

CHRONICLE OF 44 DAY VICTORY

- ***December 10***
- **Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan completes official visit to Azerbaijan**
- **Azerbaijani, Turkish first ladies met**
- **Dinner hosted on behalf of President Ilham Aliyev and his wife Mehriban Aliyeva in honor of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine Erdogan**
- **A Victory parade dedicated to Victory in the Patriotic war was held at Azadlig Square, Baku**
Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan attended the parade
- **Azerbaijani, Turkish presidents made press statements**
- **Azerbaijan, Turkey signed bilateral documents**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Our political and diplomatic efforts in recent years have borne fruit**
- **Azerbaijani President: We said enough is enough, this occupation must and will end**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijan is living through a historic day**
- **Azerbaijani, Turkish presidents held one-on-one meeting**
- **Official welcome ceremony was held for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan**
- **Egyptian Aldiplomasy news portal posts article by AZERTAC news agency highlighting Azerbaijan's Patriotic War**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijan has achieved its goal, restored historical justice and international law**
- **President Ilham Aliyev and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan paid tribute to Azerbaijani martyrs**
- **President Ilham Aliyev and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan paid respect to national leader Heydar Aliyev**
- **Azerbaijani FM meets with Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council**
- **Azerbaijan's FM meets Iranian counterpart**
- **Azerbaijani FM meets with president of Islamic Parliament of Iran**
- **Azerbaijan's Patriotic War martyrs commemorated in Helsinki**

- ***December 9***
- **Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan dined together**
- **WHO mission to conflict-affected regions in Azerbaijan assesses health needs**
- **President: Friendship between Azerbaijan and Italy, mutual positive attitude between our peoples have already transformed into reality**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: We will work on the liberated lands with companies from friendly countries**
- **Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrives in Azerbaijan for official visit**
- **Azerbaijani FM meets with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani**
- **President Ilham Aliyev received delegation of Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

- Indonesian websites post article by AZERTAC news agency highlighting Azerbaijan's Patriotic War
- IOM Azerbaijan resumes renovation works in kahrizes located in Aghdam district
- Azerbaijan, Italy discuss bilateral cooperation in various areas
- Azerbaijani FM embarks on Iran visit
- Azerbaijani ambassador presents credentials to President of Costa Rica
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- **December 8**
- Anadolu Agency publishes article about Khudaferin bridge located in Azerbaijan's Jabrayil district
- Top Turkish diplomat speaks with Russian counterpart
- Azerbaijan discloses list of servicemen martyred in Patriotic War
- **Mehriban Aliyeva: Heydar Aliyev Foundation launches a project on restoration of our religious monuments and mosques in ancient land of Karabakh**
- Russian President, German Chancellor discuss situation in Karabakh
- The Washington Times: Azerbaijan has restored Christian buildings everywhere
- Martin Schuepp hails cooperation between ICRC and Azerbaijan
- On President's initiative new metro station will celebrate Azerbaijan's Victory Day
- **President Ilham Aliyev signs Order on establishment of "YASHAT" Fund to support war-wounded and families of martyrs**
- Azerbaijani, Israeli FMs hold phone talk
- Fighter jets and helicopters conduct training flights before Victory Parade in Baku
- Turkish FM: Armenia will benefit from ongoing regional normalization process
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- **December 7**
- **Azerbaijani President confers military rank of major general on four servicemen**
- Azerbaijan, Italy hail bilateral relations
- Death toll from Armenian military's crimes against Azerbaijani civilian population reaches 100
- Stone inscriptions of Khudavang Monastery Complex bear evidence of tolerant environment in Azerbaijan
- Italian MPs visit Alley of Martyrs
- The Canberra Times: Thousands demand removal of Armenia's PM
- ARAB News: Azerbaijan is restoring its territories liberated from Armenian occupation
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- **December 6**
- Footage of Zulfugarly village of Kalbajar district released
- Khankendi-bound humanitarian cargo delivered to Ganja
- Israeli intelligence minister: Azerbaijan is our important geopolitical and geostrategic partner
- Former Turkish ambassador: President Ilham Aliyev's decision to change date of Victory Day is highly commendable
- Dutch Azerbaijanis stage protest against French Senate and Belgian Parliament resolutions
- Milikh Evdayev: Martyrs will forever be in our hearts
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- **December 5**
- Azerbaijani, Russian FMs have phone talk

- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry reveals funds received by Armed Forces Relief Fund until December 1
- Heydar Aliyev Center, Flame Towers and Baku Olympic Stadium lit up with colors of Azerbaijani flag in commemoration of Patriotic War martyrs

- **December 4**
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated Yanshag village of Kalbajar district
- Recep Tayyip Erdogan: France has lost its mediator role within OSCE Minsk group
- Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry: Resolution of French National Assembly is another provocative activity of French Parliament
- **First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva: We will never forget Patriotic War martyrs**
- Azerbaijan Army honors memory of Shehids of Patriotic War
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was resolved by military-political means**
- Ambassador Zacharie Gross: French government does not recognize independence of Karabakh
- **President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva paid tribute to Azerbaijani martyrs**
- Azerbaijan observes nationwide moment of silence for Patriotic War martyrs
- **President Ilham Aliyev: We remember our martyrs with respect**
- Uzbek citizen expresses shock at Armenian atrocities in Kalbajar

- **December 3**
- Jeyhun Bayramov: Non-compliance with international law and with OSCE principles lie behind the immediate causes of violent conflicts
- Azerbaijani, Turkish FMs hold phone talk
- 2,783 Azerbaijani soldiers martyred in Patriotic War
- Azerbaijan to celebrate Victory Day every year on November 8
- **President Ilham Aliyev signs order on commemoration of Patriotic War martyrs**
- Patriotic War Memorial Complex and Victory Museum to be established in Baku
- **Information of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan**
- Video footage of Husulu and Malibay villages of Lachin district
- Azerbaijan`s defense minister meets with commander of peacekeeping forces deployed in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan
- Incoming Afghan ambassador presents copy of his credentials to Azerbaijani FM
- Journalistic reflections: forty-four moments of a sunny autumn
- Video footage from liberated Lachin city

- **December 2**
- Azerbaijani, Russian FMs have phone talk
- Contact underway with ICRC and command of peacekeeping forces of Russian Federation to determine fate of Azerbaijani missing servicemen
- Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense: Other logistic support assets brought for peacekeeping contingent delivered to destination point
- ‘Turkish-Russian joint Karabakh center under construction’

- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of Garigishlag village of Lachin district
- Victory Day established in Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of Soyudlu gold ore field in Kalbajar district
- **President Ilham Aliyev signs order on establishment of the Day of Remembrance in Azerbaijan**
- Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry comments on French MPs` planned visit to Nagorno-Karabakh
- Georgian media highlight Lachin liberation
- Egyptian portal: Azerbaijani Army moves into Lachin district

- ***December 1***
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Delivery process of logistic support assets for peacekeeping contingent continues
- **Azerbaijani President: This Victory will forever remain in the history of Azerbaijan as a glorious Victory**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: After parameters of the new corridor have been determined, the city of Lachin will also be returned to us**
- **First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva congratulates Azerbaijani people on liberation of Lachin district**
- Turkey, Russia joint center in Karabakh to operate soon
- **President Ilham Aliyev: No-one will be able to interfere in our affairs and the agreement reached**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: I always said that if Lachin, Kalbajar and Shusha did not return to Azerbaijan, then there can be no agreement**
- **President: We must turn Karabakh into one of most beautiful regions in the world, and I am sure that we will achieve this**
- BERNAMA: Azerbaijani army enters Lachin region after 28 years
- **President Ilham Aliyev congratulates Azerbaijani people on liberation of Lachin from occupation**
- **President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation**
- Azerbaijani flag raised in liberated Lachin district
- Anadolu Agency: Every inch of Fuzuli bears scars of genocide
- Defense Ministry: Units of the Azerbaijan Army entered Lachin district

- ***November 30***
- Turkish military sappers arrive in Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Other logistic support assets for peacekeeping contingent delivered
- Photojournalist Reza Deghati: These past few days, in Karabakh, I saw cemeteries sacked, houses burned, and mosques turned into barns

- ***November 29***
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Activities on provision of peacekeeping contingent of Russia are being held
- Video footage of Shahbulag village of Aghdam district
- 'PKK terrorists fought in Armenian ranks in Karabakh'

- Video footage of liberated villages of Kalbajar district
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Within 28 years of occupation Armenia conducted uricide to Agdam
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of Vang village of Kalbajar district

- **November 28**
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Diplomatic corps have witnessed consequences of Armenia's brutal rocket and artillery attacks
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Upon instruction of President Ilham Aliyev taking diplomatic corps, heads of international organizations to Tartar and newly liberated Aghdam district
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of Istisu settlement of Kalbajar district
- Azerbaijani flag raised in liberated from occupation Kalbajar city

- **November 27**
- Euronews: Baku promises to restore Aghdam, "Hiroshima of the Caucasus"
- Oriental plane trees and mulberry gardens planted in Gubadli
- Turkey to reveal Armenia's 'war crimes' in Karabakh
- EURACTIV news portal publishes article condemning Armenia`s environmental terrorism against Azerbaijan
- France does not recognize so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh republic"
- Azerbaijani, Italian FMs hold phone talk
- Russian senator: French Senate resolution on Nagorno-Karabakh will remain as recommendation

- **November 26**
- Azerbaijan summons French ambassador to present note of protest
- Azerbaijani parliament calls on Government to appeal for exclusion of France from OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship
- The policy of three "all" or the Armenian scorched-earth tactics
- 'Rivers and lakes of liberated Kalbajar district will be re-studied and evaluated'
- Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan adopts statement regarding biased resolution of French Senate
- Turkish FM, NATO Secretary General discuss Nagorno-Karabakh
- Turkish Foreign Ministry: French Senate's call on Azerbaijan to withdraw from its own lands is ridiculous
- Milli Majlis adopts statement of protest against French Senate`s biased resolution
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Resolution of French Senate is nothing more than a piece of paper for Azerbaijan
- Consul General Aghayev: How the French Ambassador watered down UNSC documents on Armenia`s invasion of Kalbajar
- Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry: Resolution adopted by French Senate has no legal force

- **November 25**
- Political parties operating in Azerbaijan release statement regarding consideration by French Senate of issue of recognition of self-styled entity in Nagorno-Karabakh
- Ministry of Defense releases another video of entry of Azerbaijani units to Kalbajar district
- CGTN: Azerbaijan army moves into second district handed back by Armenia

- President: The war showed again who is who. Armenia is a defeated country, Azerbaijan is a victorious country
- **First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva congratulates Azerbaijani people on liberation of Kalbajar**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijan has taken necessary steps to restore its territorial integrity**
- **President: Preliminary instructions have already been given in connection with restoration of railway to Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic**
- **Azerbaijani President: Armenia is a terrorist state, and there are many signs of this terror**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Historical sites of Kalbajar - both mosques and churches are our historical treasures**
- **President Ilham Aliyev congratulates Azerbaijani people on liberation of Kalbajar from occupation**
- **President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation**
- Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense releases new video footage of entry of Azerbaijan Army units to Kalbajar district
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Units of the Azerbaijan Army entered Kalbajar district

- *November 24*
- **Release of the Press Service of the President**
- Heads of religious confessions in Azerbaijan issue joint statement on destruction of religious monuments in Karabakh
- **President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva visited liberated from occupation Aghdam city**

- *November 23*
- **First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva shared footages from Aghdam on her Instagram account**
- The National Interest: The true source of troubles behind the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
- Secretary General of Council of Europe welcomes ceasefire agreement

- *November 22*
- Kuwait Times: Azerbaijan troops enter first district ceded by Armenia
- **President Ilham Aliyev: A promising new situation has emerged in the region**
- Russian Foreign Minister speaks to media in Baku and responds to questions from journalists

- *November 21*
- **President Ilham Aliyev received Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov**
- **Azerbaijani President: Document signed after 44 days of armed hostilities essentially put end to many years of confrontation**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: A ceasefire monitoring center is a very important element in strengthening stability and security in the region**
- **President Ilham Aliyev received delegation led by Russian defense minister**
- Famous photojournalist Reza Deghati hurries to Karabakh
- ARAB News: Azerbaijan is the victor in the Nagorno-Karabakh war

- Euractiv: How did the Second Karabakh War change Armenia and Azerbaijan?
- Azerbaijani, French FMs hold phone talk

- **November 20**
- **First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva congratulated Azerbaijani people on the liberation of Aghdam**
- Defense Ministry: Our Army hoisted Azerbaijani flag in Aghdam
- BERNAMA: Azerbaijan enters Aghdam in line with Karabakh deal
- **President: Why don't Western countries and international organizations react to repressions in Armenia?**
- **Azerbaijani President: If sober-minded forces come to power in Armenia, we are ready to establish normal relations with them**
- **President: If Armenian fascism rises again, they will receive 10 times more and no-one can stop us**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: After that, Armenia will have to live with the mark of a "defeated country"**
- **President Ilham Aliyev congratulates Azerbaijani people on liberation of Aghdam**
- **President Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation**
- Defense Ministry: Units of Azerbaijani Army entered Aghdam district

- **November 19**
- Azerbaijani Ombudsperson sends video message to international community on restoration of IDPs' rights

- **November 18**
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: White phosphorus was widely used by Armenian armed forces for burning forests around Shusha
- **Release of the Press Service of the President**

- **November 17**
- **First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva congratulated Azerbaijani people on National Revival Day**
- **President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva visited liberated from occupation Fuzuli and Jabrayil districts, as well as Fuzuli and Jabrayil cities**
- **First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva shared on her Instagram page footages from Jabrayil district**

- **November 16**
- Prosecutor General's Office: As result of Armenian provocations, 94 civilians were killed and 414 people injured
- Turkish presidency moves motion on troop deployment in Azerbaijan
- Video coverage from liberated Domi village of Khojavand district

- **November 15**
- Video coverage of liberated from occupation Dashbashi village of Khojavand district

- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Armenia requested extension of deadline for fully emptying Kalbajar until November 25
- Azerbaijani, Russian FMs hold phone talk
- Group of Peers from House of Lords of UK Parliament send letter to The Times explaining superiority of principle of territorial integrity
- Aerial video of liberated from occupation Hadrut settlement and Tugh village of Khojavand district
- Foreign Ministry: Information released by some media about recall of Azerbaijani Ambassador to Russia does not reflect truth
- **Release of the Press Service of the President**

- **November 14**
- Turkish Foreign Ministry: The UN Human Rights Council's Special Procedures Mechanism are detached from the facts on the ground
- New video coverage of liberated from occupation Talish village of Tartar district
- Video footage from liberated Gulabird village of Lachin district
- Jordanian FM stresses importance of respecting international law to ensure lasting peace in region
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Exchange of bodies of several servicemen who died during the fighting around Shusha city was held

