

# THE WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

RELATED TO THE 44-DAY WAR OF 2020  
COMMITTED BY AZERBAIJAN



**CENTER  
FOR STRATEGIC  
LITIGATIONS**  
Human Rights NGO

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## INTRODUCTION

*As the world is shaken by another war with new war crimes and crimes against Humanity, we remember and once again convince ourselves that this is also the direct consequence of the unpunished war crimes of the past.*

During one of the most difficult times of the fight against COVID-19 in 2020, our world was once again shocked by the start of unprovoked large-scale military actions, war, which was started by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and driven by age-old hatred against the Armenian people. The war in Artsakh (the unrecognized Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh or NKR) lasted for 44 days (September 27 to November 10, 2020) and took the lives of many thousands of soldiers, as well as peaceful civilians.

During the active period of the 44-Day War (also known as The Second Nagorno-Karabakh War) and after it, until this day Azerbaijani political and military leadership continues its war crimes against the Armenian people.

The „Center for Strategic Litigations“ Human Rights NGO realized a project aimed to collect the available war crime evidence and deliver it to national and international actors, including highest level state officials, as well as international organizations operating in the framework of the principle of universal jurisdiction and/or publishing international reports on human rights violations.

The present report was elaborated taking into consideration the statements made in open sources, by famous international organizations, such as Human Rights Watch, Freedom House, Amnesty International etc., as well as the articles of major media outlets, such as BBC, Al Jazeera, Reuters, The Independent, France 24 and so on.

The document was developed in such a way that any biased opinion or subjective perception were excluded.

## SYSTEMATIC ETHNIC HATRED DISSEMINATION: KEEPING IT BOILING FOR DECADES

The Azerbaijani unchanged political power has never ceased spreading the hatred and xenophobia against Armenians on national level, intentionally feeding up its citizens with Armenophobic content starting from the highest level.

Armenophobia, as a part of Azerbaijani national identity, is widespread in Azerbaijan.<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>2 3 4 5 6</sup> The Azerbaijani political power openly disseminates the hatred against Armenians using any means, including school and kindergarten programs, TV, social net etc.

A very illustrative example of the above-mentioned is the following scene<sup>7</sup> in the kindergarten:

In the beginning of March 2018, a video from an Azerbaijani kindergarten was released. It showed how the nurse was telling the children the following ideas (translated from Russian):

- Children, what's the name of our motherland?

And the children answer:

- Azerbaijan.

The nurse says:

- Right. And do you know who are the enemies of Azerbaijan, who are our enemies?

Children answer:

- Armenians.

She asks:

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<sup>1</sup> [Report on Azerbaijan](#) (PDF). Strasbourg: [European Commission against Racism and Intolerance](#). [the original](#) (PDF) Due to the conflict, there is a widespread negative sentiment toward Armenians in Azerbaijani society today." "In general, hate-speech and derogatory public statements against Armenians take place routinely.

<sup>2</sup> ["Second report on Azerbaijan"](#) (PDF). Strasbourg: [European Commission against Racism and Intolerance](#). [the original](#) (PDF) on 21 September 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Burtin, Shura (12 November 2013). ["It is like being pregnant all your life..."](#) [rusrep.ru](#). [Russian Reporter](#). The word "Armenian" is a terrible curse in Azerbaijan, akin to a "Jew" or "Nigger" in other places. As soon as you hear "you behave like an Armenian!" – "No, it's you, who is Armenian!" – that is a sure recipe for a brawl. The word "Armenian" is equivalent to "enemy" in the most deep and archaic sense of the word....

<sup>4</sup> Yusifli, Elvin (15 September 2010). ["Stereotypes in national media – a closer look"](#). *Caucasus Edition: Journal of Conflict Transformation*. [the original](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Cheterian, Vicken](#) (2018). "The Uses and Abuses of History: Genocide and the Making of the Karabakh Conflict". *Europe-Asia Studies*. 70 (6): 884–903. [doi:10.1080/09668136.2018.1489634](#). [S2CID 158760921](#).

<sup>6</sup> Smith, Jeremy (2013). [Red Nations](#). Cambridge University Press. ISBN [978-0-521-11131-7](#).

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1284153331686537>



- Who will tell why they are our enemies?

Children answer:

- They killed our people.

The nurse asks what else Armenians did, and the children answer:

- They killed all of our soldiers.

Then the nurse tells that 20% of Azerbaijani lands are “occupied” by Armenians, naming several regions, a child adds that Armenia also conquered the resources as gold etc.

The criticism and hatred are streamed and fueled through media without drawing a clear distinction between the state and people of the Armenian origin<sup>8 9</sup>.

Calling any person “Armenian (Az. - erməni)” is considered to be an insult in Azerbaijan<sup>10 11</sup>.

“Azerbaijani official textbooks misuse history to encourage hatred and feelings of ethnic and national superiority. The Armenians... are presented as historical enemies and derided in very strong language. [The fifth-grade history textbook by] Ata Yurdu stimulates direct hostility to Armenians. Even if the efforts to establish peace in Nagorno-Karabagh are successful, how can it be expected to survive? How can a new generation live with Armenians in peaceful coexistence after being inculcated with such prejudices? As of now, the civic nationalism that Azerbaijani officials speak of appears to be a distant myth or a mere rhetorical device.<sup>12</sup>”

Another heinous illustration is the murder<sup>13</sup> of lieutenant Gurgen Markaryan (2004) by the Azerbaijani lieutenant Ramil Safarov in his sleep at a Partnership for Peace NATO program. Two years later Safarov was sentenced to life imprisonment in Hungary (minimum incarceration - 30 years). After the request under the Strasbourg convention, Safarov was extradited<sup>14</sup> in August 2012 to Azerbaijan. In Baku he was greeted

<sup>8</sup> "ECRI report on Azerbaijan (fourth monitoring cycle)" (PDF). Strasbourg, France: [European Commission against Racism and Intolerance](#). 31 May 2011. Archived from [the original](#) (PDF)

<sup>9</sup> "Second report on Azerbaijan" (PDF). Strasbourg: [European Commission against Racism and Intolerance](#). 24 May 2007. Archived from [the original](#) (PDF)

<sup>10</sup> "ECRI report on Azerbaijan (fourth monitoring cycle)" (PDF). Strasbourg, France: [European Commission against Racism and Intolerance](#). 31 May 2011. Archived from [the original](#) (PDF)

<sup>11</sup> Yunusov, Arif. "Archived copy" Мифы и образы "врага" в исторической науке и учебниках по истории независимого Азербайджана (PDF). Georg-Eckert-Institut. Archived from [the original](#) (PDF)

<sup>12</sup> Yasemin Kilit Aklar, Nation and History In Azerbaijani School Textbooks (Ab Imperio 2005, Issue 2, p. 469)

<sup>13</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder\\_of\\_Gurgen\\_Margaryan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder_of_Gurgen_Margaryan)

<sup>14</sup> "Armenia Cuts Ties With Hungary in Soldier Dispute". VoA. 31 August 2012. Retrieved 2 September 2012

as a hero by the crowd<sup>15 16</sup>, granted pardon by President Aliyev<sup>17</sup>, ranked as a major and received an apartment with 8 years of back pay. On September 19, 2013, Aliyev stated "Azerbaijan has returned Ramil Safarov - its officer to homeland, given him freedom and restored the justice."<sup>18</sup>

Anti-Armenian xenophobic statements are common by Azerbaijani public figures<sup>19 20</sup>  
<sup>21</sup>. This has reached its highest level taking form of violence on the ground of national hatred against the Armenian people. On 4 April, during the 2016 Armenian–Azerbaijani clashes (also known as the 4-day war), Azerbaijani armed forces representatives decapitated an Armenian soldier of Yezidi origin, Kyatam Sloyan; videos and photos of his severed head were posted on social net<sup>22</sup>. In 2016 the Azerbaijani soldiers entered<sup>23</sup> the village of Talish in the northeastern Martakert District of Artsakh and executed an elderly couple of civilians, cutting their ears.

*Dead bodies of Valera Khalapyan and his wife Razmela in their home. April 2016*



<sup>15</sup> ["Azeri killer Ramil Safarov: Concern over Armenian anger"](#). BBC News. 3 September 2012 Retrieved 3 September 2012. Ramil Safarov was given a hero's welcome on his return to Azerbaijan last week

<sup>16</sup> ["Hero's welcome for Azerbaijan axe murderer"](#). *Al Jazeera*. 2 September 2012. Retrieved 2 September 2012

<sup>17</sup> ["Azerbaijani military officer serving life for murder in Hungary is freed when sent home"](#). Washington Post. 31 August 2012. Archived from [the original](#) on 11 December 2018. Retrieved 2 September 2012

<sup>18</sup> [https://apa.az/en/xeber/domestic-news/xeber\\_azerbaijani\\_president\\_there\\_will\\_be\\_ti\\_-199733](https://apa.az/en/xeber/domestic-news/xeber_azerbaijani_president_there_will_be_ti_-199733)

<sup>19</sup> ["Teimur Radjabov: The enemy is the enemy – we all hate Armenians"](#). Chessbase News

<sup>20</sup> <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199798/ldhansrd/vo970701/text/70701-19.htm>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-110hhrg43066/pdf/CHRG-110hhrg43066.pdf>, page 50

<sup>22</sup> ["Karabakh conflict: Azerbaijani soldiers behead Ezidi from Armenia – EzidiPress English"](#).

<sup>23</sup> <https://hetq.am/en/article/66976> ;

Amongst Azerbaijani soldiers the ears and other body parts of the enemy (including non-combatants<sup>24</sup>) are supposed to be trophies and it is widespread to cut off their ears and other body parts including prior to the death, also as a form of torture. This practice was widespread during the 44-day war as well. Moreover, it was common to film the torture and murder and post it on social net, including Facebook, Telegram channels etc. These cases, as well as other hate crimes committed during the Second NKR War are represented in the chapter on torture and extrajudicial killings of the present report.

During the war of 2020, a member of the Parliament of Azerbaijan and a member of the ruling party stated<sup>25</sup>: "There is no need to sit at the negotiating table with terrorists and vandals, you need to continue operations to destroy them". This one more time comes to prove the fact of the nationwide hatred against Armenians and militarism, instead of trying to solve the NKR issue in a peaceful way.

The PR and media manager of the Azerbaijani football club "Qarabag", Nurlan Ibrahimov said: "We must kill Armenians. No matter whether a woman, a child, an old man. We must kill everyone we can and whoever happens. We should not feel sorry; we should not feel pity. If we do not kill [them], our children will be killed." This person confirmed and justified the fact of the Armenian genocide committed by Turkey<sup>26</sup>.

This kind of ethnic hatred is not only welcome but also spread by the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev himself in his different speeches:

"Armenia as a country is of no value. It is actually a colony, an outpost run from abroad, a territory artificially created on ancient Azerbaijani lands."<sup>27</sup>

"We will continue our efforts to isolate Armenia. This policy is working. We see its results."<sup>28</sup>

"The Armenian barbarians and vandals have razed the city of Agdam to the ground."<sup>29</sup>

"An Armenian is a barbarian who digs graves, removes the golden teeth of the dead."<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Another illustration: <https://www.thenewfederalist.eu/armenia-left-alone-in-its-suffering-once-again-14190?lang=fr>

See more in the chapter of torture and extrajudicial killings during the 44-day war of 2020.

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/karabakh/3314834.html>

<sup>26</sup> <https://artsakhombuds.am/sites/default/files/2020-12/2032f021fe81176414a649d588ad0e86.pdf> page 8

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.twitlonger.com/show/k2p4ba>

<sup>28</sup> <https://twitter.com/presidentaz/status/270797284697075712>

<sup>29</sup> <https://twitter.com/presidentaz/status/497364584743718913>

<sup>30</sup> <https://president.az/en/articles/view/51067>

All of this influences that the Azeri population (ordinary citizens) also are full of complete hatred.

An Azeri Twitter user Sona Əmirova wrote<sup>31</sup> on Twitter: “An Armenian child should not be pitied, as the Armenian child grows up and becomes an Armenian boy.”

Another Azeri - Murad Mirzezade writes<sup>32</sup> on Facebook: “...Both the Armenian mother and child should be killed.”

Xatun Absəlimova on Facebook<sup>33</sup>: “The Armenian child should not be pitied. The child and the old man had to be killed to say that they were throwing stones at me... The Armenian will not change, the best Armenian is a dead Armenian.”

After the 44-day war, in Azerbaijan, postal stamps were published representing another image of xenophobia and hatred against the Armenian people:



According to “2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Azerbaijan” , “Following the border closure between Azerbaijan and Armenia in 1991, inflammatory rhetoric and hate speech became increasingly prevalent, particularly as an entire generation grew up without interactions with the other side. Civil society activists stated that an entire generation had grown up listening to hate speech against Armenians... Following the November 2020 cease-fire, in January Azerbaijan released a commemorative postal stamp series to commemorate COVID first responders and the “heroes of the Nagorno-Karabakh war” that juxtaposed Azerbaijani military personnel alongside first responders. In one stamp, a man in overalls typically worn by persons responsible for the disinfection of streets was portrayed disinfecting a part of the map of Azerbaijan corresponding to the Nagorno-

<sup>31</sup> <https://twitter.com/MirovaSona/status/1321473332118581249>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/murad.mirzezade.98/posts/1676638545845092>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/100015540885357/posts/948880772306610/?d=n>



Karabakh region. The series of images in the stamps appeared to dehumanize Armenians by insinuating they were a disease.”

In his nationwide address, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev stated: *“Azerbaijani soldiers expel them (Armenians) like dogs”*<sup>34</sup>.

On October 17, 2020, Aliyev announced: *“For 30 years, it (meaning Artsakh and Fizuli (Varanda), in particular) 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.”*<sup>35</sup>

On 16 September 2021, Armenia initiated proceedings against Azerbaijan before the International Court of Justice over violations of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (“CERD”) by Azerbaijani authorities. Armenia contended that individuals of Armenian ethnic or national origin residing in Azerbaijan have been subject to systemic discrimination, torture, mass killings and other abuses by the government of Azerbaijan. These practices allegedly commenced in September 2020, during the recent Nagorno-Karabakh armed conflict, and continued even after the end of hostilities, following a ceasefire which came into effect on 10 November 2020. On 7 December 2021, the Court partially accepted Armenia’s request to take all necessary measures to prevent the incitement and promotion of racial hatred and discrimination, including by its officials and public institutions, targeted at persons of Armenian national or ethnic origin<sup>36</sup>.

All of the above-mentioned once again come to prove that the life and the fundamental rights of the ethnic Armenian people are seriously endangered in case they live under Azerbaijani control: both the state officials and citizens are full of extreme hatred against Armenians.

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<sup>34</sup> <https://www.voltairenet.org/article211050.html>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVdWkPPIe4>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20211207-ORD-01-00-EN.pdf>

## BLOODTHIRST

So, in September 2020, President Aliyev started an unprovoked war and did not stop until his thirst for warfare was satisfied:

<b>Armenia and NKR wanted PEACE</b>	<b>Azerbaijan wanted WAR</b>
<p><i>Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan</i></p> <p><i>44-Day War, 2020</i></p>	<p><i>President Ilham Aliyev</i></p> <p><i>44-Day War, 2020</i></p>
<p>“Our position is that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict should be resolved exclusively by peaceful means. And I am ready to make all necessary efforts to achieve such a result. Including going, meeting, talking.”</p> <p><a href="https://www.primeminister.am/en/interviews-and-press-conferences/item/2020/10/19/Nikol-Pashinyan-interview-TACC/">https://www.primeminister.am/en/interviews-and-press-conferences/item/2020/10/19/Nikol-Pashinyan-interview-TACC/</a></p> <p>“We have repeatedly stated our readiness to settle the issue through compromise. This means that we can reduce something from the bar we set for the sake of a solution, provided that the other side has to lower something from its bar. But practice has shown that this logic is otherwise unacceptable for Azerbaijan.”</p> <p><a href="https://www.primeminister.am/en/statements-and-messages/item/2020/10/21/Nikol-Pashinyan/">https://www.primeminister.am/en/statements-and-messages/item/2020/10/21/Nikol-Pashinyan/</a></p> <p>“We signed to conform to our intention,</p>	<p>“There is an international format for negotiations. Unfortunately, this format has not yielded any results. Therefore, calls for dialogue by any party are irrelevant under the current circumstances.”</p> <p><a href="https://en.president.az/articles/42108">https://en.president.az/articles/42108</a></p> <p>“International law does not work in international relations.”</p> <p><a href="https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3320720.html">https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3320720.html</a></p> <p>“We have always tried to follow the political</p>

<p>and we are committed to our intention - point one, point two - on the ceasefire, on humanitarian actions, and on the start of negotiations with the unchanged format of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs.”</p> <p><a href="https://www.primeminister.am/en/press-release/item/2020/10/12/Nikol-Pashinyan-met-with-ambassadors/">https://www.primeminister.am/en/press-release/item/2020/10/12/Nikol-Pashinyan-met-with-ambassadors/</a></p> <p>“I would like to see the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict finally resolved in the end based on a compromise. I would like us to find a solution that is acceptable to all sides - Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan. And that would be the final solution.”</p> <p><a href="https://www.primeminister.am/en/interviews-and-press-conferences/item/2020/10/15/Nikol-Pashinyan-interview-RT/">https://www.primeminister.am/en/interviews-and-press-conferences/item/2020/10/15/Nikol-Pashinyan-interview-RT/</a></p> <p>“Our position is that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict should be resolved exclusively by peaceful means. And I am ready to make all necessary efforts to achieve such a result. Including going, meeting, talking. But we must all understand that the solution should be based on a compromise, not on the surrender of one of the parties. By the way, if there is no readiness on the other hand, we are prepared to struggle to the</p>	<p>path and have always heard that there is no military solution. We have proven that this is not the case.”</p> <p><a href="https://en.president.az/articles/42449">https://en.president.az/articles/42449</a></p> <p>“We need lands. We will get this land by any means. Let everyone know this.”</p> <p><a href="https://en.president.az/articles/43334">https://en.president.az/articles/43334</a></p> <p>“We will get this land by any means. Let everyone know this. The history of the last days shows this.”</p> <p><a href="https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3314774.html">https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3314774.html</a></p> <p>“We will throw you [Armenians] out of there [NKR] anyway. There will be no trace of them left on those lands. We will drive them out of our lands to the end.”</p> <p><a href="https://en.president.az/articles/43334">https://en.president.az/articles/43334</a></p> <p>“We will chase them away like dogs and we are doing that.”</p> <p><a href="https://en.president.az/articles/43334">https://en.president.az/articles/43334</a></p>
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<p>last for the rights of our people, for the rights of our compatriots in Nagorno-Karabakh.”</p> <p><a href="https://www.primeminister.am/en/interviews-and-press-conferences/item/2020/10/19/Nikol-Pashinyan-interview-TACC/?fbclid=IwAR0FYQiUnwBicRomLlGo5dtG7i1LtDpZTjwhJ9Tc7Aliv3cyqvF_HgnWwc">https://www.primeminister.am/en/interviews-and-press-conferences/item/2020/10/19/Nikol-Pashinyan-interview-TACC/?fbclid=IwAR0FYQiUnwBicRomLlGo5dtG7i1LtDpZTjwhJ9Tc7Aliv3cyqvF_HgnWwc</a></p>	
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### **BOMBING CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS, INCLUDING SCHOOL, MATERNITY HOSPITAL, CHURCH**

Starting from the morning of September 27, 2020, Azerbaijan launched a large-scale military aggression along the entire line of contact with Nagorno-Karabakh. The offensive actions of Azerbaijan from the very beginning included sustained air and artillery attacks, an infantry offensive, extensively shelling civilian population, peaceful settlements, including the capital Stepanakert, city of Shushi and nearby, covered also Hadrut and the villages nearby, Martakert, Martuni, Askeran, Talish, Mataghis, Togh, Norashen, Avetaranots, Urekan, Ishkhanadzor, Aygehovit, Vurgavan and many other residential areas populated with mostly Armenian people on that time.

For one month and more the villages, towns and the capital city Stepanakert were under indiscriminate shelling.

So, Azerbaijan struck several NKR cities and other settlements outside of the conflict zone, most frequently capital Stepanakert. Attacks were reported by both Armenian authorities and international organizations.

The indiscriminate attacks included the full use of air force, missiles, artillery, attack UAVs and even internationally prohibited weapons and methods<sup>37</sup>.

<sup>37</sup> [https://artsakhombuds.am/sites/default/files/2020-11/Artsakh-Ombudsman-report-on-children-rights-09.11.2020\\_0.pdf](https://artsakhombuds.am/sites/default/files/2020-11/Artsakh-Ombudsman-report-on-children-rights-09.11.2020_0.pdf) page 3

The Azerbaijani armed forces attacked around 170 civilian communities, including the densely populated ones, with aerial, artillery, rocket and tank fire strikes, some of which were indiscriminate (including shelling with cluster bombs and other prohibited weapons), resulting in deaths and injuries in civilian population. In many cases, attacks against civilians were targeted and intentional, since military targets were located very far from the civilian objects, and the Azerbaijani forces used high-precision weapons like missiles and striking drones<sup>38</sup>.

Despite the fact that Children benefit from general protection to civilians and special protection granted by the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and its 1977 Additional Protocol, on the very first day of the 44-day war, September 27, 2020, a 9-years-old girl Victoria Gevorgyan was killed from shelling in the Martuni region of Artsakh in the yard of her family's house. Her mother and younger brother were wounded<sup>39</sup>.



According to *Human Rights Watch (HRW)*<sup>40</sup>, from September 27 through October 28, Azerbaijani forces conducted strikes on Stepanakert, at times using cluster munitions

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<sup>38</sup> [https://artsakhombuds.am/sites/default/files/2020-11/Artsakh-Ombudsman-report-on-children-rights-09.11.2020\\_0.pdf](https://artsakhombuds.am/sites/default/files/2020-11/Artsakh-Ombudsman-report-on-children-rights-09.11.2020_0.pdf) page 10

<sup>39</sup> For more visit [https://artsakhombuds.am/en/document/785#\\_Toc83492395](https://artsakhombuds.am/en/document/785#_Toc83492395)

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/12/11/azerbaijan-unlawful-strikes-nagorno-karabakh>



and Smerch and Grad rockets, which are not capable of precision targeting. Azerbaijani forces attacked Armenian and Nagorno-Karabakh forces based in or around Stepanakert, including at two military bases, one of which is believed to be the headquarters for the local defense forces. Several structures were also military objectives, subject to attack. However, Human Rights Watch found that in the attacks investigated, Armenian and local forces were not deployed nor had set up any significant defensive systems or other weaponry in the city...

Human Rights Watch found that, in addition to the attacks on military targets, Azerbaijani forces attacked residential areas with inherently indiscriminate weapons and dropped aerial munitions and fired heavy artillery into populated areas that contained no apparent military objectives. Such attacks are indiscriminate, violating the laws of war, because they do not distinguish between civilians and civilian objects and military targets. Warring parties should also refrain from using explosive munitions with wide-area effects in populated areas because they cause both immediate and long-term harm to the civilian population.

*September 28, 2020*



Photo © Areg Balayan

*A wounded child, a victim of Azerbaijani bombing of Stepanakert*



*Armenian civilian with burned face, a victim of Azerbaijani bombing of Stepanakert*

Two French (a reporter and a photographer (cameraman) from *Le Monde*) and two Armenian journalists were seriously wounded during the shelling by the Azerbaijani side on October 1, 2020<sup>41</sup> <sup>42</sup>. The journalists had been filming civilians with a group of reporters in Martuni in the west of the Nagorno-Karabakh region (Regis Genté, a journalist for *France 24*

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.rferl.org/a/two-french-journalist-seriously-wounded-in-fighting-in-nagorno-karabakh/30868851.html>

<sup>42</sup> <https://cpj.org/2020/10/at-least-4-journalists-injured-covering-nagorno-karabakh-conflict/>

TV who was with the two wounded, said the group was filming homes that had been bombed earlier in the week. “It was when we were looking at the rubble of the bombing from Sunday that we heard in a flash a rocket and it fell to the ground. The attack lasted about a minute,” he told *France 24*.<sup>43</sup>).



*A car, which was used by Armenian reporters is seen after it was damaged during a recent shelling, in the town of Martuni in the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh October 1, 2020.*

*Armenian Unified*

*Infocentre/Handout via REUTERS*

*Bloodstains and equipment are seen in a car of Armenian reporters, after it was damaged during a shelling, in the town of Martuni in the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh October 1, 2020. Armenian Unified Infocentre/Handout via REUTERS*



Witnessing evidence of the use of banned cluster munition by Azerbaijan against civilian areas in Stepanakert and Nagorno-Karabakh exists. Media outlets and other parties

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<sup>43</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-armenia-azerbaijan-journalists-condit-idUSKBN26M5U7>

reported about repeated indiscriminate shelling of civilian targets in the NKR capital Stepanakert. According to *BBC*<sup>44</sup>, as of 4 October 2020, “More than 200 people are now known to have been killed, including civilians, since the fighting between troops from Armenia and Azerbaijan began a week ago.”



On October 4, 2020, Russian *RBC (P5K)* reporter Dmitry Vinogradov wrote<sup>45</sup>: “For the fourth day in a row, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh has been under continuous shelling. The shelling starts from the very morning. There are no military positions in the city center, strikes are directed at civilian targets. On Friday, one of the shells hit the Stepanakert military hospital and destroyed several residential buildings. On the same day, an explosion damaged the building of the local Ministry of Emergency Situations, and several rescuers were injured.”

On October 5, 2020, the Armenian government stated that Azerbaijan had deployed cluster munitions against residential<sup>46</sup> <sup>47</sup> targets in Stepanakert; *Amnesty International* reported<sup>48</sup> on the issue.

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<sup>44</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-europe-54408167>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.rbc.ru/politics/04/10/2020/5f7985999a79475b6eba9e86>

<sup>46</sup>

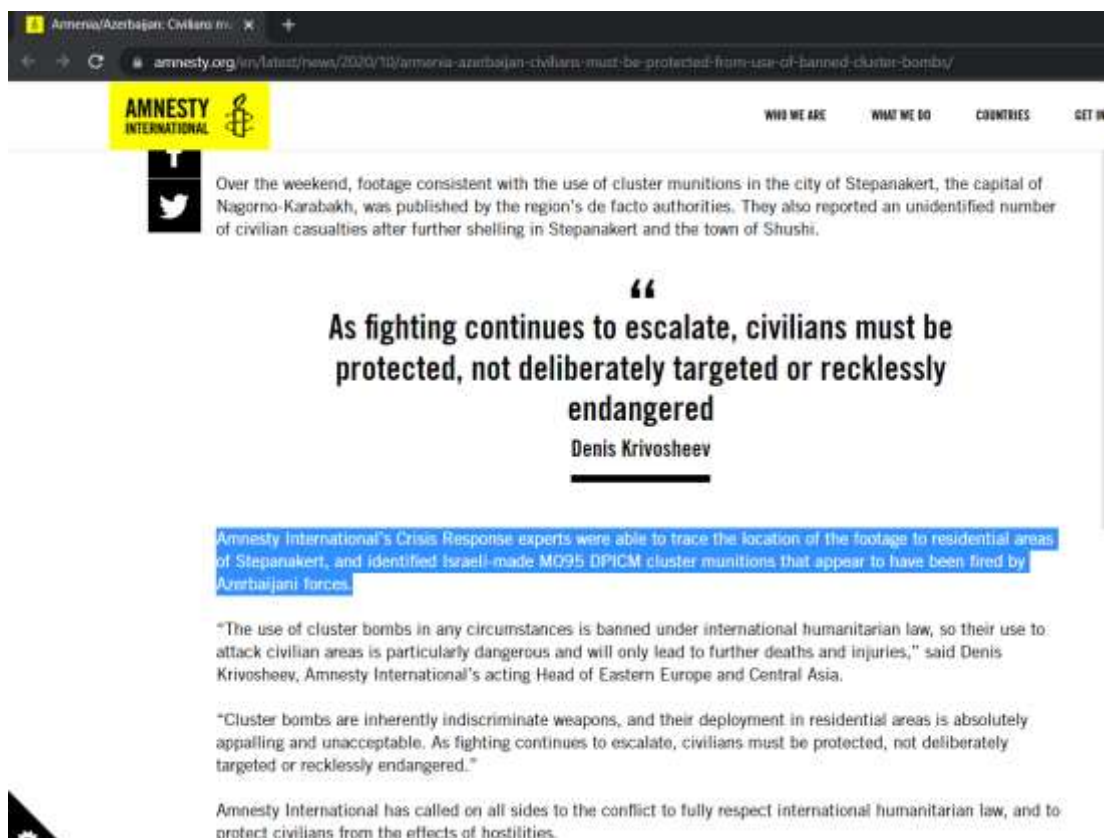
[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/52/Stepanakert\\_bombardment\\_by\\_Azerbaijani\\_forces\\_on\\_October\\_4%2C\\_2020\\_during\\_the\\_Nagorno\\_Karabakh\\_war.webm](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/52/Stepanakert_bombardment_by_Azerbaijani_forces_on_October_4%2C_2020_during_the_Nagorno_Karabakh_war.webm)

<sup>47</sup>

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/65/Stepanakert\\_after\\_the\\_bombardment\\_by\\_Azerbaijani\\_forces\\_on\\_October\\_4%2C\\_2020\\_during\\_the\\_Nagorno\\_Karabakh\\_war.webm](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/65/Stepanakert_after_the_bombardment_by_Azerbaijani_forces_on_October_4%2C_2020_during_the_Nagorno_Karabakh_war.webm)

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/10/armenia-azerbaijan-civilians-must-be-protected-from-use-of-banned-cluster-bombs/>





The *HRW* reported<sup>49</sup>: “Azerbaijani forces carried out apparently indiscriminate attacks in Stepanakert in violation of the laws of war during the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh... A Human Rights Watch on-site investigation in Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabakh’s largest city, found numerous incidents in which Azerbaijan’s forces used inherently indiscriminate cluster munitions and artillery rockets or other weapons that did not distinguish between military targets and civilian objects. Evidence relating to an attack on October 4, 2020, indicates that multiple strikes hit residential homes in less than a minute suggesting possible bombardment – treating the whole area as a military target – which is prohibited under the laws of war. Azerbaijani forces also attacked infrastructure that may have an unlawfully disproportionate impact on the civilian population. The use by Armenian and local Nagorno-Karabakh forces of military bases and dual-use infrastructure in Stepanakert placed the civilian population unnecessarily at risk.

“Azerbaijani forces carried out apparently indiscriminate air and ground strikes hitting civilian structures in Nagorno-Karabakh’s largest city that should be impartially investigated,” said Lama Fakih, crisis and conflict director at Human Rights Watch. “While

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/12/11/azerbaijan-unlawful-strikes-nagorno-karabakh>



the hostilities may have stopped, the civilian population continues to suffer from possibly disproportionate attacks on critical infrastructure”...

On October 8, 2020, Azerbaijani armed forces launched 2 separate attacks, hours apart, on the St. Holy Savior Ghazanchetsots Cathedral. At the moment of the first missile attack there were only children, women, and elderly in the bomb-shelter basement of the Cathedral<sup>50</sup>. The Cathedral is located in Shushi city center, it was shelled by using a multiple rocket launcher and sustained heavy damage. *HRW* published a report<sup>51</sup> on those attacks, underlining that “the church, a civilian object with cultural significance, was an intentional target despite the absence of evidence that it was used for military purposes.” Moreover, *HRW* stated that “The Azerbaijani government has denied intentionally striking the church, instead asserting without evidence that the church was attacked by Armenian forces as a “provocation” or that it may have been mistakenly struck by Azerbaijani artillery.



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<sup>50</sup> [https://artsakhombuds.am/sites/default/files/2020-11/Artsakh-Ombudsman-report-on-children-rights-09.11.2020\\_0.pdf](https://artsakhombuds.am/sites/default/files/2020-11/Artsakh-Ombudsman-report-on-children-rights-09.11.2020_0.pdf) page 7

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/12/16/azerbaijan-attack-church-possible-war-crime>



However, multiple factors indicate that both attacks were directed at the church. The remnants found indicate that the weapons used were capable of being directed at a specific target. The two strikes struck the same part of the church roof, with no more than two meters difference between the point of impact. This substantially reduces the possibility that less precise weapons were used, given their inability to achieve such a high degree of accuracy over two strikes. Additionally, Human Rights Watch is not aware of any additional reports of strikes in Shushi around the church at the time of these attacks, suggesting that each attack was a single strike.”

The same report states that there were civilians sheltering in the church when the strikes took place.

One of the strongest strikes was inflicted on the Shushi city House of Culture, leaving almost only ruins of the building (October 7, 2020)<sup>52</sup>.

*Photo: FIP*

<https://fip.am/en/13228>

*October 8, 2020*

*Shushi city house of culture after the shelling*



<sup>52</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIPp2\\_tNkZw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIPp2_tNkZw) ; <https://fip.am/en/13228>

Photo: The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/oct/13/trench-warfare-drones-and-cowering-civilians-on-the-ground-in-nagorno-karabakh>

October 13, 2020. "A building destroyed by shelling in Stepanakert"



On October 23, 2020, *HRW* reported<sup>53</sup>: "Azerbaijan has repeatedly used widely banned cluster munitions in residential areas in Nagorno-Karabakh... During an on-site investigation in Nagorno-Karabakh in October 2020, Human Rights Watch documented four incidents in which Azerbaijan used cluster munitions."

