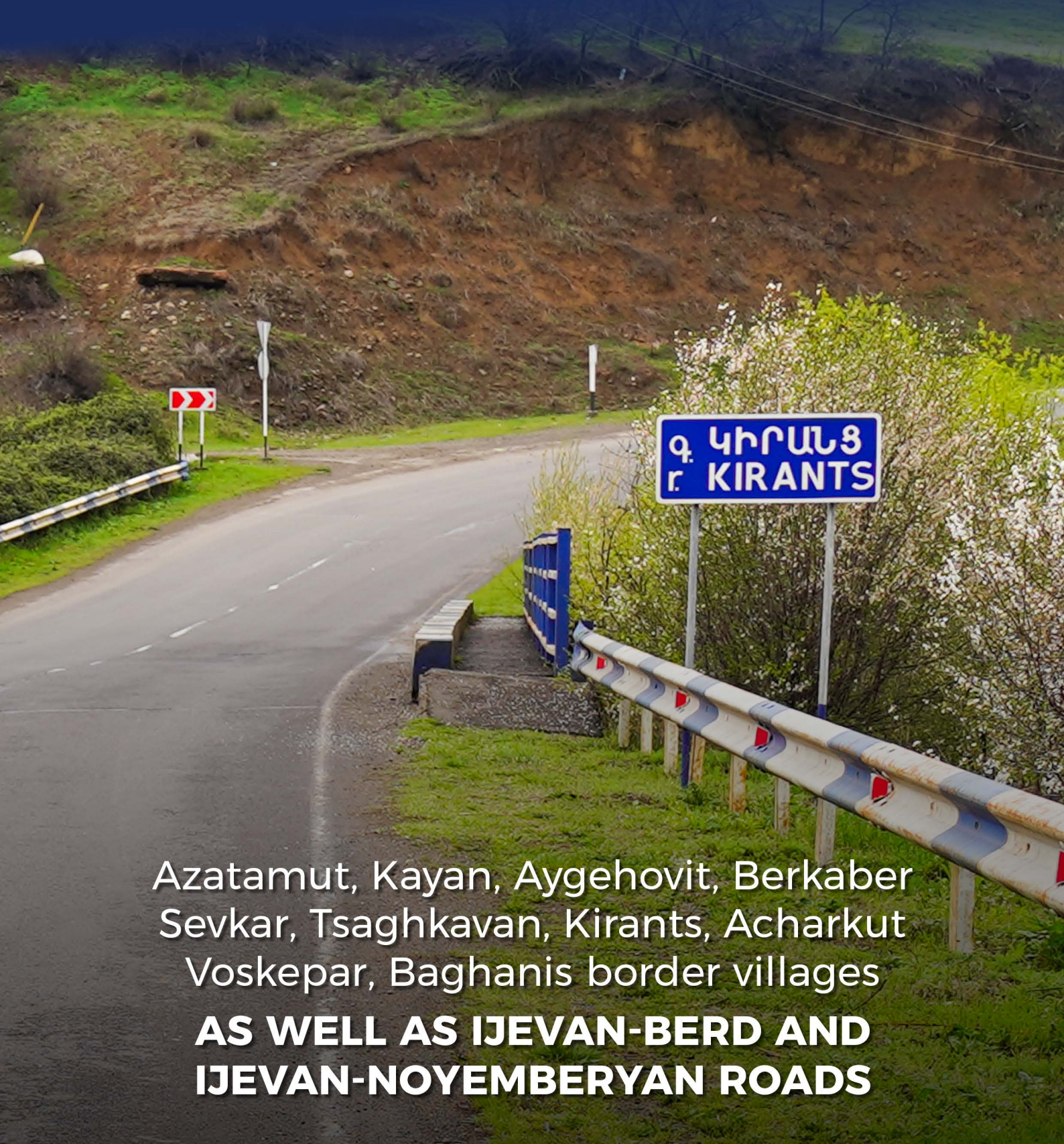


FACT-FINDING ACTIVITIES In Tavush Province of Armenia



Azatamut, Kayan, Aygehovit, Berkaber
Sevkar, Tsaghkavan, Kirants, Acharkut
Voskepar, Baghanis border villages
**AS WELL AS IJEVAN-BERD AND
IJEVAN-NOYEMBERYAN ROADS**