- **November 13**
- Video coverage of liberated from occupation Khandak and Muradkhanli villages of Gubadli district
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video coverage of liberated from occupation Sugovushan village of Tartar district
- BBC airs reportage from Kalbajar: Armenians are taking absolutely everything with them, even removing all the windows and toilets
- EU High Representative hails signing of trilateral statement on Nagorno-Karabakh
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Heads of Azerbaijani diplomatic missions abroad should refrain from making arbitrary statements that contradict the official position of the country

- **November-12**
- Video coverage of liberated from occupation Tugh village of Khojavand district
- Azerbaijan Defense Minister meets with Commander of peacekeeping forces to be deployed in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan
- Video coverage from liberated Khojik village of Gubadli district and Hovuslu village of Jabrayil district
- Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry: We welcome signing of Memorandum on establishment of Joint Russian-Turkish Center for control over ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh
- Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry: It is regrettable that statement by Canadian FM openly expresses pro-Armenian sentiments
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated Azikh, Akaku and Aghbulag villages of Khojavand district
- Turkey, Russia sign memorandum on establishment of joint center to monitor ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh

- UK welcomes agreement by Azerbaijan and Armenia to end Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
- Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry: Statement made by France on cessation of all military operations is completely biased
- OIC expresses concern over destruction of Islamic historical shrines in occupied territories of Azerbaijan
- OSCE PA President hails statement on cessation of hostilities in Karabakh as crucial

- ***November 11***
- **President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva met with servicemen undergoing treatment at Clinical Medical Center No 1**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: The Second Karabakh War will go down in history as Azerbaijan's glorious victor**
- Hikmat Hajiyev: France obviously pursues a pro-Armenian policy, while it should act as a neutral party in accordance with its mandate
- EU Reporter: War in Karabakh - How fake news appears on Western media
- Turkey, Russia to jointly monitor Karabakh peace deal
- **President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva met with servicemen undergoing treatment at Clinical Medical Center No 1**
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Our martyrs destroyed geopolitical games
- Hulusi Akar: Azerbaijani Army has demonstrated its power to entire world
- Azerbaijani, Turkish defense ministers met
- Festive celebrations of glorious victory in Baku through camera lens - PHOTO SESSION

- ***November 10***
- Mevlut Cavusoglu: Dear Azerbaijan achieved a significant victory on the battlefield and at the diplomatic table
- **Mehriban Aliyeva: The territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan is restored!**
- Azerbaijan, Russian FMs hold phone talk
- Azerbaijani people celebrate glorious victory Photo highlights
- Brilliant expression of respect and reverence to Martyr's souls
- **President Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation**
- Release of the Press Service of the President
- Mustafa Sentop: Tragic page of history ends with Azerbaijan's victory in Karabakh
- **Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Russian President Vladimir Putin met in a videoconference format**
- **Statement by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and President of the Russian Federation**
- **Release of the Press Service of the President**
- **Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Russian President Vladimir Putin met in a videoconference format**
- **President Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation**
- Statement by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and President of the Russian Federation
- **Release of the Press Service of the President**
- Prosecutor General's Office: Investigation launched into downing of Russian military helicopter

- **November-9**
- Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry makes statement on the downing of Russian military helicopter
- Head of Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh appeals to Azerbaijani citizens of Armenian origin
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Victorious Azerbaijani Army liberated 48 more villages, 1 settlement and 8 strategic hills from occupation**
- Defense Ministry: Enemy's "OSA" anti-aircraft missile system was destroyed in the Khojavend direction of the front
- **President: We will invite international experts to evaluate the damage caused by Armenia to Azerbaijan**
- Video footage from liberated Shusha city
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Magnitude and scale of destruction in deoccupied lands of Azerbaijan by Armenia even unimaginable
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Nobody is asking Pashinyan why he hits with ballistic missiles Ganja**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Victorious Azerbaijani Army liberated 23 more villages from occupation**
- **Azerbaijani President: Armenia is making a big mistake, because if they listened to us from the very beginning the war would have stopped long time ago**
- Bernama highlights liberation of Shusha
- **President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by BBC News**
- Defense Ministry: Armenia violated the ceasefire on the state border
- The latest situation on the front on November 9
- The Azerbaijani Army fully controls Shusha, Defense Ministry
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy fled, leaving some positions in Khojavand direction of front

- **November 8**
- Azerbaijan Defense Ministry: The enemy suffers heavy losses in the Khojavand direction of the front
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: High-ranking enemy officials were killed in Khojavand direction of front
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy fired at our residential settlements
- Defense Ministry: Armenia violated ceasefire on the state border
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The latest situation at the front on November 8

- **November 7**
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy's another military convoy was destroyed
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: The enemy fired at the territory of Barda district
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: "Enemy suffered heavy losses in Aghdam direction of the front"
- Defense Ministry: Information about the shelling of the territory of Armenia is another provocation of the enemy
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated villages of Jabrayil district
- Armenian armed forces shelling Azerbaijani residential settlements

- Documents on resettlement of Syrian Armenians by Armenia in Zangilan found
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Villages of Aghdam district are under enemy shelling
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army did not shell Shusha
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy again fired at our residential settlements
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's special forces and reconnaissance units were destroyed
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy was forced to retreat in some areas of the front

- **November-6**
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Combat positions of Armenian armed forces destroyed
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated villages of Fuzuli district
- Armenia shells villages of Tartar district
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Firing points of enemy's mortars in Goyarkh were hit
- Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense: "Enemy's military units located in Aghdara have been paralyzed"
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Mosque in Gubadli as sign of insult was transformed into pigsty by Armenia
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia attracts funds for its army by mobilizing Armenian diaspora operating under guise of NGOs and charity organizations abroad
- MES firefighters conduct first firefighting operation in territories liberated from occupation
- Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense: "Enemy fled leaving their positions in Gubadli direction of the front"
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy ammunition depot exploded
- Armenian Ministry of Defense tries to divert attention from its war crimes
- Prosecutor General's Office: As result of Armenian provocations, 3,064 houses, 100 residential buildings and 504 civilian facilities damaged
- Azerbaijani Ombudsperson appeals to international organizations on eco-terrorism of Armenia in occupied Azerbaijani territories
- Azerbaijan's Consul General in Los Angeles and Azerbaijani community condemn hate crime against Turkish restaurant
- Hikmat Hajiyev: We strongly condemn threats and attacks of Armenian lobby against journalists and freedom of expression
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy is firing at villages of Tartar
- Defense Ministry: Armenia violated ceasefire on the state border
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on front on November 6

- **November-5**
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Battery of enemy's 41st artillery regiment was destroyed
- Foreign Ministry: Armenian state propaganda, acting in its traditional way, is actively making up and circulating fake news
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy military convoy was ambushed and destroyed near Aghdara
- Criminal case launched against leader of "Zouaves Paris" group used as mercenary in Azerbaijan's occupied territories
- Azerbaijani Army destroys Armenian military infrastructure in Tonashen
- IEPF submits report on aggression of Armenian military units against Azerbaijan

- Albanian-Udi Christian religious community of Azerbaijan appeals to World Council of Churches
- **President: They are cowards, they can fight only against peaceful civilians and when they see our strength and our unity they run away**
- Albanian-Udi Christian religious community issues statement expressing support for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity
- Hikmat Hajiyev comments on Reporters Without Borders' statement about 80 journalists who could not leave Khankandi safely
- Military vehicles left by Armenian armed forces on battlefield
- US VICE News channel highlights fearlessness of Azerbaijani civilians subjected to missiles attacks
- Azerbaijan's Tartar and Aghdam districts come under artillery fire
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Today we are in an active phase of de-occupation of other districts which have been under occupation**
- Prosecutor General's Office: As result of Armenian aggression, 2971 houses, 100 residential buildings and 502 civilian facilities damaged
- **President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Spanish EFE news agency**
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army does not fire at residential settlements and civilian infrastructure
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy fired at our residential settlements
- Armenia violates ceasefire on state border
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The latest situation on the front on November 5

- **November 4**
- Azerbaijan prevents Armenia's attempt to commit sabotage in Zangilan
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan's UAVs do not fly over Armenian territory
- Jeyhun Bayramov: These actions of Armenia, which clearly represent a war crime, should be firmly condemned by international community
- Mevlut Cavusoglu: Everyone should speak up for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity without any ifs or buts
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated 7 more villages of Jabrayil, Zangilan and Gubadli districts**
- Azerbaijan's prosecutor general: Our military were not even able to put flag on anything in Fuzuli
- 'Armenia's Foreign Ministry prepares ground for indiscriminate attacks against Azerbaijani civilians'
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's UAZ vehicle was destroyed in Aghdara direction of the front
- Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense: "The Armenian side is lying again"
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia is paving ground for new war crimes against Azerbaijani civilians
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Anti-aircraft gun was disabled
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Our task was to restore territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and we are coming closer to this task**
- Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry: We highly appreciate Iranian Supreme Leader's statement on Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

- Assistant to Azerbaijani president: Armenia continues to use white phosphorus projectiles against civilians in Tartar district
- Defense Ministry: Armenia violates ceasefire on the state border
- Defense Ministry: The territory of Tartar and Aghjabadi districts are under enemy shelling
- **President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Italian La Repubblica newspaper**
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Unlike the enemy, the Azerbaijani Army does not target civilians and civilian facilities
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on front
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Commander of motorized rifle regiment was killed
- Defense Ministry: Enemy guns destroyed in Khojavand direction of front

- **November 3**
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy tanks were destroyed in the battles near Khojavand
- Azerbaijani Army does not open fire at civilians and civilian infrastructure, Defense Ministry
- Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense: “Armenian side tries to persuade domestic audience of fairy tales based on new scenarios”
- Appeal sent to secretariats of conventions to inform world community of crimes committed by Armenian separatists
- Assistant to Azerbaijani president: Armenia is hiding the truths from its public
- Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense: “Enemy`s independent armored tank battalion commander was killed”
- Azerbaijani Prosecutor General`s Office launches criminal case against those who established terrorist organizations in occupied territories
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Azerbaijani Army prevents provocations and attacks of the enemy
- Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense: “Armenian regiment commander in Khojavand direction became deserter”
- Armenia shelling Azerbaijan`s Aghdam and Aghjabadi districts
- Azerbaijani Army destroys Armenian sniper group
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: The enemy suffered heavy losses
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Next enemy ammunition depots were destroyed
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: The enemy's reconnaissance-sabotage group was destroyed in Zangilan direction
- Ministry of Defense: Armenian side obliged to tell new lie every time to hide its losses
- Nigerian newspaper publishes article on Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
- Iranian Supreme Leader: Azerbaijan`s territories occupied by Armenia should be liberated
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: News spread by Armenian side about Shusha is misinformation
- News of destruction of Azerbaijani units` mortar platoon is nonsense, Defense Ministry
- Armenian armed forces fire on Fuzuli from “Smerch”
- Influential US TV channels air Consul General Nasimi Aghayev`s interview
- Azerbaijani NGOs: We are deeply concerned about the fact that Armenian lobby has declared open war on freedom of speech, expression
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: The enemy is pushed out of its positions
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Enemy`s tactical UAV was destroyed
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia has wide practice of usage of phosphorus munitions
- Release of the Press Service of the President

- Armenia again violates ceasefire on state border
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on frontline

- **November 2**
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's "KUB" air defense missile system was destroyed
- Azerbaijani Army destroys Armenian military personnel
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy again fires at Gubadli from the territory of Armenia
- Azerbaijani Army does not fire at civilians
- Ministry of Defense: "Armenia's report on alleged shooting down of Azerbaijan's fighter jet is misinformation"
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: "Information that the enemy has supposedly improved its positions in some areas of the front is misinformation"
- **President Ilham Aliyev received Secretary General of Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States, President of Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, Chairman of Uzbek Chamber of Commerce and Industry and President of Kyrgyz Chamber of Commerce and Industry**
- Armenia shells territory of Tartar and Goranboy districts
- **Azerbaijani Army liberated several more villages of Jabrayil, Zangilan and Gubadli districts**
- Azerbaijani Army destroys 4 "Grad" MLRS of Armenia
- Hikmat Hajiyev: We strongly condemn attacks and threats of Armenian lobby groups of US against New York Times
- Information of Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Presence of foreign fighters and mercenaries in ranks of Armenia's armed forces is reaffirmed in reportage of Reuters
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy attempted to attack positions in Zangilan direction of the front
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia violated ceasefire on the state border
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy fires at the territory of Aghdam and Aghjabadi districts
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The latest situation on the front on November 2

- **November-1**
- Defense Ministry: Enemy's military convoy destroyed
- Bernama: Azerbaijan to establish temporary special administrations in territories liberated from occupation
- Defense Ministry: Enemy's two "Grad" systems destroyed
- Defense Ministry: Reported shooting of Azerbaijan's UAV is another misinformation of the enemy
- Azerbaijani, Turkish FMs meet
- Defense Ministry: Another war trophy taken from the enemy in Zangilan direction
- FM says Turkey proud of Azerbaijan's victories on the battlefield
- **President Ilham Aliyev received delegation led by Turkish Foreign Minister**
- Azerbaijani President: In fact, Armenia admitted its defeat
- Defense Ministry: Enemy's military trucks loaded with ammunition were blown up

- Defense Ministry: The enemy is intensively firing at Tartar and Aghjabedi regions
- Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry: Respect for territorial integrity is a principled position for us
- Missile strikes on civilian areas have to stop, says PACE Migration Committee Chairperson
- Defense Ministry: Armenia violated the ceasefire on the state border

- **October 31**
- French extremist group`s leader leaves for military operations in Nagorno-Karabakh
- **President: The only way to stop war is for Armenia to admit its defeat and to admit our victory**
- **President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by German ARD TV channel**
- Armenian sabotage-reconnaissance group destroyed
- Azerbaijani President: We are implementing UN Security Council resolutions which were on paper for 27 years
- **President Ilham Aliyev: We changed the realities. Now Armenians will have to take it into account**
- Azerbaijani Army destroys Armenia`s military equipment and personnel
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Enemy keeps firing at our residential settlements
- Assistant to President: Armenia keeps shelling positions of Azerbaijani Army using heavy artillery, ballistic missiles and cluster bombs
- OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs release press statement on results of Geneva meeting
- ICRC Director General updated on latest situation on front line
- Defence Ministry: Armenia delivers phosphorus cargo to territory of Khojavand
- Hikmat Hajiyeu: It would be more useful for Armenia's Ministry of Defense and other authorities to provide the Armenian public with accurate information on their defeats rather than to make fake scenes
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Information on alleged shelling of Shusha by Azerbaijani Army is another lie of enemy
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Armenia's reports on alleged shelling of Khankandi by Azerbaijani Army is false
- Azerbaijani FM`s meeting with OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs and Armenian FM ended
- Giyamaddinli village of Aghjabadi district comes under fire
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy shells Tartar, Aghdam, and Aghjabadi districts from artillery
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army opens retaliation fire at Armenia's firing points
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army does not have banned weapons and ammunition in its armament

