

Oeonyms: crime against place names

A radical change in the system of the place names of a people that has formed in a certain territory over the centuries and millennia, serves to erase the traces of this people in the historical and geographical space. Although this is not an easy task from the point of a view of the cartography, during the Soviet era, the armenization of the Azerbaijani place names in Armenia was an integral part of the official state policy.

Until 1935, 195 Azerbaijani settlements in the Soviet Armenia were renaming because of decisions of the relevant structures of the state bodies. In addition, starting in 1935, the settlements were renaming because of the decrees of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR.

During the Soviet period, the process of the renaming were carried out in 1935, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1957, 1962, 1968, 1969, 1977, 1978, and 1980 because of the decisions of the Presidium Supreme Soviet of the Armenian SSR. Until August 1988, 521 settlements of the Turkic origin were renaming on the territory of the modern Armenia.

After the policy of the ethnic cleansing against the Azerbaijani population on the territory of Armenia, were renamed and armenianized 90 settlement, which previously belonged to Azerbaijanis. This process was carried out by the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Armenia dated April 9, 1991, by the decree from August 8, 1991 -16 settlements, and by the resolution of the Armenian Parliament dated July 4, 2006- another 31 settlements. In Zangezur, 14 settlements were renaming - the villages of Ashagi Godekli, Yukhari Godekli, Dovruz, Khalaj, Kirs, Kurud, Gyzylyjig, Gurdgalag, Chaikend, Nuvedi, Paykhan, Pyryully, Sofulu, Gyzylyshafag.

According to the State Real Estate Committee of Armenia, this process was completed in 2007 by the remaining of the 21 settlements. On the territory of the Western Zangezur were renaming 61 settlements.

In 1991-1994, the armed forces of Armenia, with the help of their patrons, occupied the territory of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region and seven adjacent areas. In a fact, Eastern Zangezur was under the occupation of the armed forces of Armenia. Along with acts of vandalism against material and cultural monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, Armenia was also engaged in plundering underground and surface resources.

The state reserves Basitchay and Garagel, the state nature reserves (zone where hunting or fishing is prohibited) - Lachin, Gubadli, Arazboyu were brutally plundered by the Armenian vandals.

Armenians, having committed a toponymical crime, changed not only the names of the settlements (oikonoms), but also the names of the mountains, valleys, hills (oronoms), rivers, lakes, springs (hydronoms). Armenians, literally translating the words used in the Azerbaijani toponymal - "mountain", "stone", "hill", "lake", "river", "spring", "water", "gorge", into Armenian, replacing the word "djur" "In the Azerbaijani language to the word" dzor ", they armenianized our place names.

In the all historical sources on the territory of the Sisian region, in the area called Koshundash, scattered, dating back to the 2nd millennium of the new era, are scattered (stones more than two meters in height in the upright position as if stuck into the ground). Therefore, the name of this area, covering 7 hectares of the territory, was literally translating by the Armenians into Armenian and they call it "Zorachkarer".

By the decisions of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the so-called Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR), were created of the new administrative-territorial units based on the occupied territories, and place names were changed under the pretext of “returning historical names”.

By the decision of the Supreme Council of the so-called NKR on December 2, 1993, was formed the Kashatagh region- covering the occupied Lachin, Gubadli and Zangilan regions, and the city of Lachin was renamed into the regional center "Berdzor". Gubadli was called "Sanasar", and Zangilan was called "Kovsakan".

The so-called Supreme Council of the NKR renamed more than 120 settlements in the occupied territories. In particular, the names of 24 settlements in Lachin region, 13 in Kelbajar, 4 in Gubadli and 2 in Zangilan were armenianized.

The Armenians changed the names of the lakes Boyuk Alagel, Kichik Alagel, Garagel, Alagel, Ishigly Garagel in East Zangezur to Medz Allik, Pokr Allik, Sevlik, Allik, Ishkhanasar Sevlik, respectively.

On November 7, 1995 was adopted a new law on the administrative-territorial division of the Republic of Armenia. Was abolished the system of the administrative division of the regions, and transferred the new system of the regional (marz) division. The territory which covering the former districts of Meghri, Sisian, Gafan and Gorus was named Syunik region. Thus, the Armenians indirectly admitted that the historical name Zangezur does not belong to them.