REPORT
09.04.2024

THE RESULTS OF THE FACT-FINDING MISSION IN TAVUSH PROVINCE, ARMENIA

The Center for Law and Justice "Tatoyan" Foundation¹ has detected alarming concerns from Kirants, Voskepar, and several other villages of the Tavush province of the Republic of Armenia, according to which vital problems will arise for the residents within the framework of the delimitation or demarcation process of the RA state borders announced by the Government. The question is, in particular, about violations of the rights of the residents of villages and undermining security (deprivation of pastures, arable lands, houses due to the expected presence of Azerbaijani armed officers near their houses, blocking of roads, etc.). Such alarming concerns were also recorded in the mass media and various social media publications.

Taking into account the mission of the Foundation, the experience of the employees in protecting the rights of border residents of the Republic of Armenia, and the experience in the border area, a visit was carried out to the communities of the Tavush province on April 9, 2024, during which the alarming concerns were recorded.



During the visit, fact-finding activities were carried out, particularly in Azatamut, Kayan, Aygehovit, Berkaber, Sevkar, Tsaghkavan, Kirants, Acharkut, Voskepar, Baghanis border villages, as well as in the sections of the Ijevan-Berd and Ijevan-Noyemberyan roads connected to these villages. During the visit, meetings and discussions took place with the residents of the villages, local public figures, historians, and former military personnel.

This report was prepared based on the results of the visit and fact-finding activities. It will later be presented in English and contain markings on the maps.

The fact-finding activities prove that, in the framework of the solutions regarding the state borders in the Tavush province of Armenia announced by the Government, serious security problems will arise for Armenia, and the rights of the residents will be violated and undermined.

¹ Hereafter: "Foundation".

We carried out studies in Azatamut, Kayan, Aygehovit, Berkaber, Sevkar, Kirants, Acharkut, Voskepar, Baghanis villages, and road sections of the Tavush province.

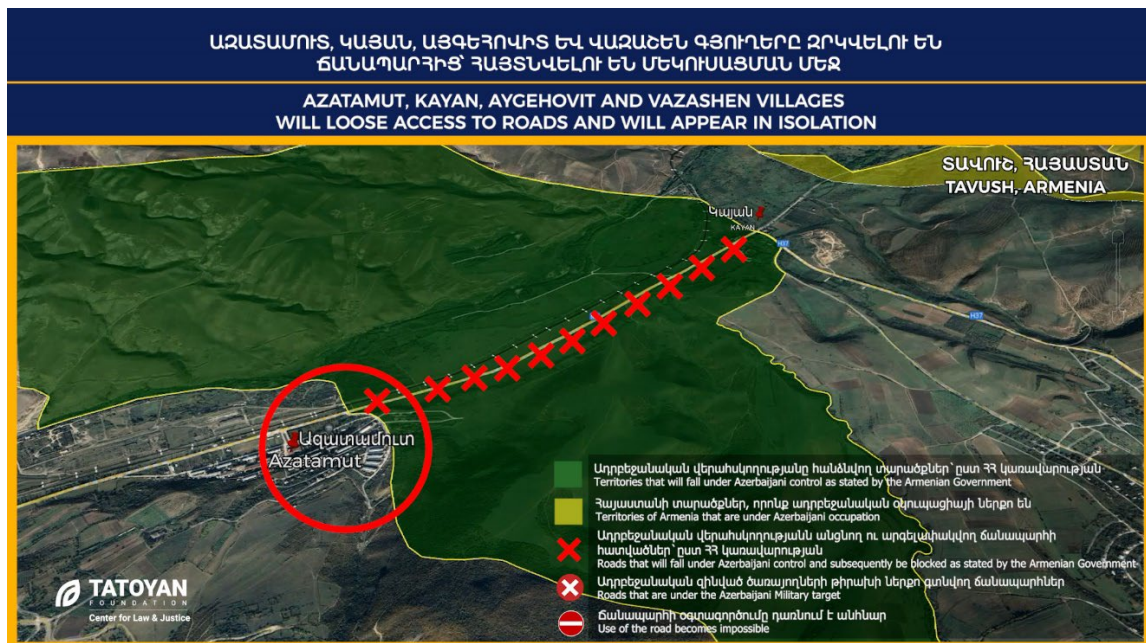
THE DETAILS OF PROBLEMS THAT WERE REPORTED DURING THE VISIT

At the beginning of the visit, a number of meetings took place in the city of Ijevan, and then the Foundation's delegation visited Azatamut and Kayan communities through the Ijevan-Berd road.