- **October-30**
- Enemy's another "Osa" anti-aircraft missile system destroyed
- Azerbaijani FM meets with OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs in Geneva
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani army inflicts precise strikes on the enemy
- Azerbaijani Ombudsperson addresses letter of protest to UNICEF Executive Director
- Video footage from liberated Khudafarin village of Jabrayil district
- AZERTAC appeals to international media outlets regarding Armenia`s terrorist attacks on Barda city

- Human Rights Watch confirms use of banned cluster missiles by Armenia against Azerbaijan's Barda city
- Azerbaijan destroys two more Smerch of Armenia
- Assistant to President: Azerbaijan to assess damage caused by Armenia
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenian war crimes must be assessed on international platforms
- **President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Russian Interfax agency**
- Ministry of Ecology: Armenia commits environmental terror against Azerbaijan
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated 9 villages of Jabrayil, Zangilan and Gubadli districts**
- Armenia`s rocket-artillery depot destroyed
- Temporary special administrations to be established in Azerbaijan`s territories liberated from occupation
- Defence Ministry: Alleged shooting of Azerbaijan's UAV is misinformation
- Ministry of Defense: Azerbaijan`s residential settlements come under fire since morning
- Azerbaijani FM on working visit to Geneva
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Gubadli district is under artillery fire emanating from territory of Armenia
- Armenia commits next ecological terrorism acts against Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Another high-ranking Armenian serviceman, who committed a war crime was killed
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: The "Smerch" which shelled Barda was destroyed
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on front
- Chairman of Caucasus Muslims Office: Armenian Apostolic Church blesses death, murder of women and children, rather than human life

- **October 29**
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy forces and equipment were destroyed
- Constitutional Court of Azerbaijan appeals to Constitutional Justice Institutions of all countries on Armenia`s terrorist acts in Barda
- TURKPA Secretary General condemns attacks on Azerbaijani cities
- France-based COJEP International issues a report on civilian casualties caused by Armenian attacks on densely populated areas of Azerbaijan
- Fire broken out in forest area due to Armenian artillery strikes put out
- Azerbaijan's Goranboy, Tartar and Barda districts come under artillery fire
- Ministry of Emergency Situations: Armenia commits another ecological terror against Azerbaijan
- Prosecutor General`s Office: As result of Armenian fire, resident of Goranboy district killed
- Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan to take all possible measures to appeal to international organizations in order to once again expose aggressive nature of Armenia in international arena
- Armenian government orchestrates another "genocide" of Armenians
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Territory of Tartar district, where diplomatic representatives were also present, came under fire
- Enemy forces subjecting to fire peaceful population in Barda city destroyed on battlefield
- Azerbaijan shoots down two Su-25 attack aircraft of Armenia
- Armenia fires at territory of Barda and Goranboy districts

- Azerbaijani Army eliminates high-ranking military officers of Armenia
- Hikmat Hajiyev: We consider Charlie Hebdo's targeting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan unacceptable and strongly condemn it
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: As a result of Armenia's deadly shelling of Barda city IFRC volunteer was killed
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of ammunition and armored vehicles left by enemy on battlefield
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia shells the territory of Goranboy and Tartar districts
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of liberated Giyasli and Sariyatag villages of Gubadli district
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The combat operations continued mainly in the Khojavand, Fuzuli, and Gubadli directions of the front
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: As a result of Armenia's deadly shelling of Barda city IFRC volunteer was killed
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of ammunition and armored vehicles left by enemy on battlefield
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia shells the territory of Goranboy and Tartar districts
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of liberated Giyasli and Sariyatag villages of Gubadli district
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The combat operations continued mainly in the Khojavand, Fuzuli, and Gubadli directions of the front

- **October 28**
- Azerbaijani FM holds phone talks with OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan Army units destroy enemy's personnel by accurate fire
- First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva: Such barbaric attacks show that atrocities of Armenians have no limits
- Azerbaijani FM, US Deputy Secretary of State hold phone talk
- Ministry of Defense: Azerbaijani Army destroys the enemy that subjected to fire our cities and regions
- Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry releases statement on Armenia missile attack on Barda
- Azerbaijani MPs to monitor presidential elections in Moldova
- **President Ilham Aliyev: The blood of Barda residents will not remain unavenged and the aggressors will be given a decent rebuff on the battlefield**
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: We invite Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International to conduct on site assessment of such crimes of Armenia
- Death toll from Armenia's missile attack on Barda reaches 21
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated 13 villages of Zangilan, Fuzuli, Jabrayil and Gubadli districts**
- Armenia fires on territory of Tartar district from BM-21 "Grad" MLRS and howitzers
- Ministry of Emergency Situations: Armenia continues shelling civilian facilities with heavy artillery and missiles
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy again fires at territory of Tartar district
- Death toll from Armenia's missile attack on Barda rises to 19
- Speaker Mustafa Sentop: "Turkey will continue to stand by Azerbaijan"

- Defense Ministry: Armenian side tries to divert attention from its war crimes by spreading misinformation
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Armenian Armed Forces shell Tartar and Goranboy districts
- Special Envoy of Iranian President informed of Armenia`s military provocations against Azerbaijan
- Prosecutor General`s Office: Death toll from Armenia's missile attack on Barda rises to 14
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Such deliberate war crimes of Armenia are deplorable
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Armenia must end its military occupation and war crimes
- Armenian Army fires rockets at Barda city
- Ministry of Defense : Azerbaijani Army never targets civilians
- Lev Tolstoy`s daughter about Armenians` vandalism
- The Jerusalem Post: Living in Azerbaijan as a Jew versus being Jewish in Armenia
- First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva expressed condolences to relatives of those killed as a result of Armenia's missile attack on Barda
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Enemy subjected territory of Tartar district to rocket fire
- **President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Russian Interfax agency**
- Defense Ministry: No Azerbaijani UAV was shot down
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Territory of Tartar district comes under artillery fire
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footage of military equipment and ammunition left by enemy in Gubadli
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia continues to violate ceasefire regime
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on front on October 28
- **General Polad Hashimov Park laid in Bursa**

- **October 27**
- Chairman of Caucasus Muslims Office: Armenian church continues its aggressive attitude and provocative activities against Azerbaijan
- **President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Italian Rai 1 TV channel**
- Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry: Barda attack is another war crime committed by Armenia
- Ministry of Emergency Situations: Armenia continues shelling civilian facilities in gross violation of humanitarian ceasefire
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Armenia used cluster Smerch missile against civilians in Barda
- Hikmat Hajiyev: War crimes of Armenia`s political-military leadership continue
- Prosecutor General`s Office: As result of Armenian missile attack on Barda district 3 civilians killed
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: As result of Armenia's heinous missile attack on Barda district 3 civilians killed and 10 people, kids/women seriously wounded
- Azerbaijan's Goranboy, Tartar and Barda districts come under fire
- Armenia ignores proposals over release of war prisoners, return of corpses
- Indonesia Ulama Council issues statement condemning acts of aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry, State Border Service release joint statement
- Armenians shelling Tartar city and villages of Tartar district
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Information spread about shooting of border post on territory of Armenia is false and provocative

- Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry: We call on relevant international organizations to take necessary measures to stop the breach of rights of children by Armenia
- **President Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation**
- Armenia's political and military leadership doesn't want to collect bodies of soldiers fearing reaction and anger of its people
- Jewish Journal publishes article on Armenian protest in Los Angeles equating Israel to Nazi Germany
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: We strongly condemn shelling of Euronews camera crew by the Armenian armed forces
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President Hikmat Hajiyev interviewed by Al Jazeera TV channel
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on front on October 27
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of liberated Gubadli city

- **October 26**
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of liberated Khanlig village of Gubadli district
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated Padar village of Gubadli district
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Since 08.00 a.m up to now more than 200 artillery projectiles fired on Azerbaijani cities
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia fires on Tartar from Smerch MLRS
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Tartar city and villages of Tartar district are under fire
- Azerbaijani Army does not shoot at civilians
- Release of the Press Service of the President
- **President: Less than two weeks after Heydar Aliyev resigned from all posts, Armenian separatism flared up in Nagorno-Karabakh**
- Defense Ministry: Tartar city comes under fire
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Aghjabadi district came under fire again
- In his address to nation, President Ilham Aliyev spoke about how he proved to world that Karabakh is Azerbaijan's historical land
- **President Ilham Aliyev: We are restoring historical justice on the battlefield**
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia bears responsibility for violation of new humanitarian ceasefire
- **President Ilham Aliyev announced names of villages of Zangilan, Jabrayil and Gubadli districts liberated from occupation yesterday**
- Armenians fire on Azerbaijan's Aghjabadi district
- Armenia continues to violate ceasefire regime
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Armenian PM is lying over again
- First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva congratulated people of Azerbaijan on liberation of several villages of Zangilan, Jabrayil, Gubadli districts and the city of Gubadli
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy is firing on our units
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy shells the Tartar district
- Defense Ministry: Armenian armed forces subjected to artillery fire Azerbaijan Army Units
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia grossly violated the new ceasefire regime
- Defense Ministry: The Azerbaijan Army fully complies with the ceasefire regime
- Azerbaijani Army destroys military equipment and ammunition of Armenia
- OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs release statement

➤ **October-25**

- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated several villages of Zangilan, Jabrayil and Gubadli districts and the city of Gubadli**
- **Operational meeting was held under leadership of President, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev at Central Command Post of Ministry of Defense**
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Enemy was forced to retreat, suffering losses
- Azerbaijani Army destroys firing points of Armenia
- Azerbaijani MP: Why other regions of Azerbaijan, as well as 7 villages of Gazakh were occupied?
- Azerbaijani NGOs appeal to international organizations regarding Armenia's use of children in war
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Military attacks from territory of Armenia against Azerbaijan are acts of aggression as enshrined in UN Charter
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated villages of Gubadli district
- Ministry of Defense: Armenian Army shells Azerbaijani residential settlements
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army uses precision weapons against the enemy
- Hikmat Hajiyev: French parliamentary delegation`s visit to Armenia is one-sided and biased
- **President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by U.S. Fox News TV channel**
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani troops control operational conditions

➤ **October-24**

- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's combat equipment was destroyed
- Armenian leadership involves children in battles
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: International organizations informed about Armenia`s direct participation in the conflict
- Press Council of Azerbaijan appeals to leading media outlets and international organisations on insults and threats French TV Channel TF1 received from local Armenian lobby
- Azerbaijan Air Force destroys military equipment and infrastructure of Armenia
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Enemy attempts to attack our units were suppressed
- Ministry of Defense: Azerbaijani soldier acts within framework of norms of international law
- Military Command of Azerbaijan: Civilian population living in occupied territories is advised to stay away from military facilities
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism and war crimes at a state level against Azerbaijani civilians, in particular against children and adolescents
- Defense Ministry: Artillery units of the Azerbaijan Army continue to inflict crushing blows on the enemy
- **Azerbaijani President: If Armenia doesn't stop, we will go until the end to liberate all the occupied territories**
- Azerbaijan shoots down Armenian UAV
- Azerbaijan shoots down Armenia's combat aircraft
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Lachin, Gubadli districts are under rocket and artillery fire from territory of Armenia
- Prosecutor General's Office: As a result of rocket fire by Armenian army on Tartar district, 16-year-old resident killed
- Azerbaijani Army neutralizes Armenia`s UAV

- Defense Ministry: Enemy shells Azerbaijani territories in Goranboy-Naftalan direction
- Armenian army shells Azerbaijani residential settlements using multiple launch rocket systems
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Gubadli district is under artillery fire from the territory of Armenia
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of enemy's military equipment destroyed at night
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Main communication lines were taken under control and important heights were liberated
- **President Ilham Aliyev gave interview to French Le Figaro newspaper**
- Defense Ministry: Armenia's information on alleged destruction of large number of Azerbaijani special forces, nothing but a fantasy
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army does not shell Khankandi and Khojavand cities
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Artillery units and a command post of the enemy were destroyed as a result of airstrikes
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of destruction of enemy's volunteer groups and military equipment

- **October 23**
- Defense Ministry: The information of the Armenian side about the artillery shelling of Azerbaijan's positions by Iran is false
- Azerbaijani FM meets with US Secretary of State
- Defense Ministry: UAVs of Azerbaijan do not conduct a flight over the territory of Armenia
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: We have enough armored vehicles in our arsenal and they are used in accordance with operational situation
- Prosecutor General's Office reveals statistics on crimes committed against Azerbaijani civilians as a result of Armenian aggression
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Military personnel and armored vehicles of enemy getting ready for redeployment destroyed
- Hikmat Hajiyev comments on UN Security Council's discussions on Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict
- Azerbaijani MP: Armenians try to misrepresent the situation on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and mislead international community
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Four villages of Gubadli district were liberated**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated 2 villages of Khojavand, 5 villages of Jabrayil, 2 villages of Zangilan**
- **Release of the Press Service of the President**
- Prosecutor General's Office: Number of civilians wounded as result of Armenian attacks on Azerbaijan's settlements reaches 298
- Investigations reveal illegal activities in Azerbaijan's occupied territories
- Azerbaijan destroys Armenia's forces and equipment
- Azerbaijan eliminates four Armenian UAVs
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Another UAV belonging to Armenia was destroyed
- France's Le Figaro newspaper issues article on Armenia's artillery and missiles attacks on Tartar city of Azerbaijan
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army does not shell the civilian population and infrastructure

- Ambassador Bilal Hayee: Pakistan openly stands by Azerbaijan in this legitimate struggle for liberation of its territories
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy refused to get engaged in battles and left its positions
- Defense Ministry: International organizations were updated on missile attacks on Azerbaijan's districts

- **October 22**
- Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry: Missile attacks on Siyazan, Kurdamir and Gabala districts testify to Armenia's attempts to expand geography of conflict zone
- **President Ilham Aliyev: With the liberation of Aghband settlement, taking full control over the Azerbaijani-Iranian state border was ensured**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated 13 villages and Aghband settlement of Zangilan district**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated 3 villages of Fuzuli district, 4 villages of Jabrayil district**
- **President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Japan's Nikkei newspaper**
- Azerbaijani artillerymen continue to inflict precise strikes at Armenia's firing points
- 'Reference to international humanitarian law in Armenian Foreign Ministry's statement is nothing but hypocrisy'
- Prosecutor General's Office: Armenian Army targets Oghuz-Gabala-Baku water pipeline
- Azerbaijan starts production of "Iti qovan" UAVs
- **President Ilham Aliyev received Turkish Chief Ombudsman**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijan's legitimate case is communicated to the world through the Turkish media**
- Azerbaijan destroys another UAV of Armenia
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenian servicemen refuse to fight
- **Azerbaijani President: Fascist regime in Armenia is the biggest threat to our region, to the world**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: By breaking the back of Armenian fascism, we will save our region from great troubles and great tragedies**
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footage of another seized Armenian military equipment
- Azerbaijani territories come under rocket fire from Armenia
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy shells our positions
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The situation on front on October 22