Moreover, on October 28, 2020, as the *Armenian government's Unified Info Center* reported<sup>54</sup>, Azerbaijan targeted the maternity hospital (maternal and child health center) of Stepanakert. The *HRW* report<sup>55</sup> on the issue states: "Damage to the newly renovated maternity ward of the Republican Hospital in Stepanakert from an Azerbaijani Smerch artillery rocket on October 28. Azerbaijani strikes damaged or destroyed numerous businesses and homes in four neighborhoods visited, two of which had no apparent military target nearby. Also, on October 28, an Azerbaijani artillery rocket strike damaged the new maternity ward of the Republican Medical Center, which had yet to open; because the maternity ward had moved its operations to the basement".

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<sup>53</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/10/23/azerbaijan-cluster-munitions-used-nagorno-karabakh>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.azatutyun.am/a/30917254.html>

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/12/11/azerbaijan-unlawful-strikes-nagorno-karabakh>





The *Associated Press* video material<sup>56</sup> was obtained by *HRW*. According to *HRW*, “Staff members said that dozens of patients and staff were at the hospital during the attack, including pregnant women, women with bleeding and other gynecological issues, civilians with light wounds, and soldiers in the emergency ward. The presence of injured soldiers in a hospital does not change its protected nature.”

Furthermore, on November 1 Azerbaijan targeted the mosque in Shushi by Grad and Smerch multiple rocket launchers<sup>57</sup>.

Azerbaijani forces struck four times the area near School Number 10, which is across the street from the main electrical substation. The attacks seriously damaged dozens of classrooms, the building’s exterior, (...) (*HRW*)<sup>58</sup>.

Azerbaijani armed forces shelled a school in Aygestan village, a kindergarten in Stepanakert as well<sup>59</sup>, which also sustained heavy damage.

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<sup>56</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8XivRzn1L8> ;

another video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZfoUgnthaM>

<sup>57</sup> <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1033505/azerbaijan-bombards-iranian-mosque-in-artsakh.html>

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/12/11/azerbaijan-unlawful-strikes-nagorno-karabakh>

Only as of November 1, 2020, a total of 70 educational facilities had been destroyed in NKR as a result of the Azerbaijani attacks (reported the NKR Minister of Education, Science and Culture Lusine Gharakhanyan)<sup>60</sup>.

According to *HRW Country Report 2022*<sup>61</sup>, “The fighting compounded the loss of education due to Covid-19-related school closures. According to official data, at least 71 schools were damaged or destroyed on the Armenian side. Despite the severe damage to schools during the conflict, Azerbaijan had yet to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration, an international agreement to protect education during armed conflict signed by 112 countries.”

There were many other cases of intentional targeting of civilians, residential and public objects and vital infrastructures.

As of November 9, 2020, since 27 September, 2020, at least 50 civilians were killed, including 1 child, and at least 163 civilians, including 9 children, were wounded, as a result of the Azerbaijani missile strikes, shelling and UAV (including Turkish “Bayraktar”) attacks in different cities and villages of Artsakh, including capital Stepanakert, towns of Shushi, Hadrut, Martuni, Martakert, Askeran, Karvajar, Berdzor, villages of Taghaser, Vardashat, Spitakshen, Maghavyus, Nerkin Horatagh, Alashan, Mataghis<sup>62</sup>.

Right after the military actions were ended, *Bild* reporter Paul Ronzheimer wrote<sup>63</sup>: “President Aliyev is known for being liar. When a BBC reporter asked him this week why Azerbaijan is also shelling civilian targets, he replied that this is “fake news”. When the reporter then pointed out that BBC reporters witnessed the shelling of civilian targets with their own eyes, he repeated the accusation that this is all “fake news”. I myself have

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<sup>59</sup> [https://artsakhombuds.am/sites/default/files/2020-11/Artsakh-Ombudsman-report-on-children-rights-09.11.2020\\_0.pdf](https://artsakhombuds.am/sites/default/files/2020-11/Artsakh-Ombudsman-report-on-children-rights-09.11.2020_0.pdf) pages 12-14

<sup>60</sup> [https://www.mfa.am/en/awaa\\_chr/2020/11/01/w\\_nk\\_2020/10623](https://www.mfa.am/en/awaa_chr/2020/11/01/w_nk_2020/10623)

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/azerbaijan>

<sup>62</sup>

<https://artsakhombuds.am/en/document/766?fbclid=IwAR0S24D7KsQGM1H0cye1fUL7WNtOYYwMi1I6dBjevz1raDij-7btdlcWUNl>

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.bild.de/politik/international/bild-international/paul-ronzheimer-about-karabakh-we-have-watched-this-war-happen-73872944.bild.html>



witnessed the brutal approach of the Azerbaijani army. When we were reporting from Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, we spent every night in a basement. The sirens kept blaring. The attacks were fierce. At daytime, when we had half an hour without an air-raid siren, for a change, we could see the damage. The missiles of the Azerbaijani army kept hitting apartment buildings and clearly civilian targets, such as a church in Shusha, which was even bombarded twice. Shortly after we had visited the site to report on the first attack, there was a second attack, in which a Russian colleague was badly injured.”

On February 2, 2021, Special Rapporteurs of *OHCHR* sent a letter<sup>64</sup> to Azerbaijan expressing concern “...regarding reports of indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas, resulting in damage or destruction of schools, churches and other cultural heritage sites” and asking to “provide information on the steps taken to ensure respect for the principles of distinction, precaution and proportionality”. The letter stated that Azerbaijani forces conducted multiple strikes “which may constitute a bombardment” on Stepanakert with indiscriminate weapons, including air-delivered weapons, large calibre artillery, rockets and cluster munitions in several parts of Stepanakert, including residential areas, resulting in damage to civilian infrastructures, including schools, residential homes, apartment complexes and the maternity ward of the Republic Medical Centre, which led to deaths and injuries to civilians. Dual-use objects such as power plants, electricity and gas stations and the telecommunication head office located in residential areas were also targeted with indiscriminate weapons.

As the war took place in the time of COVID-19 pandemic, several outlets reported increased cases of COVID-19 in Nagorno-Karabakh, particularly the city of Stepanakert, where the population was forced to live in overcrowded bunkers, due to Azerbaijan artillery and drone strikes conflict<sup>65</sup>. There were also reported difficulties in testing and contact tracing during the conflict.

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<sup>64</sup> <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gld=25857>

<sup>65</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-pandemics-azerbaijan-armenia-europe-14f519a45ce899c2c7a52cba7c876850>

According to the results of the fact-finding mission<sup>66</sup> of the Human Rights Defender of Artsakh, as of November 3, 2020, a total of 144 people were wounded, of which 123 received serious injuries: 104 of them are male and 19 are female citizens. 170 peaceful settlements of the Artsakh Republic were severely damaged, in particular, 13800 private immovable property, 2100 private movable property, 3100 infrastructures, public and industrial objects.

The Human Rights Ombudsman's staff of the Republic of Artsakh (NKR) reported an update<sup>67</sup> on January 29, 2021, of the interim report on the cases of killing of civilians by the Azerbaijani armed forces including also the cases found after December 22, 2020 (result of search operations). According to the report, from September 27, 2020, to January 28, 2021, the killings of 72 civilians by the Azerbaijani armed forces have been recorded: 41 - from targeted strikes, 31 – in captivity. A number of cases of torture and mutilation of corpses, inevitably targeted civilian deaths were recorded. The Human Rights Ombudsman also recorded the cases of 163 civilian injuries, most of which resulted from strikes that resulted in the deaths of others. The Report presents only the cases on irrefutable grounds, at the same time the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman still receives information on the alleged cases of civilian deaths, that require investigation, the results of which will be included in further updates of the report.

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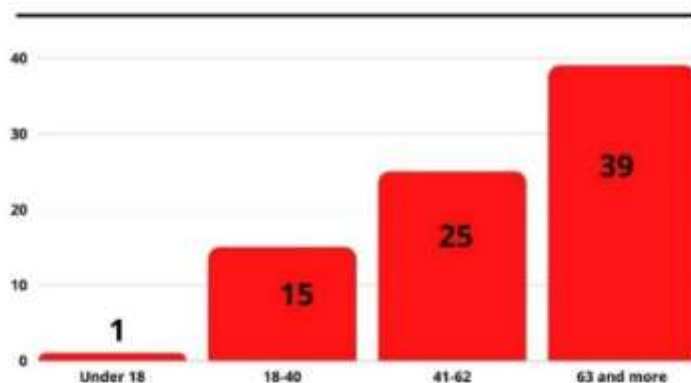
<sup>66</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/ArtsakhOmbuds/posts/1708263799340775> ;  
<https://ombuds.am/images/files/69875fa32b9ad9ce729dadb9a03395e3.pdf> page 4

<sup>67</sup>

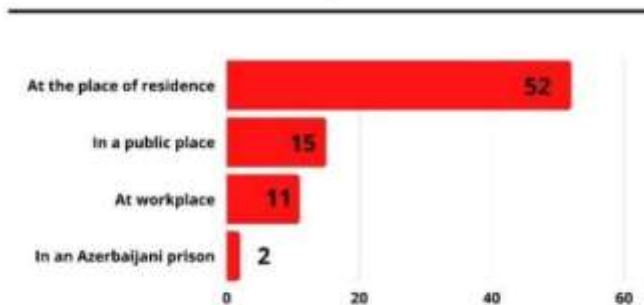
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<https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1041825.html?fbclid=IwAR2dAx0Mvgu3kbRxvcZSRcMIEUQqgB-d52U7CkBYOk7 fcdicysLOSc7zw>



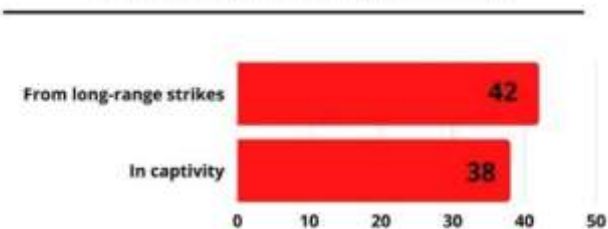
Killed civilians by age



Killed civilians by the locations



Killed civilians by the circumstances of death



Even recently, after ceasefire agreement targeting the civilians is largely practiced by Azerbaijan.

On February 11, 2022, at around 5:50 am, shots were fired from the Azerbaijani positions located near Karmir Shuka and Taghavard communities of Artsakh Republic's

Martuni region in the direction of residential houses, Artsakh's Human Rights Defender Gegham Stepanyan informed: "Given the distance from the Azerbaijani positions and the settlements, the fact that the residential part of the village can be observed from the Azerbaijani positions, it is undeniable that the Azerbaijani side directly targeted residential houses" <sup>68</sup>. The window of a house in Karmir Shuka was smashed, and the bullet penetrated into the living room of the house.

On March 9, 2022, Azatutyun Radio Station informed<sup>69</sup> that the prosecutor's office in Stepanakert states that in the evening of March 9, 2022, the Azerbaijani army was „actively“ using mortars and automatic weapons to target the rural communities, mostly located in the East of NKR, as well as the local roads. The gunfire forced local farmers to suspend "all types of agricultural work", was added in the statement. Tensions around the village rose in mid-February when Azerbaijani troops reportedly wounded a Karabakh-Armenian soldier and fired on local farmers cultivating their land. A tractor used by them was hit by the gunshots before Russian peacekeeping forces intervened to rescue the farmers. Later in February, Azerbaijani troops broadcast through loudspeakers placed on their positions an Armenian-language message telling Khramort residents to stop working in their orchards and leave "Azerbaijan's territory", „if not, force will be used against you“.

According to EVN Report<sup>70</sup>, on March 24, 2022, Azerbaijan launched a military assault against the village of Parukh, in Artsakh's Askeran region. It continued to attack Artsakh Defense Army positions throughout the night, continuing the next day. The use of Turkish-made Bayraktar TB-2 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), i.e. martial drones, resulted in 14 wounded on the Armenian side. Three servicemen died. The Russian peacekeepers have been reported to be negotiating with the Azerbaijani armed forces to withdraw to the positions they held on March 23. However, Azerbaijani troops remain in Parukh, with some renewed gunfire being reported on March 26.

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<sup>68</sup> <https://en.armradio.am/2022/02/11/residential-houses-targeted-as-azerbaijani-forces-open-fire-near-karmir-shuka/>

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.azatutyun.am/a/31744640.html>

<sup>70</sup> <https://evnreport.com/spotlight-karabakh/azerbaijans-gas-blockage-of-artsakh-escalates-to-attack-on-parukh-village/>

An ethnic Armenian resident of Nagorno-Karabakh was killed and 3 others wounded by Azerbaijani armed forces on November 8, 2021, authorities of NKR stated. In particular, the 4 men came under fire while repairing water pipes just outside the Azerbaijani-controlled town of Shushi (Shusha). The National Security Service said it is investigating the incident together with other law-enforcement agencies. The NKR Human Rights Ombudsman, Gegham Stepanian, reported separately that the 22-year-old victim was a utility worker. Stepanian described his killing as further proof of Azerbaijan's "Armenophobic, genocidal and fascist behavior"<sup>71</sup>.

The NKR residents were left without access to natural gas for winter heating since March 8, 2022. The pipeline that supplies Stepanakert and the rest of NKR from the Republic of Armenia was damaged due to an explosion in an area that is under the control of the Azerbaijani military, near Shushi. Attempts to rule out deliberate sabotage have not been successful, due to Azerbaijan's denial of access to the area to journalists or ArtsakhGaz company employees. No explanation for what caused the initial interruption in supply has been given by Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan refused access to the pipeline to repair crews for days, despite mediation efforts by the Russian peacekeepers. The Armenians of Artsakh were left in sub-zero temperatures, with a sudden switch to more expensive electric heating burdening the power grid (also supplied from the Republic of Armenia) and resulting in intermittent outages.

After days of stalling, Azerbaijani crews repaired the pipeline themselves and restored service, roughly coinciding with a visit by UN staff to Shushi on March 18.

However, the service was disrupted again on March 21. The NKR National Security Service reported that a shut-off valve had been installed during the repairs and is being leveraged by Azerbaijan to cause suffering among Artsakh's population.

At the time of writing, the gas service in NKR is yet to be restored<sup>72</sup>.

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<sup>71</sup> <https://www.azatutyun.am/a/31551472.html>

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.civilnet.am/en/news/654604/for-second-time-this-winter-azerbaijan-cuts-off-supply-of-heating-gas-in-karabakh/>



## MERCENARY JIHADISTS ON THE AZERBAIJANI SIDE AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF TURKEY

Right at the beginning of the 44-day war, *Reuters* reported<sup>73</sup>: “The two fighters, from Turkish-backed rebel groups in areas of northern Syria under Turkish control, said they were deploying to Azerbaijan in coordination with Ankara. They declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the issue. Reuters could not independently verify their accounts. “I didn’t want to go, but I don’t have any money. Life is very hard and poor,” said a fighter who had fought in Syria for Ahrar al-Sham, a group that Turkey has supported. Both men said they had been told by their Syrian brigade commanders they would earn around \$1,500 a month - a large wage for Syria, where the economy and currency have collapsed. The fighter said he had arranged his assignment with an official from the Turkish-backed Syrian National Army (SNA) in Afrin, a region of northwest Syria seized by Turkey and its Syrian rebel allies two years ago.”

It is already a proven fact that the military forces of Azerbaijan were backed by Turkey, including by deployment of terrorist fighters to Azerbaijan in 44-day war. The international community (state officials, mass media etc.) stated that the Azerbaijani-Turkish alliance was waging war against NKR and Armenia with the help and involvement of foreign mercenary jihadist fighters (during the war the Armenian side sent to the UN the factual report on engagement of foreign mercenaries in military actions unleashed by Azerbaijan. The document included proves of the fact that Turkey had deployed 3.000-4.000 mercenaries from northern parts of Syria and Libya).

Notably, President of France Emmanuel Macron accused<sup>74</sup> Turkey of dispatching Syrian jihadists to Nagorno-Karabakh via Gaziantep.

The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service expressed concern<sup>75</sup> over "international terrorist organizations" "from Near East" being present in the conflict zone (namely from

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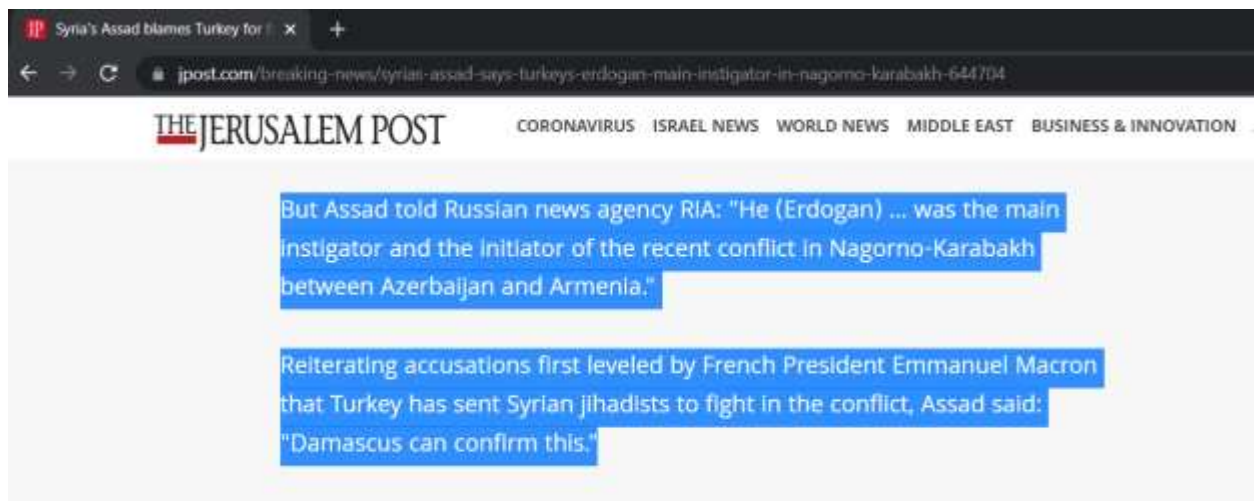
<sup>73</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-armenia-azerbaijan-turkey-syria-idUSKBN26J25A>

<sup>74</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-armenia-azerbaijan-putin-macron/france-accuses-turkey-of-sending-syrian-mercenaries-to-nagorno-karabakh-idUSKBN26L3SB> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAOzG16I-s0>

<sup>75</sup> <http://svr.gov.ru/smi/2020/10/o-situatsii-vokrug-nagornogo-karabakha.htm> ; [https://archive.mid.ru/foreign\\_policy/news/-/asset\\_publisher/ckNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4363834](https://archive.mid.ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/ckNonkJE02Bw/content/id/4363834)

the groups “Jabhat an-Nusra”, “Firkat al-Hamza”, “Sultan Murad”, as well as from Kurdish extremist groups).

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad reiterated<sup>76</sup> Macron's concerns (Reiterating accusations first leveled by French President Emmanuel Macron that Turkey has sent Syrian jihadists to fight in the conflict, Assad said: "Damascus can confirm this.").



The U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stated<sup>77</sup> that Turkey's involvement in the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia has increased the risk in the region, inflaming the situation by arming the Azerbaijanis.

According to *SOHR*<sup>78</sup>: “Syrian rebel fighters have signed up to work for a private Turkish security company as border guards in Azerbaijan, several volunteers in Syria’s last rebel stronghold have said, at a time when the long-running conflict between Baku and neighbouring Armenia is showing dangerous signs of escalation.”

<sup>76</sup> <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/syrian-assad-says-turkeys-erdogan-main-instigator-in-nagorno-karabakh-644704>

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.neweurope.eu/article/pompeo-criticizes-turkeys-involvement-in-nagorno-karabakh-conflict/>

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/28/syrian-rebel-fighters-prepare-to-deploy-to-azerbaijan-in-sign-of-turkeys-ambition>



## The Washington Post

November 8, 1993

The government of this Caucasian republic has hired a force of more than 1,000 Afghan mujaheddin fighters to buttress its sagging army, introducing a volatile new element to the five-year Azerbaijani-Armenian war on the former Soviet Union's southern rim. The deployment, unprecedented since the collapse of the Soviet Union almost two years ago, is part of President Gaidar Aliyev's campaign to save the integrity of his Caspian Sea republic of 7 million people.

## The Washington Post

Oct. 14, 2020

Families gathered around a refrigerated truck at a Syrian-Turkish border post, waiting earlier this month for the drivers to dispense their awful cargo: the bodies of 52 Syrian men, killed in a war 600 miles away. The dead were mercenaries, recruited by Turkish-backed militias in Syria to fight on behalf of Azerbaijan against Armenia, relatives said. They were deployed as shock troops, to claw back scraps of territory in the contested Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.

*France24*<sup>79</sup>, *The Independent*<sup>80</sup> and *The Guardian* have reported evidence of Syrian mercenaries recruited in Syria by Turkey to fight alongside the Azerbaijani servicemen in

<sup>79</sup> <https://observers.france24.com/fr/20201020-videos-document-presence-mercenaires-syriens-conflit-haut-karabakh> (VIDEO)

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/armenia-azerbaijan-syria-war-fighting-mercenary-russia-b912446.html>

Nagorno-Karabakh. A report in *The Times* partially confirmed<sup>81</sup> the involvement of Syrian mercenary fighters and their support to Azerbaijani side.

After one month of the escalation, a considerable amount of visual evidence of SNA mercenaries' presence in Azerbaijan was published<sup>82</sup> by *Akmckeeper*.

After the war *BBC* also reported<sup>83</sup> on the issue: "Turkey and Azerbaijan deny that Syrian mercenaries were used in the recent offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh but four Syrians have told the BBC that after enlisting for sentry duties in Azerbaijan, they were unexpectedly thrown into battle on the front line..." "They told us our mission would be to serve as sentries on the border - as peacekeepers. They were offering \$2,000 a month! It felt like a fortune for us," said another, whom I will call Qutaiba... In an area where few earn more than \$1 a day, the promised salary seemed like a godsend. It's estimated that somewhere between 1,500 and 2,000 men signed up and travelled to Azerbaijan, via Turkey, on Turkish military transport aircraft... Samir says that none of these men were paid a penny of the \$2,000 they had been promised, and many did not get back the personal possessions they had arrived with in Azerbaijan."

Azerbaijani side have denied employing mercenaries in the war, but right after the war *The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)* stated<sup>84</sup> that "The UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries said there were widespread reports that the Government of Azerbaijan, with Turkey's assistance, relied on Syrian fighters to shore-up and sustain its military operations in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, including on the frontline... reports indicate that Turkey engaged in large-scale recruitment and transfer of Syrian men to Azerbaijan through armed factions, some of which are affiliated with the Syrian National Army."

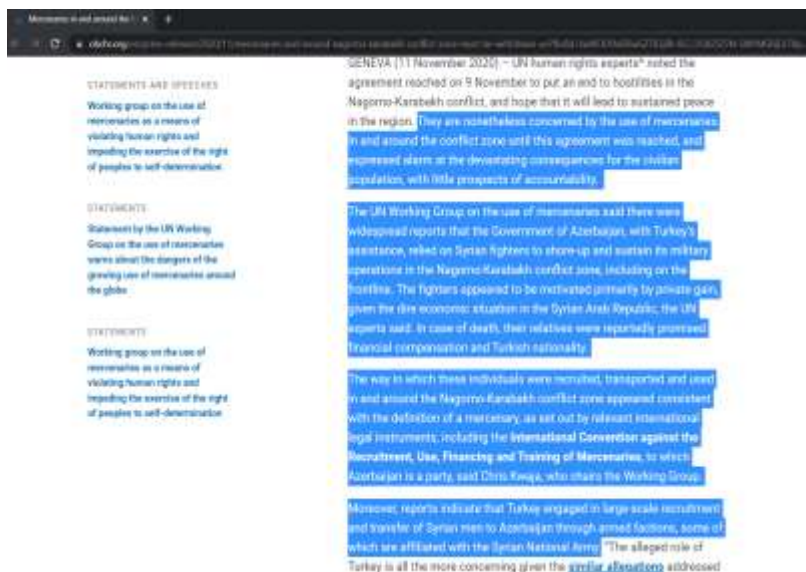
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<sup>81</sup> [https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nagorno-karabakh-clashes-turkey-sends-syrian-mercenaries-into-combat-against-armenians-wz6cqjc57?fbclid=IwAR1sh2VfFpDt15qNiz\\_TLIM3KrXi4kCy4mH1EWbMpW9NHPB0HiQDIEjBrU](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nagorno-karabakh-clashes-turkey-sends-syrian-mercenaries-into-combat-against-armenians-wz6cqjc57?fbclid=IwAR1sh2VfFpDt15qNiz_TLIM3KrXi4kCy4mH1EWbMpW9NHPB0HiQDIEjBrU)

<sup>82</sup> <https://akmckeeper.com/2020/10/26/sna-mercenaries-in-azerbaijan-the-visual-evidence/>

<sup>83</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-55238803>

<sup>84</sup> [https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2020/11/mercenaries-and-around-nagorno-karabakh-conflict-zone-must-be-withdrawn-un?fbclid=IwAR3O9x036uGZ763j8h-BG\\_OOd2523N-SWYMGBjOJ7Xpl\\_D0628aaJK8Zpyl](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2020/11/mercenaries-and-around-nagorno-karabakh-conflict-zone-must-be-withdrawn-un?fbclid=IwAR3O9x036uGZ763j8h-BG_OOd2523N-SWYMGBjOJ7Xpl_D0628aaJK8Zpyl)



Two Syrian mercenaries captured by the NKR Defense Forces have told their Armenian interrogators that their Azerbaijani commander had distributed psychotropic drugs to the foreign combatants. The Head of the Armenian Investigative Committee Rafael Vardanyan, held a press conference in Yerevan on November 5, 2020 and even named the two mercenaries, Yousouf Alaabet al-Haji, and Muhrab Mohammad Al Shkher, as well as presented several details from their testimonies. According to Vardanyan, their safety is ensured, stressing that these people are important (...) as proof to show the world that foreign mercenaries were fighting for Azerbaijan<sup>85</sup>.

<sup>85</sup> <https://hetq.am/en/article/124008>



# International Media on Terrorists Fighting Against Artsakh (The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic)



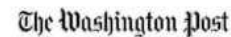
Fighters, friends and relatives of Syrians reportedly deployed to Azerbaijan say they believe as many as a 1000 Syrians from across the opposition-held north of the country have joined.



Rebels from Syria recruited to fight in conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, source says.



The rebel, who said he was waiting to be deployed to Nagorno-Karabakh, plans to cross from Syria into Turkey, where he said chartered flights transport the fighters to Azerbaijan.



The dead were mercenaries, recruited by Turkish-backed militias in Syria to fight on behalf of Azerbaijan against Armenia, relatives said.



The quick mobilisation of Syrians to the front lines, as well as the fact that Syrian volunteers said the recruitment drive began a month ago, suggested Azerbaijan had been planning its military campaign for some time.



Nagorno-Karabakh clashes: Turkey sends Syrian mercenaries into combat against Armenians.



Rouhani said in televised remarks Iran would not allow "states to send terrorists to our borders under various pretexts".



Sergei Naryshkin, the head of Russia's SVR Foreign Intelligence Service, said "We are talking about hundreds and already even thousands of radicals hoping to earn money in a new Karabakh war".



French President Emmanuel Macron demanded that Turkey explains the arrival of jihadist fighters in Azerbaijan "These fighters are known, tracked and identified."



Syrians Make Up Turkey's Proxy Army in Nagorno-Karabakh.



Russia's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that fighters from Syria and Libya were being deployed to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and that it was "deeply concerned" by the development.



Turkish efforts to recruit fighters and send them to Azerbaijan are still underway.



More pro-Turkish Syrian mercenaries die in Azeri-Armenian fighting.



Reports Turkey is transferring Syrian militants to Azerbaijan as hostilities against Armenia increases.

[#StopAzerbaijaniAggression](#)  
[#Armeniaagainstterrorism](#)

On April 29, 2021, the Armenpress informed<sup>86</sup> that Armenian prosecutors are probing over 100 criminal casefiles on the war crimes committed by the Azeri military-political leadership and troops during the 2020 war. Foreign mercenaries and another 37 Azerbaijani nationals are charged (2 are arrested while 35 are internationally wanted). The prosecution said that the Azerbaijani authorities, fueled with ethnic hatred, launched premeditated and targeted attacks on the peaceful civilian settlements of Armenia and Artsakh using artillery and drone strikes. The Armenian prosecution said the Azeri attacks were an act of aggression, a war of aggression, which resulted in the deaths of both servicemen and civilians – who were protected under international conventions, and civilian infrastructures such as residential homes, kindergartens and roads were destroyed.

The most recent profound and detailed research concerning the use of mercenaries in the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War was submitted by the Civil society Organizations in March, 2022. With this submission, the evidence discovered and presented proves that Syrians were recruited and transferred by Turkey to Azerbaijan for combat against the Armenians of NKR and that such recruits engaged in combat for private gain, thus constituting a violation of International Humanitarian Law regarding deployment of mercenaries<sup>87</sup>.

On January 20, 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution<sup>88</sup>, in which it underlined: “with concern the military involvement of third countries in the conflict and notably the destabilising role and interference of Turkey; calls for an international investigation into the alleged presence of foreign fighters and use of cluster munitions and phosphorous bombs; calls on the European Union and international bodies to ensure that there is no impunity for war crimes in Nagorno-Karabakh and for the use of prohibited weapons in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict”.

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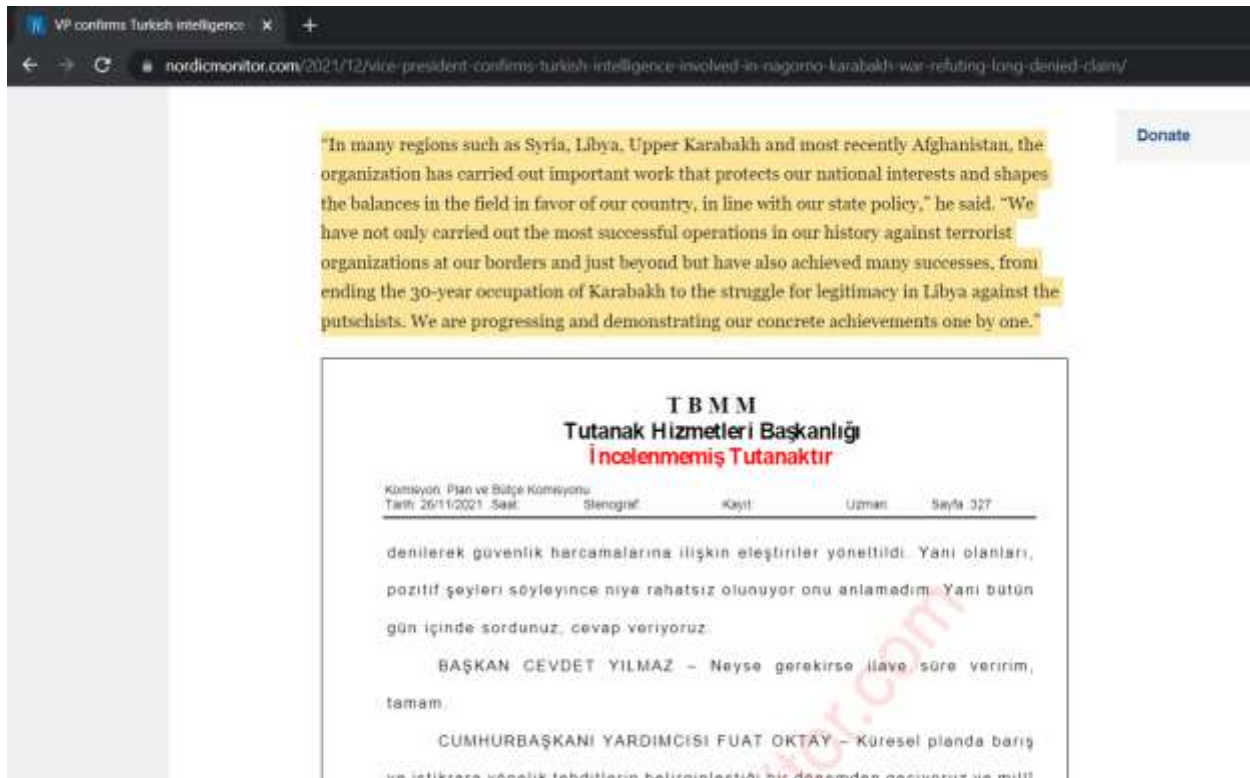
<sup>86</sup> <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1050777.html>

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.osf.am/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Civil-society-Organizations%E2%80%99Submission-Concerning-the-Use-of-Mercenaries-in-the-2020-Nagorno-Karabakh-War.pdf>

<sup>88</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0013\\_EN.html#def\\_1\\_1](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0013_EN.html#def_1_1)

On March 11, 2021, the European Parliament adopted another resolution<sup>89</sup> in which it firmly condemned “Turkey’s use of Syrian mercenaries in conflicts in Libya and Nagorno-Karabakh, in violation of international law”.

One year later later the 44-day war, Turkey’s vice president stated<sup>90</sup> that its National Intelligence Organization (Milli İstihbarat Teşkilatı, MIT) played an active role in the Nagorno-Karabakh war in 2020, helping to shape the balances in the field.



This first-ever official confirmation came to support the earlier statement<sup>91</sup> of Head of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service Sergey Naryshkin who on 6 November 2020 voiced that Turkish intelligence agency was involved in the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war.

## INDISCRIMINATE USE OF INCENDIARY WEAPON

On the 35th day of the 44-day war the armed forces of Azerbaijan used incendiary weapon (white phosphorus) against NKR, which is a component of indiscriminate incendiary

<sup>89</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0088\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0088_EN.html)

<sup>90</sup> <https://nordicmonitor.com/2021/12/vice-president-confirms-turkish-intelligence-involved-in-nagorno-karabakh-war-refuting-long-denied-claim/>

<sup>91</sup> <https://mediamax.am/en/news/karabakh/40733>

weapons. So, from October 29 to 31 the Azerbaijani Armed Forces used incendiary ammunition containing chemical elements in NKR<sup>92</sup>.