First, studies were carried out in Azatamut. This community was founded in the 1970s as a site for a bentonite factory. After the collapse of the USSR, the factory was closed due to the inactivity of the railway. It will not be possible to operate it, as the roads and infrastructure become unusable.

During the period of independence of Armenia, Azatamut was transformed into a rural community. The arable lands and pastures in the immediate vicinity of Azatamut were allocated to the residents as an opportunity to earn a living. However, as a result of the so-called delimitation expected in the future, the community will be deprived of agricultural lands. This may force residents to leave the community precisely because Azerbaijani armed servicemen will appear in the immediate vicinity of their houses.

Apart from that, Azatamut is 2.9 kilometers away from the state border of Azerbaijan, and 1-1.5 kilometers from the actual military territory (inter-positional area, etc.).



There are buildings in Azatamut, the apartments of which will either be divided by the border or will be transferred to the Azerbaijani side. Ditavan village will become a border community and will be under Azerbaijani target.

Kayan community is located directly on the border, and the apartment buildings of Azatamut will be 20-30 meters away from the border of the former Azerbaijan SSR and the Armenian SSR. This means that these communities will simply disappear.

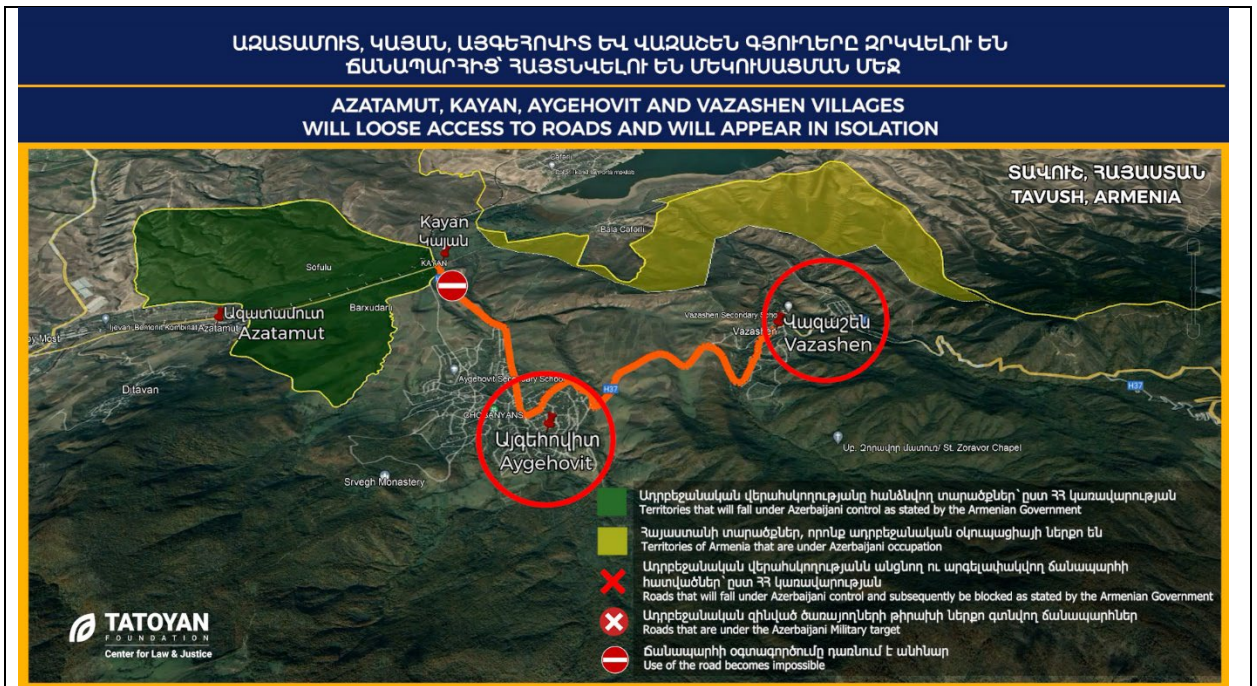


As a result of possible border changes, Kayan will not have proper living conditions or an alternative route, which is why it will cease to be a community.