- **October 21**
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: It is once again confirmed that Armenia's statements on negotiated settlement of the conflict are nothing but hypocrisy
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated Minjivan settlement and 13 villages of Zangilan district**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated 3 villages of Fuzuli district, 5 villages of Jabrayil district**
- **President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Japan's Nikkei newspaper**

- Prosecutor General's Office: Number of civilians killed as result of Armenian attacks on Azerbaijan's settlements reaches 63
- AZERTAC appeals to world's leading news agencies on Armenia's bloody terrorist attacks on Ganja city
- Turkic Council voices support for Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijan shoots down another Armenian UAV
- Azerbaijani Army inflicts artillery strikes day and night time
- Azerbaijani FM pays working visit to Moscow
- Liberated from occupation Charakan village of Jabrayil district
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The battalion of Armenian armed forces 556th regiment was disabled
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy shells Tartar district
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on front

- **October 20**
- Azerbaijani army destroys Armenian armed forces units in Gubadli direction
- Supreme Court of Azerbaijan issues statement on Armenian army's targeting civilians
- Azerbaijani Army destroys another UAV of Armenia
- Armenian army shells Azerbaijan's Tartar and Goranboy districts
- Azerbaijani flag planted in Zangilan city
- Two people killed, one wounded as result of Armenia's targeting civilians in Tartar
- **Mehriban Aliyeva congratulated Azerbaijani people on liberation of several villages of Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Khojavand, Zangilan districts and the city of Zangilan**
- **President Ilham Aliyev renames liberated Vang village of Khojavand district to Chinarli**
- Azerbaijani FM to meet with US Secretary of State and OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs in Washington
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Zangilan city and 6 villages of the district, 18 villages of Fuzuli, Jabrayil, and Khojavand districts liberated**
- **President Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation**
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Territories of Tartar and Aghdam districts are under fire
- Azerbaijani Army inflicting strikes at Armenia's firing points
- War trophies seized from enemy in Jabrayil and Fuzuli directions
- Pakistan reaffirms its full support to Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh issue
- Azerbaijani FM informs his Estonian counterpart on violation of cease-fire by Armenia

- **October 19**
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia continues to commit war crimes against Azerbaijani people in gross violation of all conventions and laws
- Speaker Mustafa Sentop: Turkey is determined to support Azerbaijan in its just struggle until the end
- Azerbaijani, French FMs hold phone conversation
- Turkish parliament speaker: Aggressor Armenia must withdraw from Azerbaijani territories
- Defense Ministry: Positions of Azerbaijan Army in Goygol are under attack
- **President Ilham Aliyev received delegation led by Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey**
- **President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Russian TASS news agency**

- Hikmat Hajiyev: 229 projectiles were fired on 5 districts
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry urges social network users to refer only to official information of Ministry
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals the latest situation on front
- **President Ilham Aliyev: The Armenian armed forces grossly violated the agreed temporary humanitarian ceasefire**
- Release of the Press Service of the President
- **President Ilham Aliyev: 13 villages of Jabrayil district were liberated**

- ***October 18***
- Azerbaijani flag raised in center of liberated Fuzuli city
- President Recep Tayyip Erdogan congratulates Azerbaijan on Independence Day
- **First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva: I pray for the life and health of every Azerbaijani soldier and officer**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Armed Forces hoisted Azerbaijani flag over the ancient Khudafarin bridge**
- Azerbaijan destroys another UAV of Armenia
- Pakistani PM expresses support for Azerbaijan on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
- Azerbaijani soldiers seize positions of Armenian special forces
- Armenians fire on Azerbaijan's Aghdam district
- Azerbaijan shoots down Armenian fighter jet
- First Vice-President: May the independence of Azerbaijan be eternal!
- Foreign Ministry: Azerbaijan reserves its right to take counter measures to protect its civilians and positions
- Assistant to President of Azerbaijan highlights Armenia's provocations on Al Jazeera TV channel
- Defense Ministry: Armenia violates ceasefire on state border
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia is escalating the situation on the frontline
- Prosecutor General's Office: Aghdam resident injured as a result of Armenia's shelling residential settlements
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on frontline
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia does not comply with the new ceasefire regime

- ***October 17***
- European Union deplores strikes on Ganja resulting in civilian loss of life and serious injury
- Azerbaijan, Armenia agree temporary humanitarian ceasefire
- Constitutional Court of Azerbaijan issues appeal to constitutional justice institutions of world countries
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia's S-125 anti-aircraft missile system disabled
- Azerbaijan destroys Armenia's BM-21 Grad multiple launch rocket system
- **Mehriban Aliyeva: Ganja is the heart of Azerbaijan and nobody will ever subdue staunch spirit of its residents!**
- **Mehriban Aliyeva: Purposeful targeting of civilians is a crime against humanity**
- Azerbaijani Defense Ministry: The enemy's Tor-M2KM surface-to-air missile systems were destroyed
- Azerbaijani Army destroys several more Armenia's armored vehicles

- **President Ilham Aliyev confers high military rank of Lieutenant General upon Hikmat Mirzayev**
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's fuel and ammunition depots were destroyed by the airstrikes
- Prosecutor General's Office: Three out of 13 people killed in Armenian Army's terrorist attack to Ganja are minors, four women
- Azerbaijani Army destroys another tactical UAV of Armenia
- **President Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation**
- Azerbaijani FM informs U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs of Armenia's violating humanitarian ceasefire
- Mevlut Cavusoglu: Silence in face of savagery means complicity in murder
- Azerbaijan shoots down Armenia's Su-25 fighter
- Azerbaijan Prosecutor General's Office: Death toll in Ganja reaches 13
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia's S-300 anti-aircraft missile system destroyed
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan Army troops managed to move forward in various directions of front
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: A large number of enemy forces and military equipment were destroyed in various directions of front
- Defense Ministry: The enemy is shelling residential settlements of Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijani FM: The political-military leadership of Armenia bear responsibility for giving an order on the rocket selling of the peaceful population
- Hikmat Hajiyev: 35 civilians wounded, 5 killed in Ganja
- Hikmat Hajiyev: According to initial info more than 20 houses destroyed in Ganja
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Casualties among civilians are reported in Ganja
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenian armed forces again shell Ganja city

- **October 16**
- Armenia continues to shell Azerbaijani residential settlements
- Azerbaijan's Defense Minister: Armenian armed forces launched a missile attack on the territory of Ordubad district
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated villages of Khojavand district
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Situation at front remains tense
- British playwright David William Perry: Azerbaijan is absolutely right in this struggle
- Defense Ministry: The enemy is shelling residential settlements of Azerbaijan

- **October 15**
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: "Armenia hiding itself behind humanitarian truce pursues policy of terror against civilians"
- Armenia continues to shell Azerbaijani residential settlements
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy was forced to retreat in various directions of the front
- Los Angeles Times publishes Consul General Nasimi Aghayev's article on Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict
- Video footages of liberated from occupation Jabrayil city

- **October 14**
- Azerbaijani, Russian FMs hold phone talk
- **President Ilham Aliyev: The attack on Ganja showed again who is not interested in a ceasefire**
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Armenia is openly violating norms and principles of international law by involving mercenaries in the battles
- **President Ilham Aliyev: We must be satisfied with the timetable for Armenia's withdrawal from Karabakh**
- Azerbaijani President highlights post-war model of Nagorno-Karabakh in his interview with Haber Turk TV channel
- Defense Ministry: All legitimate military targets of Armenia, targeting civilian population and settlements of Azerbaijan, will be destroyed
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenian armed forces continue to attack Azerbaijani cities with missiles and artillery under the pretext of humanitarian truce
- Azerbaijan writes history: Our destination is Karabakh
- Hikmat Hajiyev, Turkish presidential spokesperson hold phone talk
- Defense Ministry: Another operational-tactical missile system of Armenian armed forces destroyed by precise strike
- Armenians shelling Azerbaijani settlements starting from morning
- Defense Ministry: Legitimate military targets holding civilian population of Azerbaijan at gunpoint were neutralized

- **October 13**
- First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva: I pray for the life and health of every Azerbaijani soldier
- Incoming Dutch ambassador presents copy of her credentials to Azerbaijani FM
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated Hadrut settlement
- Azerbaijani soldier writes new history
- Armenian armed forces' actions suppressed along entire front
- Armenian military units keep territories of Goranboy, Tartar and Aghdam districts under fire
- Azerbaijani, Slovakian FMs hold phone talk
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Territory of Tartar district is under fire

- **October 12**
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footages of liberated from occupation Suleymanli village, Jabrayil district
- **President Ilham Aliyev: The bombing of Ganja is yet another manifestation of the ugly face of Armenian fascism**
- Colonel Vagif Dargahli exposes another nonsense from the Armenian Ministry of Defense
- Foreign diplomats eyewitness Armenian atrocities committed in Ganja
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Enemy`s 3 UAVs were destroyed
- **President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Turkish Haber Global TV channel**

- **October 11**

- Armenian armed forces subject to intensive fire Harami lowland and Yukhari Giyamaddinli village of Aghjabadi district
- Azerbaijani NGOs appeal to presidents of OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries regarding Armenia`s missile attack on Ganja
- Azerbaijani NGOs appeal to heads of international organizations regarding Armenia`s missile attack on Ganja
- In phone talk with French co-chair of OSCE Minsk Group, FM Bayramov highlights Armenia`s missile attacks on Azerbaijani civilians
- Azerbaijani FM holds phone talk with Russian co-chair of OSCE Minsk Group
- Elchin Amirbayov: Armenia disrespects agreement on humanitarian ceasefire achieved in Moscow
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Armenia`s military-political leadership bears responsibility for the crimes it committed**
- Turkey, Russia discuss Armenia's ceasefire violations
- **President Ilham Aliyev: These dishonorable deeds of Armenia can never break the will of Azerbaijani people**
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: "The enemy suffered heavy losses as a result of the airstrikes"
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Armenia's firing rockets on civilian population of Ganja city is a war crime and a gross violation of the Geneva Conventions**
- Azerbaijani Army destroys another UAV of Armenia
- Turkish Ministry of National Defense: "International public opinion should speak up against Armenia"
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: "We call on international community to strongly condemn this atrocity and act of vandalism"
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia on one hand pleas for truce, on the other hand dishonorably commits an act of terrorism against the civilians
- Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense: Political and military leadership of Armenia bears responsibility for aggravation of the situation in the region
- Armenia's rocket fire on apartment building in Ganja is clear evidence of occupying country's policy of terrorism at state level
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia under humanitarian aid receives new Smerch missiles
- Azerbaijan`s Prosecutor General's Office: 9 civilians were killed as a result of missiles fired by Armenian armed forces on apartment buildings in Ganja
- Azerbaijani FM: Armenian armed forces continue to grossly violate the agreement on a humanitarian ceasefire
- Atlantis Armenian Airlines transports missiles and rocket systems to Armenia on civilian aircrafts
- Defense Ministry: Armenia spreads misinformation
- Foreign Ministry: Pakistan will continue to stand by the brotherly nation of Azerbaijan
- Ambassador to Saudi Arabia: Azerbaijan demands restoration of its territorial integrity
- Defense Ministry: Another Armenian UAV destroyed

- **October 10**
- Prosecutor General's Office: A civilian was killed as a result of Armenia's violating ceasefire
- Azerbaijani Army destroys Armenian heavy artillery violating ceasefire
- Defense Ministry: Armenia grossly violates the ceasefire

- Defense Ministry: The enemy is subjecting to intensive fire residential settlements of Azerbaijan
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan Army units destroyed heavy combat armored equipment of the enemy by precise fire
- Defense Ministry: The enemy is subjecting to intensive fire Hadrut settlement from the Khojaly direction
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Intense battles continued all night
- Azerbaijani, Russian, Armenian FMs make joint statement

- **October 9**
- Azerbaijani FM: Armenian Foreign Ministry's statement on Azerbaijani army's targeting places of religious worship and cultural monuments in Shusha is yet another false accusation and provocation
- Missile launched from Armenia in direction of Mingachevir shot down in air
- Mingachevir and Aghjabadi districts come under intense shelling, Defense Ministry
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's "Grads" were destroyed
- Group of intelligentsia, representatives of religious and national communities appeal to UN Secretary General regarding Armenia's latest provocations
- Armenian vandalism: Destroyed religious and historical monuments, ruined cities and villages –PHOTOS
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy is shelling residential settlements
- Azerbaijani flag waving in liberated from occupation territories of Jabrayil
- Footage released showing military equipment abandoned by retreating Armenian troops

- **October 8**
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy armored vehicles were destroyed
- Defense Ministry: The enemy shells residential settlements of Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's military convoy was defeated
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of artillery strikes inflicted on enemy during night battles
- Prosecutor General's Office: Seven people injured as a result of Armenia's artillery shelling of Barda city
- Defense Ministry: The supply of Azerbaijan Army troops participating in battles is at a high level
- Armenian armed forces shell our human settlements, Defense Ministry
- Armenia's shelling civilians resulted in injuring two residents of Aghdam's Boyukbayli village
- Another UAV of Armenia destroyed
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy continues to shell our residential settlements

- **October 7**
- Azerbaijani political parties issue statement on France's position on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
- Azerbaijani flag waves in center of Jabrayil
- Legal assistance requests sent to 35 countries regarding 166 legal entities engaged in illegal economic activities in Azerbaijan's occupied territories

- Azerbaijani political parties issue statement on France's position on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
- Azerbaijan Defense Ministry: The Armenian defense ministry officials' fantasies are not ending
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases footages from liberated Shaybay village, Jabrayil district
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals list of the enemy's destroyed military equipment
- Armenia shells residential areas in Azerbaijan's districts, Defense Ministry
- Speaker Sahiba Gafarova: Azerbaijani flag will wave in all our occupied territories
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Fighting continued on frontline during night
- Azerbaijan's Parliament approves renaming of Madagiz village Sugovushan
- Prosecutor General's Office: Aggressor Armenia's terror attempt to hit Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan oil pipeline prevented

- **October 6**
- Azerbaijan's Prosecutor General addresses Secretary General of Amnesty International
- AmCham Azerbaijan supports territorial integrity of Azerbaijan
- ANAMA: Armenian armed forces fired cluster ammunitions against civilians in Goranboy district
- Defense Ministry: The enemy subjected to fire the regions of Azerbaijan
- Armenia creates fake 'twitter' account using name of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry holds special meeting
- French journalists informed about Armenia's recent military provocations
- Ministry of Emergency Situations' employee injured as a result of Armenian's shelling
- Matthew Bryza: Azerbaijan has been successful in recent days enhancing its own territory in Jabrayil and Fuzuli districts
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footage of Chakhirli village liberated from occupation
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenians are today hopeless and desperate on the battlefield