A number of reports have been released since then proving the huge destructions resulted from those attacks.

Targeted attacks through air against the forest areas of NKR near civilian communities caused massive fire and environmental disaster in the forest and other areas. Moreover, it was known that civilians were hiding from Azerbaijani armed forces during the war in those forests.

People had also filmed<sup>93</sup> some of those acts of burning large areas of forests with incendiary weapon which is estimated to be white phosphorus (incendiary and toxic chemical substance used as a filler in a number of different munitions). One of those attacks was launched on October 29, 2020, nearly at 6:20 pm against the forests located on the East (to the direction of Martuni Region) of NKR<sup>94</sup>.

*France 24*<sup>95</sup> reported that Azerbaijan could have used white phosphorus during the war, highlighting that its use is strictly regulated under an international agreement that neither Azerbaijan nor Armenia have signed. According to the article: "Armenia has accused Azerbaijan of using incendiary weapons, in particular white phosphorus, during the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh – an accusation that Baku has denied. However, according to our reporters who met both the wounded and hospital staff in Yerevan, there's strong evidence that it may have been the case."

A reporter of *The Independent* who visited the National Burns Centre in Yerevan saw the soldiers' burns, which, according to deputy director of the Centre, were consistent with white phosphorus damage in 80% cases<sup>96</sup>. Patrick Knipper, an orthopedic surgeon and a

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<sup>92</sup> [https://www.ombuds.am/en\\_us/site/ViewNews/1355](https://www.ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1355)

<sup>93</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDrjxpBJhZw>

<sup>94</sup> Protocol III (Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons. Geneva, 10 October, 1980) does not ban the use of incendiary weapons during armed conflict, but it proscribes their use in four specific ways. Protocol III's four specific limitations on the use of incendiary weapons are designed to protect civilians. So, it is not prohibited but is only subject to specific and narrow limitations.

<sup>95</sup> <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20201119-nagorno-karabakh-ceasefire-armenia-accuses-azerbaijan-of-using-phosphorus-bombs>

<sup>96</sup> <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/armenia-azerbaijan-vicrims-nagorno-karabakh-b1774313.html>

specialist in severe burns at *Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris*, who was in Yerevan as part of a French assistance mission to help with the treatment of the injured arriving from the front, provided the first independent confirmation<sup>97</sup> of burns being the result of white phosphorus munition use to *Le Point* magazine, highlighting the characteristic deep burns, hypocalcaemia and sudden deaths in his conclusion.



In November 2020, the Ombudsmen of Armenia and NKR published a joint ad hoc report<sup>98</sup> on the use of incendiary weapon in NKR, according to which:

“As it was revealed from the interviews, a number of civilians, after indiscriminate shellings of residential areas of Artsakh by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, were supposed to flee and hide in forests. Furthermore, it was also found out that the peaceful population was supposed to hide and live in the forest days long.

The real threat for the civilians’ life and health as a result of the use of incendiary ammunition of mass destruction containing chemical elements (possibly white phosphorus) against the forests of Artsakh, as well as the fact that there is peaceful population sheltered in forests is stated also by the Human Rights Ombudsman of Artsakh. In particular, according to the statement [G]iven the size and geographical coverage of the burned forests, the population of the Artsakh Republic is facing an environmental catastrophe, which undermines the environmental security in the region and contains long-term dangerous consequences for the life and health of the people of Artsakh. Moreover, the

<sup>97</sup> [https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/exclusif-haut-karabakh-la-video-qui-prouve-l-utilisation-d-armes-au-phosphore-09-11-2020-2400171\\_24.php](https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/exclusif-haut-karabakh-la-video-qui-prouve-l-utilisation-d-armes-au-phosphore-09-11-2020-2400171_24.php)

<sup>98</sup> <https://ombuds.am/images/files/69875fa32b9ad9ce729dadb9a03395e3.pdf>



Azerbaijani armed forces, with these criminal methods, intend to harm the civilian population sheltered in the forests.

It should be also underlined, that even in peace time and the period of war when their residents were not under the Azerbaijani Armed Forces shelling, the local civilians are going to the forests nearby, since, it is one of the ways of their livelihood.”

**Figures 1, 2 and 3:** *Use of incendiary ammunition of mass destruction (possibly white phosphorus) containing chemical elements by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces against Artsakh forests (Episode 1)*



**Figures 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8:** *Use of incendiary ammunition of mass destruction (possibly white phosphorus) containing chemical elements by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces against Artsakh forests (Episode 2)*



**Figures 9 and 10:** Severely injured civilian (left hand)



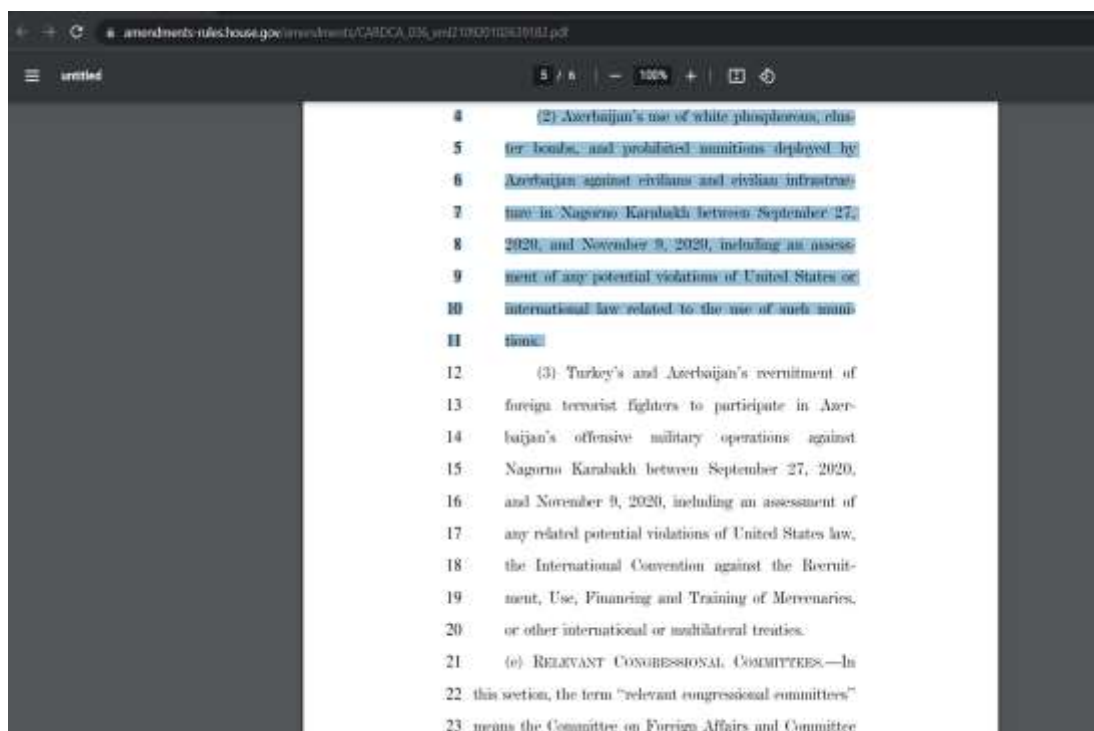
**Figures 11:** Severely injured civilian (left hand)



**Figures 12:** Severely injured civilian (right foot)



In September 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Amendment<sup>99</sup>, calling for a report on, *inter alia*, the use of white phosphorus, cluster munition (...) against civilians in NKR.



According to Article 2 of Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III, Geneva, 10 October, 1980):

1. It is prohibited in all circumstances to make the civilian population as such, individual civilians or civilian objects the object of attack by incendiary weapons.
2. It is prohibited in all circumstances to make any military objective located within a concentration of civilians the object of attack by air-delivered incendiary weapons.
3. It is further prohibited to make any military objective located within a concentration of civilians the object of attack by means of incendiary weapons other than air-delivered incendiary weapons, except when such military objective is clearly separated from the concentration of civilians and all feasible precautions are taken with a view to limiting the incendiary effects to the military objective and to avoiding, and in any event to minimizing, incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians and damage to civilian objects.
4. It is prohibited to make forests or other kinds of plants cover the object of attack by incendiary weapons except when such natural elements are used to cover, conceal

<sup>99</sup> [https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/CARDCA\\_036\\_xml210920102639182.pdf](https://amendments-rules.house.gov/amendments/CARDCA_036_xml210920102639182.pdf)

or camouflage combatants or other military objectives, or are themselves military objectives.

These provisions are a part of general and customary international law, which means that they are binding even for the states, which are not party to the Protocols to the Geneva Conventions.

As it becomes obvious, Azerbaijan has deliberately violated the *jus in bello* of incendiary weapon by using it in the manner described above.

**CASES OF COMMITTING ACTS CONSIDERED SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AGAINST PRISONERS OF WAR, REPATRIATED PRISONERS OF WAR AND CIVILIANS BY SERVICEMEN OF THE AZERBAIJANI ARMED FORCES**

**1. A.B. (patronymic – B., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

A.B. was a volunteer and went to Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic or NKR) together with Yerkrpah Union of Volunteers. She was in the military unit of Jabrayil, when they were instructed to surrender, she did not manage to retreat, she was in one of the shops in the village of Mekhakavan, from where after a while, on October 05, 2020, she was captured by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan. Immediately after being discovered, around 10-15 servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces beat her striking her different body parts, and transferred her to another area of the mentioned village. A.B. was beaten up by punching and kicking on her face, head and on her different body parts. After that, a person called Ibrahim, Azerbaijani by nationality, who was actually a journalist, introduced himself as a commander with the rank of colonel, offered her under threats to shoot a video with her participation and pronounce the text given to her in advance. In the case of refusal, the person called Ibrahim threatened to kill her, saying that it was the only way to save her life. A.B., having no option, pronounced the text given to her in advance in front of the camera.

After being captured, A.B. was transferred to a certain headquarters where she was interrogated and taken to a hospital, where she spent 7-8 days and was moved to the isolator of the National Security Service of Baku. She was kept in the specified isolator until October 30, after that she was transferred to a penitentiary institution. On October 31, the latter was transferred to another penitentiary institution, where on the same day other



captured civilians were brought and kept with her in the cell, namely, A.S. and her husband E.S., who died in the mentioned penitentiary institution, and his corpse was passed over to the Republic of Armenia. Their fellow villager S.P. was also kept with them in the same penitentiary institution. The latter ones were repatriated to Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY.

While being captivated in the Republic of Azerbaijan, A.B. clearly heard of a person, Armenian by nationality, called A. being in captivity, other captured civilians in the second penitentiary institution with the names S.S., K.H. were repatriated on December 11 and on DD-MM-YYYY. Moreover, A.B. testified stating that another person captivated from the village of Shiraghali of the Republic of Artsakh, whose name and surname she does not know, was kept with her in the penitentiary institution. A.B. also informed about other persons in captivity Armenians by nationality E.M., S.M., and G.H..

## **2. K.M. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On October 09, 2020, K.M. together with his fellow servicemen R.V., E.K. A.G. and N.S. got into the blockade in the village of Vank, Hadrut region, Republic of Artsakh, where they had stayed in the blockade for 44 days. Because of the enemy's active fire, they all got bodily injuries of various degrees of severity. On November 21, 2020, on the last day of remaining in the mentioned house, they noticed Azerbaijani servicemen approaching the house, they hid, but the servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces managed to discover and capture them. In his testimonies, K.M. stated that they did not resist, because they were unarmed. Immediately after being captured, the servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces loudly turned on Azerbaijani music and started dancing; they threw R.V., E.K. and A.G. to the ground and made them applaud on their knees to their dancing. The servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces captured them all and transferred them to the Armenian military unit in Hadrut, Republic of Artsakh that had passed under the control of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. While being in the military unit, they were beaten up and ill-treated by the servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces; they were punched, kicked and beaten with the stocks of the weapon. They were transferred from the Armenian military unit in Hadrut, Republic of Artsakh, beaten and bullied, to the isolator of the Military Police located in Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan. While staying in the military police isolator, they were subjected to torture, abuse and ill-treatment. Under the threats of bayonet knives and stabbing the servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces made them pronounce the expression

“Karabakh Azerbaijan”. In his testimonies, K.M. informed that while they were in the building of the military police in Baku, almost every hour, masked persons of the special detachment of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan entered the cell where he and his captive fellow servicemen were held, tied their hands and throwing them to the ground beat them. At the Military Police, they were isolated in separate cells, from where they were transferred to another place and under the threat of forcing violence dangerous to life and health, they were interrogated. From the isolator of the military police located in Baku, they were beaten up transferred to National Security building of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where they were placed in National Security Isolation cells. Until January 14, 2021, K.M. was alone in the cell of the National Security Isolator, and from January 14, 2021 to February 09, 2021, he had been together with N.S.. K.M. informed that while staying in the National security isolator of the Republic of Azerbaijan, he was forced, upon hearing the sound of the cell door, immediately to stand up, salute, and say the expression “Karabakh Azerbaijan”. While he was kept in the National Security isolator of the Republic of Azerbaijan, adjacent to his cell, there was a guy called E., whose data he did not know. On DD-MM-YYYY, he was repatriated to the Republic of Armenia together with A.G. who was captured with him, but the captives N.S., R.V., E.K. were not repatriated and continue staying captured in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

### **3. A.G. (patronymic – H., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On October 09, 2020, A.G. together with his fellow servicemen R.V., E.K., K.M. and N.S. got into the blockade in the village of Vank, Hadrut region, Republic of Artsakh, where they had stayed in the blockade for 44 days. Because of the enemy’s active fire, they all got bodily injuries of various degrees of severity. On November 21, 2020, on the last day of remaining in the mentioned house, they noticed Azerbaijani servicemen approaching the house, they hid, but the servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces managed to discover and capture them. In his testimonies, K.M. stated that they did not resist, because they were unarmed. Immediately after being captured, the servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces loudly turned on Azerbaijani music and started dancing; they threw him, R.V., and E.K. to the ground and made them applaud on their knees to their dancing. The servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces captured them all and transferred them to the Armenian Military Unit in Hadrut, Republic of Artsakh that had passed under the control of the Azerbaijani

Armed Forces. While being in the Military Unit, they were beaten up and ill-treated by the servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces; they were punched, kicked and beaten with the stocks of the weapon. They were transferred from the Armenian Military Unit in Hadrut, Republic of Artsakh, beaten and bullied, to the isolator of the Military Police located in Baku. While staying in the military police isolator, they were subjected to torture, abuse and ill-treatment. Under the threats of bayonet knives and stabbing the servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces made them pronounce the expression “Karabakh Azerbaijan”. In his testimonies, A.G. informed that while they were in the building of the Military Police in Baku, almost every hour, masked persons of the Special Detachment of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan entered the cell where he and his fellow captive servicemen were held, tied their hands and throwing them to the ground beat them. In order to intimidate the other guys who were captured with him, the servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces blindfolded their eyes and putting the gun on his temple, fired into the air with another gun, which caused him mental suffers, moreover, the servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces hold the bayonet to his ear and his sexual organ and threatened to cut them if he did not tell the whole truth. At the Military Police, they were isolated in separate cells, from where they were transferred to another place and under the threat of forcing violence dangerous to life and health, they were interrogated. From the isolator of the Military Police located in Baku, they were beaten up transferred to National Security building of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where they were placed in National Security isolation cells. From November 22, 2021, K.M. was alone in the cell of the National security isolator, and from January 14, 2020 to February 08, 2021, he had been alone in the cell, but on February 08, 2021, he was transferred to another cell where he stayed with the captive D.D.. On DD-MM-YYYY, A.G. together with K.M. were repatriated to the Republic of Armenia, but the captured N.S., R.V., E.K. were not repatriated and continue staying captured in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

#### **4. V.A. (patronymic – V., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

He was conscripted as a volunteer on September 28, 2020 and took part in military operations in different regions of the Artsakh Republic. On October 28, 2020, it was under siege, captured by 10 servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Turkey, after which it was transported by car and handed over to the servicemen of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan.

Immediately after his capture, he was beaten by servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, repeatedly hit with hands and feet on various parts of the face and body. V.A. stated that the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan extinguished the cigarette on his body while in the car. After that, he was put in the trunk of the car, taken in an unknown direction, where he was taken out of the car, put in another "Ural" type car, where 5 servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan kicked him with hands and feet in the cabin of the car for no reason. No medical assistance was provided to him during that period.

After traveling for about 3 hours, he was dropped off and put in another car, where he met two Armenian prisoners of war, one of whom was about 45 years old, and the other 60-70-year-old men, whose names he did not know. In the already mentioned car, the above-mentioned Armenian prisoners of war were beaten by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. All of them were transferred to a disciplinary battalion of the military police in Baku. As soon as he reached the place, he was dragged to the ground, all of them were beaten and tortured at the military police disciplinary battalion. V.A. eyewitnessed how an elderly Armenian prisoner of war was tortured by the soldiers of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, in particular, they forced him to fill his mouth with so much water through a plastic pipe, as a result of which he swelled up. Another car arrived at the mentioned place a little later. The servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces forced V.A. to walk four-legged and sit in the trunk of the mentioned car barking like a dog, and when V.A. told them that his two legs were wounded, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan hit him with wooden batons and forced him to stand on his feet. V.A. stated that the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces chained him to a pipe, started beating him, after which they called a 60-70-year-old Armenian prisoner of war and forced him to hit V.A. with batons. He was taken from the mentioned disciplinary battalion to the civil hospital of Baku, and the 2 Armenian prisoners of war were taken to the military police building; he has not met them since. As soon as he arrived at the civilian hospital, he was beaten again by doctors, servicemen of the armed forces, after which he was placed in a separate hospital room and operated on. While in a civilian hospital in Baku, his hands were constantly tied; almost every day, servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces entered the hospital and beat him for no reason. On November 13, 2020, he was transferred to a penitentiary institution in Baku, placed in a separate cell, where besides him were also

Armenian prisoners of war H.D. and H.S., who were repatriated to Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY together with him.

During the captivity, due to the inhuman treatment of V.A., after repatriation due to not providing proper medical care, the latter could not be saved, both legs were amputated with medical intervention.

#### **5. E.H. (patronymic – H., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

As a volunteer, through the territorial military commissariat of Shirak Marz, with personnel consisted of 62 people, they left for an area called Khtsaberda of the Republic of Artsakh and carried out combat duty. On December 13, 2020, with the personnel of 62 people he was captured by the Special Forces of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. At the beginning of the captivity, the 62-member personnel was transferred by the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan to a cattle barn located in the village of Lisagor, Republic of Artsakh, where they were detained for one day. The next day, on DD-MM-YYYY, the personnel was transferred to one of the villages of Hadrut region and on the same day on “Kamaz” cars they were taken to the isolator of the Disciplinary Battalion of the Military Police of Baku, where they were tortured and beaten, they were scolded, and as a result of this beating, bruises appeared all over his body, however, they went away before he was repatriated to the Republic of Armenia. In the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku, they were isolated in separate cells of the disciplinary battalion. E.H. informed that in the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku, he was kept together with T.G., R.G., K.A., A.M. and a man unfamiliar to him, who had told him that he was from Tchartar village of Martuni region, Artsakh Republic. The mentioned man was 42 years old was an ambulance driver. After a while, the above-mentioned 42-year-old ambulance driver was moved from the disciplinary battalion cell and instead of the mentioned 42-year-old ambulance driver, 2 unfamiliar guys were brought in. In the future, he, T.G., R.G., K.A., A.M. were transferred to the same military police isolation ward, where they were subjected to a thorough examination by the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, from where with their eyes blindfolded they were transferred to the isolation cell of the disciplinary battalion of the Military police, where K.A., T.G., A.M. and R.G. were already held. He was repatriated to the Republic of Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY, together with S.M., A.N., A.V. and K.V. from the their 62-people personnel.



#### **6. A.N. (patronymic – M., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

As a volunteer, through the territorial military commissariat of Shirak region, with personnel consisted of 62 people, they left for an area called Khtsaberdd of the Artsakh Republic and carried out combat duty. On December 13, 2020, with personnel consisted of 62 people he was captured by special forces of Azerbaijan Armed Forces. At the beginning of the captivity, the 62-member personnel was transferred by the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan to a cattle barn located in the village of Lisagor, Artsakh Republic, where they were detained for one day and on the next day, on DD-MM-YYYY, they were transferred to one of the villages of Hadrut region and the same day on “Kamaz” cars were taken to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku. In the isolator they were divided into groups and separated in separate cells. In the isolator of military police of Baku, he was together with T.G., R.G. and A.M. . In the cell, he saw a 42-year-old captured driver of ambulance, tied to a water pipe, who was from Chartar village of the Republic of Artsakh. The servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan kept them in the cell of the isolator for 2 days, till December 16, 2020. Periodically servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, nationality – Azerbaijani, came into the cell of the isolator of the military police of Baku and beat irregularly without any reason. A.N. informed that the behavior of the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan lasted 2 days continuously. While in the isolator of military police of Baku, he ate just for once. On December 16, 2020, A.N. and the others, who were with him in the same cell, were transported to another room, located in the same disciplinary battalion, they were examined thoroughly, after which they were taken to another cell, where he was together with K.A., T.G., A.M. and R.G., who were from the personnel consisted of 62 people. A.N. was repatriated to the Republic of Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY together with S.M., E.H., A.V. and K.V., who were also from the personnel consisted of 62 people.

#### **7. A.V. (patronymic – M., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

As a volunteer, through the territorial military commissariat of Shirak Marz, with 62-member personnel, they left for an area called Khtsaberdd of the Artsakh Republic and carried out combat duty. On December 13, 2020, with personnel consisted of 62 people he

was captured by the special forces of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. At the beginning of the captivity, the 62-member personnel was transferred by the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan to a cattle barn located in the village of Lisagor, Artsakh Republic, where they were detained for one day and on the next day, on DD-MM-YYYY, they were transferred to one of the villages of Hadrut region and the same day on "Kamaz" cars were taken to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku. In the isolator, they were divided into groups and separated in separate cells. A.V. informed that while in the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku, he was subjected to degrading and inhuman treatment. Under constant threatening A.V. was forced to utter the phrase "Karabakh Azerbaijan", and if he refused to do that, he was beaten and ill-treated by the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. In the isolator of disciplinary battalion of Military Police of Baku City of the Republic of Azerbaijan he was not given any food, there were cases when the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan forced to eat in 10 seconds, otherwise, when he could not eat in 10 seconds, they took the food in front of him and did not give him a food any more.

He was transported to the penitentiary institution in Baku from the disciplinary battalion of Military Police. At the penitentiary institution he was kept in the same cell with E.A., G.S., T.A. and H.M., who were from personnel consisted of 62 people. On December 28, 2020, together with the rest of the members of the cell he was transported to Azerbaijan national security building. The investigators of national security interrogated them. Before the interrogation, the investigators gave him a pre-prepared text and under threatening to apply a violence dangerous for life and health, forced him to criticize the authorities of the Republic of Armenia during the interrogation while videotaping and to state that the command staff of Armenian Military Forces left them during the combat duty and escaped, as well as to sign a letter of cooperation.

The servicemen and the command staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan threatened him saying that it is his only way to stay alive and return to the Republic of Armenia. After the interrogation in the national security building of the Republic of Azerbaijan he was transported to another penitentiary institution and from there he was repatriated to the Republic of Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY together with S.M., E.H., A.N. and K.V. from personnel consisted of 62 people.

#### **8. S.M. (patronymic – S., born on 09.08.1973)**

As a volunteer, through the territorial military commissariat of Shirak Marz, with 62-member personnel, they left for an area called Khtsaberd of the Artsakh Republic and carried out combat duty. On December 13, 2020, with personnel consisted of 62 people he was captured by the special forces of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. At the beginning of the captivity, the 62-member personnel was transferred by the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan to a cattle barn located in the village of Lisagor, Artsakh Republic, where they were detained for one day and on the next day, on DD-MM-YYYY, they were transferred to one of the villages of Hadrut region and the same day on “Kamaz” cars were taken to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku. In the cell of disciplinary battalion of the military police together with him were also S.S., A.N. and also someone, whose name and other data was not known to him, who were from personnel consisted of 62 people. While in the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku, they were regularly beaten and subjected to inhuman treatment. Some servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan came into their cell and without any reason and pretext kicked and punched them, also hit them with other subjects. S.M. informed that in the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku, their hands were always tied and at the time of the beating their hands were also tied. At the same disciplinary battalion he was beaten and under threatening he was forced to sign a letter of cooperation and all that was secretly filmed and they threatened if he does not cooperate with the law-enforcement authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the video will be published. They stayed in the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku, for some days and during those days, they were constantly beaten and ill-treated.

They were transported to the penitentiary institution in Baku from the said disciplinary battalion and divided into separate groups and cells. He was kept in the cell with S.E. and E.M., who were from personnel consisted of 62 people. S.M. informed that E.M., who was together with him in penitentiary institution in Baku, told him that when he was taken to interrogation, he saw there a boy named D., who was from Hoktemberyan Region of the Republic of Armenia. On DD-MM-YYYY he was repatriated to the Republic of Armenia together with A.V., E.H., A.N. and K.V., who were from the personnel consisted of 62 people.

#### **9. K.V. (patronymic – L., born on 04.07.1977)**

As a volunteer, through the territorial military commissariat of Shirak Marz, with 62-member personnel, they left for an area called Khtsaberd of the Artsakh Republic and carried out combat duty. On December 13, 2020, with personnel consisted of 62 people he was captured by the special forces of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. At the beginning of the captivity, the 62-member personnel was transferred by the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan to a cattle barn located in the village of Lisagor, Artsakh Republic, where they were detained for one day and on the next day, on DD-MM-YYYY, they were transferred to one of the villages of Hadrut region and the same day on "Kamaz" cars were taken to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku. In the isolator, they were divided into groups and separated in separate cells. In his cell, besides him, there were 3 people, 2 of whom were from personnel consisted of 62 people and D.V., who was from the volunteer group of the Hoktemberyan region of the Republic of Armenia, carried out combat duty in the village of Hin Tagher of Artsakh Republic and was captured by servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. K.V. informed that while in the isolator of disciplinary battalion of Military Police of Baku City of the Republic of Azerbaijan, D.V. told him that A.H., who was from the personnel of volunteer group of Hoktemberyan Region of the Republic of Armenia and carried out combat duty in the village of Hin Tagher of the Republic of Artsakh, was also captured together with him. They remained in disciplinary battalion of military police of Baku City of the Republic of Azerbaijan till December 16, 2020 and while being there, they were severely beaten and subjected to inhuman treatment. K.V. stated that during all period of staying in disciplinary battalion of military police they were fed just for once, they received no other assistance, as well as medical assistance. They were taken from the isolator of disciplinary battalion of military police of Baku City of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the penitentiary institution of the same city, where they were divided into groups and moved to new cells. In the same cell of the penitentiary institution he was together with G.G. and A., whose surname was not known to him, who were from personnel consisted of 62 people. While in the penitentiary institution, under threatening, servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces forced them to stand and utter the phrase "Karabakh Azerbaijan", when the cell door opens, as well as they forced them to swear the RA authorities and when he refused to comply with the words of the military, he was beaten. From penitentiary institution he and the rest of the members of

the cell, as well as S.M., E.M. and S.Y. from the cell in front, were transferred to the Investigative Division of Baku. After interrogation by the investigator, without an interpreter, he was forced to sign under the testimony that was written in Azerbaijani language, that he did not understand. While at the investigator, he was forced to tell the camera that the Homeland left them, that the officers of Armenian Military Forces left them and escaped. K.V. stated that he was forced to sign a letter of cooperation under the threat of beating in the Investigative Division, which was also videotaped by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He was threatened that if he does not cooperate they will inform about it the law-enforcements in Armenia. On DD-MM-YYYY, K.V. was repatriated to the Republic of Armenia together with A.V., E.H., A.N. and S.M. from personnel consisted of 62 people.

**10. V.M. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

As a volunteer, through the territorial military commissariat of Shirak region, with personnel consisted of 62 people, they left for an area called Khtsaberd of the Artsakh Republic and carried out combat duty. On December 13, 2020, with the personnel of 62 people he was captured by the special forces of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces.

At the beginning of the captivity, the 62-member personnel was transferred by the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan to a cattle barn located in the village of Lisagor, Artsakh Republic, where they were detained for one day. The next day, on DD-MM-YYYY, the personnel was transferred to one of the villages of Hadrut region and the same day on “Kamaz” cars were taken to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku.

In the isolation ward, they were divided into groups and separated in separate cells. In his cell, besides him, there were 3 people, 2 of whom were from their 62-member personnel and D.V., who was from the volunteer group of the Hoktemberyan region of the Republic of Armenia and carried out combat duty in the village of Hin Tagher of Artsakh Republic and was captured by servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

They remained in the disciplinary battalion for 2 days, during which they were beaten, ill-treated, and subjected to the treatment degrading their honor and dignity. In particular, while in isolator in the Baku Military Police Disciplinary Battalion, servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces regularly forced them to utter the phrase "Karabakh Azerbaijan",

and if they refused to say that sentence, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces beat and dragged them. In the military police disciplinary battalion isolator they were not given any food at all, there were cases when they were forced to eat in 10 seconds, otherwise, when they could not eat in 10 seconds, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces took the and dumped it in the trash just in front of them. The 62-member personnel from the Military Police Disciplinary Battalion was divided into separate groups and transferred to the penitentiary institution of Baku.

In the penitentiary institution they were also divided into separate groups and placed in cells. In the same cell at the penitentiary institution of Baku, together with him were kept G.G. and A.P., who were among their 62-member personnel. He was regularly transferred from the penitentiary to the Baku Investigation Department of the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where, after being interrogated by an investigator without an interpreter, he was forced to sign a testimony written in Azerbaijani, which he did not understand. While at the investigator, he was forced to say in front of the camera that the Homeland left them, that the officers of Armenian Military Forces left them and escaped. V.M. informed that Division he was forced to sign a letter of cooperation under the threat of beating, which was also videotaped by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He was threatened that if he does not cooperate they will inform about it the law-enforcements in Armenia.

On DD-MM-YYYY, V.M. was repatriated to Armenia.

#### **11. T.G. (patronymic – S., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

As a volunteer, through the territorial military commissariat of Shirak region, with personnel consisted of 62 people, he left for an area called Khtsaberdd of the Artsakh Republic and carried out combat duty. On December 13, 2020, with the personnel of 62 people he was captured by the special forces of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces.

At the beginning of the captivity, the 62-member personnel was transferred by the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan to a cattle barn located in the village of Lisagor, Artsakh Republic, where they were detained for one day. The next day, on DD-MM-YYYY, the personnel was transferred to one of the villages of Hadrut region and the same day on “Kamaz” cars were taken to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku.



In the isolation ward, they were divided into groups and separated in separate cells. The first two days, together with him, in the same cell were kept A.N., R.G., A.M. , and S.P. (from Tchartar village of Artsakh Republic). While at the disciplinary battalion of the Military Police of Baku, for three days, they on regular basis, he and the other persons who were kept in the same cell together with him, the servicemen of the Military Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan beat them with feet, hands and batons. While in Military Police, for two days, they were not given water and food at all by the servicemen of the Military Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, they did not receive any medical examination, when they were beaten, they often were denied the opportunity of protection themselves as their hands were tied.

After the disciplinary isolator of the Military Police of the Republic of Azerbaijan, they were transferred to the penitentiary institution located in Baku. They were divided into groups and detained in separate cells. T.G. testifies that in his cell from the beginning were kept A.N., R.G., A.M. , K.A.. From penitentiary institution they were regularly transported to the investigation division of Baku. There, after interrogation by the investigator, without an interpreter, he was forced to sign under the testimony that was written in Azerbaijani language, that he did not understand. While at the investigator, he was forced to tell the camera that the Homeland left them, that the officers of Armenian Military Forces left them and escaped. V.M. stated that Division he was forced to sign a letter of cooperation under the threat of beating, which was also videotaped by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He was threatened that if he does not cooperate they will inform about it the law-enforcements in Armenia.

On DD-MM-YYYY, T.G. was repatriated to Armenia together with V.M., H.I., K.M., A.G.. When testifying, on photos T.G. recognized A.M. , F.G. and H.T..

## **12. H.I. (patronymic – G., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

As a volunteer, through the territorial military commissariat of Shirak region, with personnel consisted of 62 people, they left for an area called Khtsaberda of the Artsakh Republic and carried out combat duty. On December 13, 2020, with the personnel of 62 people he was captured by the special forces of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces.

At the beginning of the captivity, the 62-member personnel was transferred by the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan to a cattle barn located in the

village of Lisagor, Artsakh Republic, where they were detained for one day. The next day, on DD-MM-YYYY, the personnel was transferred to one of the villages of Hadrut region and the same day on “Kamaz” cars were taken to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku.

In the isolation ward, they were divided into groups and separated in separate cells. Together with him at the same cell were kept the inhabitants of Shirak Marz of the Republic of Armenia: G., M.M., V.A., F.G., D.S.. They remained in the disciplinary battalion for 2 days, during which they were beaten, ill-treated, and subjected to the treatment degrading their honor and dignity. In particular, while in isolator in the Baku Military Police Disciplinary Battalion, servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces regularly forced them to utter the phrase "Karabakh Azerbaijan", and if they refused to say that sentence, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces beat and dragged them. In the military police disciplinary battalion isolator they were not given any food at all, there were cases when they were forced to eat in 10 seconds, otherwise, when they could not eat in 10 seconds, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces took the and dumped it in the trash just in front of them.

