etc.

81. PoWs were severely beaten, tortured, abused, and generally mistreated because they would fall into the hands of lower-rank soldiers institutionally and systematically infused with hatred and discrimination toward Armenians.⁵²

82. For instance, one of the cases took place in the Armenian N position of the northeast direction, in Verin Shorzha, the Gegharkunik Province, which led to intentional killing of several prisoners of war.

50. See, for instance, https://t.me/bez_tor/10720, https://t.me/bez_tor/11162, https://t.me/Ashot_NEWS_2/6008, <https://t.me/azedeeppweb666/7334>.

51. See for instance: Video 3: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VFTucvssa4Qcj6WvhK_5LP78Nt8rVN8k/view?usp=sharing;

Video 4: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lyMSvQKulGIwY5mraun3GM3KrzWeNp1-/view?usp=sharing>;

Video 5: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ji0NrpWlkkHvYzavVfQn2bgzIXVLR-qM/view?usp=sharing>;

Video 6: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wzi7I56eHo0UmXv4Tj5e1ISK6Zih7dLb/view?usp=share_link.

52. Makuchyan and Minasyan v. Azerbaijan and Hungary, 17247/13, ECHR 2020. The Court established that Azerbaijan in effect granted R.S. impunity for the crimes committed against his Armenian victims and the measures taken by the Azerbaijani authorities in respect of R.S. were racially motivated.

83. According to the interviews with the repatriated PoWs, the mentioned position was captured in the early morning of September 13, at around 8:00 am and 10 Armenian soldiers stationed there were alive and were captured. This was also proved by a thorough study of the video materials, converted into clips. However, only eight of them were afterwards transferred to Baku and then repatriated to Armenia.

84. In the video footage, *there appears one soldier sitting on the ground holding something in his right hand. There is a PoW on the ground with his face down and hands tied behind his back. There appears to be blood on the corner of the screen. Someone says "say: God have mercy." As the camera pans there appear many more PoWs all lying face down with their hands behind their backs. On the first body, the head is not visible and the torso is bloodied. As the camera continues to pan there are eight other PoWs on the floor (ten altogether).*

The cameraman says "don't do that." The cameraman then says "don't beat." There is a soldier who initially leans down, then squats and takes out his phone to take a photograph with the PoWs on the ground. He grabs and shakes one of the PoWs' heads and says "Say hello, Goranboy, say." The PoW says "Hello, Goranboy, say." The soldier says louder "Hello, Goranboy. How are you?" He yells louder "how are you?" ironically. Another soldier rests his rifle on the back of a PoW who does not appear to be conscious.⁵³

85. The other Video shows PoWs in a narrow trench. The video revealed only 8 out of those 10 soldiers appeared in the previous video were in the trench.⁵⁴

In the video there are PoWs seen sitting in a narrow trench with their knees bent and hands behind their backs. As the camera pans it becomes clear there are 8 PoWs sitting in the trench.

*Something goes across the lower left part of the screen which appears to be the head of a weapon. The cameraman says "sons of bitches." There is a conversation in the background, where someone says "they came." Someone asks "is it a full group?" The response is "Yes." Then someone says "They came." Someone says "look here sons of bi*ches."*

*The cameraman says "what is your name, eh, name?" One of the PoWs coughs. The cameraman starts to sing "oh my chicks," a famous song. As the camera pans there appear two soldiers standing up at the end of the trench. One of the soldiers says "Spetsnaz." The soldier curses and says "F**k you". The cameraman says "sons of bi*ches," and with his left foot, the cameraman kicks dirt onto the face of one of the PoWs.*

86. Further analysis proved that the other three were executed after being subjected to severe torture. Video shows torture and inhuman treatment against the mentioned three captive soldiers, A.B., A.V. and A.P.⁵⁵

*Video starts with someone saying "up there, over there." A glimpse of the top of A. V.'s head is seen under some metal panels. Someone said, "wait, I'm there." Someone yells aggressively "F**k you." There is the sound of metal banging and someone exclaiming in excruciating pain. The cameraman says three times "go on."*

53. See Video 7, available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H6-tlUfNeqFAikt_ojTq1sE5-Lio1M9/view?usp=share_link.