- **October 5**
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia's recent attacks against Azerbaijan indicate the terror policy that it is pursuing at state level
- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Armenia resorts to provocations to hide its failures
- Defense Ministry: Foreign military attaches and representatives of international organizations in Azerbaijan were informed about the operational situation
- Foreign Ministry: Armenia's missile attacks on Azerbaijani cities are aimed at embroiling third countries in the conflict
- The London Post highlights Azerbaijani Presidential Assistant's statement condemning Armenia's shelling of residential settlements of Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense: Armenia cannot supply its troops at the front
- Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense: Four "Grad" MLRS of the enemy was destroyed
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Beylagan city comes under enemy's fire
- Employees of Azerbaijani Prosecutor General's Office transfer AZN 1,280,000 to Azerbaijani Armed Forces Assistance Fund
- Azerbaijani Prosecutor General appeals to foreign Attorney Generals and Ministers of Justice

- Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Missile shelling on civilian population is a sign of weakness and panic of Armenia's political-military leadership
- Defense Ministry: Armenians keep firing at Azerbaijani residential settlements
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases footages of liberated from occupation Talish village
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Ganja city comes under fire from Armenia's Berd region
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia launched a missile attack in the direction of Khizi and Absheron
- Prosecutor General's Office: 24 civilians killed, 121 others injured as a result of enemy's targeting peaceful population
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia shells our cities
- Defense Ministry: The territory of Azerbaijan came under rocket fire from Armenia

- **October 4**
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy shells Mingachevir and Tartar cities
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Today we are writing a new history of our people and state, a glorious history**
- **President Ilham Aliyev congratulates people of Azerbaijan on liberation of Jabrayil city and 9 villages of Jabrayil district from occupation**
- Defense Ministry: Military personnel of Azerbaijan Army complies with standards of humanitarian law
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Under leadership of our Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Azerbaijani armed forces show valour
- Azerbaijani community in Qatar issues statement on Armenia's military provocations
- Azerbaijani Prosecutor General makes statement on Armenian armed forces' shelling of Ganja city
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia's treacherous shelling of our civilian population demonstrates its helplessness in the face of Azerbaijani Army
- Assistant to President: The presence of Armenian armed forces in Azerbaijani occupied territories is a threat to entire region
- Azerbaijani flag hoisted in post where Mubariz Ibrahimov destroyed Armenian forces
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan's residential settlements are again under fire
- Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan makes statement on Armenia's shelling of Ganja city from territory of Armenia
- Azerbaijani NGOs appeal to international community regarding war crime committed by Armenia against Ganja city
- Military Command of Azerbaijan addresses peaceful population living in occupied territories
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army has today liberated the city of Jabrayil and several villages of the district**
- Turkey condemns Armenian attacks on Azerbaijan's Ganja city
- Croatian MP: Azerbaijan's territorial integrity must be respected, attacks on civilians must be stopped immediately
- Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry: Military provocation by Armenia is aimed at conscious worsening of situation
- Ministry of Emergency Situations takes relevant measures for eliminating consequences of destructions as a result of enemy's shelling of Ganja
- Presidential Assistant: Araik Harutunyan was seriously wounded as a result of Azerbaijani army's precise strike

- Hikmat Hajiyev: Dropping banned bombs on populated areas once again shows that Armenia is a terrorist state
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia purposefully targets civilian population and facilities
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Such irresponsible missile attack with cluster munitions from Armenia can in no way intimidate Ganja people
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: "Information spread by Armenian side about alleged shelling of military facilities in Ganja is false"
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army taking punitive measures against the enemy
- Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry: In his address to Armenian people, PM Pashinyan voiced his traditional lies and slander
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Azerbaijan retains its right to take adequate measures against legitimate military targets to defend civilians
- Zakir Hasanov: Armenian shelling of Azerbaijani territory is a clear provocation
- Assistant to President Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia's political-military leadership continues to carry out war crimes against Azerbaijan
- Prosecutor General`s Office: 2 civilians killed as a result of Armenian shelling of Beylagan city
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani districts under Armenian missile, artillery fire
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: The enemy shells Ganja

- **October 3**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army today liberated several more villages**
- Colonel Vagif Dargahli: "Our attack UAVs destroy the enemy's military equipment"
- Al Jazeera TV channel airs reportage on Armenian armed forces' shelling of civilian facilities in Tartar
- Foreign Ministry: Armenia and Armenian diaspora organizations bear international legal liability for organizing terrorist activities against Azerbaijan and its civilians
- Colonel Vagif Dargahli: "The enemy, suffering from a shortage of military personnel, sends into battle the men older than 60 years old"
- Bob Blackman: Armenia's deliberate targeting of residential areas and civilians is a gross violation of the international humanitarian law
- Defence Ministry appeals to Azerbaijani citizens
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry reveals funds received by Armed Forces Relief Fund until October 1
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry reveals list of Armenia`s destroyed military equipment
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army suppresses Armenia's combat activity
- German TV Berlin airs Azerbaijani ambassador`s interview on latest provocations by Armenia

- **October 2**
- Armenia must withdraw from occupied territories for cease-fire"
- Erdogan vows struggle until end of Karabakh occupation
- Colonel Vagif Dargahli: The enemy is already sending women to the front
- Defense Ministry: Armenian army`s supply and combat equipment were destroyed
- Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Armenia subjected to artillery fire villages of Barda and Tovuz districts

- Armenian Army shells Sabirkand settlement of Shamkir, Guzanli village of Aghdam districts
- Major General Hikmat Hasanov: The victorious attitude of the servicemen will ensure our victory
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: On the night and morning hostilities continued in different directions of the front
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Four villages of Aghdam region are under enemy's intense artillery fire
- Russian Prosecutor General supports settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in compliance with resolutions of UN Security Council

- ***October 1***
- Prosecutor General's Office: 19 civilians killed, 55 others injured as a result of enemy's targeting peaceful population
- Armenian armed forces shell Horadiz city, Fuzuli district
- Armenia shells at Jojug Marjanli, houses severely damaged
- Turkey to continue supporting Baku 'with all means'
- Military units of Azerbaijan Army destroys several more enemy combat equipment
- Turkish FM: Azerbaijan capable of liberate occupied lands by itself
- Azerbaijani territory comes under rocket fire from Armenia's Gorus region
- Prosecutor General's Office: Father and son were killed as a result of enemy's heavy artillery shelling of Hajimammadli village, Aghdam
- Hikmat Hajiyev: If attacks against Azerbaijan from Armenian territory are not stopped, adequate measures will be taken against military targets which carry out firing
- Armenian army shells IDP settlement in Azerbaijan's Aghdam
- Prosecutor General's Office: A civilian was killed as a result of enemy's heavy artillery shelling of Tartar
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy resumed shelling of Tartar city
- 55 civilians injured, 16 others killed as a result of Armenia's heavy artillery shelling of Azerbaijani densely populated areas
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: During the night battles, artillery strikes were inflicted on the enemy

- ***September 30***
- Azerbaijani Prime Minister, Turkish Vice-president hold phone talk
- Prosecutor General's Office: A civilian killed, 3 others injured by shrapnel fragments that fell in Horadiz city
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The battle flag and documents of the enemy battalion were intercepted
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals number of enemy's military equipment destroyed before 17:30 today
- Lithuania expresses concern over tensions in Nagorno Karabakh
- **President Ilham Aliyev: We have hoisted our flag on these lands and no-one can take us out of these lands**
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Armenia must leave our lands immediately**
- Armenia used tactical ballistic missile system "Tochka-U"
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Our soldiers are saviors, while Armenian soldiers are occupiers**

- **President of Azerbaijan: Ours is the cause of justice, we are fighting on our own lands, we are fighting for the Motherland**
- Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry: We hope that the European Court will stay away from Armenia's insidious political games
- Prosecutor General's Office: 14 civilians killed, 46 injured as a result of Armenian provocation
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The 4th battalion of the enemy stationed in Fuzuli direction was shelled
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy reserve forces were destroyed
- **President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva met with wounded servicemen undergoing treatment at Central Military Clinical Hospital of Defense Ministry**
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy guns shelling the positions of our units were destroyed by a precise fire
- Armenian armed forces shell Ashaghi Aghjakand village, Goranboy district
- Indonesia's National Awakening Party issues statement condemning Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: A fire attack was inflicted on enemy's command post of the regiment
- Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense addresses volunteers who want to join fighting
- Prosecutor General's Office: As a result of heavy artillery shelling of Tartar city by Armenian military units, 7 civilians were injured
- Enemy subjected to artillery fire city of Tartar
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Up to 2,300 enemy soldiers were killed
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy group is surrounded
- Ministry of Defence: The positions of Armenian army have been defeated

- **September 29**
- Release of the Press Service of the President
- **President Ilham Aliyev responded to questions in "60 minutes" program of Rossiya-1" TV channel I**
- Azerbaijan's Prosecutor General addresses his Russian counterpart
- **Mehriban Aliyeva: May the Almighty grant every Azerbaijani the chance to kiss the sacred Karabakh soil!**
- Prosecutor General's Office: 12 people killed, 35 other hospitalized as enemy's armed forces shelled Azerbaijani civilian population
- International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation strongly condemns Armenia's new act of aggression against Azerbaijan
- Colonel Vagif Dargahli: The shooting down of Armenian Su-25 aircraft by F-16 fighter is another fantasy of the enemy's military propaganda machine
- Chairman of Caucasian Muslims Office addresses to people of Azerbaijan
- Armenian servicemen shell residential complex for IDPs
- Prosecutor General's Office: By now, 33 civilians in total have been hospitalized with various injuries
- President of Turkish Interparliamentary Union Group makes phone call to Azerbaijan's Parliament Speaker

- Colonel Dargahli: The S-300 air defense missile systems put forward for use in battles will be destroyed as soon as they enter our occupied territories
- Mevlut Cavusoglu: Armenia's withdrawal only solution to Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
- Colonel Dargahli: The Armenian army's regiment in Madagiz is completely demoralized
- Colonel: Azerbaijani army destroys Armenia's command and observation post
- Colonel Dargahli: Helicopters not involved in today's battles
- Release of the Press Service of the President
- Armenians fire on 14-year-old child in Jojug Marjanli
- Colonel Dargahli: Another Armenian military officer eliminated
- Ambassador affirms Pakistan's support for Azerbaijan amid Armenian provocation
- Australian Azerbaijanis appeal to country's Prime Minister on Armenian armed forces' latest provocation
- Colonel Vagif Dargahli: "Armenian side presents old videos to the population as new ones
- Colonel Dargahli: Azerbaijani armed forces destroy Armenia's regiment
- Saudi Arabia calls for peaceful solution to Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict
- Azerbaijan's Parliament Speaker highlights Armenia's aggression in phone talk with OSCE PA President
- Colonel Vagif Dargahli: Not an inch of the liberated territories has been lost
- Offensive operation ongoing to liberate Fuzuli, Defense Ministry
- Intense fighting continued during all night
- Defense Ministry: Territory of Dashkesan region shelled from Armenian territory

- **September 28**
- **President Ilham Aliyev met with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres through videoconferencing**
- Two killed, another two injured as a result of enemy's artillery shelling building for disabled and IDPs in Tartar
- OIC condemns repeated provocations and aggression by Armenian military forces against Azerbaijan
- Turkish parties condemn Armenian attack on Azerbaijan
- Colonel Vagif Dargahli: The enemy fired on territory of Goranboy district
- Gurbanovs' family became victims of Armenian provocation: two of those killed were schoolchildren - let the world see Armenian fascism
- Turkish General Prosecutor condemns Armenian violence against Azerbaijan
- Nizami Ganjavi International Center issues statement condemning Armenia's military provocations
- End occupation in Upper Karabakh: Erdogan tells Armenia
- Armenia's treacherous attacks on civilian population do not frighten residents of Tartar – AZERTAC reports from Tartar
- Azerbaijani army strikes Armenia's artillery units in Aghdara direction
- Azerbaijan declares partial military mobilization
- Austrian Azerbaijanis Society issues statement on Armenia's provocation against Azerbaijan
- Ugly face of Armenian fascism: the enemy continues to target civilians-AZERTAC reports from the scene
- Colonel Vagif Dargahli: "Military command staff of Armenia ordered to use weapons against its soldiers"

- One person killed and three others injured as a result of the enemy's intensive artillery shelling in Tartar
- Criminal case launched on death of Aghdam district resident as a result of enemy shelling
- Assistant to President of Azerbaijan highlights Armenia's provocations on Al Jazeera TV channel
- Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan: By now, 26 civilians in total have been hospitalized with various injuries
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Advantageous high grounds around Talish village cleared of the enemy
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenian army's 3 ammunition depots, dozens of equipment destroyed, the enemy has more than 550 casualties
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan conducts combat operations to liberate its lands
- Release of the Press Service of the President
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Several more enemy military vehicles destroyed

- **September 27**
- Prosecutor General's office issues statement highlighting latest situation on front
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenian army ammunition depot was destroyed
- Azerbaijani, Turkish FMs have phone talk
- Azerbaijani FM, EU Special Representative hold phone conversation
- **President Ilham Aliyev signs Decree declaring martial law**
- Pakistan condemns Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijani, Russian FMs hold phone talk
- Azerbaijani army liberates Murov peak from occupation
- Colonel Vagif Dargahli: There are a number of technical problems due to large number of requests to website of Ministry of Defense
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy is fleeing the battlefield leaving combat vehicles behind
- Erdogan says Armenia 'biggest threat to regional peace'
- Azerbaijan's Parliament declares state of war in country
- More than 500 NGOs in Azerbaijan appeal to international organizations
- Azerbaijani NGOs appeal to UN Security Council, US, Russian and French presidents
- Prosecutor General's Office: By now, 9 civilians have been hospitalized with various injuries
- Azerbaijan's political parties issue joint statement on Armenian provocation against Azerbaijan
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia should lay down its arms
- **President Ilham Aliyev: As a result of our army's successful counter-offensive several settlements have been liberated**
- **President Ilham Aliyev chaired meeting of Security Council**
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army liberates several villages from occupation
- Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry: Full responsibility for the present situation falls on political-military leadership of Armenia
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Armenia's ongoing policy of aggression against Azerbaijan shows its fascist essence to the whole world**
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan phoned President Ilham Aliyev
- Turkey condemns Armenian attack on Azerbaijan

- **President Ilham Aliyev appealed to people**
- Another military provocation against civilian population and our servicemen was committed by Armenia today, and they have received their punishment this time again and will continue to receive it, Azerbaijani President
- Azerbaijani President: We have no military targets in Armenia
- **President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army is currently firing on and dealing blows to the enemy's military positions**
- Azerbaijan Army's counter-offensive operation continues successfully
- Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan Army does not shell civilians
- Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Our units maintain full advantage over the enemy in the front
- Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia's deliberate targeting of residential areas and the civilians is a gross violation of international humanitarian law
- Ministry of Defense: Azerbaijan Army's troops launched counter-offensive operation along the entire front
- Armenian armed forces committed large-scale provocations along entire length of the front

December 10

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan completes official visit to Azerbaijan

[22:10] 10.12.2020

President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan has ended his official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

A guard of honor was lined up for the Turkish President at the Heydar Aliyev International Airport decorated with the national flags of the two countries.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine Erdogan were seen off by Azerbaijani First Deputy Prime Minister Yagub Eyyubov, Deputy Foreign Minister Ramiz Hasanov and other officials.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, Turkish first ladies met

[22:03] 10.12.2020

A meeting has been held between first lady of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva and first lady of the Republic of Turkey Emine Erdogan.