On December 16, 2020, they were transported to the penitentiary institution in Baku, they were detained in new and separate cells. At the penitentiary institution together with them were kept R.S. and M.M.. He could not keep the connection with his friends who were kept in other cells of the penitentiary institution, but for one moment he succeeded to see Y.K., G. and V.. At the penitentiary institution of Baku, they met the head of the penitentiary institution, who threatened them that they obey the employees of the penitentiary institution, otherwise, he said, they would be subjected to the destiny of 3 Armenian prisoners-of-war. H.I. informed that the head of the penitentiary institution told them that 3 Armenian prisoners-of-war at the mentioned penitentiary institution were killed, because they refused to obey the employees of the penitentiary institution. In two days after he was transferred to the penitentiary institution in Baku, he, R.S., M.M., and from the cell in front – G., V. and Y., were transferred to the Investigation Division of Baku and were interrogated. While interrogated at the above-mentioned Investigation Division of Baku, he used his rights and kept silence, but investigator of Investigation Division of Baku, pointed a gun at him and threatened that he would call the employees and they would beat him. They forced him to

sign a cooperation document threatening that if he did not sign the document, he would not return to RA and everything was videotaped.

On DD-MM-YYYY, he was transferred to another cell at the penitentiary institution of Baku, where he stayed with V.M. and T.G., together with those persons, on the same day, he was repatriated to RA, among the persons repatriated together with them were also K.M. and A.G.

**13. R.K. (patronymic – R., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

**14. A.H. (patronymic – N., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On October 28, 2020, R.K. and his fellow villager A.H. by his X car went to the fields of Khramort village in the Askeran region of the Artsakh Republic to carry out agricultural work.

On the way back, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan stopped them, pointed weapons at them and captured him and A.H. in his own X car. After the capture, they were transferred to the positions under the control of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, their hands, feet were tied to the chair, left like that, they stayed in the positions under the control of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2 hours.

During that time, they were cursed and beaten. When they wanted to use the toilet, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan started beating them on the way to the toilet. R.K. testified that he had heard from the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan that they wanted to kill them. Two hours later, with their hands and feet tied, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan got into a UAZ car and transferred them to the Aghdam region, which came under the control of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In the Aghdam region of the Artsakh Republic, which came under the control of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, they were kept in the classroom of a school. On October 29, 2020, they were beaten, put in cars and taken to the isolator of a disciplinary battalion of the Baku Military Police.

R.K. testified that during all that time they had not received any food and that the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan had not provided any medical assistance to them. He was with A.H. one day in the cell of the Military Police Disciplinary

Battalion, and the next day another Armenian, S., born in 1974, who lived in the village of Taghavart in the Martuni region of the Artsakh Republic, was transferred to their cell. In the isolator of the military police disciplinary battalion, he heard the voices of an Armenian woman, as he saw a boy of 18-19 years old, an Armenian prisoner of war, coming out of the cell and being handcuffed and taken to the isolator of the military police disciplinary battalion.

R.K. testified that despite the fact that there were beds in the cells of the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the Baku Military Police, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan tied his hands to the water pipe in the cell and did not let him lie in bed. Before he and A. were taken to a detention center of the military police disciplinary battalion in Baku, Azerbaijan, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces tied their hands, put only a plate of potatoes in front of them and forced them to eat on the same plate on their knees with their hands tied. They could not do that.

While in the disciplinary isolator of the Military Police, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan did not give the bread, but threw it on the ground. From the disciplinary battalion of the Military Police of, he, A.H. and S. were taken to one of the Baku Investigation Departments for interrogation. They were held for a whole day in the Baku Investigation Department, where the investigator threatened to say during interrogation that he had taken part in the Khojaly fighting in the 1990s, and killed Azeris, in response to which he said that he could not say such a thing, because he is an ordinary villager, after which two victorious Azerbaijani soldiers came in and started beating him.

After that, the mentioned persons left the investigation room, went and beat A.H. and S., who were kept in another office of the investigation department, in the same way. After interrogation, he and A.H. were transferred to a penitentiary institution in Baku. During the transfer to the penitentiary institution, they were subjected to a personal search, they started beating them, and beating took them to the cell of the penitentiary institution.

R.K. testified that the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces used every opportunity to hit them, saying that they would not leave the Republic of Azerbaijan alive. During their stay in the penitentiary institution, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces regularly forced them to utter the phrase "Karabakh is Azerbaijan", and in case of refusal, they were tortured and inhumanely treated by the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces.

On DD-MM-YYYY, he and A.H. were repatriated to Armenia, and S., an Armenian born in 1974 and a citizen of the Artsakh Republic, who was in the same cell with them, stayed in captivity in the Republic of Azerbaijan. The latter was in an extremely serious health condition, he was not provided any medical assistance.

**15. A.S. (patronymic – T., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

She is a peaceful resident of the Artsakh Republic, lived in the village of Chanakhchi in the Artsakh Republic. On November 9, 2020, she and her husband, E.S., were in their house as usual, when the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan suddenly entered the house and captured them. After the capture, they were taken to the forests near the village of Chanakhchi in the Artsakh Republic, after being kept for some time there, they were taken to the house of their fellow villager, M., who had left home. Some time later, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan transferred S.P., born in 1931, a peaceful resident of Chanakhchi village, Artsakh Republic, to the house of the above-mentioned village. The latter informed them that his son, K.P., had been captured by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan and he was taken to them, and that he had no information about his son, K.P.. After keeping her, her husband E.S. and S.P. in the house of their fellow villager M. for a day, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan threw them into a truck and took them to a place intended for wood storage, and from there the latter were taken to the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a penitentiary institution in Baku, where they were separated and kept in separate cells. A.S. gave testimony that S.P., who had been captured with her, was taken to the cell of a Baku penitentiary institution by dragging on the ground, and gave him food twice a day in the cell, which was thrown to the ground. The conditions in the cell of the penitentiary institution were very inhuman, she had no place to sleep, she slept on a wooden couch, she did not receive any medical assistance during his stay in the Republic of Azerbaijan. During the captivity, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces told them that they were old, that was why they would not kill them, but only the young people, but on December 6, 2020, an Azerbaijani armed man of the Republic of Azerbaijan arrived in the cell of the penitentiary institution. The soldiers of the forces informed her that her husband, E.S., had died, and showed her photos of her dead husband. On DD-MM-YYYY, A.S. and her

fellow villager S.P.. were repatriated to Armenia, and the body of her husband E.S. was brought to the Republic of Armenia from the Republic of Azerbaijan on December 29, 2020.

**16. Z.B. (patronymic – P., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

She is one of the peaceful residents of the Artsakh Republic. She lived in the city of Hadrut of the Artsakh Republic. On the morning of October 16, 2020, she was in the basement of her house, as the Hadrut region of the Artsakh Republic was bombed. On the same morning, she heard men's voices in the yard of the house. At first glance, she thought it was possibly her son, and called for her, but then about 10 Azerbaijanis of Azerbaijani nationality entered the basement of her house, ignoring Z.B.'s age, they took her out and captured her. The servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan put Z.B. in a car and took her to the capital of Azerbaijan. Z.B. was transferred to 3 different police buildings in Baku. In one of the police stations in Baku, Azerbaijan, Z.B. asked for drinking water, but they did not give it. Instead, they gave her a small cup of tea and threw sugar in front of her. Because of their attitude, Z.B. refused from tea, saying that she was not a dog. In another police building, Azerbaijani servicemen and law enforcement officers forced Z.B. under threats to make defamatory statements against the Armenian authorities, saying that it would be her only way to survive and return to Armenia, to which she agreed. At another police station in Baku, Z.B. saw two Armenian men, one of them was young and the other old. The young boy was barefoot, his hands were tied, he was beaten by many people in a corner, then thrown into a bag, dragged to the car, and the old man's hands were broken. Then Z.B. was transferred to one of the medical institutions in Baku, from there she was transferred to Georgia, and on October 28, 2020 she was repatriated to Armenia.

**17. S.S. (patronymic – P., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

Volunteer S.S., contract soldier K.H. (patronymic – S.), spent about 10 days looking for a way to return to Armenia. On November 3, 2020, the latter were in the open area when they noticed on their heads the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who captured them, forced them to go into knees, and then hit them irregularly with their hands and feet, as well as the back of a rifle. They were taken by different cars to the territory of a military unit in the city of Kovsakan, where they were subjected to violence on the way. In the above-mentioned military unit, the latter were kept in the basement for



about 3 hours, where S.S. and K.H. were beaten for about 15 minutes by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. They were interrogated orally to get information about the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia and the Artsakh Republic, which was accompanied by causing torments, in particular, they pushed the red-hot "pins" into S.S.'s leg. The latter were subjected to violence for about three hours, during which they did not receive food and any medical assistance. They were then transported by various vehicles to Baku, where they were taken to a building where there were high-ranking military personnel, including generals, they were interrogated, where under threats, using a video camera, they forced the latter to swear at the Armenian authorities. Then they put them in a car intended for detainees and took them to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police in Baku. On the way to the military police disciplinary battalion, K.H. asked the Azerbaijani servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces for water, in response to which they parked their car and hit K.H. irregularly. Isolator of the military police disciplinary battalion in Baku. S.S. and K.H. were kept in the same cell where they were tied to a water pipe and beaten in the military police disciplinary battalion isolator. During their stay in the military police disciplinary battalion cell, despite the fact that there were beds there, the officers of their cell did not allow them to lie on beds. They were fed three times a day, but the food was of very poor quality, and before each meal they were forced to say "Karabakh is Azerbaijan", after which they were allowed to eat. When being taken for interrogation from the cell, S.S. noticed an Armenian man of about 23-25 years old in the corridor, whom the Azeris called M., but he did not talk to him. In the isolator of the military police disciplinary battalion in Baku, they were taken to the above-mentioned military police sportsground and beaten again. S.S. said that during the torture, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces electrocuted K.H. and tried to extort oral testimonies by pouring boiling tea on his body. From the isolator of the military police disciplinary battalion in Baku, they were taken to a penitentiary institution in Baku, where they did not meet. S.S. heard the voice of A.G., who was repatriated to Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY. On December 1, 2020, S.S. was transferred to a women's penitentiary institution in Baku, where he heard the voice of A.S. , a repatriate to Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY, who told someone that her husband, E.S., had died. The body of the latter was handed over to Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY. On DD-MM-YYYY, S.S. was repatriated to Armenia.

#### **18. M.M. (patronymic – S., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

M.M. was captured by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan during the hostilities with a staff of 6 people. After the capture, they tied up the latter's hands and feet and threw him in the car, not taking into account the fact that he was injured. He was blindfolded in the car, tied his hands, beat him with hands and feet, as well as with a pistol on various parts of his body. M.M. was then taken to a military hospital in Baku. During the transfer, about 7 Azerbaijani servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan continued to beat him. When he was in a military hospital, the officers of the National Security Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan arrived at the mentioned place, who took him out of the hospital without saying anything, put him in the car, hit M.M. again on the way and in the elevator on different parts of his body. He was taken to the National Security Service building in Baku. After the interrogation, M.M. felt very bad, he was taken to a military hospital, where he was operated on, and taken to the hospital room with his hands tied up. While staying in the hospital room, servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan entered, threatening him and cursing him, forced him to utter the phrase "Karabakh is Azerbaijan", which was videotaped on a mobile phone and they mocked him. The 5 Armenian servicemen captured with M.M., except for L.M., returned to Armenia, and he was repatriated to Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY.

#### **19. A.S. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On November 9, 2020, A.S. got acquainted with A.T., K.G., an unidentified man named A., and decided to go to Artsakh for taking aid there. When they reached the adjacent area of the road of Khndzoresk, the latter were captured by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Immediately after the capture, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan forced them to take off their shoes, conducted a personal search, took their driver's licenses, military IDs, tied them up, sat them on the ground, and then kicked them on various parts of their bodies. During that time, the Azeris asked who Karabakh belonged to, and when A.S. tried to answer, they kicked him, saying that Armenia also belonged to Azerbaijan. An officer of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, studying the documents of A.S., learning that his name was A., took out a knife because of his name, wanted to cut off his ear, saying that they had cut off the ear of "Andranik Zoravar", and now they would cut his ear off, but after many requests, they did

not cut off his ear. After that, they were taken out of the highway, thrown into a hole near the highway, and the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, about 200 people, hit them every time they passed through the mentioned area. Then they were transported by UAZ car to the Republic of Artsakh, the city of Shushi, which at that time was under the control of Azerbaijan, where they were put in a Toyota car, transported to the city of Hadrut in the Artsakh Republic. While being in the car, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan severely beat them without any reasons, they videotaped it all by their mobile phones and mocked them. Then, they were taken by police cars to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku, where they were separated, then transferred to another building with separate cells. The captives were interrogated in the basement of the mentioned building, after which A.S. noticed a young Armenian boy in the corridor, who was beaten and an old Armenian man named A., who were also prisoners of war. Then they were transferred from the mentioned isolator to a penitentiary institution named "Kyordakhana" in Baku, where A.S. was informed that A. was A.G. son of A., born in YYYY, the latter was extradited to Russia on DD-MM-YYYY. And the other young Armenian prisoner of war was A.A..

In the above-mentioned penitentiary institution in Baku, A.S. was alone in a cell when he was placed in a cell. A few minutes later, one of the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces asked him if he was A., when he heard a positive answer, about 4-5 people came in, and started beating A.S. with their hands and feet, as well as with metal batons and a rifle butt for about 15-20 minutes. Some time later, another group of Azerbaijani soldiers, about 4-5 people, entered the same cell and beat A.S. again. In the storage areas of the latter, he was connected to the water pipe in such a way that he could not move or stand so that he was always in a bent position.

During the interrogation, A.S. was also subjected to violence, in particular, during the interrogation, a man with a Turkish coat of arms, a man in a military uniform, stood next to him and threatened to tell the truth, during which he once hit him in the ribs. They were not given water or food during those days, they were allowed to drink water only if they asked too much. While in the penitentiary institution, A.S. was forced to stand up every time the cell door was opened, to say "Karabakh is Azerbaijan," and to swear at the Armenian authorities. On DD-MM-YYYY, A.S. was repatriated to Armenia.

**20. H.D. (patronymic – Z., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

He, V.H., N.N., R.A., G.T., P.A., M.B. and R.S. were captured by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. From the very beginning of their captivity, they were beaten and threatened to use the phrase "Karabakh is Azerbaijan" in turn. Immediately after their capture, they were transferred to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the Baku Military Police. As soon as they arrived at the military police disciplinary battalion, they were beaten by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan and treated in a manner that degraded their honor and dignity. They were handcuffed on the spot, and they continued to beat them, after which they were placed in separate cells of the military police disciplinary battalion isolator. H.D. stated that during his stay in the isolator of the military police disciplinary battalion in Baku, servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan beat R.H. so badly that he urinated in his pants and they told him in Russian not to fall to the ground, otherwise the Azerbaijani servicemen threatened to kill him. One of the Armenian prisoners of war, M.M., fainted as a result of the brutal treatment and beating of the Azerbaijani servicemen. During the weeks in the military police, the captives were regularly beaten by various Azerbaijani servicemen, inhumanely treated, deprived of food for days, and given almost no water. V.H. was in the same cell with him. They were then taken to the National Security Service building in Baku, where they were interrogated. Prior to the interrogation, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan also beat the Armenian captives, after which they interrogated them and videotaped it. During the interrogations, no translator was present, they did not understand what documents they were signing. After interrogation, they were transferred to a penitentiary institution in Baku. H.D. informed that during his stay in the Baku penitentiary institution he saw A.K., and while in cell No. 64 he heard Y.A.'s name, the latter was repatriated to Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY. While being in penitentiary institution, the prisoners were tortured, forced to swear at the Armenian authorities, and repeatedly utter the phrase "Karabakh is Azerbaijan." H.D. stated that they had been beaten before being brought to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the Military Police of the Republic of Azerbaijan, after which he and others were threatened to shoot a video with their participation and recite the text given to them beforehand. In case of refusal, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces threatened to kill them, noting that this was the only way to save their lives. H.D. and other Armenian prisoners of war captured with

him, having no other choice, uttered the text given to them in front of the camera. On DD-MM-YYYY, H.D., V.H., N.N., R.A., G.T., P.A., M.B. and R.S. were repatriated to Armenia.

#### **21. A.T. (patronymic – K., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On November 9, 2020, A.T. got acquainted with A.S., K.G., an unidentified Armenian man named A. and decided to go to Artsakh to take aid there. When they reached the adjacent area of the road of Khndzoresk, they were captured by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan. Immediately after the capture, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan forced them to take off their shoes, conducted a personal search, took their driver's licenses, military IDs, tied them up, sat them on the ground, and then kicked them on various parts of their bodies. During that time, the Azeris asked who Karabakh belonged to, and when A.S. tried to answer, they kicked him, saying that Armenia also belonged to Azerbaijan. An officer of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, studying the documents of A.S., learning that his name was A., took out a knife because of his name, wanted to cut off his ear, saying that they had cut off the ear of "Andranik Zoravar", and now they would cut his ear off, but after many requests, they did not cut off his ear. After that, they were taken out of the highway, thrown into a hole near the highway, and the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, about 200 people, hit them every time they passed through the mentioned area. Then they were transported by UAZ car to the Republic of Artsakh, the city of Shushi, which at that time was under the control of Azerbaijan, where they were put in a Toyota car, transported to the city of Hadrut in the Artsakh Republic. While being in the car, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan severely beat them without any reasons, they videotaped it all by their mobile phones and mocked them. Then, the latter were taken by police cars to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police of Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where they were separated, then transferred to another building with separate cells, where they were interrogated in the basement. The prisoners were beaten with various objects, such as pipes, weapons, sticks, and during their stay in the Baku penitentiary institution they were forced to stand up when the cell doors opened and say, "Karabakh is Azerbaijan." While in the building of the National Security of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a person approached A.T. and forced him to declare in front of the video camera that he was a "thief in law", but he refused. Then they brought to the

same room two middle-aged women, three children, who spoke the Karabakh dialect, and beat them. A.T. refused to make such a statement, after which the Azerbaijani servicemen put a knife to the throat of one of the above-mentioned children and threatened to cut the child's throat if he did not agree to say that he was a "thief in law." Before being transferred to the penitentiary institution, A.T. was not given food or water. The latter met A., whose last name was A. and A.G., son of A., who was extradited to Russia on DD-MM-YYYY. On DD-MM-YYYY, A.T. was repatriated to Armenia.

## **22. A.G. (patronymic – H., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

In August 2018, A.G. voluntarily left the military position and surrendered to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On the spot, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan captured him, beat him and transferred him to Azerbaijan, where A.G. remained in the "Narve Pols" penitentiary institution in Baku until DD-MM-YYYY. During the years of his imprisonment, mainly in the early months, he was regularly beaten by Azerbaijani servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. A.G. informed that during the said years, members of special detachments of Azerbaijani nationality, masked by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, regularly came to his cell, beat him, forced him to appear in front of a video camera, and criticize and insult the authorities and Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh. Besides, A.G. was forced by the Azerbaijani staff of the penitentiary institution to work and do work that was not desirable for him. In the penitentiary institution he met G.M., an Armenian prisoner of war, who was repatriated to the Republic of Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY, and M.Z., who was extradited from the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Lebanon. In the same penitentiary institution he also saw a man from the Chartar community of the Artsakh Republic, a boy living in the Malatia administrative district of Yerevan, whose names he does not know. During his stay in the penitentiary institution, when A.G. was accompanied to work, he met V.E., an Armenian by nationality. On DD-MM-YYYY, A.G. was repatriated to Armenia.

## **23. A.G. (patronymic – G., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

A.G. is a conscript and after the trilateral agreement signed on November 10, 2020, he got lost with his fellow servicemen in one of the villages of the city of Hadrut in the Artsakh



Republic. He and his fellow servicemen stayed in a house for some time, after which he went with his fellow serviceman E.G. to look for drinking water, but the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan noticed them and started firing in their direction, as a result of which he was severely wounded in the abdomen and leg, after which he and E.G. were captured by Azerbaijani servicemen of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Immediately after the capture, they started cursing in Russian. As he had serious injuries, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan took him to an Armenian hospital, which at that time was under the control of the servicemen of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan. He was operated on and kept in the mentioned military hospital for about 10 days, but during those 10 days the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan almost did not give him any food or water. A.G. informed that immediately after his capture, he was filmed by the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. In the above-mentioned hospital, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan regularly forced A.G. to utter the phrase "Karabakh is Azerbaijan", the latter was subjected to humiliating treatment, in particular, the soldiers of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan spat on him, ate in the same room, but didn't give him any food. A.G. did not meet any Armenians during his stay in the hospital, and a few days later he was transferred to one of the military hospitals in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where he did not see any Armenians either. A.G. stated that after their capture, he had not met E.G. any more. A.G. was repatriated to the Republic of Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY. At present, his both legs are amputated.

#### **24. S.A. (patronymic – J., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On September 28, 2020, S.A. left for the front as a volunteer and took part in military operations in different parts of the Artsakh Republic. He was last found in the Fizuli region of the Artsakh Republic, where he and other servicemen were assigned to guard. Battles took place in the mentioned place, during which S.A. saw wounded servicemen, when he tried to help them, he was also wounded and stayed in the field for about 4 days. As he did not receive food during those days, he decided to enter one of the nearby houses to get food, but met soldiers with the Azerbaijani-Turkish emblem, who captured him. After his capture, the soldiers bearing the emblem of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Turkey blindfolded him and took him in an unknown direction, during

which they hit him. During those days, S.A. was not rendered a medical treatment, saying that he would be treated in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces transported him to a military police disciplinary battalion in Baku. Despite the fact that S.A. was wounded, all the way, the soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan struck him on different parts of his body with hands and feet, as well as with various objects, at the same time, he was forced to repeat the phrase "Karabakh is Azerbaijan". S.A. was transferred from the isolator of the military police disciplinary battalion in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to the National Security Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where he was interrogated again. S.A. was interrogated in the building of the National Security Service without an interpreter; at the end he signed under papers written in Azerbaijani, which he didn't understand. After being questioned in the building of the National Security Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, he was transferred to a penitentiary institution in Baku, where he remained until DD-MM-YYYY, after which he was repatriated to Armenia on the same day.

#### **25. M.A. (patronymic – S. born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On November 12, 2020, M.A. and his brother K.A. and brother-in-law A.S. left for Artsakh in a VAZ-01 car to take out their belongings left in their house located there. Before reaching the outskirts of the city of Shushi in the Artsakh Republic, they met 7-8 soldiers in uniform of the Turkish and Azerbaijani Armed Forces, who kept their weapons in their direction and captured them. Immediately after the capture, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan attacked them, threw them on the ground, kicked them many times on different parts of their bodies, then tied their hands with ropes and transferred them to the Armenian military unit located in the city of Shushi of the Artsakh Republic, but under the control of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, kept there in an empty arsenal. Before entering the arsenal, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces threw them into puddles and hit them many times. The latter were then taken to the city of Ganja in the Republic of Azerbaijan, continuing to beat them on the whole way. While in the mentioned place, M.A. heard the voices of several Armenians, who made inhuman voices out of pain. He also learned that the Armenian captive in the next room, whose name and surname did not know, had died of torture. After that, M.A. was taken to a military police disciplinary battalion in Baku, the capital of the

Republic of Azerbaijan, interrogated, and then transferred to the National Security Service of the same city, where he was forced to sign a cooperation document under threat. M.A. informed that during his stay in the city of Shushi of the Artsakh Republic, besides M.A., K.A. and A.S., there were 5 Armenian prisoners of war, including G.S. nicknamed "P.", D.D., A.G., A.H. and some G.. The Armenian prisoners of war seen by M.A., except for D.D. and G., were repatriated to Armenia, and he was repatriated to Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY.

**26. N.N. (patronymic – R., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

He, V.H., H.D., R.A., G.T., P.A., M.B. and R.S. from the Mataghis region of the Artsakh Republic were captured by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. From the very beginning of their captivity, they were beaten and threatened to pronounce the phrase "Karabakh Azerbaijan" in turn. Immediately after their capture, they were transferred to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the Baku Military Police. As soon as they arrived at the military police disciplinary battalion, they were beaten by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan and treated in a manner that degraded their honor and dignity. They were handcuffed on the spot, continued to be beaten, after which they were placed in separate cells of the military police disciplinary battalion isolator. During the weeks in the military police, the captives were regularly beaten by various Azerbaijani servicemen, inhumanely treated, deprived of food for days, and given almost no water. They were then taken to the National Security Service building in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where they were interrogated. Prior to the interrogation, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan beat the Armenian prisoners, after which they interrogated them and videotaped it. No translator was present during the interrogation, they did not understand what papers they were signing. After interrogation, they were transferred to a penitentiary institution in Baku. While in the penitentiary institution, they were tortured, the latter were forced to swear at the Armenian authorities, constantly uttering the phrase "Karabakh is Azerbaijan." N.N. stated that they had been beaten before being brought to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the Military Police of the Republic of Azerbaijan, after which he and others were forced under threats to shoot a video with their participation and recite the text given to them beforehand. In case of refusal, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces threatened to kill them, noting that this was the only way to save their lives. N.N., other

Armenian prisoners of war captured with him, having no other choice, uttered the text given to them in front of the camera. On DD-MM-YYYY, N.N., V.H., H.D., R.A., G.T., P.A., M.B. and R.S. were repatriated to Armenia.

**27. K.A. (patronymic – S. born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On November 12, 2020, K.A. and his brother M.A., brother-in-law A.S. left for Artsakh in a VAZ-01 car belonging to M.A. to take their belongings out of their house located there. Before reaching the outskirts of the city of Shushi in the Artsakh Republic, they met by 7-8 soldiers in uniform of the Turkish- Azerbaijani Armed Forces, who kept their weapons in their direction and captured them. Immediately after the capture, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan attacked them, threw them on the ground, kicked them many times on different parts of their bodies, then tied their hands with ropes and transferred them to the Armenian military unit located in the city of Shushi of the Artsakh Republic, but under the control of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, kept there in an empty arsenal. Before entering the arsenal, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces threw them into puddles and hit them many times. The latter were then taken to the city of Ganja in the Republic of Azerbaijan, where they continued to be beaten all the way. While in the mentioned place K.A. heard the voices of several Armenians, who made inhuman voices out of pain. He also learned that the Armenian prisoner in the room next to him, whose name and surname did not know, died of torture. After that, M.A. was taken to a military police disciplinary battalion in Baku, was interrogated, and then transferred to the National Security Service of the same city, where he was forced to sign a cooperation document under threats. After that they were transferred to a penitentiary institution in Baku, where he was kept separate from his brother. G.S., D.I. and E.H. were in the same cell with him. While in the penitentiary institution, K.A. heard the voices of Armenian women. On DD-MM-YYYY, he, his brother A.S., as well as E.H. and D.I. were repatriated to Armenia, and G.S. continues to be held in captivity in Azerbaijan.

**28. A.S. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On November 9, 2020, A.S., his sister's husband M.A., and his brother K.A. decided to leave for Artsakh in a VAZ-01 car belonging to M.A. to take their belongings out of their

house located there. Before reaching the outskirts of the city of Shushi in the Artsakh Republic, they met 7-8 soldiers in uniform of the Turkish- Azerbaijani Armed Forces, who kept their weapons in their direction and captured them. Immediately after the capture, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan attacked them, threw them on the ground, kicked them many times on different parts of their bodies, then tied their hands with ropes and took them to the Armenian military unit located in the city of Shushi of the Artsakh Republic, but under the control of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan and kept there in an empty arsenal. Before entering the arsenal, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces threw them into puddles and hit them many times. The latter were then taken to the city of Ganja in the Republic of Azerbaijan, where they continued to be beaten all the way. While in the mentioned place, A.S. heard the voices of several Armenians, who made inhuman voices out of pain. He also learned that the Armenian prisoner in the next room, whose name and surname did not know, died of torture. After that, M.A. was taken to a military police disciplinary battalion in Baku, he was interrogated, and then transferred to the National Security Service of the same city, where he was forced to sign a cooperation document under threats. After that, they were transferred to a penitentiary institution in Baku, where they were kept separate from K. and M.A.s. A.S. was tortured again in the penitentiary institution. In his testimony, A.S. stated that 10 Azerbaijani servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan entered the cell and beat him without any reason. On DD-MM-YYYY, he, M.A. and K.A. were repatriated to Armenia.

#### **29. M.S. (patronymic – S., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

M.S. with a staff of 9 people were besieged in one of the villages of Hadrut of the Artsakh Republic, during which they started a shootout with the enemy, as a result of which H. from the 2nd military unit in Martuni, conscripts S.G. and H.H. were killed, and M.S., M.M. and L.M. from “Legeon” detachment received injuries of various degrees. After that, 6 people - M.S., L.M., M.M., V., V.H. and S.M. - were captured. About 50 Azerbaijani servicemen threw them to the ground and beat them with metal objects and other objects, videotaped it and posted on the Internet. M.S. had severe bodily injuries, sometimes lost consciousness, during which the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces deliberately stood on his wounded leg, as a result of which he lost consciousness. Then they were put in

a "pickup" car and taken in an unknown direction. In this car the captives were again severely beaten. When he regained consciousness, he realized that he was in a wheelchair in an Azerbaijani hospital, where a person of Azerbaijani nationality, in the military uniform of the National Security Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, started cursing him, after which he leaned him to the wall to prevent him from falling, ran to him, hit his head, face and various parts of his body. After that, M.S. was taken to the toilet in a wheelchair and bathed in cold water. M.S. stated that he had undergone surgery at the mentioned military hospital, but after that they did not properly take care of him, he was not given food for a long time, and the bandages were rarely changed. During his captivity M.S. was regularly interrogated in a wheelchair, where he was tortured by an investigator, interrogated without an interpreter, at the end he signed papers written in Azerbaijani that he did not understand. On October 29, 2020, he was transferred to a penitentiary institution in Baku. He was not given food for a few days in the above-mentioned penitentiary institution, and before giving water he was forced to say the phrase "Karabakh is Azerbaijan". M.S. stated that during his stay in the military hospital he was thrown to the ground while being given food or cigarettes, forced to take food or cigarettes from the ground in an injured state. They asked him to utter the phrase "Karabakh is Azerbaijan", after which they gave him a cigarette. M.S. stated that the Armenian prisoners of war found in the same cell with him had returned to Armenia, and that L.M., who had been captured with him, was still being held captive in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

**30. J.T.<sup>100</sup> (patronymic – M., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

He was a civilian resident of the Artsakh Republic, who was forcibly displaced and captured by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan from his own house during the aggressive war unleashed by the Republic of Azerbaijan against the Artsakh Republic.

The latter was repatriated to Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY.

During the preliminary investigation of the criminal case, a video was published on the Internet "Telegram" website, where the moment of J.T. 's capture was seen. In particular: a group of Azeri nationals, servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in

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<sup>100</sup> <https://twitter.com/naghdalyan/status/1329715534812897280?lang=en>



the mentioned video, surrounded J.T., pointed a weapon on him, and one of the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azeri national, is beating him. It is seen in the video that J.T. is barefoot and his clothes are torn. J.T. was not able to testify during the preliminary investigation of the criminal case due to health problems, in particular, he could not speak, according to the medical examination, he went blind. An examination was carried out with the participation of J.T., numerous scars and bruises were found on the latter's body.

J.T. died on February 3, 2021, without regaining consciousness.

### **31. S.M. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

S.M. was a soldier of compulsory military service. On October 15, 2020, during the fighting, he was surrounded. The 100-people personnel of their company suffered numerous casualties, and he got a gunshot wound. The surviving personnel consisting of 9 people from their company, which included M.G., V., L.M. (volunteer), V.A., H.H., S.G., M.S., H. from Martuni N2 military unit retreated to one of the villages of Hadrut region of the Republic of Artsakh and settled in one house. On October 20, 2020, they were discovered and started shooting at them, as a result of which S.G. and H.H. were killed, they remained 6 people (5 out of 6 people, including him, were injured) and were captured. After they were captured, they tied their eyes and hands and began to strike randomly, despite the fact that almost all of their members of their staff were injured. The Azerbaijanis hit them with their hands and feet, as well as with other objects, and forced them to say that Karabakh was Azerbaijan. From the specified area, they were put in pick-up trucks and taken to the city of Hadrut, on the way they were again beaten up on different body parts and bullied. When they arrived in Hadrut, they were brought into the building of the former beauty salon and all the six of them were beaten again randomly, scold and humiliated in various forms. While they were in the beauty salon, an 80-year-old man was brought there, who was also captured, whose name he did not know, but this elderly man later returned to the Republic of Armenia. The elderly man was also treated very badly and was beaten. From there, he and the other, a total of seven, were blindfolded again and taken to the city of Baku in the Republic of Azerbaijan. On the way, him and the others were also beaten and scolded in Russian language, in the result of the blows he lost his consciousness. One of the guys asked for water, in response to which the Azerbaijanis not only did not give water, but also began

to strike hard. In Baku, they were taken to the military police building, all were separated and kept in separate cells, he was tied to a water tube and was beaten up every day and no one provided any medical assistance. Only once a day they were allowed to go the restroom or drink water. He did not see other guys from his group, but only heard sounds of beatings and their screams, and all this lasted 3 days. From there, they were taken away for interrogation, during which they were regularly tortured, he was beaten before each question. At that time, he was in the detention center of the National Security Service of Azerbaijan and remained there for 15 days. In the cell, he was beaten almost every day and not provided any medical care. 15 days later, he was taken to a prison in the city of Baku, and on the way, the Azerbaijani military servicemen severely beat him, as a result of which he lost consciousness. All the Armenian prisoners of war who were captured and whom he met in Azerbaijan returned to Armenia, except for L.M..