54. See Video 8, available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PAAdTHYiSL5THmd1qr0UurLVjeqsCZ9E/view?usp=share_link.

55. See Video 9, available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UqFuwhcKsK0XsYnJ-dWhdkA7XtADDRyT/view?usp=share_link.

There is a substantial amount of blood seen on a whiteboard. A soldier in camouflage is seen climbing down the metal post. And a man is dragged by the neck from under the bloody whiteboard. The video quality makes it hard to determine but it appears the man was stabbed with a large plate in the neck.

Someone tells the cameraman, "Record, record," and the cameraman confirms "I am recording, go on." The soldier hands something to the cameraman. After being dragged A.V. is left on the floor and is seen raising his left arm.

*As the camera pans there appears A.B. on the floor in camouflage and wearing a hat. A soldier who is standing appears to kick him in the legs. Both of A.B.'s legs are bloodied. However, the left leg is drenched in blood from his hips to his calves. Someone yells at him to "stand up" and "f**k you, immoral." A.B. says "I can't," and tries to scooch forward using his left arm to try to get up. As he presses back, he presses on A.P. who is head down behind him and does not appear to be moving. In the background, someone says "record here as well." They yell at the man "Go on, quickly," and again, "go on, stand up, bi*ch."*

87. During the interviews with the repatriated PoWs, it was confirmed that the above-described video was recorded in the bunker of their position and that the ones who appeared in the video are A.B., A.V. and A.P. As a result of the forensic examination, the injuries of A.B.'s legs were reported. Furthermore, the examination also confirmed that all three were executed by gunshots to the head.⁵⁶

88. In the same position torture and humiliation of other Armenian soldiers were also reported. Video clearly defines the humiliation of D. K. by the Azerbaijani military forces.

*In Video, published on social media, a soldier is seen gripping D. K. by the left arm and back. Someone says "f**k you" in Russian. A second Azerbaijani soldier pushes down on D. K.'s back, forcing him down to his knees. The first soldier, while putting his right foot up on D. K.'s left shoulder, kicks him on the left upper arm. Both soldiers put one foot up on each of D.K.'s shoulders, appearing to pose for the camera. The cameraman says "I'm recording, I'm recording." The second soldier flicks his head, to get the D. K. to put his head down and says "f**k you."*

The cameraman takes out a cell phone. A third soldier approaches, and a fourth is seen in the distance. The cameraman says, "bring him, bring him to me." The soldiers converse in the background. The cameraman says "finished" and gives the cell phone back to the first soldier, apparently having taken a photograph. Someone says "record this." The cameraman says "eh, get up, get up." The third soldier grabs D. K. by the collar bringing him to his feet.⁵⁷

89. Later, during the interview, D. K. confirmed that he is the Armenian soldier who appeared in the described video. Furthermore, he stated that the Azerbaijani soldiers introduced themselves as members of special forces "Yaşma".⁵⁸ They took D. K. to the cabin of their post to take some water and extinguish the burning body of his comrade in arms, commander T. S. The latter's burnt corpse was further handed over to the Armenian side.

56. In-depth analysis of the execution of the 3 captured Armenian servicemen is presented in the respective part of the current report

57. See Video 3, available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VFTucvssa4Qcj6WvhK_5LP78Nt8rVN8k/view?usp=share_link.

58. Detailed information about the Azerbaijani special forces "Yaşma" is presented in the respective part of the current report.

90. Torture and humiliation of captured Armenian military personnel took place also in other directions during the September 12 – 13, 2022 aggression. Another case was reported in the southeast direction of Armenian N positions, in Nerkin Hand, the Syunik Province.

In Video H.G. is standing with his hands behind his back. He is wearing a camouflage uniform but the right chest pocket of his uniform is torn. There is another soldier seen in the background, A. F., whose nose is injured.

Someone says "brother, you film them." One pats him aggressively on the left shoulder. The cameraman says "say hello to the boys of Kurdamir." The PoW repeats after him.

Someone says "they say it's our turn." Someone tugs on the collar of the PoW's uniform. There is dialogue and laughter in the background. The cameraman asks the PoW, "can't you say Kurdamir?" The PoW says "what?" The cameraman says "Kurdamir," and the PoW repeats. The cameraman says "hello," and the PoW says "hello Kurdamir."⁵⁹

91. During the interview, A. F. stated that he got the injury because of a severe beating by one of the soldiers of the Azerbaijani special forces "Yaşma".