AZERTAC

Dinner hosted on behalf of President Ilham Aliyev and his wife Mehriban Aliyeva in honor of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine Erdogan

[19:50] 10.12.2020

A dinner has been hosted on behalf of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and his wife Mehriban Aliyeva in honor of President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine Erdogan.

AZERTAC

**A Victory parade dedicated to Victory in the Patriotic war was held at Azadlig Square, Baku
Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan attended the parade**

[18:56] 10.12.2020

A Victory parade dedicated to Victory in the Patriotic War has been held at Azadlig Square, Baku.

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, first lady Mehriban Aliyeva, President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine Erdogan attended the Victory parade.

Deputy Minister of Defense, Lieutenant General Karim Valiyev awarded with “Zafar” Order, was the commander of the Victory parade dedicated to the magnificent Victory in Azerbaijan’s Patriotic War-“The Iron Fist ”operation.

The parade featured more than 3,000 personnel, about 150 military hardware, including the state-of-the-art military equipment, missiles and artillery systems, air defense systems, as well as warships and boats. The parade also featured part of the military booty seized by the Azerbaijani Army from the destroyed enemy during the Patriotic War.

A military orchestra played the “Azerbaijan fanfare”.

Minister of Defense, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov reported to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Victorious Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev and President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The heads of state saluted the soldiers.

A military orchestra played the national anthems of the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev made a speech at the parade.

Speech of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev

- Dear President of the Republic of Turkey, my dear brother Recep Tayyip Erdogan!

Dear servicemen!

Distinguished guests!

Ladies and gentleman!

First of all, may I request that a minute’s silence be observed in memory of our martyrs who died in the Patriotic War.

May God rest all our martyrs in peace!

It is a historic day today. The Victory Parade is being held at Azadlig Square today. I am very glad that the President of the Republic of Turkey, my dear brother Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has accepted my invitation to take part in this parade. At the same time, a large delegation from Turkey, Turkish soldiers and officers are present here. This once again demonstrates our unity, friendship and brotherhood.

From the first days of the Patriotic War, or rather from the first hours, we have felt the support of Turkey. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has supported Azerbaijan's just cause from the first hours. His open, unequivocal and harsh statements made the Azerbaijani people very happy. My brother said that Azerbaijan was right in this war! He said that Azerbaijan was not alone and Turkey was always with Azerbaijan. This is a manifestation of our unity and brotherhood. Turkey's political and moral support for Azerbaijan makes every Azerbaijani citizen proud and happy, and today, when we participate in the Victory Parade together, we once again show our unity to our peoples and indeed to the whole world.

In forty-four days, Azerbaijan won a brilliant victory and defeated Armenia. Azerbaijan has ended the occupation. Every single day of these 44 days is our glorious history. The Azerbaijani Army advanced every day, liberated new cities, villages, settlements and heights every day. Azerbaijani soldiers and Azerbaijani officers were fighting for one goal – to put an end to this occupation, to this injustice, to celebrate a victory of historical justice, and we have succeeded.

Azerbaijani territories have been under occupation for about 30 years. In the early 1990s, Armenia's policy of aggression against Azerbaijan led to the occupation of our lands. In fact, Armenia's aggressive policy began in the late 1980s. At that time, 100,000 Azerbaijanis living in the present-day Republic of Armenia were expelled from their ancestral lands. Zangazur, Goycha and Iravan districts are our historical lands. Our people have lived in these lands for centuries, but the Armenian leadership expelled 100,000 Azerbaijanis from their native lands at the time. After that, the same situation was observed in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenian side used force to commit a war crime against the civilian population of Azerbaijan, perpetrated the Khojaly genocide. Then, in May 1992, the occupation of Shusha and Lachin created a geographical link between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. The occupation of Kalbajar district in April 1993 aggravated the situation and, in fact, led to the continuation of the policy of subsequent occupation.

For many years, we have been delivering the truth about this issue at all international events. A lot has been done, and our efforts have paid off. Although we have regained our territorial integrity on the battlefield, I believe that our political and diplomatic efforts in recent years have borne fruit. All leading international organizations recognized and supported the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

Four resolutions of the UN Security Council, resolutions of the UN General Assembly, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement, the European Parliament and other organizations supported the just cause of Azerbaijan. Thus, a legal basis was created for resolving the conflict. At the same time, as a result of our focused efforts, the world community was fully informed about the conflict and the history of Karabakh. Armenia's false propaganda was stopped and the whole world saw that Karabakh is our ancient historical land. For centuries, the Azerbaijani people have lived and built in these lands. At the same time, the whole world saw that Nagorno-Karabakh is an integral part of Azerbaijan in terms of international law.

We have been gaining strength over the years, strengthening our economy, working in the political arena, within international organizations and within the country, strengthening our army. As a result, Azerbaijan has undergone a successful development in recent years, and year after year, our superiority became more pronounced. Armenia could not compete with us. I have repeatedly said over the past 17 years that if Armenia does not withdraw its occupying forces from our lands of its own free will, we will resolve this issue by military means. When I was elected President in 2003, I swore on the Constitution and the Holy Quran that I would protect the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Today, I can say with great pride that Azerbaijan has achieved what it wanted and restored historical justice and international law.

We have been closely following the processes taking place in the world. We saw that international law, its norms and principles have been flagrantly violated in recent years. Some countries use force to achieve their goals, international law and UN Security Council resolutions remain on paper. Under such circumstances, a military solution to the conflict was inevitable. In addition, in recent years, especially in the last two years, Armenia's provocative steps, statements and actions have made war inevitable. The very harmful and dangerous statements of the Armenian leadership almost put an end to the talks. By saying that "Karabakh is Armenia", the Armenian leadership put an end to the talks. Settlement of Armenians from abroad in our historical lands is a war crime. It runs counter to international conventions. This, in fact, put an end to the talks, made the talks meaningless. We saw and felt this, and conveyed our message to the world community from international platforms. In September this year, three days before the war, I said at the UN General Assembly that Armenia was preparing for a new war and that Armenia must be stopped. And this is what happened. There were three military provocations against us this year. In July, a military provocation was committed on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, when Armenia wanted to occupy our lands. But they got a fitting rebuff and we pushed them back. In August, a sabotage group was sent to Azerbaijan, and that sabotage group was neutralized. Finally, on 27 September, our villages and military positions came under artillery fire, causing casualties among civilians and servicemen. We said enough is enough, this occupation must and will end. As Commander-in-Chief, I gave an order to our army to end the occupation and punish the occupier. Azerbaijan achieved what it wanted in 44 days and restored justice.

Every single day of these 44 days is our glorious history. Every day Azerbaijan was advancing. For these 44 days, there was not a single day on which we withdrew. We broke through the fortifications Armenia had built in almost 30 years. These fortifications were built in such a way as not to let Azerbaijan pass through, not to let our soldiers pass through them. At the same time, the geographical terrain of Nagorno-Karabakh was more favorable for the Armenian side. Azerbaijani soldiers and officers completed their glorious mission with great heroism and courage and liberated our native lands from occupiers. Jabrayil, Fuzuli, Zangilan, Gubadli districts, as well as Sugovushan settlement, Hadrut settlement, a part of Khojaly district, a part of Kalbajar district, the Murovdag range, the southern part of Lachin district, strategic heights were liberated from the enemy on the battlefield. The Azerbaijani flag was hoisted there. Our glorious war ended in Shusha. The liberation of Shusha on 8 November is our historic achievement. Shusha was our first occupied city and it was last to be liberated. After the liberation of Shusha, the enemy's back was broken and it was forced to surrender. The liberation of Shusha is a historic event. Our army, our heroic sons crossed mountains, valleys, forests, paths, crossed steep cliffs, climbed rocks to reach Shusha, destroyed the enemy in a hand-to-hand fight and raised the Azerbaijani flag in Shusha. A day later, another 70 villages were liberated, and Armenia surrendered, raised a white flag, was brought to its knees, received its deserved punishment, and started asking for help. We have destroyed Armenia on the battlefield. We have shattered the myth the Armenians had created for

years. They had created a myth by spreading false information about their army, claiming that the Armenian army is invincible. In a matter of 44 days, the Armenian army was destroyed, its military equipment was destroyed, its manpower was destroyed, and Azerbaijan showed its strength and power.

I said that we were gathering strength and we did. We have won this victory both due to professionalism and heroism, and due to the national spirit. We were right. Justice was on our side. When our soldiers and officers attacked, they were driven by the dream to liberate our native land from the occupiers. On 10 November, Armenia was forced to sign an act of capitulation. According to this act of capitulation, Kalbajar, Lachin and Aghdam districts were returned to Azerbaijan without a single shot being fired, and the Azerbaijani flag was raised there. This shows that we have won the war both on the battlefield and in the political arena. However, many, especially the mediators dealing with this issue, have repeatedly said that there is no military solution to the conflict. We have proved that there is a military solution to the conflict. Otherwise, the neither-war-nor-peace situation would have lasted for another 30 years. How much longer could we tolerate that? How much patience were we supposed to show? I have repeatedly said that the patience of the Azerbaijani people had run out, and if Armenia does not leave the occupied territories of its own free will, we will expel them from there. They must get out of our lands! I said this before and during the war, in my addresses to the nation and in my interviews with foreign media. I said that Armenia must get out of our lands of its own accord, withdraw from our lands. Otherwise, we will go to the end, and we did go to the end. This is why we won on the battlefield. After that, we won politically and forced the enemy to leave Kalbajar, Lachin and Aghdam districts, leave our lands.

This is a historic victory. The people of Azerbaijan have been waiting for this day for about 30 years, waiting for the order of the Commander-in-Chief for about 30 years. I have repeatedly said to the people of Azerbaijan that we must be stronger and we know what to do, when and how to do it. Life has shown that we took timely steps, mobilized all our resources, created an iron fist and crushed the enemy's head. During the war, I said that our iron fist embodies both our unity and strength. This iron fist broke the enemy's back and crushed the enemy's head. We are celebrating this holiday as a heroic nation today. The victorious Azerbaijani Army has fulfilled its historic mission and defeated Armenia. The Armenian army is almost non-existent. It has been destroyed. After that, if Armenian fascism ever raises its head again, the result will be the same. Again, Azerbaijan's iron fist will break their back.

A new era is beginning for us now – an era of creation. The hated enemy has destroyed all the occupied lands. This information is already available to everyone. There are videos. My visits to the liberated territories show this. All buildings, all historical sites, mosques, graves, cemeteries have been destroyed by the hated enemy. We will restore them all. Restoration work has already begun.

I want to highlight the heroism of the Azerbaijani people again. Defeated on the battlefield, the hated enemy committed war crimes against the civilian population and fired at our cities with ballistic missiles, phosphorus bombs and cluster munitions. As a result of this cowardly shelling, about 100 civilians, including children and women, have been killed. More than 400 civilians have been injured, more than 5,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged. However, Azerbaijani citizens did not take a single step back from their land. They said that they would rather die than retreat, that they would go all the way to the end. During the war, there were more than 10,000 deserters in the Armenian army. There were not a single deserter in the Azerbaijani Army. Our

wounded soldiers and officers were asking doctors in military hospitals and clinics to heal them as soon as possible, that they must return to the battlefield and complete their mission. The people of Azerbaijan have shown their greatness, their high moral spirit. The very cause of this victory is the Azerbaijani people. We have fulfilled our historic mission by showing unity, resolve, determination and national spirit.

From now on, Azerbaijan will only develop. Life will return to our liberated lands. I said that each of us must be active in this work. Together we will rebuild our cities and villages destroyed by the enemy. We have the resolve and the opportunities to do so.

There have been many parades at Azadlig Square, but this parade is of particular importance. This is the Victory Parade. This is a historic event. In one of the parades, I said that the flag raised in Lalatapa in 2016 would be brought to the parade. I said that the day would come when the Azerbaijani flag raised in the liberated lands would be brought to Azadlig Square, and this day has arrived. We, the people of Azerbaijan, are witnessing this historic day. From now on, we will only move forward.

I would like to end my speech with a well-known saying. Everyone knows that the Armenian leadership said a year ago that “Karabakh is Armenia and full stop”. I said, “Karabakh is Azerbaijan and exclamation mark”. Today, the whole world sees that Karabakh is Azerbaijan! Karabakh is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan! Long live the Azerbaijani Army! Long live Turkish-Azerbaijani friendship and brotherhood! Long live Azerbaijani soldiers!

X X X

President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan then addressed the parade.

Following the speeches of the heads of state, the Victory parade started. The Azerbaijani Armed Forces’ personnel marched to the podium under the State Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Victory Flag of the 44-day Patriotic War which was inscribed in golden letters in the country’s glorious military history.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, Turkish presidents made press statements

[18:41] 10.12.2020

Following the ceremony of signing documents, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan have made press statements.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan, Turkey signed bilateral documents

[18:40] 10.12.2020

Following the one-on-one meeting, a ceremony of signing Azerbaijan-Turkey documents has been held in the presence of President Ilham Aliyev and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Chairman of the Board of Baku Transport Agency Vusal Karimli and member of the Board of BMC Automotive Industry and Trade company Taha Ozturk signed “The Protocol of Understanding between Baku Transport Agency and BMC Automotive Industry and Trade company”.

Chairman of the Board of Azerbaijan Highway State Agency Saleh Mammadov and member of the Board of BMC Automotive Industry and Trade company Taha Ozturk signed “The Protocol of Understanding between Azerbaijan Highway State Agency and BMC.AZ company”.

Chairman of the Board of the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan Orkhan Mammadov and President of the Investment Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Burak Daglioglu signed “The Memorandum of Understanding between the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Investment Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey”.

Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Hikmat Hajiyev and Director of Communications of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey Fahrettin Altun signed “The Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Turkey in the Field of Media”.

Azerbaijan`s Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov and Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlut Cavusoglu signed “The Protocol No. 1 between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Amendments to the Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of Turkey signed on February 25, 2020 in the city of Baku”.