**32. T.K. (patronymic – Y., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

T.K. was a volunteer. On September 30, 2020, he went to war together with his three friends: A.A., N.A. and G.. On October 30, 2020, about 70 people, including three of his friends, went to Agavno positions in the Republic of Artsakh. Upon arrival, they were shot and then surrounded. Four people were captured: he, G.E., A.G. and A.S., who did not return to Armenia. First they were taken to an unknown place, then a day later, they were taken to the military police of the Republic of Azerbaijan, after which they were taken to the National Security Service, and then to the prison of the city of Baku. The prisoners who were captured with him and his friends, with whom he went to war, did not return to Armenia. In the kindergarten in Zangelan he saw E.N. and three unknown Armenian guys aged 22-26 years. In the video, he noted that he knows the captives A.K., N.A., K.H., E.N., G.R., S.A., A.A., H.H., G.K., Y.G., N.A. and S.P..

He informed that after their capture, they were beaten, hit on different parts of the body. All the way to the military police and the National Security Service of Azerbaijan, they were again beaten and scolded in the car. For about 5 days, before arriving in Baku, they did not eat anything at all. Because of the beating, his right arm was broken, but he was not provided any medical treatment. He was also forced to sign a document of interaction and the process was recorded.

### **33. K.H. (patronymic – S., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

He was a contract soldier in Jrakan. He was captured together with S.S.. Immediately after the capture, they were transferred to the basement floor of a building, where after staying for a day, they were probably transferred to the Military Police of the Republic of Azerbaijan, after staying there for a day, they were taken to the Investigation Department and then to Baku Prison. He remained in prison for 20 days, hearing the voices of many Armenian nationals, but did not see any of them.

After staying for 20 days, he was transferred to another prison, where he heard the voice of an Armenian boy. In the second prison, he was in his cell with a girl named A., a Ukrainian, heard the voices of women. He asked Azeris about them and got to know that they were the voices of Armenian women, one of them named M., she was a nurse, and the other one named M. As he was leaving the building of the National Security Service of Azerbaijan, he saw A.G., and while in prison he saw a 35-year-old Armenian nurse from Artsakh, but he did not know her name and could not describe her face features. When captured and later on kept on a basement floor, he and S.S. were severely beaten with various objects, videotaped, but in a video posted on the Internet they were not beaten.

He stated that they were not given food or water, they were beaten and electrocuted every day. He asked the Azeri servicemen for water in the car, in response to which the Azeri servicemen lowered him and beat him. He stated that they were deprived of basic conditions, did not receive medical care, in the cell of the military police building, despite the fact that there were beds in the cell, they were tied to a water pipe and slept like that. One day he was taken from a military police cell to a police station, beaten with irons and batons by about 5 Azeris, poured boiling tea on him.

### **34. A.S. (patronymic – S., DD-MM-YYYY)**

He was a conscript soldier. Immediately after his capture, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces took him to the Ganja Hospital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, after staying there he was taken to the Investigation division of Baku City and was kept for a long time, then he was put in a car, where he saw the captured A.M. , who was repatriated to Armenia. In the Republic of Azerbaijan, he did not see any other Armenian nationals. When captured he was wounded and when he was captured he was videotaped. When he was sitting in the car, he was cursed and beaten. Although he was wounded in both legs and he was hospitalized in

Ganja, he was operated on, but during those days he was treated only once, given water only once a day, and no food at all. After staying in the hospital for a day, he was taken to a building on a stretcher, during which he was beaten and cursed again in the car. During an interrogation at the Investigative Division, when he did not fully answer the investigator's questions, the investigator called in two soldiers who had beaten him in the presence of an interpreter. They kept him in the investigation department for a long time, gave him food only once a day, and did not provide any medical care at all. During one of the verbal questions, under threat, he was forced to curse the authorities of the Republic of Armenia, all this was videotaped. While in prison he slept in an iron bed, the food was not good either, they did not give him cigarettes, and when he wanted a cigarette, then the Azeri servicemen forced him to say Karabakh is Azerbaijan, only after that Azeri servicemen gave him cigarettes. He was given a cigarette, he was also ridiculed and cursed.

**35. K.G. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On November 9, 2020, together with A.T. and A.S., they left for the Republic of Artsakh. On their way nearby Shushi town they were captured by the servicemen of the Military Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, after that they were taken to a place resembling a military unit, after keeping them there for 3 days, they were transferred to Baku prison of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

He was repatriated together with A.T. and A.S..

Immediately after the capture, they were forced to take off their shoes, after which they were laid on the ground and beaten. On the way to the military unit, they were also tortured, inhumanely treated, and Azeris told that they were taken to be killed. While in prison, they were forced to stand up when the door to the cell opened and honor them, saying that Karabakh is Azerbaijan. During the captivity, they were regularly tortured and inhumanely treated.

**36. A.M. (patronymic – Y., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

A.M. was wounded in the left leg during the hostilities, fell into a blockade, after which 7 servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces captured him, during which, without taking into account the fact that he was wounded in the leg and unable to move, tied his hands, put him into a car by dragging and took to a place resembling a military unit. While

transporting A.M. in the car, the Azeri soldiers guarding the wounded A.M. with their hands and feet irregularly hit him, one of them burned the lower right part of the back of A.M. with a lighter, then burned his fingers with a skewer of a firearm. A.M. lost consciousness during a particularly severe beating and torture. Torture and inhuman treatment of A.M. continued in the area like a military-unit, with Azerbaijani servicemen spitting at him and telling him sexually abusive words, humiliating his honor and dignity. Then, A.M. was taken to hospital for a short time, where the fact that he was injured during his stay was completely ignored, and he was taken from the hospital to the investigation department and was questioned. After a long interrogation, A.M. was transferred to a cell instead of being taken to hospital, where he was kept alone for about 4 days. During the mentioned interrogations, officers of a special service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in the presence of an investigator, gave him a text written in Armenian and under the influence of death threats, they forced him to read the text written in front of the camera, which stated that during his service he saw Kurdish mercenaries in the military unit, who fought against Azerbaijan for \$600 per month. Concerned about his life and health, A.M. had to read in front of the camera the information written in the text, but which had nothing to do with the reality, and cursed the Armenian authorities. Under the influence of the same threats, A.M. was forced to sign a document of mutual cooperation. Then, 4 days later, he was transferred to another cell, where the captured prisoner of war A.S. son of S. was kept with him. After being held in a cell for several days, A.M. and A.S. were taken to a penitentiary, where they were forced to stand up, open the cell door, pay homage, and utter the phrase "Karabakh is Azerbaijan." A.M. and A.S. saw V.A. on the way to the airport while returning to Armenia. After returning to Armenia, A.M. watched the video prepared by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces with his participation and posted on the Internet, in connection with which he informed that the scratches and wounds on his face in the video were caused by the beating of an Azerbaijani soldier.

### **37. V.P. (patronymic – V., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

V.P. was captured by Azerbaijani servicemen from the village, then he was taken to a place at gunpoint where he spent the night sitting on the ground. The Azeri servicemen, who were accompanying him in a car after the capture, when transporting him inserted something like a needle into V.P.'s leg, hit him irregularly with their hands and feet on

different parts of his body, causing physical and mental suffering. The next day he was taken to a fortress, where he met two of his fellow villagers, among whom he recognized K.M., considered to be a captured civilian. They were then transferred to another location, where they were later transferred to K.M., who was stunned, as if under the influence of psychotropic drugs, and complained of feeling unwell. In the evening, the captured civilians E.S. and his wife A.S. were transferred to the same cell. While being held in the fortress, V.P. was interrogated several times, during which the Azeri servicemen held a gun on V.P., forced him to report the number of military units in Shushi, and another soldier pulled his hair, put a knife to his throat and demanded to tell everything. During his stay in the fortress, E.S., who was being held with V.P., deteriorated sharply, he was not provided with the necessary medical care, as a result of which the latter died.

### **38. R.S. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

R.S. together with R.A., G.T., H.D., V.H., P.A., N.N., M.B. in the region called Horatagh of the Artsakh Republic was surrounded and captured by the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. Immediately after the capture, they were transferred to Talish, and from there to Baku. In Baku, they were initially held in the military police building, after which they were transferred to the National Security Service building, where investigators named Ravshan and Zaur interrogated him, which was accompanied by torture causing physical and mental suffering and inhuman treatment. After the interrogation R.S. was taken to the military police building again, later to a cell located in the National Security building. While being at the NSS, Azeri servicemen threatened to kill R.S., and the persons captured with him, forcing them to call on Armenians and recite the text they had been given. Considering the threats of the Azerbaijani servicemen real, feeling the danger for their own lives and health, R.S. and the boys captured with him appealed to the Armenians not to go to the front in front of the video camera. R.S. was regularly beaten and inhumanely treated by Azerbaijani servicemen and law enforcement officers during his detention in the Military Police and the National Security Service. On October 29, 2020, R.S., S.A., V.H., S.K. and R.A. were transferred to the fortress of Baku. Later, R.S. was transferred to another cell, where the latter met V.P., who told him that E.S., J.T., K.M. and one person were kept in the same cell with him. All the mentioned persons, except for the killed E.S., were repatriated to Armenia together with R.S..

**39. M.B. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

M.B. was in the Mataghis military unit during the hostilities, from where he was captured together with seven people. After the capture, M.B. and the seven people were transferred to Talish, after which they were transferred to the Military Police of Baku. M.B. was detained in the Military Police of Baku city for five days, during which his hands were handcuffed to a water pipe in the cell. During his stay in the Military Police the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces regularly beat M.B. at least three times a day, causing him physical and mental suffering, and fed him once a day. Then M.B. was transferred to a penitentiary institution, where he was severely beaten with batons and irons for allegedly retaliating for military operations in Khojaly in the 1990s. On DD-MM-YYYY, M.B. was repatriated to Armenia.

**40. V.A. (patronymic – K., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

V.A. was besieged and captured by servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces. Together with V.A. were also captured M.S., V.H., S.M., L.M., H. and S.. After the capture, V.A. and the others were blindfolded, after which they were beaten for 30 minutes, ignoring the fact that there were wounded among the captives and those in need of medical care. After beating V.A., the others were put in a military convoy, where V.A. saw an unknown man of Armenian nationality, about 60 years old.

During his stay in the convoy, the Azerbaijani servicemen again beat V.A. and the persons captured with him. Then they were taken by car to the military police of Baku city, where the hands of V.A. and the other boys captured with him were tied to a water pipe and they were beaten. After that, V.A. and the others were taken to the National Security Service building, where the NSS officers threatened them in a way causing mental and physical suffering and forced them to sign some documents, including a secret cooperation agreement. After signing the cooperation agreement, the NSS officers continued to voice their readiness to carry out their threats, V.A. was given the text prepared in advance and demanded that the latter read it on his behalf in front of the video camera.

V.A. was transferred from the Military Police isolator to the NSS isolator, where the Azeri servicemen and law enforcement officers regularly beat him in the cell, causing him physical pain and mental suffering, forcing him to shout that Karabakh was Azerbaijan when



they entered. After being kept in the NSS isolator for some time, V.A. was transferred to a penitentiary institution, where L.M., G.E., A.S., Y.A. and a boy named A. from Armavir were kept together with him in the same cell. G.E. told V.A. that T.K., had also been captured with them. He reported and clearly mentioned G.E. and L.M., who did not repatriate to Armenia. While being held in the penitentiary institution, local officers forced V.A. and others to shout as they entered Karabakh was Azerbaijan and curse the Armenian authorities.

#### **41. R.H. (patronymic – S., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

Immediately after his capture, R.H. was taken to a military unit, where in one of the rooms the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces started beating him with irregular blows, stepping on him and filmed it all. R.H. was then transferred to another military unit, where four Azeri servicemen severely beat him with rubber truncheons. At the mentioned place R.H. met Y.A., a conscript living in Armavir, wounded in the hand. At the mentioned place, the Azeri servicemen tied R.H. and Y.A.'s hands and for about 10-15 minutes severely beat them with rubber truncheons with their hands and feet, which was accompanied by swearing at them.

After that, R.H. was taken to another place, where his hands were tied to a water pipe, and he was regularly beaten, causing him physical and mental suffering. R.H. was deprived of food and water for two days with his hands tied, and one of the Azeri servicemen electrocuted him, as a result of which R.H.'s condition deteriorated sharply. After that R.H. was transferred to another place, where he was given a new uniform, bread and water. Then, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces threatened to cause mental and physical suffering, demanding to represent the conditions of his detention as positive, they threatened to kill him if he did not comply with their demands, one of the Azeri servicemen held the gun in the direction of R.H. and said that he would cut off his ears.

The latter was then filmed, during which he stated that as if he was being treated well. R.H. was detained at the video site for three days, during which he was regularly beaten and threatened with death. During this time R.H. got acquainted with T.K., a prisoner of war, a resident of Artashat city.

Then R.H. was taken to a fortress located in Baku city, where captive prisoners of war T.K., S.H., S.K. and S.M. were kept in the same cell with him. About 10 days later, the captured prisoner of war V.A. was transferred to the same cell. He told the latter that he

had been kept in another cell before, and that he had been kept in the same cell with six other people who had not been repatriated to Armenia.

During his captivity members of the Azerbaijani armed forces threatened R.H. that if he did not do what they said, he would be killed, and one of the Azeri servicemen held the gun to R.H.'s head, saying that he would cut off his ears.

During his captivity R.H. was interrogated by Azerbaijani law enforcement officers, during which no translator was involved, he was not provided with any document in a language he understood, when R.H. tried to find out what documents he was signing, he was beaten and threatened with physical punishment. In order to save his life and health, R.H. had to sign the documents submitted to him.

#### **42. R.A. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

R.A. and eight other people were captured from the Mataghis region of the Artsakh Republic, after which they were taken by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces to a military police disciplinary isolator located in Baku. During the captivity, including during the detention in the military police R.A. and the persons captured with the latter were regularly beaten, their hands were tied to water pipes, due to which they were even unable to lie down to sleep.

R.A. was wounded during the captivity, but he was not provided with the necessary medical care, was not provided with the minimum living conditions, and was even deprived of food and water. R.A. heard the name of the captured D.D. in the building of the Military Police, as he had met V.E.. After being detained in the military police for five days, R.A. was taken to the National Security Service building in Baku, where NSS officers threatened R.A. with mental and physical suffering, severely beat him, and forced him to sign a cooperation document. After being held in the NSS isolator for some time, R.A. was transferred to a penitentiary institution, where he was regularly beaten for no reason and forced to make anti-Armenian statements.

#### **43. G.M. (patronymic – H., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

G.M. and her father, H.M., were at their home when six members of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces broke into the house and took G.M. out of the house, after which the Azeris who remained in the house killed H.M.. After that, G.M. was put in a car and taken to a penitentiary institution located in Baku city. On the way G.M. felt worse, but the Azerbaijani

servicemen did not provide her with any medical assistance. During the journey, the latter was not given food or water, she was even deprived of the opportunity to go to the toilet. In the cell where G.M. was kept, there was no toilet, she was allowed to use the toilet maximum twice a day, and after 20.00 she was forbidden to go to the toilet, threatening that if she continued to want to go to the toilet, she would be killed in the same way as her father, H.M.. While staying in the fortress, G.M. was forced to clean the fortress's toilets under death threats.

#### **44. A.A. (patronymic– A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

Immediately after the capture of A.A., the Azeri servicemen started hitting him many times with their hands and feet, as a result of which the latter's condition sharply worsened. He was put into a car and taken to somewhere. The journey took two hours, during which the Azeri servicemen continued to inflict irregular blows, severely beating A.A. and transferred him to a cell of a building. The latter was deprived of food and water in the cell, they did not provide him with any medical care, they forbade him to sit on the floor, otherwise threatening to beat him again.

Later, A.A. was given food only once, and the water was dirty. Then A.A. was transferred to a building that reminded him of a fortress. The living conditions there were inhumane, they were given food twice a day, they gave him only one piece of semi-dry bread with each meal, the food was so bad that he could not eat it although he was very hungry. The latter was deprived of the minimum conditions for eating, he was starving, as a result of extremely poor nutrition he went to the toilet only twice a month.

There were four other Armenian prisoners of war on the same floor with A.A., as the Azeris only communicated in Russian with the detainees in four cells, and they spoke Azerbaijani with the detainees in the other cells. During his captivity in the Republic of Azerbaijan, A.A. was interrogated by local law enforcement officers, during which he was subjected to psychological and physical pressure.

#### **45. E.H. (patronymic – N., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

E.H. left for Stepanakert on November 10, 2020, together with G.D., in a VAZ 21-07 brand car belonging to him, to transport their friend K.V. to Armenia. On the way to the city of Shushi, they were stopped by the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, who

threatened them and demanded that they get out of the car. E.H. and G.D. got out of the car, after which the Azeri servicemen captured them, stealing the mentioned car and documents.

Then they tied their hands, started hitting them irregularly with their feet, hands and batons on different parts of their bodies, causing mental suffering, physical pain and bodily injuries. For five days after being captured, the Azeri servicemen held E.H. and G.D. in the same manner, regularly beating, torturing and inhumanely treating them every day. Five days later E.H. and G.D. were taken to a penitentiary institution in Baku city, where G.D., D.I. and K.A. were kept in a cell with them. E.H. was repatriated to Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY.

**46. S.P. (patronymic – B., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

He is a civilian resident of Artsakh Republic. Lived in Avetaranots village of Askeran region of Artsakh Republic. On October 27, 2020, at about 09:00 o'clock in the morning, he woke up as usual, and saw that his son, K.P., born in 1964, was not at home. When he came out of the house, saw that servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azeri nationals, surrounded his son and were beating him. After that, the servicemen of Azerbaijan's Armed Forces noticed him and captured him and his son.

S.P. informed that immediately after their capture, they were beaten by the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, Azeri nationals. He and his son K.P. were dragged and beaten, taken to another house in Avetaranots village, where they were beaten again. After that, he was separated from his son, transferred to the hut near the above-mentioned house, where he stayed for some time, and after that he did not see his son anymore.

S.P. stated that he was treated very badly, subjected to psychological and physical suffering, in particular, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan beat him for no reason, they told him that his son had been killed. He stated that there was a case when the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces noticed a dog on the road, fed it with meat, and told him (S.P.) that the meat was the meat of his son, K.P..

After his capture, S.P. was transferred to a penitentiary institution in Baku. S.P. informed that he was not given any food or water before reaching the penitentiary in Baku, and on the way he was constantly beaten and mocked by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He was in the same cell with E.S. in the Baku

penitentiary. During his stay in the penitentiary institution, E.S. was ill-treated by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, he was deprived of basic living conditions. S.P. said that E.S. in the cell of the Baku penitentiary institution died, without receiving the necessary medical care. After his death, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces did not remove E.S.'s dead body from the cell of the penitentiary institution, leaving his body in the same cell with S.P. for two days.

On DD-MM-YYYY, S.P. was repatriated to Armenia, and E.S.'s body was returned to Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY.

**47. G.D. (patronymic – J., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

Together with his friend E.H., they went to the Republic of Artsakh by E.H.'s "Vaz 21-07" car to bring their friend from the Artsakh Republic. Nearby Shushi town of Artsakh Republic, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azeri nationals, stopped them and captured.

Immediately after his capture, he and E.H. were beaten by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, all his documents were taken from him, his clothes were taken off, Vaz 21-07 car belonging to E.H. was taken to a military unit in Artsakh but fallen under control of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. When they were in the military unit of Artsakh, but fallen under the control of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, they were again beaten, cursed and mocked by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. While in the above-mentioned military unit, 8 Armenian prisoners of war were brought there: one of them named D., the other K., and the data on the other 6 he did not know. They were detained in the above-mentioned military unit for 3 days, then 8 of them were beaten by servicemen of the Armen Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azeri nationals, and taken to a military police disciplinary battalion in Baku. They were regularly beaten on the way.

G.D. stated that Azeri servicemen forced them to utter the phrase "Karabakh is Azerbaijan" under the threat, which they videotaped on their mobile phones, subjecting them to mocking and inhuman treatment. They were placed in separate cells in the military police disciplinary battalion isolator. G.D. informed that before reaching the isolator of the Baku military police disciplinary battalion, during the days he spent in the isolator, the Armenian prisoners of war who had been taken with him did not receive any food or medical care, only once the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces gave them water.

After military police disciplinary battalion in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan G.D. was transferred to a penitentiary institution in the same city. The latter was regularly taken to one of the investigative divisions in Baku, for interrogation. Investigators interrogated G.D. without the participation of an interpreter, and at the end offered him to sign a paper of cooperation, which was videotaped by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, threatening that if he did not cooperate, the law enforcement agencies would find out.

On DD-MM-YYYY, G.D. was repatriated to Armenia.

**48. A.B. (patronymic – E., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

Since 2014, A.B. has been serving on contractual basis in the Military Unit of Martakert region and was captured by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces on December 26, 2020. Immediately after his surrender, he was beaten by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces and was forced to pronounce the phrase “Karabakh is Azerbaijan” under threat. For a whole day, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces held him in the Military Unit, during which they regularly beat him, scolded and did not give him any food. The next day, he was transferred from the Military Unit to the Disciplinary Battalion Isolator of the Military Police in Baku,. A.B. informed that on the way to the Disciplinary Battalion Isolator of the Military Police in Baku, he was beaten by a sergeant, a lieutenant colonel and three colonels of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces with kicks and punches. In the cell of the Disciplinary Battalion Isolator of the Military Police, he was held alone, where there were no communal amenities; he was fed once a day. He reported that there was a water leakage in the cell, and that he slept on a dirty and damp floor. He was kept in the cell of the specified isolation cell for a month; he also said that he took care of his natural needs in the cell, where there was no bathroom. While he was held in the cell, he was regularly visited by masked persons who interrogated him. During the interrogations, he was regularly beaten. These masked men forced A.B. to testify that he was an Armenian saboteur and wanted to enter into the Azerbaijani positions on New Year's Eve and kill the Azerbaijanis. After brutal beatings and numerous threats, a few days later, with the participation of an interpreter, he was interrogated and forced to say the text of the aforementioned content given by them in front of cameras. He was taken to the National Security Building of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where investigators interrogated him tied up with handcuffs and a rope. In

2015, he was sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment and transferred to the pre-trial detention center in Ganja, Republic of Azerbaijan. From the pre-trial detention center, he was transferred to the Penitentiary Institution called “Karadagh”, located in Baku. A.B. informed that during his stay in the specified Penitentiary Institution, he was periodically beaten by servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Prior to his repatriation to the Republic of Armenia, he was periodically interrogated, videotaped and threatened by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, various law enforcement officers, and was forced to say the text they had given to him beforehand during the filming and in his testimonies. On DD-MM-YYYY, A.B. was repatriated to Armenia.

**49. Y.A. (patronymic – G., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On October 1, 2020, together with their fellow servicemen, they were surrounded, and after a while they retreated. He and his fellow servicemen hid in a forest area, where in a shootout his fellow servicemen were killed and he remained in the mentioned forest area for about 10 days, subsequently, on October 23, 2020, he left the specified area and reached a building, where he was noticed by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan and captured. Immediately after his capture, the servicemen of Azerbaijani Armed Forces put chains on Y.A.'s hands and beat him brutally. After his capture, the latter was transferred to the Disciplinary Battalion Isolator of the Military Police in Baku, where the latter was again subjected to beating and ill-treatment by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Y.A. said that for several days, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces soldiers did not give him any food, did not provide any medical care, moreover, he said that the state flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan was brought close to him, forced to kiss and place it on his head, which was accompanied by threats, and he was forced to comply with the requirements of the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In the Disciplinary Battalion Isolator of the Military Police of the Republic of Azerbaijan, he heard the voices of numerous Armenian prisoners of war, however, did not see anyone. Subsequently, he was blindfolded and transferred to the building of the National Security Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where he was kept together with four other prisoners of war of Armenian nationality, one of whom was A.S.. He was transferred from the National Security Service to a Penitentiary Institution in Baku, where he was held in a separate cell together with the captives G.E.,



A.S., A.S., L.M. and V.A.. Y.A. was repatriated to Armenia on DD-MM-YYYY. Y.A. said that 33 prisoners of war of Armenian nationality were held in the Baku Penitentiary as of November 8, 2020. He learned this from the numbering of the dishes and the blood test tubes. From the Penitentiary Institution, in the period from December 10, 2020 to December 28, 2020, he was transferred to a separate cell of the National Security Isolator of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on DD-MM-YYYY, Y.A. was repatriated to the Republic of Armenia.

**50. V.H. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

V.H. was captured from the Mataghis region of the Republic of Artsakh along with his fellow servicemen H.D., N.N., R.A., G.T., P.A., M.B. and R.S.. From the very beginning of their captivity, they were beaten by the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, and under the influence of threats, they were alternately forced to pronounce the phrase “Karabakh is Azerbaijan”. Immediately after their capture, they were transferred to the Disciplinary Battalion Isolator of the Military Police in Baku. Upon arrival at the Disciplinary Battalion Isolator of the Military Police, they were beaten and subjected to ill-treatment by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. They were handcuffed on the spot and continued to be beaten up, after which they were separated in separate cells of the Disciplinary Battalion Isolator of the Military Police. There was another guy together with him in the same cell whose name was H.D., who was transferred to another place two days later and he was left alone in the cell. V.H. said that he was not given food for several days, and that servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces regularly entered the cell and hit his various body parts for no reason. After being held in the Disciplinary Battalion Isolator of the Military Police, V.H., G.T., R.A., P., N. and M.B. were transferred to a Penitentiary Institution located in Baku, capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where they remained until DD-MM-YYYY. In the Penitentiary Institution, the conditions were not satisfactory, they were given poor-quality food, and were regularly forced to stand up and say the phrase “Karabakh is Azerbaijan” when the cell door opened. In the same Penitentiary Institution, one floor below his place of detention, he was visited by investigators and interrogated without an interpreter, after which he signed some documents, the contents of which he did not understand. V.H. also said that before he was transferred to the Disciplinary Battalion Isolator of the Military Police, he was regularly subjected to beatings and ill-treatment, subsequently, servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, under the influence

of threats, demanded to record a video with his and other captives' participation, during which they were obliged to say a pre-written text given to them. In the case of refusal, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces threatened to kill them, stating that this was the only way to save their lives. V.H. and other prisoners of war who were taken captive with him, having no other option, said the text given to them beforehand in front of the camera. On DD-MM-YYYY, V.H., H.D., N.N., R.A., G.T., P.A., M.B. and R.S. were repatriated to the Republic of Armenia.

**51. V.H. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

From October 1, 2020, he was drafted into the military service to take part in the military operations carried out within the framework of the aggressive war unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh. On October 15 or 16, 2020, while retreating from the 9th kilometer of Hadrut, he was wounded during the battle. Two days later they reached the city of Hadrut, where they were besieged, hid in one of the houses, and were found and captured in the morning. During his captivity, V.H. was regularly tortured and treated inhumanely. Even before he was transferred to a penitentiary institution, he was handcuffed, thrown to the ground and severely beaten continuously. V.H. was not given food or water for a long time, and one of the Azeri servicemen electrocuted him and the other captured Armenians.

**52. S.H. (patronymic – T., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

S.H. got lost in the morning of October 21, 2020, in the surroundings of Hadrut, and was captured by the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. Immediately after the capture, the latter was taken to a basement, interrogated on the same day, after which he was taken to a detention center. After that, the latter was transferred and kept in the National Security Service isolator, and after that in the Fortress of Baku. Four people were held in the same cell in Baku Fortress with the latter: S.M., T.K., R.H., S.K..

During the captivity, mainly during the first eight days, S.H. was severely beaten by a group of 25-40-year-old Azeri servicemen, police officers, during which they used rubber truncheons and a large screwdriver and forced him to say that Karabakh was Azerbaijan.

Under the influence of the latter's threats, they interrogated him, forced him to sign a cooperation agreement with the special services, during which he also met with captured V.A.. All the above-mentioned captives were repatriated to Armenia.

**53. P.A. (patronymic – Z., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

P.A., being a soldier, on October 15, 2020 in the deployment of the 4th Battalion in Mataghis, was besieged together with 8 members of his subdivision and was captured. Along with the latter were captured servicemen R.A., H.D., V.H., G.T., N.N., M.B., R.M., who were all repatriated to Armenia.

From the very first moment of his capture, P.A. was regularly severely beaten, tortured and inhumanely treated by Azerbaijani servicemen and law enforcement officers. The latter was forced to say that Karabakh was Azerbaijan. One of the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces held a gun to the latter's head and threatened to kill him. At first he was kept in the military unit, then he was taken to the military police building, where he was handcuffed, thrown to the ground and continuously beaten by a group.

The latter was severely beaten by an Azerbaijani athlete in the sport of sambo, and one of the witnesses, a woman, laughed at him. P.A. was beaten so badly that he could not even eat. Besides, the latter was deprived of bread and water for a long time. During his captivity, he was treated inhumanely and tortured on a regular basis, which was done with special cruelty, in particular, they put cellophane on his face, tried to suffocate him, blindfolded him and beat him, one Azerbaijani tried to cut off his ears with a knife, another electrocuted him. The mentioned cruel, inhuman treatment and tortures were also committed against other captured Armenians.

**54. N.A. (patronymic – G., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On September 29, 2020, N.A.'s division, during hostilities, was bombed by the enemy. He and two other servicemen, M.G. and R.H., were besieged and hid in the village of Talish.

On October 3, 2020, at around 13:00, they were found and attacked by servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, during which N.A. received a gunshot wound. M.G. and R.H. tried to look for a bandage from nearby houses, during which they were found and killed by Azerbaijani servicemen. It is noteworthy that the latter were unarmed. On October 6, 2020, N.A. was found and captured. Immediately after the capture, the servicemen of the

Azerbaijani Armed Forces took N.A. in a car to the territory of Azeri positions, then took him to a village, where they held the rifle in his direction and threatening to kill him, forced him to say that Artsakh was Azerbaijan. In the same way, under the influence of threats, the latter was forced to announce in front of the cameras that the Armenians should stop fighting and lay down their weapons. During the mentioned period, N.A. was regularly severely beaten, tortured and inhumanely treated.

N.A. was kept in the investigation isolator of the National Security Service, where under the influence of threats to kill him, he was forced to read the text given to him in front of the cameras. Then he was transferred to Baku prison, after which he was repatriated to Armenia.

**55. K.M. (patronymic – G., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On November 3, 2020, K.M., being a civilian who did not take part in hostilities, was captured by Azerbaijani servicemen near the village of Chghone in Artsakh, after which he was severely beaten and stabbed with a knife in the leg two or three times. They put the end of the rifle into his mouth and threatened to shoot him. During that time, one of the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, a captain, continued to beat him, forcing him to confess that he was a spy. After that K.M. was taken to an Azerbaijani military positions, where he was held for two days, then taken to the city of Hadrut, and then taken to prison in different cars, but he did not know which city.

During his stay in prison, he was interrogated three times and was suspected of being a spy, as he could speak Azerbaijani. The captives V.P., S.P., E.S. and J.T. were kept in the cell with him.

Before returning to Armenia, K.M. was taken to the National Security Service isolator, where he was kept for 5 days, then interrogated and transferred to his former cell. While being held in prison, K.M. was informed that E.S. had died.

After that, the captured S.A., R.S. and S.G. were transferred to their cell, after which about a week later they were repatriated to Armenia together with the latter. He mentioned that during his captivity he saw the captured S.P. and L.M.. L.M. continues to be detained in Azerbaijan. During the captivity he saw other captive Armenians kept in the prison, whose personal data he does not know.

**56. E.T. (patronymic – T., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

E.T. was attacked as a serviceman in the Horadiz region by a staff of 33 members. On October 13, 2020, while retreating, he was besieged, during which he was wounded in the left leg, then, in an unarmed state, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces severely hit him on the head with the handle of a firearm, as a result of which he fainted.

After regaining consciousness, the latter was blindfolded and taken to the Azerbaijani Investigation Service or military isolator, where there were mainly officers. He was kept in the mentioned place for 3 days. He was kept in a separate cell, and captive Armenians were also kept in adjacent cells. Then he was taken to the prison in Baku, where he was kept alone in the cell.

During his captivity, the latter was regularly beaten, tortured and inhumanely treated. He was kept in handcuffs, deprived of bread and water for a long time and slept sitting for several days.

**57. D.I. (patronymic – R., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

D.I. is a taxi driver who, on November 11, 2020, after the end of hostilities, received an order from the couple B.A. and E.S. to transport them from Yerevan to Stepanakert in their own Toyota car.

On the way, near the city of Shushi, the latter's car was stopped by the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. They were captured with gun threats and taken to a nearby military unit.

There he saw other captured Armenians. The latter was kept in the mentioned military unit for about 2 days.

After that, they moved him to a building resembling a barracks and beat him. Then they took him to a school-like building, where they kept him for 1-2 days. He was then taken to a military police unit, where he was interrogated, and then transferred to a penitentiary institution in Baku. During the above-mentioned period, D.I. was regularly beaten, tortured and inhumanely treated.

After his capture, he did not see B.A. or E.S. anymore. 8 captive Armenians were kept in the Baku penitentiary institution, of which G.D., E.H., K.A. have been repatriated, but the other 5 persons have not been repatriated yet.