The list of the renamed administrative-territorial units, which belonging to Azerbaijanis in the territory of the Western Zangezur

| | Former name | Renamed title | Location area | Date of issue of the decree |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Adjibaj | Adjabaj | Gafan | 03.04.1991 |
| | Agbulak | Agbulag | Gorus | 03.04.1991 |
| | Agudi | Agitu | Sisian | 03.04.1991 |
| | Akhtakhana | 1.Klatag 2.Dzorastan | Gafan | 01.06.1940 |
| | Astazur | Shvanidzor | Meghri | 22.04.1935 |
| | Ashagy Giryatah | Nerkin Giratak | Gafan | After 1991 |

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|--|--------------------|------------|--------|------------|
| | Ashaghi Godekli | Bagrashat | Ghafan | 04.07.2006 |
| | Ashagi Pyryllu | Gegavank | Gafan | 03.04.1991 |
| | Bayandur | Vagadur | Gorus | 07.05.1968 |
| | Bazarchay | Gorayk | Sisian | After 1991 |
| | Byakdash | Khordzor | Gafan | 03.04.1991 |
| | Jomyardli | Tanahat | Sisian | 03.04.1991 |
| | Dyaryabas | Darbas | Sisian | 10.09.1946 |
| | Dyaymyadagly | Shrvenants | Gafan | — |
| | Dorns (Dortnu) | Antarashat | Gafan | 20.06.1949 |
| | Dovruz | Davrus | Gafan | 04.07.2006 |
| | Alili | Salvard | Sisian | 03.01.1935 |
| | Eryafsya | Arevis | Sisian | 03.07.1968 |
| | Gyudgum | Geghanush | Gafan | 29.06.1949 |
| | Gul | Nor Arevik | Meghri | — |
| | Khalyadj | Adjavan | Gorus | 04.07.2006 |

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|--|-------------|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| | Kilsekend | Srashen | Gafan | — |
| | Kirs | Kichk | Gafan | 04.07.2006 |
| | Keryu | Dzorashen | Gorus | 19.04.1950 |
| | Kurdkendi | Lernadzor | Gafan | — |
| | Kurud | Karud | Gafan | 04.07.2006 |
| | Gadjaran | Kadjaran | Gafan | 04.07.1951 |
| | Garachimyan | Ditsmayri | Gafan | 03.04.1991 |
| | Garakil | 1.Sisavan 2.Sisian | Sisian | 02.03.1940 |
| | Gizildjig | Ishkhanasar | Sisian | 04.07.2006 |
| | Govshud | Kavchut | Gafan | 03.04.1991 |
| | Gurdgalag | 1.Kurtkullak 2 Vanand | Gorus | 03.04.1991 04.07.2006 |
| | Lehvaz | Leivaz | Meghri | 03.04.1991 |
| | Lek | Vartanazor | Meghri | — |
| | Mahmudlu | 1.Chaikend 2.Gedishen | Gafan | 01.06.1940 04.07.2006 |

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|--|------------|-----------------|--------|------------|
| | Maldash | Kashuni | Gorus | After 1991 |
| | Maralzami | Thgut | Meghri | After 1991 |
| | Myaliklyar | Spandaryan | Sisian | 04.05.1939 |
| | Myazrya | Bartsravan | Sisian | 10.09.1946 |
| | Mugandjig | Aygedzor | Gorus | 25.01.1978 |
| | Murkhuz | Tsguni | Sisian | 08.08.1991 |
| | Mulkuchan | Erkenants | Gafan | — |
| | Nyuvadi | Nrnadzor | Meghri | 04.07.2006 |
| | Payakhan | Nor Astkhaberd | Gafan | 04.07.2006 |
| | Pyrmayzrya | Katnarat | Gafan | 29.06.1949 |
| | Pyryully | Verin Gehgavank | Gafan | 04.07.2006 |
| | Pyushgah | Aygedzor | Meghri | — |
| | Saibaly | Sarnakunk | Sisian | 10.09.1946 |
| | Sisian | Hatsavan | Sisian | 02.03.1940 |
| | Sofulu | Nzhde | Sisian | 04.07.2006 |

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|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| | Shabadin | Yehgek | Gafan | 03.04.1991 |
| | Shenatahg | Lernashen | Sisian | 02.03.1940 |
| | Shikhlar | 1.Gyzylyshyafyag 2.Ishkhanasar | Sisian | 02.03.1940 04.07.2006 |
| | Shurnuhu | Shurnuh | Gorus | 03.04.1991 |
| | Tyazakend | Tasik | Sisian | 03.07.1968 |
| | Urud | Vorotan | Sisian | 03.07.1968 |
| | Uz | Uyts | Sisian | 03.04.1991 |
| | Vagudi | Vagadin | Sisian | 08.08.1991 |
| | Yaydzhi | Garzhis | Gorus | 03.07.1968 |
| | Yukhary Godekli | Vardanank | Gafan | 04.07.2006 |
| | Zeyva | David Bek | Gafan | 29.06.1949 |

As a result of the Second Karabakh War, which began on September 27, 2020 and lasted 44 days, East Zangezur was liberated along with the occupied territories, and an end to the place names crimes of Armenians was put.