X X X

The “Victory Parade” postage stamp and the “First Day” envelopes prepared on the occasion of the Victory Parade held in Baku on December 10 will be put into circulation.

President Ilham Aliyev and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan sealed the envelopes with the “First Day” seal.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Our political and diplomatic efforts in recent years have borne fruit

[17:44] 10.12.2020

For many years, we have been circulating the truth about this issue at all international events. A lot has been done, and it has paid off. Although we have regained our territorial integrity on the battlefield, I believe that our political and diplomatic efforts in recent years have borne fruit. All leading international organizations recognized and supported the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, President of Azerbaijan and Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev said in his speech at the Victory Parade dedicated to the Victory in the Patriotic War, AZERTAC reports.

“Four resolutions of the UN Security Council, resolutions of the UN General Assembly, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement, the European Parliament and other organizations supported the just cause of Azerbaijan. Thus, a legal basis was created for resolving the conflict. At the same time, as a result of our focused efforts, the world community was fully informed about the conflict and the history of Karabakh. Armenia’s false propaganda was stopped and the whole world saw that Karabakh is our ancient historical land. For centuries, the Azerbaijani people have lived and built in these lands. At the same time, the whole world saw that Nagorno-Karabakh is an integral part of Azerbaijan in terms of international law,” the President of Azerbaijan said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani President: We said enough is enough, this occupation must and will end

[17:34] 10.12.2020

"We have been closely following the processes taking place in the world, and we saw that international law, its norms and principles have been flagrantly violated in recent years. Some countries use force to achieve their goals, international law and UN Security Council resolutions remain on paper," said President of Azerbaijan, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev as he made a speech at the Victory Parade dedicated to the Victory in the Patriotic War, AZERTAC reports.

Stressing the inevitability of a military solution to the conflict under such circumstances, the head of state said: "In September this year, three days before the war, I said at the UN General Assembly that Armenia was preparing for a new war and that Armenia must be stopped. And this is what happened. There were three military provocations against us this year. In July, a military provocation was committed on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, when Armenia wanted to occupy our lands. But they got a fitting rebuff and we pushed them back. In August, a sabotage group was sent to Azerbaijan, and that sabotage group was neutralized. Finally, on 27 September, our villages and military positions came under artillery fire, causing casualties among civilians and servicemen. We said enough is enough, this occupation must and will end."

The Commander-in-Chief said that he gave an order to Azerbaijani army to end the occupation and punish the occupier. "Azerbaijan achieved what it wanted in 44 days and restored justice."

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijan is living through a historic day

[16:13] 10.12.2020

“It is a historic day today. The Victory Parade is being held in Azadlig Square today,” said President of Azerbaijan and Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev as he made a speech at the Victory Parade dedicated to the Victory in the Patriotic War, AZERTAC reports.

Noting that he was delighted with the participation of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a large delegation from Turkey, Turkish soldiers and officers in the parade, the head of state said that this was further evidence of the unity, friendship and brotherhood with Turkey.

Emphasizing the importance of Turkey's support for Azerbaijan's cause from the first hours of the Patriotic War, President Ilham Aliyev said: “Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's open, unequivocal and harsh statements made the Azerbaijani people very happy. My brother said that Azerbaijan was right in this war! He said that Azerbaijan was not alone and Turkey was always with Azerbaijan. This is a manifestation of our unity and brotherhood. Turkey's political and moral support for Azerbaijan makes every Azerbaijani citizen proud and happy, and today, when we participate in the Victory Parade together, we once again show our unity to our peoples and indeed to the whole world.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, Turkish presidents held one-on-one meeting

[15:50] 10.12.2020

Following the official welcome ceremony, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan have held a one-on-one meeting.

AZERTAC

Official welcome ceremony was held for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

[15:47] 10.12.2020

An official welcome ceremony has been held for President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who arrived in Azerbaijan for an official visit.

A guard of honor was arranged for the Turkish President in the square decorated with the national flags of the two countries.

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev welcomed Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The chief of the guard of honor reported to the Turkish President.

The state anthems of Turkey and Azerbaijan were played.

President Ilham Aliyev and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan reviewed the guard of honor.

The Turkish President saluted the Azerbaijani soldiers.

The guard of honor marched in front of the Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the accompaniment of a military march.

The presidents posed for official photos.

AZERTAC

Egyptian Aldiplomasy news portal posts article by AZERTAC news agency highlighting Azerbaijan's Patriotic War

[15:21] 10.12.2020

The Egyptian Aldiplomasy news portal has published an article by Chairman of the Board of AZERTAC, OANA Vice-President Aslan Aslanov highlighting the 44-day Patriotic War for the liberation of the Armenian-occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The article headlined "Journalistic reflections: forty-four moments of a sunny autumn" was presented to the readers in English.

The article, citing AZERTAC news agency says: "These 44 days irrevocably changed the 30-year-old sorrowful destiny of Karabakh, forever removing the label of forced migrants from the fates of a million people. They made us a victorious nation and created new realities in the region..."

"The second Karabakh war showed that the Azerbaijani army is equipped with the most advanced weapons. Thanks to the high-precision strikes of Turkish "Bayraktar" and Israeli drones, hundreds of units of the enemy's military equipment were neutralized and thousands of enemy soldiers were destroyed in the first days of hostilities. For the first time in the 21st century, such impressive results of hostilities were achieved in a short time. The footage circulated by the Ministry of Defense is already being scrupulously studied in many countries. This information is likely to be included in textbooks on military affairs.

But it is not only about the arsenal. The President has repeatedly emphasized the invaluable merits of the brave Azerbaijani soldiers who planted our flag on the liberated lands. Our soldiers and officers fought like lions. The heroism and professionalism of the Azerbaijani army crushed the defensive lines of the enemy forces, crowning the battles in Shusha with a brilliant victory," the article mentions.

"The details of the Patriotic War have not yet been fully disclosed, but we can confidently state that the operation to liberate Shusha will go down in history forever.

On 8 November, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev conveyed to the people the great news of the liberation of Shusha. This victory actually predetermined the outcome of the war. The next day, the liberation of more than 70 settlements was reported, and then Pashinyan, accepting the conditions of the President of Azerbaijan, was forced to sign an act of surrender. As a result, Aghdam district was liberated without a single shot or casualties on 20 November, Kalbajar district on 25 November and Lachin district of Azerbaijan on 1 December."

"If we look at the numerous conflicts and wars in the world, we can see that it is the stronger side that always has the final say. The most recent example of this is the 44-day Patriotic War of the Azerbaijani people for Karabakh. Over the past 17 years, we have accumulated strength and finally crushed the enemy with an iron fist. The end of the 30 years of occupation and injustice was put in a matter of 44 days. Our strength was demonstrated not only to the enemy. The whole world saw it. Of course, the winner Azerbaijan will grow stronger every day and every year. Its wise President and Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev will confidently lead our people from one victory to another," the article emphasizes.

Readers' opinions show that the publication of this article by the Egyptian news portal is a commendable initiative in terms of conveying the realities about the Karabakh conflict and Azerbaijan's Patriotic War to a wider English-speaking audience.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijan has achieved its goal, restored historical justice and international law

[15:19] 10.12.2020

In forty-four days, Azerbaijan won a brilliant victory and defeated Armenia. Azerbaijan has ended the occupation. Every single day of these 44 days is our glorious history. The Azerbaijani Army advanced every day, President of Azerbaijan and Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev said in his speech at the Victory Parade dedicated to the Victory in the Patriotic War.

The President noted that Azerbaijani soldiers and Azerbaijani officers were fighting for one goal – to put an end to this occupation, to this injustice, to celebrate a victory of historical justice, and we have succeeded. Armenia could not emulate us.

The Commander-in-Chief recalled swearing on the Constitution and the Holy Quran during his inauguration after being elected President in 2003 that he would protect the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and said: “I am proud to say today that Azerbaijan has achieved its goal, restored historical justice and international law.”

AZERTAC

**President Ilham Aliyev and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan paid tribute to
Azerbaijani martyrs**

[12:42] 10.12.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan have visited the Alley of Martyrs.

President Ilham Aliyev and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan laid wreaths at the Eternal Flame monument erected in memory of Azerbaijani heroes who gave their lives for the country's independence and territorial integrity

The Azerbaijani and Turkish presidents then laid wreaths at a monument to Turkish soldiers in the Alley of Martyrs.

The heads of state signed the guest book here.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan paid respect to national leader Heydar Aliyev

[12:28] 10.12.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is on an official visit to Azerbaijan, have visited the Alley of Honors to pay tribute to national leader, founder and architect of modern Azerbaijani state Heydar Aliyev.

The heads of state laid wreaths at the tomb of the national leader.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM meets with Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council

[11:26] 10.12.2020

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has met with Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ali Shamkhani.

During the meeting, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani hailed the establishment of peace between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia and the return of the occupied territories to their mainland and wished success for the government and people of Azerbaijan in the path of growth and development.

Highlighting the development of relations between Iran and Azerbaijan, Shamkhani noted that the completion of joint projects, as well as starting new mutual cooperation in various fields requires more serious efforts.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov commended the Islamic Republic of Iran for supporting Azerbaijan's just position and its principled policy pursued in this regard. Touching upon the will of the leaders of the two countries to develop and strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation, he noted that Azerbaijan is ready to develop relations with Iran.

The sides also exchanged views on other regional issues of mutual interest.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's FM meets Iranian counterpart

[10:57] 10.12.2020

As part of his official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Azerbaijan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov has met with the country's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

During the meeting, the ministers discussed the current situation in the region, especially the situation after the signing of the trilateral statement on November 10.

FM Bayramov briefed his counterpart on the 44-day Patriotic War, which resulted in the liberation of Azerbaijani lands.

Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif welcomed the liberation of the occupied territories.

The parties exchanged views on the development of bilateral cooperation in the framework of good neighborliness, as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM meets with president of Islamic Parliament of Iran

[10:00] 10.12.2020

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has met with President of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Mohammed Baqer Qalibaf.

President of the Islamic Parliament Baqer Qalibaf described the liberation of Azerbaijani territories as an important step towards peace and lasting security. Noting the importance of increasing the level of comprehensive cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan, he emphasized existing potential to be used for this purpose.

Qalibaf hailed the increasing level of economic, cultural and other cooperation, as well as cross-border cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Minister Bayramov expressed condolences over the assassination of an Iranian nuclear scientist as a result of a terror attack. He noted that Azerbaijan condemned all forms and manifestations of terrorism, and highlighted the unacceptability of this terror act.

Speaking about the 44-day Patriotic War in Azerbaijan, FM Bayramov noted the support of high-level representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the President and members of the Parliament.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Patriotic War martyrs commemorated in Helsinki

[09:19] 10.12.2020

Martyrs of Azerbaijan`s Patriotic War have been commemorated in Helsinki at the initiative of Azerbaijani-Turkish Youth Organization in Finland, as well as Azerbaijani students studying in the country. The event was held in a video format.

The participants observed a minute of silence to honor the Patriotic War martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

Speaking at the event, head of the Azerbaijani-Turkish Youth Organization, coordinator of the Coordination Council of Scandinavian Azerbaijanis in Finland Ulviyya Jabbarova said that the 44-day Patriotic War showed the unparalleled courage of Azerbaijani soldiers and officers to the whole world. She quoted Azerbaijani national Leader Heydar Aliyev as saying: "Every martyr is a great loss for us. Their memory is dear to us and will always live in our hearts".

The event ended with a video clip dedicated to the major Chingiz Gahramanov and his son Rashad Gahramanzada who fought shoulder to shoulder in the Patriotic War.

AZERTAC

December 9

**Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan
dined together**

[20:10] 09.12.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva and President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is on an official visit to Azerbaijan, and his wife Emine Erdogan have had a joint dinner.

AZERTAC

WHO mission to conflict-affected regions in Azerbaijan assesses health needs

[19:35] 09.12.2020

WHO Health Needs Assessment mission team started its work in the conflict-affected regions of Azerbaijan to appraise the major health impacts of the recent military hostilities on the civilian population. The mission team will visit the local executive powers and health care facilities, talk with the health workers and other people to identify areas where WHO could offer expedited support.

During the 5-day mission, the WHO team will travel to Ganja, Barda, Tartar and Aghdam and deliver hygiene kits and medical masks to the people directly affected by the conflict.

The mission team consists of 7 national and international WHO experts and representatives of the Ministry of Health and TABIB.

AZERTAC

President: Friendship between Azerbaijan and Italy, mutual positive attitude between our peoples have already transformed into reality

[19:10] 09.12.2020

“The visit of Italian parliamentarians was very highly valued in Azerbaijani society. Because as you can imagine, people are very attentive and very sensitive to all the signs of support, and all the society accepted this visit as a sign of support,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he met with a delegation led by Undersecretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, co-chair of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Italian Republic Manlio Di Stefano.

“And also, what people say, and I share their view, is that while some of your neighbors in parliament adopt strange resolutions recognizing Nagorno-Karabakh, Italian parliamentarians came to Aghdam, came to Ganja, to demonstrate their respect to Azerbaijan, to demonstrate solidarity to the sufferings of Azerbaijani people,” the head of state noted.

Emphasizing that the friendship between Azerbaijan and Italy, and mutual positive attitude between our peoples have already transformed into reality, President Ilham Aliyev said: “We also consider your visit as a good sign of that. I am sure that there will be very positive outcomes of your visit and we will structure properly the agenda for the next these 5-10 years of strong cooperation in all the areas.”

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: We will work on the liberated lands with companies from friendly countries

[18:05] 09.12.2020

“We want to take advantage of the excellent political relations between our countries to address the issues of economic cooperation and involvement of more Italian companies into the activity in Azerbaijan in traditional areas, and also with respect to our big plans to restore the destroyed cities of Azerbaijan. Because we need to build new infrastructure, new roads, new railway lines, new airports, new hospitals, new schools,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he met with a delegation led by Undersecretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, co-chair of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Italian Republic Manlio Di Stefano.

Noting that the villages and cities of Karabakh were savagely destroyed by Armenians, the head of state said: “We made the first steps in the area of reconstruction. First contracts have already been signed and as I said, we will work on the liberated lands with companies from friendly countries. The first contracts were signed with Turkish companies. This is natural, because Turkey is our brotherly country.”

The President expressed his hope that the next contracts would be signed with Italian companies. “And that will be also natural, because Italy is a very close friend to Azerbaijan. During long time of our diplomatic relations, and especially during the war, we felt your position and the fact that your parliamentarians visit Azerbaijan less than in one month after the war stopped, demonstrates our strong, friendly relations. And we highly value this gesture of solidarity, gesture of support,” President Ilham Aliyev emphasized.

AZERTAC

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrives in Azerbaijan for official visit

[17:30] 09.12.2020

President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan has arrived in the Republic of Azerbaijan for an official visit.