**58. G.A. (patronymic – V., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

G.A. held the position of platoon commander of the military unit, with the rank of senior lieutenant. In July 2020, during his service in the Karvachar region he got lost and was captured. Immediately after his capture he was held in inhumane conditions, regularly subjected to severe beatings and torture, and seldom received food.

**59. G.T. (patronymic – V., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

G.T. with a staff of 8 people were besieged and captured on October 22, 2020, in the territory of the Mataghis 4th Battalion. After the capture, the latter were taken to Talish village, then to their unknown direction, after which to a military police unit, then to a penitentiary institution.

Immediately after his capture, G.T. was regularly beaten, tortured and inhumanely treated. The servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, under the threat of killing him, forced him to say in front of the cameras that Karabakh was Azerbaijan. When beating him the latter's hands were tied with handcuffs, he was lying on the ground, he was severely beaten with various objects for a long time, tortured, electrocuted. As a result of the bodily injuries he received, G.T. could not even eat, he was deprived of bread and water for a long time. His eyes were blindfolded during the torture.

During his stay in the military police G.T. was interrogated under the influence of threats and videotaped. The latter was kept in the penitentiary institution with captive H.D., N.N., R.A., M.B., V.H., P.A. and R.S., all of whom were repatriated to Armenia.

Besides, during his detention in the penitentiary institution, he learned from nearby cells that other captured Armenians were being held, whose details he did not know.

**60. A.A. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

A.A., being a civilian, was alone on November 8, 2020 in his apartment in Shushi city, from where he was captured by the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces at around 15.00 on the same day.

After being captured, the latter was transferred to a building, after which he was transferred to a Baku penitentiary institution shortly after. During the mentioned period the latter was regularly beaten, tortured and inhumanely treated.

**61. A.S. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

A.S., on November 9, 2020, after signing a ceasefire agreement, together with A.T., K.G. and A.T. decided to leave for the Republic of Artsakh to transport humanitarian aid. The latter were captured by Azerbaijani servicemen on the road near Khndzoresk village. After the capture, the latter were transported by UAZ car to the city of Shushi, where they were transported in a Toyota car in the direction of Hadrut. After that they were taken by police cars to the military police unit of Azerbaijan, where they were kept in separate cells. After that they were taken to a building with separate cells. They were interrogated in the basement of the mentioned building. Later he was transferred to Kyudakhana penitentiary institution.

From the very first moment of his capture, A.S., A.T., K.G. and A.T. were regularly severely beaten, tortured and inhumanely treated by the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. Their interrogations were accompanied by torture, beatings, and death threats, which were distinguished with special cruelty. Under threats the latter was forced to sign a secret cooperation agreement.

During the interrogations he saw the captured A.G. (son of A.), and A.A. (son of A.), who was also severely beaten and tortured. The latter was repatriated to Armenia.

**62. H.S. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

H.S. was a church pastor, he was drafted to the front line on a voluntary basis. All servicemen of the unit were killed on October 25, 2020 due to the strike by a remote-piloted vehicle. After that the latter having been wounded in the area of his right thigh crawled and tried to reach the Armenian positions for several days, but he was surrounded by the soldiers of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces and captured.

Immediately after his capture, H.S. was taken to a military police unit. When being transferred, as well as in the military police unit, 7-8 servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces severely beat him with their hands, feet and various objects. The latter was injured during the captivity, but no medical assistance was provided to the latter.

During his stay in the military police, he was regularly severely beaten, interrogated under the threat of killing and directing the firearm at the latter, during that time they even fired shots from the firearm. During the interrogations he pronounced the text under threats given to him beforehand.



While being held in a military police unit Azerbaijani servicemen tried to cut off his ear. After being transferred to the fortress of Baku, captured H.D. and V.A. were found in the same cell with H.S.. The latter was also kept for some time in the National Security Service isolator, where he was regularly beaten by the staff and forced to swear at the Armenian authorities, but he refused to comply with their demands, saying that he was a spiritual shepherd and could not swear. For not fulfilling the demand, the latter was regularly severely beaten, tortured and inhumanely treated.

**63. S.K. (patronymic – T., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On October 18, 2020, he left for the Republic of Artsakh as a volunteer and took part in military operations. While being in Iravan he felt worse due to the projectile fired by the enemy and he lost consciousness. When he regained consciousness, he was surrounded by a group of servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who captured the latter, tying his hands and feet with a metal rope, which was immediately accompanied by numerous blows to various parts of the body. S.K. gave testimonies that the blows of the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces were so strong that as a result of which he regained consciousness. After the capture S.K. was put in a sleeping bag with his hands and feet tied and dragged to a building for about 1 km.

The servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, by nationality Azerbaijani were found in the mentioned building, the state flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan was posted. The latter forced S.K. to kneel in front of the state flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan, after which a group of Azerbaijani servicemen continued to severely beat him, which was accompanied by mocking the latter, swearing at him, videotaping the process via a mobile phone. One of the mentioned videos appeared on one of the social networking sites where S.K. was beaten by the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

After being held in the mentioned building for one day, S.K. was transferred to the isolator of the disciplinary battalion of the military police of the city of Baku of the Republic of Azerbaijan, where he was kept in a separate cell for 9 days. During those 9 days, he was regularly tortured, his honor and dignity were degraded, he was deprived of food, he was not provided with any medical care. After that, the latter was transferred to a penitentiary

institution in Baku city, where he was kept until DD-MM-YYYY and on the same day he was repatriated to Armenia with other men of his cell.

**CASES OF SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW - TORTURE, INHUMAN TREATMENT AND MURDER, COMMITTED BY SERVICEMEN OF THE AZERBAIJANI ARMED FORCES AGAINST PRISONERS OF WAR DURING THE ACT OF AGGRESSION**

**1. A.M. (patronymic – I., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

During the preliminary investigation, factual data was obtained stating that within the date range from October 06 to October 24, 2020, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan (the specific date has not been established by the investigation), intentionally and illegally deprived of his life the serviceman officer A.M. in the status of prisoner of war.

In particular, on November 24, 2020, the examination of the video, disseminated on “Telegram” via the Azerbaijani page with the username “Карабах/новости (война)”<sup>101</sup>, revealed a serviceman dressed in the uniform of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan (on which Azerbaijani flag was displayed) with a firearm in his hand shooting more than once at A.M., who was half laying on a the ground, deprived of any means of defense, not directly participating in the military operations during the armed clashes, and depriving him of his life.

**2. Murder of an unidentified serviceman (22-23 years old)**

On November 28, 2020, at around 16:00, the servicemen of the Defense Army on duty at the combat position near the city of Martuni, Republic of Artsakh, noticed at the observed area of the military stronghold of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan 4 servicemen striking and dragging to the observed area a soldier in the uniform of the Armenian Armed Forces, about 180 cm tall, with a medium physic, no more than 22-23 years old, and striking and kicking for a long while on various parts of the body of the soldier in the uniform of the Armenian Armed Forces, subsequently, two of the four persons in the uniforms of Azerbaijani Armed Forces held the hands of the person wearing the uniform of the

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<sup>101</sup> Translated name of the page – “Karabakh/news (war)”, note by the translator.

Armenian Armed Forces on both sides, made him kneel with his gaze in the direction of combat position of the Defense Army, and one of the 4 servicemen in the uniforms of Azerbaijani Armed Forces inflicting four or five knife blows on the chest of the a person in the uniform of the Armenian Armed Forces, stepping to the back side of the mentioned person and with the same knife cutting off the head of the soldier in the uniform of the Armenian Armed Forces.

After this incident, on November 29, at around 00:00, the servicemen of the Defense Army serving at the specified military position of the Defense Army, during the monitoring noticed 8-10 servicemen of the above-mentioned military stronghold of Azerbaijani Armed Forces beating and dragging to the specified area 4 servicemen of Armenian nationality, and striking randomly with hands and feet on various body parts of the mentioned persons. Meanwhile, one of the aforementioned four persons pronounced in pain the following expression in Armenian, “Uh, uh, Karen, Karen”. About 15 minutes after the beating, one of the mentioned 4 persons was lying motionless in the same place, they were moved to an unobservable area of the military stronghold of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces.

### **3. V.G. (patronymic – S., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On November 07, 2020, V.G. was captured by around 15 servicemen dressed in uniforms of Armenian Armed Forces, but in fact Azerbaijani-speaking servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. In particular, in the area called Isahac Akhbyur in Shushi, Republic of Artsakh, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces captured V.G. and four other Armenian servicemen of the Defense Army, whose identities have not yet been established.

On January 26, 2021, the V.G.’s dead body was passed over to the Republic of Armenia by Azerbaijani side. During the external examination of the corpse and the forensic medical examination of the corpse, it has been revealed that the head of the latter is deformed - expressly, covered with soil, by touch there are numerous crushing wounds in the head area, by touch there is a bone crepitation in the chick - in the head area, in the right thigh area - on the lower middle surface, there is a large bruised wound, there are also similar wounds on the left armpit area, in the areas of the posterior surface of the chest. There are numerous wounds on the buttocks of the corpse.

### **4. E.M. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

5. **H.G. (patronymic – A., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**
6. **A.A. (patronymic – R., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**
7. **A.M. (patronymic – H., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**
8. **S.K. (patronymic – V., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

**On November 27, 2020**, the Azerbaijani side handed over to the Armenian side the corpse of five conscripts (**E.M., H.G., A.A., A.M. and S.K.**) discovered under siege in Hadrut Region, Republic of Artsakh and killed, with the expression of at least 72-hour-old cadaveric phenomena.

In the areas of the head, chest and left arm of **E.M.'s** corpse, there were numerous gunshot exit wounds, which in most cases are expressed in the form of entry and exit holes. In different parts of the body, there are injuries in the form of bruises and scratches, which were mechanical in nature and were the result of the impact of a blunt instrument.

In the area of the head of **H.G.'s** corpse, there were gunshot exit wounds, which in most cases are expressed in the form of entry and exit holes. On the surfaces of the chest and lower extremities, there were injuries in the form of bruises, scratches and contusion, which were mechanical in nature and were the result of the impact of a blunt instrument.

There were bandages on the upper extremities of **A.A.'s** corpse, on the anterior and posterior surfaces of the chest, on the outer surface of the right shin there were gunshot exit wounds, and were mostly expressed in the form of entry and exit holes. In different parts of the corpse, there were injuries in the form of scratches and bruises, which were mechanical in nature and were the result of the impact of a blunt instrument.

There were gunshot wounds on the lower extremities of **A.M.'s** corpse and the posterior surfaces of the chest, there were injuries in the form of scratches and bruises on the thoracic and abdominal areas, which were mechanical in nature and are the result of the impact of a blunt instrument.

There were bandages on the upper extremities of **S.K.'s** corpse, gunshot exit wounds on the chest and two forearms, which in most cases were expressed in the form of entry and exit holes.

In the oral cavity and in the throat area there were 10 unfired bullets that were pushed into these areas by external intervention by mechanical means.

9. **H.A. (patronymic – G.),**

10. H.M. (patronymic – S.),
11. G.A. (patronymic – S.),
12. A.S. (patronymic – M.),
13. R.A. (patronymic – S.),
14. S.A. (patronymic – M.),
15. A.H. (patronymic – H.),
16. A.M. (patronymic – G.),
17. G.B. (patronymic – G.),
18. S.H. (patronymic – V.),
19. D.V. (patronymic – H.).

Within the date range from December 12 to 14, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, attacked villages Hin Tagher, Khitsaberd of Hadrut region, village Qirsavan of Shushi region of the Republic of Artsakh, in the result of which 64 servicemen were captured, two received body injuries with various degrees and nine servicemen were killed. Due to data of forensic medical examinations, enough proving data were found on torture and inhuman behaviour towards nine killed servicemen.

In particular:

There are gunshot injuries on all the corpses, which are predominantly expressed in the form of exit and entry holes.

The head of the 1<sup>st</sup> corpse is completely crushed, there is an open wound in the lower jaw, numerous hemorrhages in the face area due to the impact of a blunt instrument, in addition, there are also injuries in the palms, and there were many bruises in different parts of the body, which are also the result of blunt instrument impact.

Two pinnas of the 2<sup>nd</sup> corpse were amputated, there are traces of blunt instrument impact on different parts of the body, in addition, there are numerous bruises in different parts of the body, which are also the result of blunt instrument impact.

The head of the 3<sup>rd</sup> corpse is completely removed, the right pinna is amputated, the left part of the lower jaw and face is completely deformed, there are penetrating wounds in the chest area, in addition, there are numerous bruises in different parts of the body, which are also the result of blunt instrument impact, the impact of thrust-cutting tool is also not excluded.

The left part of the head of the 4<sup>th</sup> corpse was completely removed with a skull fracture and an opening, two pinnas, a part of the 5<sup>th</sup> finger – little finger, of the left wrist were amputated, there are hemorrhages in the back of the right hand, in addition, penetrating wounds in different parts of the body, the impact of thrust-cutting toll is also not excluded. In addition, in different parts of the body there are numerous traces of bruises due to the impact of a blunt instrument.

The head of the 5<sup>th</sup> corpse is completely removed, the skull is deformed, with numerous skull-bone defects in the upper part, penetrating wounds in the lower jaw and neck, in the penis area there are also injuries, hemorrhages in different parts of the body, the left pinna is amputated, in addition, in different parts of the body there are many bruises, which are also the result of blunt instrument impact, the impact of thrust-cutting tolls are also not excluded.

The head of the 6<sup>th</sup> corpse is completely deformed, in the face area there are open wounds in places, in the left part of the neck-an incision, penetrating wounds the right surface of the chest, possibly the impact of a thrust-cutting toll, in addition, in different parts of the body there are numerous traces of bruises that are the result of the impact of a blunt instrument.

The head of the 7<sup>th</sup> corpse is completely deformed with an open cranial wound, there are numerous hemorrhages and bruises, there are penetrating injuries on the upper and lower limbs, the left pinna is amputated, in addition, in different parts of the body there are numerous traces of bruises, which are also the result of blunt instrument impact, the impact of thrust-cutting instrument is also not excluded.

The head of the 8<sup>th</sup> corpse is completely deformed, the left ear is amputated, there are open cranial wounds, on the front side and back surfaces of the chest, upper and lower limbs there are penetrating wounds, possibly impact of thrust-cutting instruments, there are also penetrating wounds in the neck area, there is a bruise on the left rear edge of the neck, and a penetrating wound on the front of the neck, in addition, there were numerous bruises in different parts of the body, which are also the result of blunt instrument impact, the impact of thrust-cutting tolls are also not excluded.

On the right and left lower extremities, as well as on the penis of the 9<sup>th</sup> corpse there are torn wounds probably done by the use of cutting and piercing tools, there are penetrating injuries on the left lateral part, deformities on the face in the form of a

penetrating wound from the left, both ears are amputated. Besides, there are a lot of bruises on different parts of the body, which are the result of the use of a blunt tool, the use of cutting-piercing tools is not excluded, too.

**20. G.G. (patronymic – S., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

**21. S.P. (patronymic – S., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

**22. A.S. (patronymic – G., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

**23. S.S. (patronymic – G., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

**24. K.N. (patronymic – D., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

**25. H.H. (patronymic – H., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On January 3, 2021, the bodies of six conscripts, appeared under the siege in Hadrut region of the Artsakh Republic, were handed over to the Armenian side by Azerbaijan with sufficient external signs of torture and inhuman treatment towards them.

In particular:

There are gunshot wounds on all six corpses, which are of a transient-tactile nature, mostly expressed in the form of entrance-exit holes of 0.6-0.8 cm diameters.

Besides the gunshot wounds, there are numerous bruises and injuries on the corpses caused by the use of blunt instruments (the head of one of the corpses is crushed not by the use of a gunshot), there are also scratches, lacerations and cuts, which have both penetrating and superficial expressiveness and caused by the use of sharp, piercing tools, and they could not have the mechanism of everyday occurrence (a metal chain is wrapped around the neck of one of the corpses).

There are a lot of injuries in the form of cracks and scratches in the lower extremities.

**26. E.M. (patronymic – R., born on DD-MM-YYYY)**

On November 24, 2020, a 21-second video was posted on "Колорит 18+"<sup>102</sup> channel on Telegram application, followed by a 14-second video<sup>103</sup>, which clearly shows E.M. lying face down on the ground, surrounded by four servicemen wearing the uniforms of

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<sup>102</sup> Translated name of the page – "Kolorit", i.e. coloring, note by the translator.

<sup>103</sup> *The faces of the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces are clearly visible in the last 7 seconds of the video.*



Azerbaijani Armed Forces and armed with machine guns, one of them presses E.M.'s left hand to the ground with his foot, and holds the head with his hand pressed from the back of the neck. The mentioned four servicemen force the latter to pronounce the phrase "Karabakh is Azerbaijan" for several times, and while uttering it in a low voice, the serviceman of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, who holds E.'s head by the neck, regularly presses it from the neck and hits the back of the head.

On December 17, 2020, the murdered body of E.M. was handed over to the Armenian side. According to the external examination and forensic examination of the corpse, it was found out that the corpse was wearing military uniform, and the upper half of the jacket is completely torn. The corpse is covered with soil, mud, there are rotten changes, and it is covered with worms. The skull is detached from the spine, hanging from the skin rag around the neck. The skull is skeletal, there are fractures on the front part, the broken parts are missing. The lower jaw (mandible) is in a separate condition, the right condyloid process of which is broken, there is a gunshot wound. The chest is skeletal, the ribs are detached from the spine in many places, the abdominal organs of the chest, the limbs are sentenced to rotten changes, they are covered with worms. The body was identified by the results of the forensic genetic examination.

**CASES OF SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW - TORTURE, INHUMAN TREATMENT AND MURDER, COMMITTED BY SERVICEMEN OF THE AZERBAIJANI ARMED FORCES AGAINST CIVILIANS DURING THE ACT OF AGGRESSION**

**1. Yuri Asryan (patronymic – Arushan, born in 1940)**

During the preliminary investigation, factual data was obtained that a citizen of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Kyamil Zeynall, employed as a coach in "Limak" gym, while participating in the aggressive war waged by the military-political leadership of the Republic of Azerbaijan against the Artsakh Republic, as a member of the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan gravely violated the norms of international humanitarian laws, in particular requirements set out by Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 - article 32 (*it is prohibited from taking any measure of such a character as to cause the physical suffering or extermination of protected persons in their hands. This prohibition applies not only to murder, torture, corporal punishment, mutilation*

*and medical or scientific experiments not necessitated by the medical treatment of a protected person, but also to any other measures of brutality whether applied by civilian or military agents), article 147 (grave breaches involve wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, etc.); Protocol Additional N 1 to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts – article 75, part 2 point a) paragraph 1 (according to which it is prohibited inter alia, violence against the life, health, physical or mental condition of persons, at any time or in any place, in particular: killing), Rule N 89 of the Customary international humanitarian law (Prohibition of Murder) and Rule N 90 (definition of torture) (State practice establishes the responsibility irrespectively of the fact whether this state is or not a member to Additional Protocol N 1 or ICC statute both participant), without distinguishing the civilian population from the military, with the direct intent to kill Yuri Asryan, coming to an agreement with an unidentified serviceman wearing the uniform of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, he tortured and inhumanely treated Yuri Asryan, a citizen of the Artsakh Republic – they kept him lying on the ground, clearly showing a knife with a direct intention they caused him a serious suffering.*

Meanwhile, Kyamil Zeynall handed over the wide-blade knife he was holding to his comrade-in-arms squat on the grass, offering to behead Yuri Asryan with it, after which the serviceman wearing the uniform of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan ignored the begging of Yuri Asryan of leaving him alive which he begged in Azerbaidjanian, in a prior consent with Kyamil Zeynall, showing a certain cruelty deprived the life of reclining on the ground, on the grass Yuri Asryan, a peaceful resident of the Azokh region of the Artsakh Republic, who was not directly involved in the hostilities during the armed conflict by cutting his throat with a knife<sup>104</sup>.

## **2. Mushegh Melkumyan (Patronymic – Melkum, born in 1937)**

According to the agreement reached by the officers of the Investigation Committee of Armenia and Armenian representation of the International Red Cross Committee, on November 1, 2020, at around 14:00, the dead body of Mushegh Melkumyan father's name Melkum, who was deported from his permanent residence by the servicemen of the Armed

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<sup>104</sup> <https://azeriwarcrimes.org/2020/12/21/18-azerbaijani-special-forces-soldier-pins-down-an-old-armenian-man-and-proceeds-to-cut-his-head/>

Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan during armed conflicts and transferred to the Republic of Azerbaijan, where he was intentionally illegally killed, was handed over to Armenia through Bagratashen customs point of Tavush marz.

At the time of handover, Mushegh Melkumyan's body was immediately undergone simple examination with the participation of a forensic medical expert, and a forensic examination of the body was appointed. According to the conclusion of the forensic medical expert, Mushegh Melkumyan died on 30.10.2020 at 05:17, due to severe traumatic swelling of the brain, caused by a closed, dull craniocerebral injury. On Mushegh Melkumyan's body there were also scratches on the right forehead, back of the nose, hemorrhages on the right and left temples, frontal lobes with passage to the basal surface of the brain, subosteal hemorrhages of the brain, hemorrhages in the elongated cerebellum and in the area of the left lumbar spine, medium-sized and large hemorrhages, swellings and minor hemorrhages, those injuries were caused during life, about 2-3 days before death, by direct impact of a blunt object with a limited area, which are both individually and taken together, have the characteristics of causing serious damage to health during life, which are directly related to death.

### **3. Benik Hakobyan (patronymic – Lazrov, born on 23.05.1947)**

The person not yet identified during the investigation, while participating in the aggressive war waged by the military-political leadership of the Republic of Azerbaijan against the Republic of Artsakh, as a member of the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan gravely violated the norms of international humanitarian laws, in particular requirements set out by Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 - article 32 (*it is prohibited from taking any measure of such a character as to cause the physical suffering or extermination of protected persons in their hands. This prohibition applies not only to murder, torture, corporal punishment, mutilation and medical or scientific experiments not necessitated by the medical treatment of a protected person, but also to any other measures of brutality whether applied by civilian or military agents*), article 147 (*grave breaches involve wilful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, etc.*); Pro tocol Additional N 1 to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts – article 75, part 2 point a) paragraph 1 (*according to which it is prohibited inter alia, violence against the life,*

*health, physical or mental condition of persons, at any time or in any place, in particular: killing), Rule N 46 (Ordering that no quarter will be given, is prohibited) Rule N 89 (Prohibition of Murder) and Rule N 90 (definition of torture) (State practice establishes the responsibility irrespectively of the fact whether this state is or not a member to Additional Protocol N 1 or ICC statute both participant), of the Customary international humanitarian law, thus on October 15, 2020, in the city of Hadrut of the Artsakh Republic, he issued an order to the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan under his subordination to commit killing of two captive Armenians, residents of Hadrut city of the Republic of Artsakh Benik Hakobyan (father's name - Lazrov, born on May 23, 1947), and Yuri Adamyan (father's name – Vachagan, born on March 12, 1995), by means of public shooting, as well as directly leaded their actions.*

In other words, during the hostilities the person who had not yet been identified during the investigation, with the direct intention to illegally kill peaceful civilians of Hadrut city of the Republic of Artsakh, Benik Hakobyan and Yuri Adamyan, issued criminal orders to the servicemen wearing the uniforms of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the identities of which have not yet been ascertained during the investigation, so that they implement killing of Benik Hakobyan and Yuri Adamyan, the civilians who were not involved in the hostilities, through public shooting. On October 15, 2020, Benik Hakobyan and Yuri Adamyan were forcibly evacuated from their permanent residences by the mentioned servicemen wearing the uniform of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan; taken to the square of the city of Hadrut of the Artsakh Republic threatened with the use of weapons, where their hands were tied by the servicemen wearing the uniforms of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the flags of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Artsakh placed on them, and publicly shot<sup>105</sup>.

#### **4. Yuri Adamyan (patronymic – Vachagan, born on 12.03.1995)**

A person, not yet identified by the investigation, participating in the aggressive war waged by the military-political leadership of the Republic of Azerbaijan against the Artsakh Republic as a member of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, committing

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<sup>105</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54645254>  
[https://www.bellingcat.com/news/rest-of-world/2020/10/15/an-execution-in-hadrut-karabakh/?fbclid=IwAR0VJXj8mbllV69gsi2trQyvAUE9cJ6eINSIZMnDNKwGa5MoovHD1qV\\_Uok](https://www.bellingcat.com/news/rest-of-world/2020/10/15/an-execution-in-hadrut-karabakh/?fbclid=IwAR0VJXj8mbllV69gsi2trQyvAUE9cJ6eINSIZMnDNKwGa5MoovHD1qV_Uok)  
<https://azeriwarcrimes.org/2020/10/30/azerbaijans-army-executes-prisoners-in-hadrut-artsakh-karabakh/>

serious violations of norms of the international humanitarian law, in particular, Article 32 of the Convention of Geneva dated August 12, 1949 for the protection of civilian persons during a war (prohibiting the use of any means which may physically harm or destroy the persons protected under their protection). This prohibition applies not only to murder, torture, corporal punishment, mutilation, medical and scientific experiments, which do not arise out of the need to treat the person being sponsored, but equally to other forms of brutal violence by civilian or military authorities, Article 147 (serious violations are premeditated murder, torture, inhuman treatment, etc.), requirements of Article 75 (part 2) (point a subpoint 1 to the 1<sup>st</sup> additional protocol to the Convention of Geneva for the protection of victims of international armed conflict of 12 August 1949 (according to which: among other things, violence against the life, health, physical or mental condition of persons, in particular murder" is prohibited and will remain prohibited at any time and in any place", norm 46 of International Humanitarian Law (not leaving anyone alive is prohibited), norm 89 (prohibition of murders) and norm 90 (definition of tortures), (states' practice establishes liability, whether or not the given state is a party to the 1st additional protocol or the ICC statute), on October 15, 2020, in the town of Hadrut of the Artsakh Republic an order was issued to the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan under its subordination to commit the assassination of two captives by nationality Armenians, residents of the town of Hadrut in the Artsakh Republic, Benik Hakobyan son of Lazrov, born on May 23, 1947, and Yuri Adamyan son of Vachagan, born on March 12, 1995, by means of public shooting, as well as directly led their actions.

In other words, with a direct intention of illegally killing the peaceful civilians of Hadrut city of the Republic of Artsakh, Benik Hakobyan - son of Lazrov, and Yuri Adamyan - son of Vachagan, the person, who has not been identified yet by the investigation, issued criminal orders during hostilities to the servicemen wearing the uniforms of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who have not been identified yet, in order for the latter to carry out by means of public shooting the assassination of Benik Hakobyan and Yuri Adamyan, considered to be civilian persons, who did not take part in any hostilities. On October 15, 2020, Benik Hakobyan son of Lazrov and Yuri Adamyan son of Vachagan were forcibly evacuated from their permanent residences by the mentioned servicemen wearing the uniform of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, they were taken to the square of the city of Hadrut of the Artsakh Republic with the use of weapons, where their

hands were tied up by the servicemen wearing the uniforms of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the flags of the Republic of Armenia and the Artsakh Republic were placed on them and they were publicly shot.

#### **5. Mikayel Mosesyan (patronymic – Varik, born on 11.05.1990)**

The sabotage group of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan infiltrated into the city of Hadrut, Republic of Artsakh on October 11, 2020, in the permanent place of his residence, in the house №3 Avagyan Street, in the city of Hadrut, Republic of Artsakh, on the same day illegally deprived of his life the civilian resident of the city of Hadrut, Republic of Artsakh, who was not directly participating in the military operations during the armed clashes –Mikayel Mosesyan, who was disabled, confined to a wheelchair, physically unable to move freely.

During the external examination of the corpse and the forensic medical examination of the corpse of Mikayel Mosesyan, it has been revealed that there are gunshot wounds in the latter's chest, abdomen and the palm of his hand, which are exit wounds, mostly expressed in the form of entry and exit holes. The gunshot wound on the palm of his hand might be inflicted when the latter raised his hands as a sign of being unarmed.

#### **6. Anahit M. Mosesyan (born on 29.08.1963)**

The sabotage group of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, infiltrated into the city of Hadrut, Republic of Artsakh on October 11, 2020, in the permanent place of her residence, in the house №3 Avagyan Street, in the city of Hadrut, Republic of Artsakh, attacked the civilian resident of the city of Hadrut, Republic of Artsakh, who was not directly participating in the military operations during the armed clashes – Anahit Mosesyan, as a result of which the latter received a penetrating shrapnel blind wound to the skull, multiple fractures of the right parietal bone and explosive injuries of the right parietal bone with penetration of bone fractures, which might have occurred as a result of a grenade explosion.

Due to medical interventions, it was possible to save Anahit Mosesyan's life.

#### **7. Eduard Zhamharyan (born in 1957)**

Eduard Zhamharyan, being a resident of the city of Shushi of the Artsakh Republic,

during the aggressive war unleashed by the Republic of Azerbaijan against the Artsakh Republic, continuing to live as a peaceful civilian at his permanent residence, on 08.11.2020 or in the following days, was captured by the servicemen of the Republic of Azerbaijan and intentionally illegally killed in circumstances not yet clarified by the investigation.

The body of Eduard Zhamharyan on 04.12.2020 was transferred to the Armenian side. At the time of his handover, an external examination of the body was carried out with the participation of a forensic expert on the spot, as a result of which sufficient factual evidence of his intentionally caused death was revealed.

The forensic examination of the body revealed that Eduard Zhamharyan died of an open craniocerebral injury received on the left part of his head due to the exerted violence.

#### **8. Ashot Munchyan (born in 1951)**

Ashot Munchyan, being a resident of the city of Shushi of the Artsakh Republic, during the aggressive war unleashed by the Republic of Azerbaijan against the Artsakh Republic, continuing to live as a peaceful civilian at his permanent place of residence, on 08.11.2020 or in the following days, was captured by the servicemen of the Republic of Azerbaijan and intentionally illegally killed in circumstances not yet clarified by the investigation.

The body of Ashot Munchyan on 05.12.2020 was transferred to the Armenian side.

At the time of his handover, an external examination of the body was carried out with the participation of a forensic expert on the spot, as a result of which sufficient factual evidence of his intentionally caused death was revealed. The examination revealed that Ashot Munchyan's left ear shell was cut off.

A forensic examination of the body was appointed.

According to the forensic doctor's preliminary conclusion, Ashot Munchyan died from a gunshot wound.

#### **9. Eduard Shahgeldyan (born in 1941)**

On 27.10.2020, Eduard Shakhkeldyan, a resident of the village of Avetaranots in the Askeran region of the Artsakh Republic, and his wife, Arega Shakhkeldyan, were captured by servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, after which the Azerbaijani side officially confirmed the capture of Eduard Shakhkeldyan.

The repatriated captives witnessed and testified about how the servicemen of the Republic of Azerbaijan repeatedly used violence against Eduard Shahgeldyan, kept him in humiliating, inhuman conditions, did not provide the necessary medical care, as a result of which he died.

The body of Eduard Shakhkeldyan on December 9, 2020 was handed over to Armenia. The results of the forensic medical examination of the body revealed that there were many injuries on the body.

#### **10. Gennady Petrosyan (born in 1951)**

Gennady Petrosyan, a resident of Madatashen village in Askeran region of the Artsakh Republic, returned to the village after the evacuation of the village on 27.10.2020, to take the rest of his belongings. During the same period, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who appeared in the village, first captured him and then killed him, about which later, in November 2020, a video was posted on the Internet, in which it is obviously noticeable how the servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan behead Gennady Petrosyan, a civilian person who was not directly involved in the hostilities during the armed conflict, and placed his body and amputated head next to the body of a pig, presumably with the intention of identifying or ridiculing. To date, Gennady Petrosyan's body has not been handed over to the Armenian side<sup>106</sup>.

#### **11. Ernest Harutyunyan (born in 1936)**

On 04.12.2020 as a result of search operations carried out in the city of Hadrut of the Artsakh Republic, on the balcony of his house was found dead body of Ernest Harutyunyan, a peaceful civilian resident of the city of Hadrut, occupied by the Azerbaijani armed forces on 10.10.2020, who was not directly involved in the hostilities during the armed conflict.

#### **12. Slavik Avagyan (patronymic – Mamikon, born in 1958)**

On 13.12.2020, the dead body of Slavik Avagyan, a peaceful resident of Shushi, Artsakh Republic, who was not directly involved in the hostilities during the armed conflict, was handed over to the Armenian side by the Azerbaijani side.

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<sup>106</sup> <https://hetq.am/en/article/138057>



**13. Minas Hakobyan (born in 1954)**

**14. Yeghishe Hakobyan (born in 1982)**

As a result of the search operations carried out in Norashen community of Hadrut region of the Artsakh Republic on 05.12.2020, the bodies of Minas Hakobyan and his son Yeghishe Hakobyan, a peaceful resident of the same village occupied by Azerbaijani troops on 10.10.2020, who was not directly involved in the hostilities<sup>107</sup>.

**15. Nina Davidyan (born in 1938)**

**16. David Davidyan (patronymic – Surabi, born in 1934)**

On 19.12.2020, as a result of the search of corpses carried out in Vardashat community of Hadrut region of the Artsakh Republic, the body of Nina Davidyan in a completely destroyed state, a peaceful resident of the same village, occupied on 10.10.2020 by Azerbaijani troops, who was not directly involved in the hostilities during the armed conflict.

An external examination of the body was carried out on the spot, as a result of which it was found out that Nina Davidyan's head had been cut off from her body and her hand was broken.

The dead body of her husband, David Davidyan, was also found during a search operation in the village of Vardashat.

The body of David Davidyan was found as a result of search operations carried out in the village of Vardashat in the Hadrut region of the Artsakh Republic, which came under Azerbaijani control on 11.01.2021.