The main Ijevan-Berd interstate highway also passes through Azatamut-Kayan territory, which operates without interruption in all weather conditions, except for times of border tension.

Berd community has two alternative mountain roads. These are Ijevan-Gandzakar-Navur and Chambarak-Ttujur-Navur unpaved roads. Although, according to the collected facts, these roads have recently started to be repaired, they are often closed due to heavy snowfall.



Aygehovit and Vazashen villages are located on this section of the road, which had large land losses in 1992. Due to Azerbaijani occupation, they are currently either in the interposition areas or under Azerbaijani control.

Particularly 10 kilometers of the territory in Vazashen is currently under Azerbaijani control, and they [Azerbaijan] cultivate these lands. Due to the closure of the road, Aygehovit and Vazashen will face serious economic and security challenges.



It turns out that an alternative road should be built following the example of Syunik, which should pass through forested mountain side, which will make the connection with Ijevan and neighboring settlements more complicated. The road from Kayan to Aygehovit will be blocked.



Aygehovit is one of the large communities of Tavush, the main occupation of the population is horticulture and animal husbandry. After the border changes, the village will lose its land and pastures. Therefore, people will no longer have the opportunity to engage in those types of agricultural activities; it will either disappear, or significantly reduced.

In addition, it turns out that if Kayan community comes under Azerbaijani control, then they [Azerbaijan] will require a separate corridor or a road to enter “their territory”.

The next part of examination of the facts was in Sarigyugh-Berqaber section where the issue of the height called Satmlish is one of the main ones after possible border changes. If the Azerbaijani armed servicemen appear on this hill, they will take under control not only nearby villages of Azatamut, Achajur, Sevkar, Sarigyugh, Berqaber, Tsaghkavan, but also Yerevan-Ijevan state border interstate road of Armenia.

As a result of the border solutions in part of Kirants village which was announced by the Government, the bridge of the M4 Ijevan-Armenian state border interstate highway in the immediate vicinity of the Kirants village,



together with a 600 me section of the road should pass to Azerbaijani.

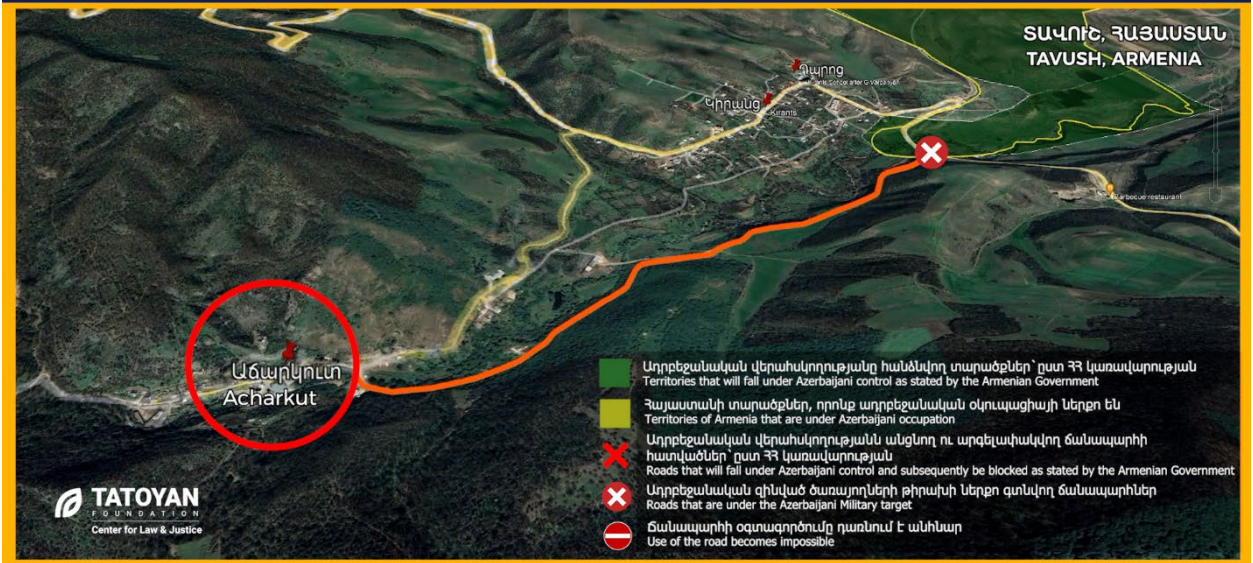
Besides the fact that the further operation of the interstate motorway is threatened, the residential houses of Kirants appear right in the contact line. Even under conditions of unarmed visibility, people’s houses will be under the Azerbaijani armed target. Pastures, gardens and other lands of Kirants will be transferred to Azerbaijan, and the village will be almost completely surrounded by Azerbaijani troops like a narrow peninsula.