92. On their way from the frontline to the detention facility, PoWs were tortured and humiliated. In most cases, they were transferred to Baku (around 10 hours) in the rear of the truck lying face down.

Video shows M. H., A. F. and -- lying on the wooden floor of what appears to be the rear of a moving truck. The first one is on his left side with his hands behind his back. The end of a plastic tie binding his hands is visible. His face is covered by a metal pole. The other two are face down, and their hands are seen tied behind their backs.⁶⁰

93. According to the witness statement of A. F., on their way to Baku, the Azerbaijani military forces took him to the village. After the soldiers dragged him from the car, the gathered civilians started beating him severely. Then the Azerbaijani soldiers took A. F. to another place near some building, where he was again beaten by the local civilians.

94. On their way to Baku, upon the request of the captive Armenians to provide some water, the Azerbaijani soldiers were pouring water on them.

We were asking for water and they did not understand but whilst we were laying down, they would pour water enough so that it would spill on us so that we could drink some and that's.

95. Finally, as it was in September – November 2020 war in Artsakh, Azerbaijan again did not set up specific camps for PoWs, instead sending them to various detention centres and facilities without a cohesive process.

96. During the September 13 – 14, 2022 aggression, Azerbaijani captors failed to treat Armenian PoWs humanely in internment and during the transfer. Arbitrary physical and psychological violence against Armenian PoWs was standard practice.

59. See Video 5, available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ji0NrpWlkkHVYzavVfQn2bgzIXVLR-qM/view?usp=share_link.

60. See Video 6, available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wzi7I56eHo0UmXv4Tj5e1ISK6Zih7dLb/view?usp=share_link.

97. The general conditions that the captives were held in were especially harsh in the first stages of captivity, in Military Police Custody. POWs were kept there for up to 72 hours. In that period, they were kept handcuffed and were not allowed to lie down or sit, being forced to stand for days on end. As a result, POWs were often sleep-deprived for days. At that institution, the PoWs were not provided with adequate food, water, medical attention, or items of hygiene. Moreover, as mentioned by one of the returned PoWs, one of the guards intentionally spilled the hot food on his hands.

During the first night in detention, they [the Azerbaijani guards] did not let us lay or sit on the floor. So, all night after the journey, they kept us standing. Though the door of the cell was closed, they would hit the doors and threaten to torture us if we sat down. This continues during my entire stay there, three days.

During those three days of captivity, we were provided one slice of plain bread daily. No other food.

98. Furthermore, most captives also mentioned a lack of medical treatment. Even at the medical checkpoint of the Military Police Custody, doctors would often ignore severe wounds incurred before or during captivity. They did not compose any medical files and did not provide the PoWs with any medical documents for signing.

99. Torture and beating had a systematic nature in Military Police Custody. The general attitude and treatment of the prisoners by Azerbaijani forces had been abusive, violent and degrading; for instance, Azerbaijani soldiers constantly beat PoWs with feet, hands and clubs and PoWs were made to chant degrading anti-Armenian slogans. That attitude had been established from the onset of captivity in the mentioned institution and was present throughout.

For example, in each cell, there was one person and then when more men came, 17 of them, there were 2 in the cells but until the end, I was the only one in my cell. They could come in every 20 minutes hit us then leave.

100. According to the statements of returnees, the treatment and detention conditions were much better at the penitentiary location (most probably located in Baku) where they would be sent last (seemingly the pretrial detention facility), where they would be fed regularly and given basic items of hygiene and medical care.

101. Moreover, while entering the premises of Baku Prison, they passed a medical check-up and a protocol was developed and provided for signing some of them. However, in both institutions, the captives were not allowed to have any kind of outdoor exercise and were supposed to stay in the cell during their entire captivity.

102. Based on the witness accounts of the returned PoWs, the captors' treatment of them had significantly changed prior to the visits of the representatives of the International Committee of Red Cross.

Before the visit of the representatives of the Red Cross, we received sufficient food, were allowed to take a shower and were provided with a TV and some other equipment.