**17. Martik Avetisyan (born in 1952)**

As a result of searching for corpses carried out on 19.12.2020 in Togh community of Hadrut region of the Artsakh Republic, the dead bodies of residents of the same village, Martik Avetisyan and Radik Stepanyan were found, who had not taken part in the hostilities during the armed conflicts

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<sup>107</sup> <https://hetq.am/en/article/141462>

**18. Radik Stepanyan (born in 1939)**

As a result of the search of corpses carried out in Togh community of Hadrut region of the Artsakh Republic on 19.12.2020, the corpses of Radik Stepanyan and Martik Avetisyan, residents of the same village left in the village from 21.10.2020, were found in a completely decomposed condition. Radik Stepanyan was headless and his legs were broken.

**19. Vardan Altunyan (patronymic – Samson, born in 1939)**

As a result of the search of corpses carried out in Mets Tagher community of Hadrut region of the Artsakh Republic on 20.12.2020, the corpses of Vardan Altunyan, Slavik Galstyan and Vahram Lalayan, residents of the same village, which remained under Azerbaijani control in the village since 23.10.2020, were found in a completely decomposed condition.

**20. Slavik Galstyan (born in 1952)**

As a result of the search for corpses in Mets Tagher community of Hadrut region on 20.12.2020, the bodies of Slavik Galstyan, Vardan Altunyan and Vahram Lalayan, residents of the same village, which remained under Azerbaijani control in the village since 23.10.2020, were found in a completely destroyed condition. According to the preliminary conclusion of the forensic expert, there are gunshot wounds on the bodies.

**21. Vahram Lalayan (patronymic – Salim, born in 1974)**

As a result of the search of corpses carried out in Mets Tagher community of Hadrut region of the Artsakh Republic on 20.12.2020, the corpses of Vahram Lalayan, Slavik Galstyan and Vardan Altunyan, residents of the same village, which remained under Azerbaijani control in the village since October 23, 2020, were found in a completely destroyed condition. External examinations of the corpses were carried out on the spot, a forensic examination of the corpse was appointed.

According to the preliminary conclusion of the forensic medical expert, there are gunshot wounds on the bodies.

**22. Henrikh Mirzoyan (born in 1937)**

As a result of searches for corpses in Norashen community of Hadrut region of the

Artsakh Republic, on 20.12.2020, the body of Henrikh Mirzoyan, a peaceful resident of the same village, who had remained in the village under Azerbaijani control since 10.10.2020, was found in a completely destroyed condition.

**23. Valeri Vardanyan (born in 1947)**

The murdered body of Valeri Vardanyan was found on 03.01.2021 in the village of Karmrakuch in Hadrut region of the Artsakh Republic.

**24. Serzhik Vardanyan (patronymic – Mamikon, born in 1949)**

**25. Ella Vardanyan (patronymic – Melik, born in 1952)**

During the search of the corpses in the city of Hadrut of the Artsakh Republic, on 04.01.2021, the dead bodies of Serzhik Vardanyan and his wife, Ella Vardanyan, residents of the same city, who were not directly involved in the hostilities, were found in the yard of their house<sup>108</sup>.

**26. Yelena Hakobyan (patronymic – Gurgen, born in 1953)**

During the search of the corpses in the city of Hadrut of the Artsakh Republic, on 04.01.2021, the body of Yelena Hakobyan, a peaceful resident of the same city, who had not been directly involved in the hostilities during the armed conflict, was found with her legs wrapped with a rope and her head separated from her body.

Yelena Hakobyan was the wife of Benik Hakobyan, who was shot dead in the center of Hadrut on 04.10.2020.

**27. Alvard Tovmasyan (patronymic – Suleyman, born in 1969)**

The body of Alvard Tovmasyan was found on 13.01.2021. as a result of search operations carried out in Karin Tak village, near Shushi. An external examination of the body was carried out on the spot with the participation of the forensic doctor, as a result of which obvious traces of torture were registered, in particular, Alvard Tovmasyan's left ear and tongue were cut off. The body was identified by relatives. DNA sampling was performed, the comparative study of which is not yet complete.

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<sup>108</sup> <https://hetq.am/en/article/142596>  
<https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1051109.html>

According to the forensic examination of the body, the latter died of an acute impairment of vital functions of the brain, which is a consequence of the left middle cranium, passing from the left to the greater part of the humerus, defect of parietal part of temporal bone, with a fracture of the cleft, bleeding from the scalp skin, hemorrhage, tear of temporal fossa, erosion of the surface of the cerebral hemisphere from the left, accompanied by cranial blunt, open injury. Depending on the stage of development of the post-traumatic changes, it can be concluded that they were caused when she was alive, before death, by a large or relatively large mass and by the impact of a relatively sharp-edged, sharply piercing or cutting-piercing object or tool, which are classified as life-threatening bodily injuries for living persons with serious health damage features, which were directly related to the cause and effect of death.

During the forensic examination of the body, cut injuries were found on the left upper lip, left lower jaw, left side of the head, left ear shell, post-traumatic amputation of the tip of the tongue, which were not directly related to cause and effect of death.

According to the expert's conclusion, traces of contamination with sandy particles were found on almost all the surfaces of the corpse's hair, which indicated that the body of the deceased was partially or completely buried<sup>109</sup>.

## **28. Arsen Karakhanyan or Gharakhanyan Fhmaya(born in 1976)**

The dead and buried body of Arsen Karakhanyan was found as a result of the search of the corpses carried out in the city of Hadrut of the Artsakh Republic on 19.01.2021. According to the preliminary conclusion of the expert, Arsen Karakhanyan died as a result of violence, there are gunshot wounds on the body. It is noteworthy that the latter had died 5-7 days before the body was found, and on 06.01.2021 and 16.01.2021, two videos were posted on the Azerbaijani domain of the Internet about Arsen Karakhanyan being in captivity.

On 14.01.2021, the European Court of Human Rights made a decision to carry out an interim measure.

It should be noted that Arsen Karakhanyan went to Hadrut to rescue his father Sasha Karakhanyan, but both were captured on the spot.

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<sup>109</sup> <https://www.thenewfederalist.eu/armenia-left-alone-in-its-suffering-once-again-14190?lang=fr>

The latter's father, Sasha Karakhanyan, was repatriated on 14.12.2020, presenting substantiated evidence about his son's being in captivity.

**29. Marine Hayrapetyan (patronymic – Mikael, born in 1968)**

The murdered body of Marine Hayrapetyan was found on 21.01.2020, as a result of search operations carried out at her place of residence.

**30. Hmayak Avetisyan (born in 1965)**

In early October 2020, the Azerbaijani armed forces approached the village of Norashen in the Artsakh Republic, due to which the population of the village was evacuated. On 04.10.2020, the body of Hmayak Avetisyan was found in the yard of his house hanging in front of the basement of the house in the mentioned village. An external examination of the body was carried out on the spot with the participation of an expert, as a result of which it was found out that there were traces of physical violence and gunshot wounds on Hmayak Avetisyan's body.

**31. Hmayak Mirzoyan (born in 1940)**

Hmayak Mirzoyan was bedridden, taken care of by his daughter Gayane Mirzoyan. In October, 2020 the Azerbaijani armed forces invaded the village of Shekher and captured Gayane Mirzoyan, who was repatriated on December 11, 2020; on December 20 of the same year, during a search of the bodies in the village the body of Hmayak Mirzoyan was found. The body was identified by the mayor of the community. DNA sampling has been performed, the comparative study of which is not yet complete.

**32. Ashot Sahakyan (patronymic – Shmavon, born in 1967)**

Ashot Sahakyan's dead body was found on December 4, 2020, as a result of a search for corpses in Norashen community of the Artsakh Republic, on the river bank near the old mill by the farm of Norashen village, which is his workplace.

**33. Volodia (Volodya) Aghabekyan (patronymic - Karapet, born in 1938)**

The dead body of Volodia Aghabekyan was found on November 5, 2020 in his village house; he was killed by the Azerbaijani armed forces who invaded the village. The body was

found as a result of a search operation carried out after the signing of a trilateral statement “On complete ceasefire and termination of military operations in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict zone” on November 9, 2020, signed by the President of the Russian Federation, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia.

After examination of the body, the forensic expert concluded that there were gunshot wounds in Volodia Aghabekyan’s head area.

**34. Vladimir Parsiyants (born in 1946)**

Born in 1946 in Baku. He lived in Shushi and was a pensioner. According to the forensic medical examination, he was killed by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces on 18.11.2020. On 05.12.2020 in the city of Shushi, the Azerbaijani side handed over to the Armenian side the body of an unidentified civilian with a gunshot wound to the thigh, as well as to the abdomen with a cutting-piercing tool<sup>110</sup>.

**35. Vyacheslav Avakyan (born in 1958)**

He lived in Shushi. 13.12.2020 The Azerbaijani side handed over the body of Slavik Avagyan, a resident of Shushi, to the Armenian side with a gunshot wound to the back, as well as with a wound to the abdomen with a cutting-piercing tool<sup>111</sup>.

**36. Genadi Petrosyan (born in 1951)**

He lived in Madatashen village of Askeran region of Artsakh Republic, was a pensioner. Gennady Petrosyan, a resident of Madatashen village of Askeran region, returned to the village after evacuation on 27.10.2020, to pick up the remaining things. During the same period, Azeri soldiers in the village captured him and later in November posted a video on the Internet, which clearly shows Gennady Petrosyan being beheaded, his body and amputated head placed next to the body of a pig.

**37. Ararat Khachatryan (born in 1963)**

He lived in the city of Martuni. On the way from Karvin district to Kohak, he did not orient himself in the area, got lost, appeared in the area under the control of Azerbaijan and

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<sup>110</sup> <https://artsakhombuds.am/en/document/785>, 48

<sup>111</sup> <https://artsakhombuds.am/en/document/785>, 49

was taken prisoner. He was killed by Azerbaijani troops, the body was handed over to the Armenian side on December 3, with a gunshot wound to the chest and traces of torture<sup>112</sup>.

**38. Andranik Avagimyan (born in 1982)**

He was killed by Azerbaijani troops near the village of Jrakus in the Hadrut region on October 12. The body was identified by DNA testing. The body was handed over to relatives on March 15. There were gunshot wounds and traces of torture on the body<sup>113</sup>.

**39. Borya Baghdasaryan (born in 1954)**

Born in in Avetaranots village of Askeran region. He remained in the village during the invasion of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. His name was included in the list of civilian captives. However, on April 1, 2021 Borisya Baghdasaryan's body was found as a result of search operations carried out by the State Emergency Service of Azerbaijan. The body was identified by relatives<sup>114</sup>.

**40. Edik Muradyan (born on 15.04.1938 in the village of Vank, Hadrut region)**

Remained in the village during the invasion of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. According to the state death certificate, the death occurred on October 29, 2020, from multiple fractures of the skull and skeletal bones. The body was found on March 3, 2021 as a result of search operations carried out in the village of Vank. The body was identified by DNA testing<sup>115</sup>.

**41. Kamo Davtyan (born in 1959 in the village of Karmrakuch, Hadrut region)**

He was included in the list of civilian missing persons within the framework of the fact-finding mission of the Human Rights Defender of Artsakh.

The body was found as a result of search operations carried out in the village of Karmrakuch<sup>116</sup>.

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<sup>112</sup> <https://artsakhombuds.am/en/document/785> , 74

<sup>113</sup> <https://artsakhombuds.am/en/document/785> , 75

<sup>114</sup> <https://artsakhombuds.am/en/document/785> , 76

<sup>115</sup> <https://artsakhombuds.am/en/document/785> , 77

<sup>116</sup> <https://artsakhombuds.am/en/document/785> , 78

**42. Serob Khachtryan (born in 1976 in the village of Tumi, Hadrut region)**

Did not manage to evacuate from the village when it came under the control of the Azerbaijan. He was included in the list of civilian missing persons within the framework of the fact-finding mission of the Human Rights Defender of Artsakh. The body was found as a result of search operations carried out in the village<sup>117</sup>.

**43. Valerik Harutyunyan (born in 1954 in Hadrut town of the Hadrut region)**

According to the results of fact-finding mission of the Ombudsman of Artsakh Valerik Harutyunyan was included in the list of civilian missing people. His body was found during search operations. The identification was carried out based on the testimony of his brother<sup>118</sup>.

**44. The dead body of an unidentified civilian brought from Shushi**

On 05.12.2020 in Shushi city of Artsakh Republic the Azerbaijani side handed over to the Armenian side the body of an unidentified killed civilian.

An on-site external examination of the corpse with the participation of an expert revealed that there was a gunshot wound in the temple area of the body as well as injuries inflicted in the abdomen with the use of a cutting-piercing tool.

**45. The dead body of an unidentified civilian brought from Shushi**

On 05.12.2020 nearby Shushi city of Artsakh Republic the Azerbaijani side handed over to the Armenian side the body of an unidentified elderly civilian killed several days ago.

An on-site external examination of the body revealed that there were traces of bodily injuries on the head part of the body.

## PERPETRATORS

The war crimes and crimes against humanity listed in the present report would not be possible to be organized and committed without the direct involvement of the military-political leadership of Azerbaijan, including the following state officials:

<sup>117</sup> <https://artsakhombuds.am/en/document/785>, 79

<sup>118</sup> <https://artsakhombuds.am/en/document/785>, 80



- President **Ilham Aliyev**,
- Vice-President **Mehriban Aliyeva**,
- Prime Minister **Ali Asadov**,
- Chairman of the National Assembly (Milli Mejlis) **Sahiba Gafarova**,
- Minister of Foreign Affairs **Jeyhun Bayramov**,
- Defense Minister **Zakir Hasanov**,
- Minister of Internal Affairs **Vilayat Eyvazov**,
- Chief of State Border Service **Elchin Guliyev**,
- Chief of State Security Service **Ali Naghiyev**,
- Chief of Foreign Intelligence Service **Orkhan Sultanov**,
- Former Chief of the General Staff of Azerbaijani Armed Forces and the First Deputy Minister of Defense of Azerbaijan **Najmeddin Sadikov**,
- Former Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration (currently Assistant to President) **Hikmet Hajiyev**.

The Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR, New York) at Columbia University identified<sup>119</sup> several perpetrators of the conflict in NKR, highlighting, inter alia, Azerbaijani military actors commanding soldiers and others:

1. Lieutenant General Hikmat Mirzayev (Hikmet Mirzeyev)

Born in 1969 in Bilesuvar. Head of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry's special forces command, which played a leading role in the 2016 and 2020 conflicts. Personnel under Mirzayev's command engaged in war crimes and atrocities, including the killing of civilians, body mutilation, and beheadings, both in 2016 and 2020. For example, in 2020, special forces under his command were likely responsible for the execution of two Armenians in Hadrut<sup>120</sup>, two beheadings<sup>121</sup>, and numerous war crimes in Shushi. In particular, on October 15, two videos began circulating on Azerbaijani Telegram channels. Their examination identified that the first shows the apparent capture of two Armenians by Azerbaijani

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<sup>119</sup> <http://www.humanrightscolumbia.org/peace-building/perpetrators>

<sup>120</sup> <https://artsakhombuds.am/en/document/785>

<sup>121</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/dec/15/two-men-beheaded-in-videos-from-nagorno-karabakh-war-identified>

soldiers. The second video showed the summary execution of what appeared to be the same two men.

Bellingcat Investigative team conducted an analyze and concluded that the first video appears to show two men being detained, followed by what appear to be the same two men being executed in a second video. Although the camouflage patterns and weapons of the soldiers who initially detain these two men is mixed and relatively inconclusive, they are clearly speaking Russian to the detainees and Azerbaijani to each other. The distinctive helmet of one of the soldiers may indicate that they are special forces. The execution takes place just over a kilometre to the South-East of the initial site of capture, on the South side of Hadrut. Indeed there is even a video from Azerbaijani forces, also posted by The Tagiev, which show Azerbaijani personnel driving past the location of the execution<sup>122</sup>.

## 2. Major General Hikmat Hasanov (Hikmet Hesenov)

Born in 1975 in Fuzuli. Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Army Corps of Azerbaijan (northern frontline of the NKR conflict). Military personnel under his command engaged in war crimes in the 2016 and 2020. Following the 2016 conflict, Hasanov also oversaw a crackdown inside his corps seeking to find "Armenian agents" and allegedly targeting gay service members. In the process, at least 8 died under torture.

In particular, the Institute of Armenian Studies has reported that<sup>123</sup> at least 8 Azerbaijani army servicemen, 3 of them officers, were tortured to death by government investigators after they were accused of being Armenian spies in May 2017, others received lengthy prison sentences. This is according to reports from their relatives, cited by European-based Azerbaijani media and human rights activists. In Azerbaijan itself reports on military and security topics are prohibited from being published, unless they are pre-approved by the government. According to the relatives cited, the government has cleared a number of those murdered of spying charges and is now trying eight other military personnel charged with committing the abuses. As Berlin-based Meydan.tv and Tbilisi-based iFact.ge reported, the investigators raped, waterboarded and otherwise tortured their victims to obtain confessions. Gen. Hikmet Hesenov, commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps of Azerbaijani army, where most of the arrests were made and abuses committed, reportedly told his subordinates to "either confess or die."

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<sup>122</sup> <https://www.bellingcat.com/news/rest-of-world/2020/10/15/an-execution-in-hadrut-karabakh/>

<sup>123</sup> <https://armenian.usc.edu/allegations-of-armenian-spies-in-azerbaijan-has-dark-follow-up/>

### 3. Major General Mais Barkhudarov

Born in 1976 in Qubadli, Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Army Corps of Azerbaijan (southern frontline in the NKR conflict). Like Hasanov, military personnel under Barkhudarov's command engaged in war crimes, both in the 2016 and 2020. In 2020, 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps committed atrocities against the civilian population of Southern Artsakh.

### 4. Major General Zaur Sabir oglu Memmedov

Born in Agjabedi, deputy head of Azerbaijan's special forces command, credited with the capture of parts of southern Artsakh, including Shushi. During the occupation of Shushi, Memmedov's special forces committed numerous human rights abuses, including taking hostages, killing civilians, and vandalizing Ghazanchetsots Cathedral. In the village of Karintak, just outside of Shushi, Memmedov's forces kidnapped, tortured, and murdered 58-year-old Alvard Tovmasyan, a woman with mental disabilities. In all, at least 33 Armenian civilians have been confirmed to have been executed by Azerbaijani forces in Southern Artsakh, including the above-mentioned beheadings by special forces.

### 5. Colonel Tehran Mensimov

Born in 1972, in Qusar. Mensimov is the commander of the Nakhichevan Army's Special Forces, which are credited with a leading role in the 2020 conflict, in particular the fights around and in Shushi. Mensimov is culpable for the same crimes as Memmedov, such as Alvard Tovmasyan's murder, cultural vandalism, kidnapping, and others. Allegedly, he personally shot at an Artsakh citizen when they refused to come out of their house<sup>124</sup>. Furthermore, on October 28, his troops kidnapped<sup>125</sup> multiple Armenian civilians in Avetaranots, including 72-year-old Arega Shakheldyan and her husband, Eduard. The latter died in captivity "under unclear circumstances".

The following list includes officers of the Azerbaijani Naval Special Forces (NSF), responsible for war crimes against civilians and military personnel, including capture of hostages, torture, executions, dismemberment of bodies, and decapitations. Another concrete example of their brutality is their kidnapping of 71-year-old Sasha Gharakhanyan and his 44-year-old son Arsen. They were both held in captivity for weeks; Sasha was eventually released, but Arsen appeared in degrading Azerbaijani propaganda videos and

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<sup>124</sup> <https://twitter.com/ARTSAKHPUBLIC/status/1341990035172675590>

<sup>125</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/12/survivors-unlawful-detention-nagorno-karabakh-speak-out-about-war-crimes>

was subsequently shot and killed. Neither were combatants. The NSF is easily identifiable by its distinct pattern camouflage uniform. Many of the officers on the list were awarded medals for the brutal captures of Shushi and/or Hadrut, which implicated them in the above-listed war crimes.

- a. Captain 1st Rank Zaur Guliyev (Zaur Hikmət oğlu Quliyev), commander of the well-trained and versatile 641<sup>st</sup> unit of the NSF, and awarded "Hero of the Patriotic War" for his fighting in Hadrut (war crimes listed above).
- b. Captain 2<sup>nd</sup> Rank Orhan Gasimov (Qasimov Orxan Yusif oğlu), awarded for his role in the capture of Shushi (war crimes also above).
- c. Captain 2<sup>nd</sup> Rank Shafi Sultanov (Sultanov Şəfi İlyas oğlu), awarded for his role in the capture of Hadrut.
- d. Captain 3<sup>rd</sup> Rank Farhad İsmayilov (İsmayilov Fərhad Xudaverdi oğlu), awarded for his role in the capture of Hadrut.
- e. Captain 3<sup>rd</sup> Rank İlqar Nurmamedov (Nurməmmədov İlqar Əlfəddin oğlu), awarded for his role in the capture of Hadrut.
- f. Captain 3<sup>rd</sup> Rank Eldar Pənahov (Pənahov Eldar Aydın oğlu), awarded for his role in the capture of Hadrut.
- g. Captain 3<sup>rd</sup> Rank Babək Şirinov (Şirinov Babək Mərdan oğlu), awarded for his role in the capture of Hadrut.

According to the "Strafanzeige"<sup>126</sup> by the German-Armenian Lawyers Association, the following statesmen are to be blamed for their involvement in torture and extrajudicial executions:

- a. Elçin Guliyev (Elçin İsa oğlu Quliyev) - Head of the State Border Service of Azerbaijan
- b. İlham Mehdiyev (İlham İsmayıl oğlu Mehdiyev) - Deputy Head of the State Border Service of Azerbaijan
- c. Vusal Sultanov (Vüsal Eynulla oğlu Sultanov) - Rapid reaction force of the State Border Service
- d. Azad Alakbarov (Azad Ələkbərov) - State Border Service
- e. İsmayıl Akbarov (İsmayıl Bayram oğlu Əkbərov) - State Border Service

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<sup>126</sup> Strafanzeige (German - claim, complaint), 21.10.2021, pages 22-24

- f. Ramin Bagirov (Ramin Sabir oğlu Bagirov) - State Border Service
- g. Vasif Məmmədov - Chief of the Military Police of the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan
- h. Elnur İsmayilov - Head of the Baku Pre-trial Detention Center (under the Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan)
- i. Fikrat Məmmədov - Minister of Justice
- j. Fəqan Yaqubov (Fəqan Vəqif oğlu Yaqubov) - Head of the Baku Pre-trial and Temporary Detention Facility under the State Security Service of Azerbaijan
- k. Ali Nəgəyev (Əli Nəğri oğlu Nəgəyev) - Head of the State Security Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan

### MILITARY TROPHIES PARK IN BAKU

This report also discusses the so-called Trophy Park<sup>127</sup>, an “exhibition-park” related to the September-November 2020 war in Nagorno Karabakh which was opened in Baku, Azerbaijan, on April 12, 2021.

President Aliyev attended the park inauguration in person<sup>128</sup>.

The park demonstrated wax figures of the Armenian military servicemen. All of them were presented in a degrading manner to humiliate, openly violate human dignity.

The opening of the Trophy park in Baku was a clear evidence of the state policy of Armenophobia, animosity, and racism amounting to fascism<sup>129</sup>.



<sup>127</sup> <https://herbigenimetlerparki.az/en>

<sup>128</sup> <https://president.az/en/articles/view/51067>

<sup>129</sup> <https://ombuds.am/images/files/96e6d55d169a784b6424e4d565b29dba.pdf>







At the opening of the park, the president of Azerbaijan stated<sup>130</sup>: *“An Armenian is a barbarian who digs graves, digs and removes the golden teeth of the dead.”*

*“Yerevan is our historical land we, the Azerbaijanis will go back to these historical lands. It is our political and strategic goal, and we gradually reach it.”*

The Human Rights Defender of Armenia received numerous complaints and alarms from the parents and relatives of the Armenian POWs held captive in Azerbaijan, as well as missing persons. Several posts in Azerbaijani social media were published about the exhibition, which only welcomed and encouraged the initiative of the Azerbaijani authorities

<sup>130</sup> <https://president.az/en/articles/view/51067>

and the comments illustrating its impact on the state of hatred and hostility towards Armenians<sup>131</sup>.

On 20 May 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution, which condemned the park as "a glorification of violence and risks inciting further hostile sentiment, hate speech or even inhumane treatment of remaining POWs and other Armenian captive civilians, thereby perpetuating the atmosphere of hatred and contradicting any official statements on reconciliation" and urged that it be closed without delay<sup>132</sup>.

On 23 June 2021, the Dutch Parliament adopted a resolution condemning, among other things, the park in Baku: *"Given that the ceasefire agreement and international law of war have been violated after the 40-day war in Nagorno Karabakh in 2020, that more than 200 Armenian prisoners of war are still being held in Azerbaijan, among other places also in Baku, and that there is also a "Trophy park" in Baku with, among other things, the helmets of fallen Armenians, in view of the political-military situation in Azerbaijan, calls on the government not to send a delegation to Baku if the Dutch national team comes to play there"*<sup>133134</sup>

Ms. Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights: "(...) It shows dehumanising scenes, including wax mannequins depicting dead and dying Armenians soldiers. I consider such images highly disturbing and humiliating. This kind of display can only further intensify and strengthen long-standing hostile sentiments and hate speech, and multiply and promote manifestations of intolerance. Even more so, such developments significantly hamper any chance of genuine reconciliation among the communities affected by the conflict.<sup>135</sup>

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<sup>131</sup> <https://ombuds.am/images/files/96e6d55d169a784b6424e4d565b29dba.pdf> ;  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVdWkPPlle4>

<sup>132</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RC-9-2021-0277\\_FR.html?fbclid=IwAR0hNHYu6cwHEuyYVgsxvef5Ki3r7ktWfeDR9sYRBUPxFTBOV3Si1uyLXrs](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RC-9-2021-0277_FR.html?fbclid=IwAR0hNHYu6cwHEuyYVgsxvef5Ki3r7ktWfeDR9sYRBUPxFTBOV3Si1uyLXrs)

<sup>133</sup> <https://www.telegraaf.nl/sport/1734504869/tweede-kamer-wil-geen-koning-of-minister-bij-ek-duel-oranje-in-bakoe>

<sup>134</sup> <https://nos.nl/artikel/2386325-kamer-geen-regeringsafvaardiging-naar-kwartfinale-in-bakoe>

<sup>135</sup> <https://rm.coe.int/letter-to-mr-ilham-aliyev-president-of-the-republic-of-azerbaijan-by-m/1680a2364c>



## Azerbaijan accusations against the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights



**CoE Commissioner for Human Rights  
letter to the President of Azerbaijan**  
LETTER DATED ON 23.04.2021

*"I trust you would agree that efforts to deal with the past should now become the priority to ensure the path towards reconciliation and lasting peace for all people affected by the conflict."*

*"In view of a very tense situation on the ground and bitter relations between the ethnic communities residing in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, it is imperative to ensure continuous, free and unhindered access of international humanitarian and human rights actors to all places within the country's internationally recognised borders where conflict-affected populations reside, not only to ensure effective relief and recovery but also to uphold the human rights of the victims of the conflict and their families. This should be at the core of state policies aimed at reconciliation and recovery."*

*"... I regret to learn that you recently inaugurated the 'Trophy Park' in Baku, which has been opened to the public since 14 April and can be visited by everyone, including small children. This park reportedly displays Armenian military equipment taken as a trophy during the war from information and the images which are publicly available. I noticed that it shows dehumanising scenes, including war munitions depicting dead and dying Armenians soldiers. I consider such images highly disturbing and humiliating."*

*"This kind of display can only further intensify and strengthen long-standing hostile sentiments and hate speech, and multiply and promote manifestations of intolerance. Even more so, such developments significantly hamper any chance of genuine reconciliation among the communities affected by the conflict..."*

*"I call on you to use your authority and to take a firm stance against any rhetoric or actions which lead to triggering animosity or hatred and instead, provide your full support and political backing towards efforts aimed at promoting peace and reconciliation between the populations affected by the conflict, particularly bearing in mind the wellbeing of the future generations of Azerbaijan and Armenia."*

*"As the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, I would like to confirm my availability and willingness to travel to Azerbaijan at the earliest convenience, provided that, in accordance with my mandate, I have access to all places of human rights relevance within the country's internationally recognised borders."*

**The Aliyev regime replies**  
RESPONSE DATED ON 26.04.2021



*"... the Commissioner has started to show close interest in politically charged issues, suddenly forgetting institutions imposed by the respective 'mandate'. This is another sign of double-standard and selective approach, which Azerbaijan has been often subjected to by different Council of Europe bodies."*

*"The attempt to depict the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan as an 'inter-ethnic hostility' or 'bitter relations between the ethnic communities residing in and around Nagorno-Karabakh' is a gross misinterpretation."*

*"... currently there is no 'ethnic community', as was referred to in the letter, residing 'in and around Nagorno-Karabakh' other than ethnic Armenians."*

*"... it should be underlined that such references as 'in and around Nagorno-Karabakh' question the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan."*

*"Commissioner's 'regret' over the inauguration of the Military Trophy Park in Baku is equally unsubstantiated. The Trophy Park symbolizes the triumph of international law and justice over the decades-long policy of aggression and ethnic cleansing."*

*"... this (the park) is a place for education for the present and future generations on the dangers of policy of aggression and intolerance, and provides the venue for seeking the truth."*

*"... 'Dehumanizing scenes' or 'disturbing and humiliating images' need to be looked for in other places across the Council of Europe area, where nations glorify their colonial past and demonstrate evidence of horrific crimes against the colonized peoples."*

*"The Government of Azerbaijan is unwavering in its determination to ensure the equal enjoyment of human rights and freedom by all of its citizens irrespective of their ethnic or religious affiliation."*

*"... the letter of 26 April 2021 casts doubt on independence and impartiality of the Commissioner's work, and it might adversely impact on the relations between the Commissioner's office and Azerbaijan... it endorses revisionist circles risking the fragile process of establishing good-neighbourly relations in the region."*

Mr. Gabrielius Landsbergis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania: "(...) It is not normal to witness a "War trophy park" in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I am going to visit Baku and express the same opinion. Disrespect toward any victim is unacceptable, and no violence should be glorified. This is a principle I believe."<sup>136</sup>

Finnish Member and European Parliament Heidi Hautala criticized the opening of the park in a post on social media: "This theme park in Azerbaijan is beyond disgusting. Primary school-age kids on the opening day exposed to such warmongering."<sup>137</sup>

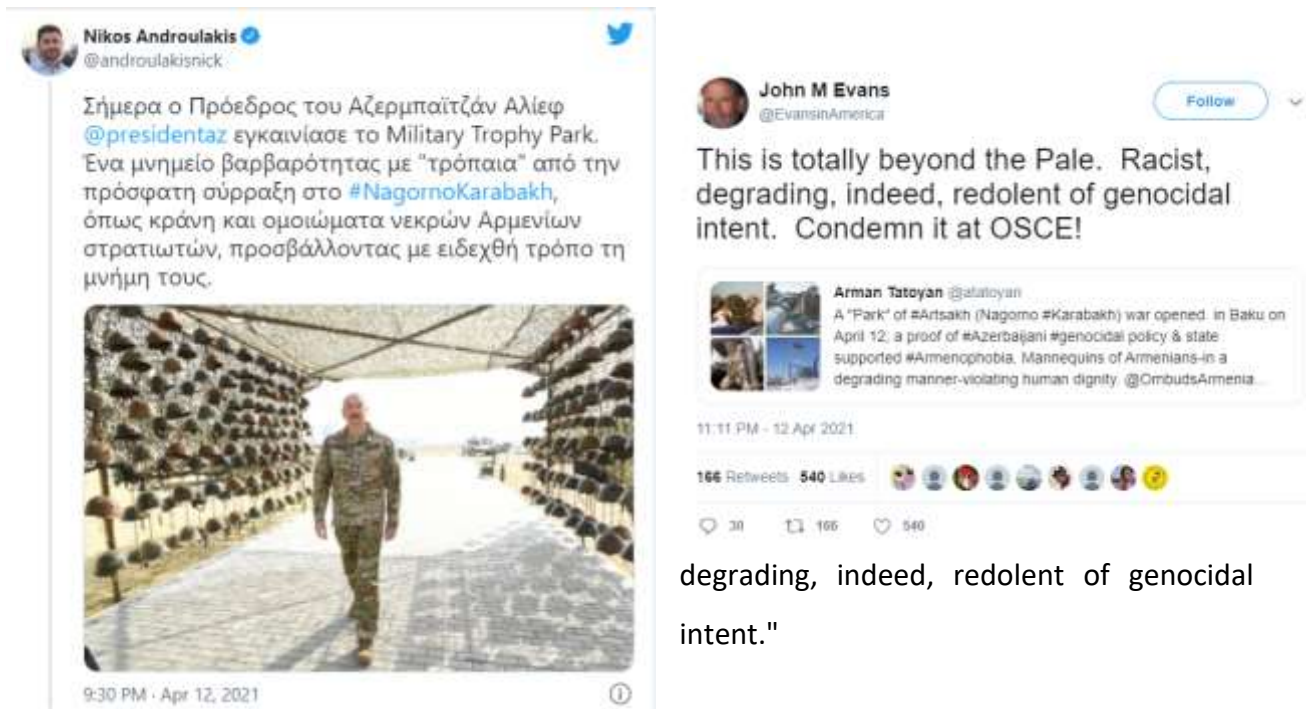
Greek Member of the European Parliament Nikos Androulakis criticised the opening of the park, saying in a post on social media that it "insults the memory of the Armenian soldiers" and is a "monument to barbarism."<sup>138</sup>

<sup>136</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20210501060739/https://www.1lurer.am/en/2021/04/29/Exclusive-interview-of-Public-TV-of-Armenia-with-Gabrielius-Landsbergis-Minister-of-Foreign-Affairs/465452> (video)

<sup>137</sup> <https://twitter.com/heidihautala/status/1384176944229486599>

<sup>138</sup> <https://en.armradio.am/2021/04/13/international-organizations-cannot-remain-silent-on-bakus-park-of-barbarism-mep-nikos-androulakis/>

John Marshall Evans, a former US ambassador to Armenia, called the park "Racist,



National Interest's Michael Rubin also compared the park to the Victory Arch created under the regime of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein<sup>139</sup>.