In this area Acharkut village as well as the road leading to the village, the gardens of the village etc., will be under the observation or target of the Azerbaijani troops.



THE ROAD TO ACHARKUT PASSES UNDER THE AZERBAIJANI MILITARY TARGET

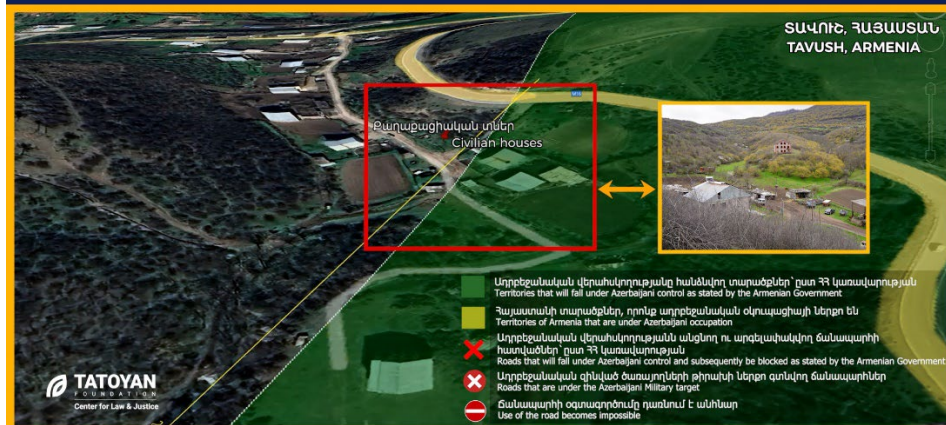


Hereafter, the section of the interstate border from Kirants to Voskepar village crosses the disputed borders with wedge-shaped protrusions in four places before reaching the village. In other words, these parts will go under Azerbaijani control.

In the Voskepar section the problem will not be limited to the existing road. The strategic and vital gas pipeline for Armenia, internet communication cables etc. pass through this section. Sources of drinking and irrigation water will also go under Azerbaijan control.

In this geographically complex mountainous area Voskepar village is important as a bridge connecting Ijevan community to Noyemberyan.

A NUMBER OF CIVILIAN HOUSES WILL FALL UNDER AZERBAIJANI CONTROL



Voskepar village is surrounded from almost three sides, therefore will be blocked. In some parts of village, some residential houses and even parts of the houses will go under the control of Azerbaijan.



The border changes of Voskepar will create a serious threat for the entire province of Armenia. The interstate road in general will be in danger.



As a result of the above mentioned, the Noyemberyan community will be deprived of the roads connecting Tavush. After the appearance of Azerbaijani armed forces in the immediate vicinity of Voskepar, they will see the settlements of Lori province and such a strategic security object as the Teghut reservoir.

As a result of delimitation announced by the Government, we will have vital, ontological problems starting from water sources to the lack of guarantees of people's safety and life.



These facts once more firmly confirm that beginning or the process of the so-called delimitation or demarcation announced by the Government is in principle contrary to its internationally approved nature.

It follows on from international requirements that no presence of Azerbaijani armed servicemen should be allowed in the vicinity of our settlements or on the roads.

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AZERBAIJANI ARMED SERVICEMEN IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE
IJEVAN-ARMENIAN STATE BORDER (M4) VOSKEPAR-BAGHANIS SECTION

ՏԱՎՈՒՇ, ԳՆՅԱՍՏԱՆ
TAVUSH, ARMENIA

ՔԱՂԱՔԱՏԻԱԿԱՆ ՃԱՆԱՊԱՐՀ ԱԴԻԲԵՋԱՆԱԿԱՆ
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CIVILIAN ROAD UNDER AZERBAIJANI MILITARY TARGET

TATOYAN
FOUNDATION
Center for Law & Justice