103. The PoWs were also visited by the representatives of the Ombudsman Office. However, they highlighted that the representatives did not discuss with them any possible issues, but just took photos and left.

104. Right before the repatriation, the PoWs were demanded by the Head of the Baku prison to share good insights about the penitentiary institution, otherwise, those still held captive in that institution will be subjected to torture and inhuman treatment. This supports the idea that the Azerbaijani policy has significant changes in connection with the treatment of Armenian captives at penitentiary establishments. However, the grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law still continue in the other stages of captivity.

105. The “positive” development with regard to the treatment of Armenian PoWs at the prison should be considered an attempt of the Azerbaijani side to convince the international community that they are respecting the human rights of captives. However, the violations of the Azerbaijani side during the September 13 – 14, 2022 aggression discussed in the current report clearly show that the deeply rooted state policy of hatred and Armenophobic propaganda are continuing and serve as a root cause for those grave violations.

C. Mental suffering against family members of the Armenian military personnel

106. Apart from physical suffering, Azerbaijanis caused mental and psychological suffering to the family members of the Armenian military servicemen. They do this through threats and psychological pressure.

107. Modern technology was used by Azerbaijani users to cause severe suffering to the Armenian population. In Azerbaijani channels of the Telegram social network, Stickers [application] of the photos of tortured and dismembered bodies of Armenian soldiers and civilians through chat-bots were created. The photos of atrocities conducted in the 44-day Artsakh war and during the aggression against Armenia on September 13-14, 2022 were used for the stickers.

108. These stickers were created on September 14, 2022, but we found them on September 18. Immediately after creation, they became publicly accessible with the opportunity to download and use them during communication in public. Overall, 119 photos (i.e., 119 stickers) were reported. They had been downloaded more than 20,000 times in 5 days.

109. This criminal act is another proof that the Armenophobia policy (hatred towards Armenians) supported by the Azerbaijani authorities for decades is deeply rooted in Azerbaijani society and the calls for peacebuilding by Azerbaijan are nothing but a veil for the eyes of the international community that hide their real intentions.

110. In one of the cases during the September 13-14, 2022 aggression, the Azerbaijani servicemen killed an Armenian serviceman, took his photo and filmed a video, then sent the photo to his wife via WhatsApp. He then published the video and the photo on WhatsApp's "story" section. In the video they sent, there are also other Armenian servicemen who were killed in a group.

111. This criminal act confirms the intent of the Azerbaijani armed servicemen, which is to cause mental suffering to families of victims and Armenian society. Their intent is to play with emotions. Similar cases were also recorded during the 2016 April war and the 2020 44-day war. Their approach has not changed. These crimes have become inveterate because the perpetrators of such atrocities remain unpunished.

D. Denial or delay of medical treatment

112. Under international humanitarian law, it is Azerbaijani's positive obligation as a state to take care, respect and protect the wounded or sick in all circumstances. Medical care shall be provided to prisoners of war impartially and without bias. Nonetheless, instead of obeying its obligations under international law, the Republic of Azerbaijan staged videos purportedly demonstrating humanitarian acts in order to safeguard its appearance on international platforms. Research shows that at least two servicemen died because of a lack of proper medical treatment since the September 13-14, 2022 aggression.

(i) Case of Davit Gishyan

113. After the September 13-14, 2022 aggression a video was disseminated on social media of an Armenian soldier and prisoner of war, Davit Gishyan. On social media, it was represented as Azerbaijani servicemen purportedly providing first aid to the wounded Armenian soldier.⁶¹ The video shows that Davit Gishyan suffered an injury to the shoulder area and was being provided with medical care by the Azerbaijanis. In the video, Davit Gishyan moans in pain.⁶²

114. Nevertheless, the corpse of Davit Gishyan was among the 32 dead bodies that Azerbaijan handed over to Armenia on September 17, 2022. The forensic-medical examination conducted in Armenia showed that Davit died because of blood loss and the lack of necessary surgical intervention.

115. This is a vivid example proving that Azerbaijan's "provision of medical care" was just staged for publicity. In reality, the Azerbaijani side just wasted time staging the videos, because they caused him more pain and later killed him. This example illustrates the pervasive anti-Armenian hate.