Freedom House researcher Nate Shenkkan stated that the park is a "Clear and depressing description of the highly predictable death of hopes for liberalization in post-war Azerbaijan"<sup>140</sup>

Although Azerbaijani Government removed displays depicting Armenian soldiers and the helmets of soldiers seized during the 44-day war from the park, following a complaint by Armenia at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the fact of existence of the park-museum of human sufferings in Baku and the analyzed data show a worrying trend of deepening Armenophobia in Azerbaijan<sup>141</sup>.

<sup>139</sup> <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/azerbaijan%E2%80%99s-ilham-aliyev-new-saddam-hussein-182853>

<sup>140</sup> <https://twitter.com/nateschenkkan/status/1383047734010200072>

<sup>141</sup> <https://ombuds.am/images/files/96e6d55d169a784b6424e4d565b29dba.pdf>

## CULTURAL HERITAGE DESTRUCTION

As a result of the 44-day war, approximately 1,500 Armenian monuments (churches, monasteries, fortresses, khachkars or cross-stones, museums with their exhibits etc.), went under the control of Azerbaijan. According to the information that Armenia possesses, many of them are completely or partially destroyed or desecrated<sup>142</sup> or they face the imminent danger of destruction and distortion.

On March 10, 2022, the European Parliament has adopted a Resolution<sup>143</sup> where it:

“... Strongly condemns Azerbaijan’s continued policy of erasing and denying the Armenian cultural heritage in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, in violation of international law and the recent decision of the ICJ;

Acknowledges that the erasure of the Armenian cultural heritage is part of a wider pattern of a systematic, state-level policy of Armenophobia, historical revisionism and hatred towards Armenians promoted by the Azerbaijani authorities, including dehumanisation, the glorification of violence and territorial claims against the Republic of Armenia which threaten peace and security in the South Caucasus”.

According to the same Resolution, “... 1 456 monuments, mainly Armenian, came under Azerbaijan’s control after the ceasefire of 9 November 2020; whereas considerable deliberate damage was caused by Azerbaijan to Armenian cultural heritage during the 2020 war, particularly during the shelling of the Gazanchi Church, the Holy Saviour/Ghazanchetsots Cathedral in Shusha/Shushi, as well as the destruction, changing of the function of, or damage to other churches and cemeteries during and after the conflict, such as Zoravor Surb Astvatsatsin Church near the town of Mekhakavan and St Yeghishe in Mataghis village in Nagorno-Karabakh; whereas during his visit to the 12th century Armenian Church in Tsakuri, President Aliyev vowed to remove its Armenian inscriptions”.

The Armenian culture is also being “Albanized” at the occupied territories, i. e., the Armenianness of churches and other monuments is denied, with the attribution to the Caucasian Albanian culture.

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<sup>142</sup> <https://fip.am/en/17184>

<sup>143</sup> European Parliament Resolution on the destruction of cultural heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh  
[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0080\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0080_EN.html)

So, Azerbaijan is deliberately eliminating the Armenian traces in Karabakh. In early February, the Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan Anar Karimov announced the formation of a working group, consisting of local and foreign experts, which is “to eliminate fictitious traces left by Armenians” in “Albanian” churches. “Armenians left traces on our monuments, we are now collecting evidence of this”, the minister told reporters. Earlier, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev visited the Church of the Holy Mother of God in Hadrut, where he also spoke about the Armenian inscriptions: “Armenians have defiled the Albanian temple in the same way they have desecrated our mosques. But we will restore them. All these inscriptions are false, they were made later.”<sup>144</sup>

According to “2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Azerbaijan”<sup>145</sup>, “Using satellite images, researchers from several organizations reported destruction of two Armenian cemeteries in the newly returned territories after the cessation of the 2020 hostilities. Caucasus Heritage Watch, a research initiative led by archaeologists at Cornell and Purdue Universities, published photographs from June 2020 and April 8, 2021, showing the complete demolition of the Boyuk Taglar (Mets Tagher) cemetery in Khojavend District. Other researchers further confirmed the destruction via Google Earth images from June 2020 and August 2021. Analysis of Google Earth images by open-source investigator Alexander McKeever supported this conclusion. Caucasus Heritage Watch also published satellite photographs from September 2020 and April 12 and June 18, 2021, that showed the complete destruction of the Sighnaq (Sghnakh) cemetery in the Khojaly region.”

Right after the active military actions ended, Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Culture has said it regards churches such as Dadivank to be “Albanian,” not Armenian. Anar Karimov, First Deputy Culture Minister of Azerbaijan, posted a controversial tweet<sup>146</sup> in which he referred to the monastery as having been “built by wife of Albanian prince Vakhtang.”

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<sup>144</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFV3snqoIE0> ; <https://report.az/en/cultural-policy/working-group-set-up-to-restore-armenianized-temples-of-ancient-albania/> ; <https://mikroskopmedia.com/en/2022/02/07/azerbaijan-creates-working-group-to-erase-armenian-traces-at-churches/>

<sup>145</sup> <https://az.usembassy.gov/hrr2021/>

<sup>146</sup> [https://twitter.com/Anar\\_Karim/status/1326437397270310912](https://twitter.com/Anar_Karim/status/1326437397270310912)



But the deterioration of the Armenian cultural heritage is inherent in the Azerbaijani unchanged policy for much longer than the 44-day War and its aftermath. E. g. according to *Eurasianet*<sup>147</sup>, “Destruction has been the fate of almost all Armenian monuments in Azerbaijan’s exclave of Nakhchivan. The most egregious case was the razing of the famous medieval Armenian cemetery at Djulfa, with thousands of khachkar cross-stones, in Nakhchivan in 2005-06. As Nakhchivan is relatively unvisited, this story has not received the attention it would if the region were more accessible...

In 2008 many graves in the Christian cemetery in the north part of Baku, known as Montino (the main Armenian cemetery in the city), were also hastily razed<sup>148</sup> to make way for a new road.

The Azerbaijani authorities have also restored churches in the towns of Nij and Gabala in controversial fashion. The Nij church – which has good reason to be called “Albanian” as it is located in a region populated by the Udin ethnic group – was restored with the support of a Norwegian NGO, Norwegian Humanitarian Enterprise. However,

<sup>147</sup> <https://eurasianet.org/perspectives-now-comes-a-karabakh-war-over-cultural-heritage>

<sup>148</sup> <https://iwpr.net/global-voices/agonising-scenes-razed-baku-cemetery>

Armenian-language inscriptions on the church were erased at the end of December 2004, with the result that foreign ambassadors declined to attend the re-opening of the church.

Based on that experience, Steinar Gil, Norwegian Ambassador to Azerbaijan at that time, commented, “I am worried because Azerbaijan has a sad reputation related to Armenian religious monuments,” and referred to “the almost total Albanization of Armenian churches and monasteries, irrespective of their time of construction”.”

French President Emanuel Macron<sup>149</sup>, Russian President Vladimir Putin<sup>150</sup> and other high-ranking officials have made statements on the need to protect cultural monuments remaining in the territories under Azerbaijani control.

Another example of church desecration by the Azerbaijani side took place on March 29, 2021, when some Azerbaijani users uploaded a video<sup>151</sup> on internet, where it was visible how Azerbaijani soldiers turned the church of Kataro Monastery (on the top of the Mount Dizapayt) into a military post (*Monument Watch*<sup>152</sup>). It is visible that the church is used for military purposes. Azerbaijani soldiers live right inside it (the footage shows soldiers eating, a bed and other similar items can be seen).

The Article 4 of the Hague Convention of 1954 for the “Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict” prohibits any act of vandalism, theft, robbery or embezzlement and imposes an absolute ban on acts of retaliation against cultural property. The Second Hague Protocol of 1999 that also refers to the cases of non-international (ethnic) conflicts prohibits any act of hostility and retaliation against inheritance, which is classified as an international crime by Article 15. According to the Geneva First Protocol of the Convention of 12 August 1949, Article 53 states: “Without prejudice to the provisions of the Hague Convention of May 14, 1954, it is prohibited to carry out any hostile action against cultural heritage, to use it for military purposes, or make it a subject of retaliation”.

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<sup>149</sup> <https://asbarez.com/macron-says-france-working-on-protecting-artsakhs-cultural-heritage/>

<sup>150</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/armenia-azerbaijan-karabakh-russia-idINKBN27UORK>

<sup>151</sup> <https://monumentwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/video-1617349134.mp4>

<sup>152</sup> <https://monumentwatch.org/en/alerts/the-usage-of-the-church-of-kataro-monastery-for-military-purposes/>



On October 8, 2020, Azerbaijani armed forces launched 2 separate attacks, hours apart, on the St. Holy Savior Ghazanchetsots Cathedral. The Cathedral is located in Shushi city center, it was shelled by using a multiple rocket launcher and sustained heavy damage. *HRW* published a report<sup>153</sup> on those attacks, underlining that “the church, a civilian object with cultural significance, was an intentional target despite the absence of evidence that it was used for military purposes.” Moreover, *HRW* stated that “The Azerbaijani government has denied intentionally striking the church, instead asserting without evidence that the church was attacked by Armenian forces as a “provocation” or that it may have been mistakenly struck by Azerbaijani artillery.

However, multiple factors indicate that both attacks were directed at the church. The remnants found indicate that the weapons used were capable of being directed at a specific target. The two strikes struck the same part of the church roof, with no more than two meters difference between the point of impact. This substantially reduces the possibility that less precise weapons were used, given their inability to achieve such a high degree of accuracy over two strikes. Additionally, Human Rights Watch is not aware of any additional reports of strikes in Shushi around the church at the time of these attacks, suggesting that each attack was a single strike.”

The same report states that there were civilians sheltering in the church when the strikes took place.

After the capture of Shushi, the Cathedral Holy Savior (Ghazanchetsots Vank) was desecrated. The Azerbaijani military made notes on the walls. Later it became known that Azerbaijan is “restoring” the church, the dome of the church has been removed. The Azerbaijani side reports that the restoration will return the “original” aspect to the church<sup>154</sup>, meaning the condition of Ghazanchetsots after 1920, when the dome was removed (claim is false, the church used to have a dome before 1920).

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<sup>153</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/12/16/azerbaijan-attack-church-possible-war-crime>

<sup>154</sup> <https://twitter.com/NasimiAghayev/status/1413558311732006915>

← Tweet



Nasimi Aghayev ✓  
@NasimiAghayev

...

Foreign ambassadors visit the Gazanchi Church (1888) in #Shusha, #Azerbaijan which is being beautifully restored to its original form



9:58 PM · Jul 9, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

In November 2020, *FIP*<sup>155</sup> discovered that the Kanach Zham (Green Church or St. John the Baptist Church, built in 1818) in Shushi was partially destroyed. In 2021, Google Earth satellite images showed that the upper part of the church has been completely leveled, with both the bell tower and the dome removed.



In March 2021, the *BBC* reported that the Azeris had completely destroyed the St. Astvatsatsin Church in Mekhakavan/Jebrail<sup>156</sup>.

<sup>155</sup> <https://fip.am/en/13788>

<sup>156</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJI0D3\\_Jza8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJI0D3_Jza8)



*Caucasus Heritage Watch* revealed<sup>157</sup> that between April and July, Azeris demolished the bridge in the village of Mets Tagher in the Hadrut region during road construction works.



The cemetery of Mets Tagher village in Hadrut region founded at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century has been destroyed.



<sup>157</sup> <https://twitter.com/CaucasusHW/status/1432769995755433993>

*Caucasus Heritage Watch*<sup>158</sup> revealed through satellite photos that the Armenian cemetery in Shushi has also been partially destroyed.



In late April, 2022, it was learnt that the Holy Resurrection Church in Hadrut has been desecrated, war.karabakhrecords.info reports<sup>159</sup>.

On April 27, 2022, pro-government Azerbaijani news agencies published articles<sup>160</sup> entitled “Easter celebrated in Hadrut,” publishing new photos from the Holy Resurrection Church in the city. Examination of the photos showed that the cross was removed from the church, they also removed the plaque on the entrance notifying that it was renovated with the financial support of Mikhail Baghdasarov. Carpets and church ware are also absent, icons removed from the walls, graffiti can be seen on the outer walls of the church.

Meanwhile, UNESCO reports that it has not yet been possible to launch a fact-finding mission: “We continue to work on sending an independent UNESCO technical mission to Nagorno-Karabakh, in accordance with the 1954 Hague Convention [for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict]. We hope that this will become possible in

<sup>158</sup> <https://twitter.com/CaucasusHW/status/1394329613757734919>

<sup>159</sup> <https://war.karabakhrecords.info/2022/04/27/>

<sup>160</sup> e. g. <https://apa.az/en/social/easter-marked-in-azerbaijans-hadrut-photo-374624>

the near future, but at the moment there are no necessary conditions for this. So, the discussions are still ongoing”, said spokesman Thomas Mallard<sup>161</sup>.

## DISPLACEMENT AND PROPERTY RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe developed a Report (Doc. 15363) from 13 September 2021 entitled “Humanitarian consequences of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan” where the Rapporteur Paul GAVAN stated<sup>162</sup> that during the recent 6-week war, over 3900 Armenian military were killed or went missing, and there were many civilian casualties. Over 91000 Armenians were initially displaced. As at the end of May 2021 there remained 36882 Armenians from the conflict living in a refugee-like situation. 85 % of them women and children. There are some who will return when they are more certain of security (particularly women and children), and there are some who plan to move abroad. There is a large category of around 24 615 who come from areas returned under Azerbaijani control and the rapporteur understands that there have been no returns to these areas.



The Human Rights Defender of the Artsakh Republic Gegham Stepanyan on May 19, 2022 in the National Assembly of the Artsakh, presenting the 2021 annual report on the activities, protection of human rights and freedoms, informed that as a result of the hostilities unleashed by Azerbaijan against the Artsakh Republic on September 27, 2020, 118 communities of the Artsakh Republic as a whole, and 2 communities, partially

<sup>161</sup> <https://jam-news.net/unesco-mission-deployment-to-karabakh-sparks-tensions-between-armenia-and-azerbaijan/>

<sup>162</sup> <https://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=29401&lang=en>



or in total, 215 settlements came under the occupation of Azerbaijan. About 40000 people were forcibly displaced from those settlements<sup>163</sup>.

Infocom.am (<https://infocom.am/>) web resources on December 31, 2020 released an article identifying the total number of settlements, households, churches and schools passed under control of Azerbaijan after 44-days war. In particular, the authors of the article stated<sup>164</sup> that 121 communities of Artsakh came under Azerbaijani control with the signing of a trilateral statement on November 10, 2020 by Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan.



On December 9, the Artsakh Information Headquarters published a complete list of the mentioned settlements, according to which 50 communities of Kashatagh region are under the control of Azerbaijan. In total, there are 109 settlements in Kashatagh region, 102 of which are

under the control of Azerbaijan.

Thus, the total population of Kashatagh was 10380 people, of which 7770 were located in the territories that passed under the control of Azerbaijan. 2162 of the existing households appeared under the control of Azerbaijan. Out of which 102 settlements, 46 schools and 14 churches.



According to the chart presented by the Artsakh Information Headquarters, 8 out of 43 communities in the Martakert region are under the control of Azerbaijan. The population 13 settlements from this region passed under the control of Azerbaijan, was

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<sup>163</sup> <https://www.24news.am/news/236253>

<sup>164</sup> <https://infocom.am/hy/article/43965>

2915 people, there were 866 households. Out of which 13 settlements, 8 schools and 6 churches.

The Shahumyan region consists of 52 communities, some of which were previously under the control of Azerbaijan, and some of which were not inhabited after the war in the 1990s. In general, 16 communities (19 settlements) were inhabited in Shahumyan region. 14 communities (17 settlements) of Shahumyan region pass to Azerbaijan. The population of these 14 communities was 2759 people, there were 556 households. Out of which 17 settlements, 14 schools and 7 churches.

28 out of 30 communities in Hadrut region came under the control of Azerbaijan. The number of settlements here is 48, 5 of which were not inhabited. Thus, 42 settlements from the Hadrut region came under the control of Azerbaijan. The population of the mentioned settlements was 11.936 people, there were 3346 households. Out of which 42 settlements, 27 schools and 32 churches.



By signing a trilateral declaration between Armenia, Russia and Azerbaijan, the settlements of Shushi, Karin Tak and Kirsavan in the Shushi region also came under the control of

Azerbaijan. The population of these three settlements was 5106 people, there were 1772 households. Out of which 3 settlements, 4 schools and 3 churches.

8 settlements from the Askeran region came under the control of Azerbaijan. The total population of these settlements was 2609 people, there were 644 households. Out of which 8 settlements, 8 schools and 10 churches.

7 settlements passed under the control of Azerbaijan from Martuni region. The total population of these settlements was 2598 people, there were 643 households, out of which 7 settlements, 7 schools and 5 churches.



It is important to highlight here, that forcibly displaced Armenians lost not only their houses and apartments but also their gardens, farms, domestic animals, pastures, arable land that was also the means of subsistence and source for income.

CivilNet calculated<sup>165</sup> the damage of the second Karabakh War resulted in tremendous amounts of loss and damage to the area's infrastructure – from communications and agriculture, to small businesses and large enterprises. Large development projects had been implemented, and for years, millions of dollars had been spent with the help of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund. Ashot Bakhshian, Karabakh's Minister of Agriculture, tells CIVILNET that the ministry is calculating a potential shortage of arable land and food. "We have lost about 95,000 hectares of arable land, including grain fields and orchards. We have not yet calculated the number of lost livestock," he says, emphasizing that 25% of Armenia's grain supply was provided by Artsakh.

In annual Overview of Doing Business in Armenia it is stated that<sup>166</sup>: "Although a purely political event, it caused drastic impact (direct and indirect) on the business environment in the country. Many businesses were taken over as a result of the war, which had a critical impact on the country's economy. Businesses included the Sotk mine, which was partially taken over by Azerbaijan and half of the territory of the mine is now under Azerbaijani control. Further, several large productions (including the Kataro Wine factory, the Shekher wine factory, and more than 30 small hydro power plants, including Artsakh Hek OJSC, the first company listed on the Armenian Securities Exchange) and many small entrepreneurs lost control over their businesses".

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<sup>165</sup> <https://www.civilnet.am/en/news/474786/millions-of-dollars-of-infrastructure-lost-in-the-karabakh-war/>

<sup>166</sup> [https://uk.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com/8-638-0858?transitionType=Default&contextData=\(sc.Default\)&firstPage=true](https://uk.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com/8-638-0858?transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default)&firstPage=true)

Kataro wine factory located in Togh village of Artsakh's Hadrut region will be handed over to Azerbaijan, according to the “end of war” document, signed by Russian, Azerbaijani presidents and Armenian Prime Minister on November 9. In an interview with Pastifo agency, the Chairman of the Republican Union of Employers of Armenia Gagik Makaryan spoke about the economic consequences of the Karabakh armistice and the number of enterprises that are subject to be surrendered to Azerbaijan. As Makaryan informed, not only a factory but number of enterprises build throughout the past 30 years will be given to Azerbaijan<sup>167</sup>.

The video and photos available on website <https://azeriwarcrimes.org/> showed that there<sup>168</sup> is a compilation of several videos retrieved from Azerbaijani-run channels on Telegram messenger App, depicting Azeri soldiers looting a winery in the newly occupied parts of Artsakh, also known as Nagorno Karabakh. Containers & a business card spotted in videos suggest the videos were shot in Aragil Winery, in Shekher, Martuni Region.

Sizable portion of the indigenous Armenian population of Artsakh has been cleansed as a result of the unprovoked Azerbaijani full-scale military aggression, advances of the aggressor army & indiscriminate shelling of civilians, including by using banned cluster munitions & white phosphorus. Forced to escape for their lives, the majority of civilians and entrepreneurs have left everything they had behind. Most shops, factories, production lines & other assets were deserted and eventually appropriated by occupying forces. Other wineries from Artsakh that are now in Azeri hands are world class, family run Kataro Winery of Anush-1 Company, opened in 2010 in Togh village of Hadrut Region, and Mika-Hadrut Winery, in Hadrut, Hadrut Region. These wineries were left behind, as Azerbaijan got control of these territories in November 2020.

The Human Rights Defender of Artsakh in his report for the period of September 27 – October 16 (19-day period out of 44 days war) informed<sup>169</sup> that as part of a widespread and systematic attack directed against civilian population, wanton destruction of homes and other property was carried out with discriminatory intent against ethnic Armenians. Besides,

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<sup>167</sup> <https://www.panorama.am/en/news/2020/11/19/Kataro-wine/2404564>

<sup>168</sup> <https://azeriwarcrimes.org/2020/12/18/azerbaijani-soldiers-looting-wineries-in-recently-occupied-territories-of-artsakh/>

<sup>169</sup> <https://artsakhombuds.am/hy/general-report>

large-scale damages have been caused to civilian objects, such as residential buildings, kindergartens, schools, vital infrastructure. Based on preliminary data for the period of September 27 – October 16, more than 7,800 privately owned immovable property (residential houses, apartments, shops, etc), more than 1,310 infrastructure, public and industrial buildings (electricity, gas, telecommunication, water supplies, bridges, schools, kindergartens, cultural centers, factories etc) and more than 720 cars have been seriously damaged.

The Ombudsman concluded that customary international humanitarian law requires that the parties to the conflict at all times distinguish, on one hand, between civilians and combatants, and on the other hand between civilian and military objects. Attacks may only be directed against combatants and military objects. Attacks must not be directed against civilians and civilian objects. According to the general rules of protection of the civilian population, the latter as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack. Acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited. Likewise, it is prohibited to deliberately target civilians and civilian objects. The concept of indiscriminate attacks represents an implementation of the principle of distinction. The latter requires that states must never use weapons that are incapable of distinguishing between civilian and military targets.

The Minister of Urban Development of Artsakh Aram Sargsyan in his interview to Armenpress from March 28, 2022, stated that<sup>170</sup> In total, the number of buildings damaged by the war in Artsakh is 7622, of which 120 have been completely destroyed or are mostly subject to construction.

Unified information platform of state bodies of the Artsakh Republic informed on June 9, 2021 that<sup>171</sup> after the war operations, repair, reconstruction and dismantling works continue in the whole territory of Artsakh. In particular, the Ministry of Urban Development of the Republic of Artsakh received more than 3680 applications for houses damaged by the war in Stepanakert. A total of 370 facilities were damaged in the Martakert region, 320 of which were in Martakert and the rest in rural areas. The villages of Aghabekalinj, Maghavuz, Horatagh, Mets Shen were greatly affected. About 1300 houses were damaged in Martuni

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<sup>170</sup> <https://armenpress.am/arm/news/1079051/>

<sup>171</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/ArtsakhInformation/posts/262227898751331?\\_rd=1](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsakhInformation/posts/262227898751331?_rd=1)



region. The Shosh and Sznek communities were mostly affected by the war in the Askeran region. 170 applications were registered in the region.

On January 21, 2022 the Armenpress released the announcement of Artsakh Prosecutor General's Office information stating that<sup>172</sup> After the trilateral declaration of November 9, 2020, until January 1, 2022, the Azerbaijani armed forces, located in the areas adjacent to the Armenian settlements under the control of the Artsakh Republic, committed 69 crimes against the Armenians of Artsakh, in connection with which a total of 54 criminal cases were initiated.

According to the source, as a result of criminal encroachments on the property rights of the people of Artsakh, kidnapping (secretly and openly) caused property damage to individuals in the amount of 17.710.000 drams (domestic animals and one vehicle were stolen).

It is stated that 9 houses, 3 agricultural machinery, 9 vehicles (7 military), 2 construction equipment were targeted and damaged, 1 batch of large cattle was targeted at a distance, causing particularly large property damage as well as 3 gardens and a sowing area were set on fire as a consequence of violation of property rights of people.

According to the Artsakh Prosecutor General's Office, in addition to the listed cases, from November 2020 to the present day, Azerbaijani positions located near the villages of Stepanakert, Askeran, Martuni and Shushi regions regularly fire from different caliber firearms at nearby Armenian settlements or in the air, as a result of which bullets often fall on the roofs of houses or yards damaging the walls of houses and other buildings.

The government of Armenia filed an inter-state application against Azerbaijan with the European Court of Human Rights, asserting that Baku violated several international conventions during and after it unleashed a war against Nagorno Karabakh. Specifically, the Armenian government claims that Azerbaijan violated the right to life, the prohibition of torture and inhuman treatment, the right to liberty, property, personal and family life, education, and several other international conventions that protect the rights of the population in Artsakh and Armenia. The government among others raised issues about personal property loss submitting a vast trove of evidence with the application.

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<sup>172</sup> <https://armenpress.am/arm/news/1073676.html>

## DICTATORSHIP IN AZERBAIJAN

For decades, a modern-day dictatorship has been established in Azerbaijan, a Member-Country to the Council of Europe. It is ranked as an unfree country according to the *Freedom House Global Freedom Scores*<sup>173</sup>.

In this part, let us remember only some of the authoritarian, militaristic and hateful statements by the President of Azerbaijan during the last decade:

<b>Ilham Aliyev</b>
<p><b>March 2011.</b> Azerbaijan threatened to shoot down civilian planes flying to Nagorno-Karabakh if the sole civilian airport in the disputed region reopens (Arif Mammadov, the director of Azerbaijan's Civil Aviation Administration)</p> <p><a href="https://www.rferl.org/a/azerbaijan_threatens_to_shoot_down_karabakh_flights/2340659.html">https://www.rferl.org/a/azerbaijan_threatens_to_shoot_down_karabakh_flights/2340659.html</a></p>
<p><b>2020.</b> “I have been chosen by the people, if the traitors choose to call me a dictator, then I am the people’s dictator, they want me to be a dictator and will continue to be one.”</p>
<p><b>July 2020.</b> “The enemies who are among us, the elements calling themselves opposition, the traitors who receive money from abroad. Their main goal is to destroy Azerbaijan.”</p> <p><a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/azerbajians-president-aims-to-finish-off-the-political-opposition/2020/07/29/db4ca91c-d0f0-11ea-8c55-61e7fa5e82ab_story.html">https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/azerbajians-president-aims-to-finish-off-the-political-opposition/2020/07/29/db4ca91c-d0f0-11ea-8c55-61e7fa5e82ab_story.html</a></p>
<p><b>October 2020.</b> “We will throw you [Armenians] out of there [NKR] anyway. There will be no trace of them left on those lands. We will drive them out of our lands to the end.”</p> <p><a href="https://en.president.az/articles/43334">https://en.president.az/articles/43334</a></p>
<p><b>October 2020.</b> “I warn the fascist leadership of Armenia again – leave the remaining lands of your own accord. We will throw you out of there anyway. There will be no trace of them left on those lands. We will drive them out of our lands to the end.”</p> <p><a href="https://en.president.az/articles/43334">https://en.president.az/articles/43334</a></p>
<p><b>March 2021.</b> “Several terrorists were neutralized and more than 60 were captured. When</p>

<sup>173</sup> <https://freedomhouse.org/countries/freedom-world/scores>

Freedom House rates people’s access to political rights and civil liberties in 210 countries and territories through its annual Freedom in the World report. Individual freedoms—ranging from the right to vote to freedom of expression and equality before the law—can be affected by state or nonstate actors.

some people try to describe them as prisoners of war today, I think they are deliberately distorting the essence of the issue... terrorists and saboteurs” – qualifying the Armenian prisoners of war held in Azerbaijan

<https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/president-aliyev-says-armed-armenian-subversion-group-captured-in-post-war-karabakh-region-are-terrorists-2021-3-3-0/>

**November 2020.** “Where is the [Nagorno-Karabakh] status? The status went to hell. It failed; it was shattered to smithereens. It is not and will not be there. As long as I am President, there will be no status... I am sure that the Azerbaijani people, having shown great attention to this document [Trilateral Statement of Cease-Fire after the 44-day war], ... and they will see what a tremendous political victory we have achieved. Our military victory plays a unique role in achieving this political victory.”

<https://president.az/en/articles/view/45924>

**May 2021.** “Go, look at yourselves in the mirror.”- on criticism about Baku “Trophy park”

<https://jam-news.net/go-look-at-yourselfes-in-the-mirror-president-aliyev-on-controversy-around-baku-war-trophy-park/>

**May 2021.** “The European Parliament has adopted a resolution based on false facts. I do not pay attention to it at all. I also do not advise you. All this is insignificant. They are not important. It is important that we are here today, we are here, we are staying here and we will live here forever.”

<https://azvision.az/amp/en/news/144853/news.html>

According to *Human Rights Watch (HRW)* Country Report 2022<sup>174</sup>, “In the period since the war’s start<sup>175</sup>, tensions between the government and political opposition declined. However, the government remained hostile to dissenting voices. Restrictive laws continued to prevent nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) from operating independently. Reports of torture and ill-treatment persisted throughout the year.”

The same Report also states, “In July, a report by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) alleged Azerbaijan has been spying on over a thousand independent activists and journalists, using Pegasus surveillance software that

<sup>174</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/azerbaijan>

<sup>175</sup> The extraction concerns the 44-day war of 2020.

gave the government access to their phones. Investigative journalist Khadija Ismayilova and blogger Mehman Huseynov were among those reportedly targeted.

Throughout 2021, details emerged supporting allegations that in 2017, military and security officials tortured detainees to extract confessions and other testimony on treason charges. Most of the arrests took place in Tatar region, against military personnel. The World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), stated that at least 78 were detained, and 25 sentenced to between 12 and 20 years in prison, in closed trials, “with multiple cases of torture.” At least five of the detainees died within days of their arrest in May 2020.”

## CONCLUSION

The crimes of the Azerbaijani military-political leadership during the 44-day war and after the war, until today include:

### 1. Crime of Aggression

- *Planning, preparation, initiation or execution, of an act of aggression which, by its character, gravity and scale, constitutes a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations;*
- *Violation of ceasefire agreements;*
- *Aggressive warfare.*

### 2. War Crimes

- *Wilful killings;*
- *Use of indiscriminate ammunition, including cluster bombs and other prohibited weapons;*
- *Wilfully causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or health;*
- *Extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly;*
- *Attacking or bombarding, by whatever means, towns, villages, dwellings or buildings which are undefended and which are not military objectives;*
- *Intentionally directing attacks against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, historic monuments, hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, provided they are not military objectives;*

- *Intentionally directing attacks against civilian objects, that is, objects which are not military objectives;*
- *Shelling civilian settlements, including attacks against schools and hospitals;*
- *Intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities;*
- *Employing weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare which are of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering or which are inherently indiscriminate in violation of the international law of armed conflict, provided that such weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare are the subject of a comprehensive prohibition (use of ammunition containing details of prohibited chemical (incendiary) elements (white phosphorus));*
- *Recruitment of mercenary terrorists and their involvement in military actions;*
- *Extrajudicial executions, including beheadings of civilian captives and military combatants (POWs),*
- *Not returning the POWs and captivated civilians, using them as a mean for political pressure to regain political and military advantage.*

### **3. Crimes against Humanity**

- *Dissemination of ethnic hatred by the high-level officials (President and military-political leadership);*
- *Policy of ethnic cleansing;*
- *Deportation or forcible transfer of population;*
- *Establishment of trophy park in Baku;*
- *Torturing civilian captives and military combatants (POWs);*
- *Enforced disappearance of persons;*
- *Desecration of dead bodies;*
- *Displacement and property rights violation.*

Such consistent and deliberate violations of the International Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law seriously risk security and peace in the region.

Moreover, in November 2021, Azerbaijan announced an amnesty for everyone who participated in the war against Nagorno-Karabakh, which means that even hypothetical

possibilities do not exist anymore for accountability on those crimes identified by the OHCHR and Special procedures<sup>176</sup>.

Many of the Azerbaijani armed forces representatives who took part in the atrocities have received different state awards and promotions by the leadership of Azerbaijan.

Impunity leads to new crimes, including the ethnically motivated ones. The indifference to the violations of the International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law results in new war crimes and crimes against Humanity.

Having in mind that the international community has already:  
*recognized* that such grave crimes threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world;  
*affirmed* that such grave crimes of concern to the international community as a whole must not go unpunished and that their effective prosecution must be ensured by taking measures at the national level and by enhancing international cooperation;  
*determined* to put an end to impunity for the perpetrators of these crimes and thus to contribute to the prevention of such crimes;

We recall that it is the duty of every State to exercise its criminal jurisdiction over those responsible for international crimes.

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<sup>176</sup> <https://www.rferl.org/a/azerbaijan-amnesty-karabakh-war/31547502.html>

## **Annotation**

The “Center for Strategic Litigations” Human Rights NGO is a non-profit independent organization, registered in Armenia in 2011. It is a voluntary union of Human Rights Lawyers, specialists and defenders, who accept the values adopted by the Center, and are ready to contribute their efforts for the sake of Human Rights protection and Rule of Law promotion.

Since its establishment, the Center for Strategic Litigations has been concentrated on the implementation of Human Rights protection and educational projects, strategic litigations in Armenia and in the European Court of Human Rights.

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