(ii) Case of Tigran Shahinyan

116. Following the September 13-14, 2022 aggression, several videos circulated on social media showed how Azerbaijani servicemen provide "medical care" to Armenian conscript soldier Tigran Shahinyan. In the videos, Tigran is seen with wounds on his leg, arm and abdomen.

117. In the first video, Tigran Shahinyan is sitting on the ground, surrounded by at least 8 Azerbaijani servicemen. Two of them put a bandage on the Armenian PoW's abdominal wound. They help him get on his feet and put on his military jacket. The Azerbaijani serviceman filming the video says in Russian "*Don't worry. We will take you to the hospital. You will live*".⁶³

118. In the second video, the same Armenian PoW can be seen. He is sitting on the ground, surrounded by Azerbaijani servicemen. They seem to be talking to each other, however, given the quality of the video, the conversation is incoherent.⁶⁴

61. Available at:

<https://news.az/news/azerbaijani-servicemen-provide-first-aid-to-wounded-armenian-soldier-video>, <https://www.azernews.az/nation/199276.html>

62. Available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1udrJ25Yp14ctfgt85x3Xv-uTuJMNqt5t/view>.

63. Available at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BVeVwG8IssXHcC27GwbJ3yhC_QlyZW6s/view?usp=sharing.

64. Available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HrzLU5MPa19ARCfS1aFENx71cFXJbA7Z/view?usp=sharing>.

119. In the third video, Tigran Shahinyan appears to be in a hospital. He is lying in bed, answering the questions of the Azerbaijani who is filming the scene. The cameraman asks in Russian “*Tigran, how are you?*”, to which the Armenian PoW says “*Fine*” (translation ours). The Azerbaijani then asks “*Do you remember me?*” and the PoW says “*Yes*”. “*Who am I?*” asks the Azerbaijani, and the PoW says “*You are the person who saved me*”.⁶⁵

120. These videos were either partially or entirely shown through Azerbaijani TV channels.⁶⁶

121. The videos were heavily circulated on social media as well. In particular, the scene represented above is described as “an image taken at the border [which] told everyone “**humanity lesson**” under the heading “This is how the merciful Azerbaijani soldier bandaged the Armenian soldier: Do not be afraid, you will live”.⁶⁷

122. In fact, further examination, including the interviews with the repatriated PoWs revealed that the video recording where Tigran appears sitting on the ground was filmed before the one where Azerbaijani servicemen surrounding him “provide” medical aid by putting a bandage on his abdominal wound.

123. Thus, instead of providing immediate first aid to the captives, the Azerbaijani side pretends to provide medical aid then tortures them and leaves in pain. They then force captives to be recorded for publicity purposes and film the process of giving “first aid”. Here again, the Azerbaijani side wastes time filming the videos, instead of providing with real and immediate medical aid.

124. Moreover, it should be noted that the repatriated POWs from the 2020 war stated that they usually received no medical attention, and sometimes they were abused by the medical personnel. They were left in pain and developed infections and other injuries because of the lack of medical attention during their captivity.⁶⁸

III. EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION OF ARMENIAN SERVICEMEN

125. On October 11 the video disseminated on the Azerbaijani social network depicts the case of the group execution of Armenian PoWs. The analysis confirmed that the incident took place during the September 13-14, 2022 aggression on the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia. Furthermore, it was identified that the execution of the PoWs was committed by the newly established Azerbaijani special forces “Commando” unit.

126. OSINT (open-source intelligence) methods were used to identify both the date on which the executions took place as well as the location. The French news source, Libération published a comprehensive fact-checking article about the execution video. The purpose of the article was twofold. Firstly, to authenticate the video and secondly, to determine the date and location of filming. The geolocation carried out by Libération was confirmed by Bellingcat in its recent article.⁶⁹

65. Available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oF6fJSHFaW2fhPszZVJcOJ4NLbftNhYK/view?usp=sharing>.

66. Available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1npB-jQSiuUSxZtJoSUCyVaMOcxYRWCRP/view?usp=sharing>; <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cKGU4TD1VgsqywUgrFAhYY-bdr5VWPhb/view?usp=sharing>.

67. Available at: <https://turkey.postsen.com/trends/117991/This-is-how-the-merciful-Azerbaijani-soldier-bandaged-the-Armenian-soldier-Do-not-be-afraid-you-will-live.html>.

68. The Human Rights Defender of The Republic of Armenia, Ad Hoc Public Report Responsibility of Azerbaijan for Torture and Inhuman Treatment of Armenian Captives: Evidence-Based Analysis (The 2020 Nagorno Karabakh War), September 2021, page 11, available at: <https://www.ombuds.am/images/files/8f33e8ccaac978faac7f4cf10442f835.pdf>.

69. “An execution near Sev Lake”, <https://www.bellingcat.com/news/2022/10/20/an-execution-near-sev-lake-armenia-azerbaijan/>

127. Bellingcat were also able to attest to the authenticity of the video as their analysis found no evidence of “editing or tampering”.⁷⁰ Alongside the methods deployed by Libération, our team carried out its own geolocation. The coordinates we identified matched with those in the article as: **39.591281, 46.192166** which corresponds with an Armenian military position in Ishkhanasar.

128. Armenian positions in Ishkhanasar were subject to attacks by Azerbaijani armed forces in the period of November 14-16 2021 as a result of which a series of Armenian positions fell under Azerbaijani control.⁷¹ However, position no. 191 which falls within this sector remained under Armenian control.⁷² In order to confirm the identity of the position we have carried out a comparison between the items appearing in the images and the identical items appearing in the video clip.

129. During the video words can be heard in the Azerbaijani language with some shouting “don’t shoot” and “stop-firing” which acts as further evidence that the perpetrators of this attack were members of the Azerbaijani armed forces.⁷³ As for the day and time on which the execution took place, Bellingcat’s comprehensive analysis using azimuth angles, found that the video was filmed on September 13, between 6.10 and 6.33am.⁷⁴

130. Through analysis of images taken at this location, the identity of three of the dead servicemen were established. The identification was confirmed by experts.

131. The actions depicted in this video amount to a flagrant abuse of international law, in particular of Article 13 which prohibits any “unlawful act” by the Detaining Power (in this case Azerbaijan) “causing death”.⁷⁵ The arbitrary executions which can be seen in the video evidently constitute such an “unlawful act” resulting in the death of Armenian POWs.

132. The EU’s lead spokesperson for foreign affairs and security policy, Peter Stano, echoed the existence of an abuse of human rights legislation when he told reporters on 3 October 2022 that “if proven authentic” the video “shows acts of war crimes and a clear violation of international law”.⁷⁶

133. Human Rights Watch has also carried out its own independent authentication of the video. This was done through a variety of techniques, including by consulting weapons... analyzing the language heard in the video and using reverse search image engines”.⁷⁷ These techniques established whether or not the video had been posted online prior to mid-September. Rohini Haar, an emergency physician from the University of California, has also told Human Rights Watch that the likelihood of survival from “sustained close-range automatic and semi-automatic rifle fire in this manner is low”.⁷⁸

70. Ibid

71. “In 2021 the enemy has occupied at least 50 km of the territory of the Republic of Armenia’s territory”
<https://hetq.am/hy/article/148314>

72. Map of positions

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1aUppnSPN33k4DsQ0jK2ufas17WdbBsk0&ll=39.60661799999999%2C46.29087399999999&z=14>

73. “An execution near Sev Lake”, <https://www.bellingcat.com/news/2022/10/20/an-execution-near-sev-lake-armenia-azerbaijan/>

74. Ibid

75. Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, Article 13

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/geneva-convention-relative-treatment-prisoners-war>

76. “EU wants probe into alleged war crimes by Azerbaijan”, <https://euobserver.com/world/156203>

77. “Video shows Azerbaijan forces executing Armenian POWs”,

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/10/14/video-shows-azerbaijan-forces-executing-armenian-pows>

78. Ibid

A. Azerbaijan's previous track record of investigating human rights abuses

134. The Azerbaijani Prosecutor's Office announced in a Facebook post on October 2, 2022 that it would "thoroughly" investigate the execution video, including whether it is "real or not".⁷⁹ The European Union has used this fact to argue that an independent investigation by the ECtHR is not necessary until the Azerbaijani investigation is concluded and the results are published. The report will show that the Azerbaijani government's poor track record in this domain points to the absolute necessity of an independent investigation by the ECtHR and ICC. There have also been calls from within Azerbaijan criticizing those who have failed to call out the actions in the video as an "unequivocal crime".⁸⁰ This sentiment is shared by a number of journalists, public figures and opposition politicians in Azerbaijan. Former political prisoner Giyas Ibrahim highlights that attempts to question the authenticity of the footage is "avoiding reality in every sense of the word".⁸¹

135. In addition, the U.S. State Department's 2021 Country Report on Human Rights Practices revealed a multitude of systemic issues within Azerbaijan's judiciary. In particular, the report highlighted that there are "pervasive problems with the independence of the judiciary".⁸² Despite the fact that the constitution provides for an independent judiciary, the report found that the "judges were not functionally independent of the executive branch".⁸³ As a result the judiciary remains "largely corrupt and inefficient".⁸⁴

136. The Azerbaijani authorities' failure to adhere to the European Convention on Human Rights in the past can be seen in the cases of *Makuchyan and Minasyan v. Azerbaijan and Hungary*, no. 17247/13, *Saribekyan and Balyan v. Azerbaijan* no. 35746/11, *Badalyan v. Azerbaijan* no. 51295/11, *Sargsyan v. Azerbaijan* no. 40167/06, *Khojuyan and Vardazaryan v Azerbaijan* no. 6216/14, which remain non-implemented.

B. Evidence of hate speech in connection with executions

137. The footage from the execution in Ishkhanasar was widely shared on Azerbaijani telegram channels and images of the executed Armenian servicemen were circulated on the following Telegram channel: <https://t.me/kara6akh>. This channel has now been deleted but the images continue to be circulated on the following channel: https://t.me/bez_tor. When the footage was originally posted on the Azerbaijani-run telegram page, "Khacherubka" the caption read "proud fighters of the Azerbaijani army, having captured the enemy's post, shot all the terrorists".⁸⁵ A user had asked in the comments if the footage was recent to which the administrator had replied that it was.⁸⁶

79. <https://www.facebook.com/prokurorluq/posts/485341420298608>

80. "Western countries express horror at Azerbaijan PoW execution video", <https://oc-media.org/western-countries-express-horror-at-azerbaijan-pow-execution-video/>

81. Ibid

82. 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Azerbaijan, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2021-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/azerbaijan/>

83. Ibid

84. Ibid

85. "Evidence emerges of Azerbaijani executions of Armenian captives", <https://eurasianet.org/evidence-emerges-of-azerbaijani-executions-of-armenian-captives>

86. Ibid

138. This would not be the first time that Azerbaijani servicemen had filmed and shared footage of this type. The image of a mutilated Armenian servicewoman was also circulated on Azerbaijani telegram channels and made into a sticker which was downloaded over 20,000 times. The filming and public sharing of such material points to further evidence of the authenticity of the Ishkhanasar execution and also reveals that the individuals who filmed and circulated the video were to a degree aware of the impunity they would enjoy from Azerbaijani authorities.

IV. SPECIAL FORCES OF THE AZERBAIJANI ARMED FORCES DIRECTLY ENGAGED IN THE TORTURE AND EXECUTION OF ARMENIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL

A. "Commando" Unit of the Azerbaijani armed forces

139. The "Commando" Unit of the Azerbaijani armed forces (hereinafter, "Commando") was established after the Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) September-November 2020 war. On October 5, 2020, President Ilham Aliyev talked about military reform. In an interview with Turkish state-run broadcaster TRT, Aliyev said that his intention was to remake the Azerbaijani military "based on the Turkish model but on a smaller scale."⁸⁷

140. Furthermore, the rapid development of special forces appears to be the top reform priority. In April 2022, Aliyev reported that "Azerbaijan has doubled the number of special forces after the Karabakh war." That includes a new type of special force established after 2020, units called "Commando" and based on Turkish units of the same name.⁸⁸ Furthermore, they undergo a special one-year training in Turkey.

141. So far, Azerbaijan has reported establishing five Commando units, with two based in the Hadrut and Karvachar districts. The location of the other three has not been made public, but it is safe to assume that they also are close to the border of Armenia and the line of contact with the areas in Artsakh controlled by Russian peacekeepers. Moreover, it was announced that the number of units will be expanded to 10 units overall.

142. These special forces are trained for conducting battles in difficult mountain and foothill areas. That is why these troops were deployed in Artsakh. Furthermore, the members of the Commando unit are taught to fly with parachutes and to ski. The latter enables Azerbaijan to launch possible winter attacks.

143. According to Elbrus Orujev, who is a reserve army major general and a military expert, the main goal of Commando is the destruction of "illegal military associations" (meaning the Defense Army of Artsakh).⁸⁹

87. See the media publication "Perspectives | Azerbaijan remaking its military in Turkey's image", available at <https://eurasianet.org/perspectives-azerbaijan-remaking-its-military-in-turkeys-image>.

88. See the media publication "Azerbaijan's commandos under TSK model rise as new force", available at <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/azerbaijans-commandos-under-tsk-model-rise-as-new-force/news>.

89. Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53i9TyJoVcA&ab_channel=CBCTVAzerbaijan
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWYe5rtpuzA&ab_channel=CBCTVAzerbaijan.

144. Azerbaijani Commando units were actively involved in the 13 -15 September 2022 unprovoked aggression against the sovereign territory of Armenia. Their close engagement in gross violations of human rights and war crimes (e.g., arbitrary execution of the group of Armenian PoWs) is proved by a large amount of evidence, including video footage and photos.

145. One of the Commando units (N 218th) was established in the occupied Hadrut.⁹⁰ The unit is commanded by Elshan Sanaev.



Picture 18: Satellite photo of the location of the Commando unit in Hadrut (24.06.2019)



Pictures 19 and 20: The renovated Commando unit in Hadrut.

146. The opening ceremony of the Commando unit in Hadrut was attended by Ilham Aliyev.⁹¹



90. Coordinates of the Commando unit in Hadrut: 39.515451, 47.036997



Pictures 21, 22 and 23: Opening ceremony of the Commando unit in Hadrut, where the flag of the unit is also illustrated

147. Another unit of Commando was established in the occupied Karvachar.



Pictures 24 and 25: Opening ceremony of the Commando unit in Karvachar.

91. See the press release published in the official webpage of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, available at <https://president.az/ru/articles/view/54888>.



Picture 26: Commando unit in Karvachar.

148. The 3rd Commando unit was established on 19 October 2021.⁹²



Pictures 27 and 28: Opening ceremony of Commando unit established on 19 October 2021.

149. According to the analysis of the statements of the Azerbaijani authorities on planning to establish 10 units of Commando using the experience of the Turkish Military Special Forces "COMMANDO", it can be assumed that the total number of servicemen in the Azerbaijani Commando units will be 6000.⁹³ This can also be confirmed by estimating the number of servicemen in the photo of the Commando unit in Karvachar above.

150. Considering the Turkish experience used in the case of Commando, including the number of servicemen in each unit and provided training, it can be concluded that the Turkish authorities have active engagement in the establishment of these special forces in Azerbaijan.

92. See the media publication on the establishment of one of the Commando units, available at <https://poliqon.az/azerbaycan-ordusunda-yeni-herbi-hisse-yaradildi-COMMANDO/>.

93. Turkish "COMMANDO" units are composed of 600 servicemen, which means Azerbaijan is planning to have in total: $10 \times 600 = 6000$

B. "Yaşma" Special Forces of the Azerbaijani armed forces

151. Azerbaijani Special Forces "Yaşma" (hereinafter, "Yaşma") was established back in 1999, after the 1st Artsakh war on the basis of the 772nd battalion. Starting from that period, based on the decree of Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev, these special forces were trained in close cooperation with the Turkish armed forces. The composition and number of Yaşma units are closed.

152. Yaşma is commanded by Major General Hekmit Mirzaev. He has been the head of these special forces since 1990 when Yaşma was not established yet.



Picture 29: Major General Hekmit Mirzaev, Commandor of Yaşma

153. Along with the Yaşma units operating in the territory of Azerbaijan, there is a brigade of 4 battalions in Nakhijevan. During the last few years, the commander of this Yaşma brigade is Colonel Tehran Mansimov. During the September – November 2020 Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) war, on 10 October two brigades were deployed to the frontline, followed by an additional brigade on 15 October.



Picture 30: Tehran Mansimov and his battalion, traveling from Nakhijevan to Azerbaijan