A guard of honor was lined up for the Turkish President at the Heydar Aliyev International Airport decorated with the national flags of the two countries.

President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine Erdogan were met by Azerbaijani First Deputy Prime Minister Yagub Eyyubov, Deputy Foreign Minister Ramiz Hasanov and other officials.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM meets with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani

[17:15] 09.12.2020

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has met with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hassan Rouhani.

The sides discussed the development of bilateral relations and regional security problems.

Jeyhun Bayramov conveyed greetings of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to President Hassan Rouhani.

Rabil Katanov
Special Correspondent
AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev received delegation of Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

[17:02] 09.12.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has received a delegation led by Undersecretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, co-chair of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Italian Republic Manlio Di Stefano.

Welcoming the delegation, President Ilham Aliyev said:

-Remembering my very successful visit to your country once again, I would like to express gratitude of hospitality. I have very good memories of the visit, very good results and of course, the documents which were signed strengthen our partnership, especially, the document about the new format of strategic partnership between our countries. And also, my meetings with President, with Prime Minister, with the heads of two chambers of Parliament, mayor of Rome, all were very positive.

Manlio Di Stefano: You had the Italian delegation also a couple of days ago from Italy.

President Ilham Aliyev: Yes, I just received the delegation from Parliament, from different political groups and the head led by the deputy chairman of Parliament. They visited Aghdam, they visited Ganja, I was very touched by their decision to visit the cities which one suffered during the times of occupation and other suffered during the war, was hit by ballistic missiles and with many many victims. Though, talking about our relations, I am sure that they will have a great future, because so far we achieved great success in political, economic area, energy security area. Soon we will complete the final part of the Southern Gas Corridor, and thus, Italy and Azerbaijan will be very close partners in energy for decades ahead. This is a remarkable achievement of our joint efforts, on the efforts of the very broad group of countries. As you know every year we organize in Baku Advisory Council of the Southern Gas Corridor. Italy is always present at a high level, and these meetings also helped us in order to build this historical pipeline on the length of 3.5 thousand kilometers. So, on one end is Baku, on the other end is Italy and of course, we are looking forward to deepen our cooperation. I know that your agenda today will be also very busy. We want to take advantage of the excellent political relations between our countries to address the issues of economic cooperation and involvement of more Italian companies into the activity in Azerbaijan in traditional areas, and also with respect to our big plans to restore the destroyed cities of Azerbaijan. Because we need to build new infrastructure, new roads, new railway lines, new airports, new hospitals, new schools because Armenians destroyed everything. And these videos are now available. So, they leveled to ground our cities, behaved like barbarians and this once again, demonstrates their aggressive policy towards Azerbaijan. So, we already started, made the first steps in the area of reconstruction. First contracts have already been signed and as I said, we will work on the liberated lands with companies from friendly countries. The first contracts were signed with Turkish companies. This is natural, because Turkey is our brotherly country. I hope that the next contracts will be signed with Italian companies, and that will be also natural, because Italy is a very close friend to Azerbaijan. During long time of our diplomatic relations, and especially during the war, we felt your position and the fact that your parliamentarians visit Azerbaijan less than in one month after the war stopped, demonstrates our strong, friendly relations. And we highly value this gesture of solidarity, gesture of support. The delegation which

I met two days ago was the first delegation from the European Union area, visiting us after the war. And I am sure that these gestures of friendship will have a practical implementation because today we talk about not only energy sector, but maybe non-energy sector, the big potential in the liberated lands for agriculture, for tourism, for creation of renewable sources of energy, and as I said already, the huge infrastructure projects. We are now preparing our plan for rehabilitation and reconstruction of those territories. And I am sure that we will work very successfully. I would also like to mention that the visit of Italian parliamentarians was very highly valued in Azerbaijani society. Because as you can imagine, people are very attentive and very sensitive to all the signs of support, and all the society accepted this visit as a sign of support. And also, what people say, and I share their view, is that while some of your neighbors in parliament adopt strange resolutions recognizing Nagorno-Karabakh, Italian parliamentarians came to Aghdam, came to Ganja to demonstrate their respect to Azerbaijan, to demonstrate solidarity to the sufferings of Azerbaijani people. And with respect to recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh, everybody knows that even Armenia did not recognize this illegal structure. Therefore, if some country wants to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh they can make some steps inside their own country, they can provide some lands in their own country, and to create the second Armenian state within their own country, not in Azerbaijan. Though, this once again shows that the friendship between our countries and mutual positive attitude between our peoples have already transformed into reality and we also consider your visit as a good sign of that. I am sure that there will be very positive outcomes of your visit and we will structure properly the agenda for the next these 5-10 years of strong cooperation in all the areas. So, once again, welcome to Azerbaijan.

Manlio Di Stefano: Thank you Mr President. First of all, let me tell you that it's an honor for me to be here today. And I am really grateful to your government for the arrangement of this just 24 hours but very full in scale. So, yesterday I already met Minister of Foreign Affairs. It was a good pleasure for me, we exchanged a lot in any field, and today, we had the chance to meet other ministers and that's a real sign of this cooperation that is in place between among us. Let me first of all to convey to you, your people our sympathy for the victims of the war, that was really tough one, and we followed it with great concern from Italy. You can not even imagine how much in Italy this war was felt, because we feel this area of the world being so close to us, in any sense. So we really tried to avoid any political understanding of the war, and we just tried to tell the truth to the country what was going on. And our political positioning, that I am glad you recognize is positive, was just based on UN resolutions and everything that was already written on the papers, I will say. Obviously, it was a real relief for us when ceasefire was signed. We think that it was the first and most important thing. Because you know when you stop having victims it always is a positive thing for everyone. And now, we really offer our availability, capability on helping going forward on the points of the trilateral declaration that we think is a really good starting point for everything you had to do right now, since now on.

AZERTAC

Indonesian websites post article by AZERTAC news agency highlighting Azerbaijan's Patriotic War

[16:07] 09.12.2020

The popular Indonesian websites “citayambersatu.com” and “warnaplus.com” have published an article by Chairman of the Board of AZERTAC, OANA Vice-President Aslan Aslanov highlighting the 44-day Patriotic War for the liberation of the Armenian-occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

AZERTAC's special correspondent reports that the article, headlined “Journalistic reflections: forty-four moments of a sunny autumn”, was presented to the readers in English and Indonesian.

The article, citing AZERTAC news agency says: “The Patriotic War, which broke out on a fine autumn night, lasted 44 days – as if nature itself favored us as well, warming us with its soothing breath. There has never been such an autumn in my lifetime – one that understandably tamed the dashing temper and delayed the rains and winds until later. Otherwise, the fighting in the mountains would have a real test of strength.

Every moment, every sunny day, which became the embodiment of true heroism, brought us closer to the cherished goal – the liberation of Karabakh. Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev and Azerbaijani soldiers expelling the invader from our lands day after day, and the Azerbaijani people rallying into a mighty fist created a truly heroic epic.

These 44 days irrevocably changed the 30-year-old sorrowful destiny of Karabakh, forever removing the label of forced migrants from the fates of a million people. They made us a victorious nation and created new realities in the region...”

“We will leave the analysis and assessment of the Patriotic War, crowned with the Great Victory of the Azerbaijan Army, as well as the examination of the tactics of warfare to the judgment of military experts and specialists. This war, which lasted 44 days, will be talked about after 44 years. I just want to share my thoughts and observations on this matter,” the article mentions.

“The second Karabakh war showed that the Azerbaijani army is equipped with the most advanced weapons. Thanks to the high-precision strikes of Turkish “Bayraktar” and Israeli drones, hundreds of units of the enemy’s military equipment were neutralized and thousands of enemy soldiers were destroyed in the first days of hostilities. For the first time in the 21st century, such impressive results of hostilities were achieved in a short time. The footage circulated by the Ministry of Defense is already being scrupulously studied in many countries. This information is likely to be included in textbooks on military affairs.

But it is not only about the arsenal. The President has repeatedly emphasized the invaluable merits of the brave Azerbaijani soldiers who planted our flag on the liberated lands. Our soldiers and officers fought like lions. The heroism and professionalism of the Azerbaijani army crushed the defensive lines of the enemy forces, crowning the battles in Shusha with a brilliant victory.”

“The details of the Patriotic War have not yet been fully disclosed, but we can confidently state that the operation to liberate Shusha will go down in history forever.

On 8 November, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev conveyed to the people the great news of the liberation of Shusha. This victory actually predetermined the outcome of the war. The next day, the liberation of more than 70 settlements was reported, and then Pashinyan, accepting the conditions of the President of Azerbaijan, was forced to sign an act of surrender. As a result, Aghdam district was liberated without a single shot or casualties on 20 November, Kalbajar district on 25 November and Lachin district of Azerbaijan on 1 December.”

“Weapons are not the only determinants of the outcome of modern wars. The final victory is achieved on the battlefield, in the information space and in the diplomatic plane. A clear confirmation of this is the crushing victory of Azerbaijan in the Patriotic War, which was the result of many years of building an army, focused foreign policy and tireless diplomatic efforts,” the article emphasizes.

“If we look at the numerous conflicts and wars in the world, we can see that it is the stronger side that always has the final say. The most recent example of this is the 44-day Patriotic War of the Azerbaijani people for Karabakh. Over the past 17 years, we have accumulated strength and finally crushed the enemy with an iron fist. The end of the 30 years of occupation and injustice was put in a matter of 44 days. Our strength was demonstrated not only to the enemy. The whole world saw it. Of course, the winner Azerbaijan will grow stronger every day and every year. Its wise President and Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev will confidently lead our people from one victory to another,” the article concludes.

AZERTAC

IOM Azerbaijan resumes renovation works in kahrizes located in Aghdam district

[14:19] 09.12.2020

After the war ended IOM Azerbaijan office resumed renovation of kahrizes in former front-line regions of Azerbaijan. Currently kankans of IOM Azerbaijan is carried out renovation works in the Shamsi kahriz located in Mirashelli village of Aghdam district within the current IOM Project “Integrated Rural Development for IDP communities in Azerbaijan through Revitalization of Kahriz Water Supply System” financed by the Korea International Cooperation Agency.

The four-year project aims to provide safe and consistent water supplies for over 8,000 families in eight districts through the renovation of 40 kahrizes – a traditional, sustainable water supply system.

The project’s overall objective is to contribute to the prevention of forced economic migration by enhancing access of rural communities in Azerbaijan to energy free water resources as a means to increase agriculture productivity and livelihoods through provision of water infrastructure, by providing opportunities for income generating activities in link with Kahriz renovation. The project continues to implement a community-driven approach, paying specific attention to cross-cutting issues such as gender, governance and environmental sustainability.

This project is implemented under 3 different but closely connected approaches. These are Kahrizes rehabilitation, Irrigation water channels restoration and Capacity building of communities and Kankans.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan, Italy discuss bilateral cooperation in various areas

[12:38] 09.12.2020

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has received a delegation led by Manlio Di Stefano, the Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, co-chair of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Italian Republic.

Recalling the historic state visit of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to the Italian Republic on February 19-21, 2020, Jeyhun Bayramov said that with the "Joint Declaration on Strengthening the Multidimensional Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Italian Republic" signed during the visit, the parties accepted each other as strategic partners.

FM Bayramov briefed the delegation on the 44-day Patriotic War, which resulted in the liberation of Azerbaijani lands. The minister hailed the high level of cooperation between the two countries, and stressed the importance of further developing these relations.

The parties exchanged views on Azerbaijan's partnership with the European Union, including its participation in energy and transport projects, especially the Southern Gas Corridor project.

Undersecretary of State Manlio Di Stefano said it was more useful to get on-site information on the events in the region, so he visited Azerbaijan.

During the meeting, the parties also discussed prospects for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various areas.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM embarks on Iran visit

[11:33] 09.12.2020

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has today arrived in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As part of the visit, FM Bayramov will meet with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and other officials.

During the meetings, the sides will discuss prospects for the development of mutual relations and security issues in the region.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani ambassador presents credentials to President of Costa Rica

[09:12] 09.12.2020

Azerbaijani ambassador to Costa Rica Mammad Talibov has presented his credentials to the country's President Carlos Alvarado Quesada in a video conference format.

Azerbaijani ambassador conveyed greetings and best wishes of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to the President of Costa Rica. The President of Costa Rica asked the ambassador to extend his greetings and best wishes to the Azerbaijani President.

They hailed bilateral Azerbaijan-Costa-Rica relations, as well as close cooperation within international organizations. They affirmed mutual desire to further strengthen cooperation in agricultural, trade, economic, cultural, tourism, scientific and educational areas.

Talibov expressed his gratitude to the Costa Rican President for supporting Azerbaijan's fair position on the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

President Quesada congratulated Talibov on his appointment as an ambassador to Costa Rica.

**Washington DC,
AZERTAC**

December 8

Anadolu Agency publishes article about Khudaferin bridge located in Azerbaijan's Jabrayil district

[19:57] 08.12.2020

The Turkish Anadolu Agency has published an article about the Khudaferin bridge located in Jabrayil district of Azerbaijan.

Headlined "Azerbaijan: Historical bridge on brink of collapse", the article reads: "A thousand-year-old bridge in Azerbaijan is on the brink of collapse due to neglect by the occupying Armenian army.

The Khudaferin Bridge in Jabrayil province has suffered nearly three decades of neglect.

The province was recently liberated by the Azerbaijani army.

According to Iranian historian Hamdallah Mustawfi, the bridge was built in 1027 A.D.

The bridge is considered one of the most important monuments of Azerbaijan with its free architectural style and arches, as well as the use of river stones in the construction.

The bridge is located at the border of Azerbaijan and Iran and connects the northern and southern banks of the Aras River.

The 27-year neglect of the Armenian army is evident in the region with Khudaferin looking like a ghost village.

A World War II monument erected for Azerbaijani veterans is located in Soltanli village.

A half destroyed fountain in the city center reminds one of the lost glory of the region.

The only structure Armenia built in the region is their military headquarters. Everything else was left to crumble.

At the entrance of the city, a cross was placed by the invading Armenian army."

AZERTAC

Top Turkish diplomat speaks with Russian counterpart

[19:33] 08.12.2020

Turkey's foreign minister on Tuesday spoke with his Russian counterpart in a telephone conversation, diplomatic sources said, according to Anadolu Agency.

Mevlut Cavusoglu and Sergey Lavrov discussed issues related to Upper Karabakh, Ukraine, and the recent arrest and release of Russian nationals in Turkey, said the sources, who asked not to be named due to restrictions on speaking to the media.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan discloses list of servicemen martyred in Patriotic War

[18:30] 08.12.2020

“In addition to the information of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated December 3, 2020 about 2783 servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces who died as Shehids (martyr) in the Patriotic War, we declare that 2723 Shehids have been buried until today,” the Ministry of Defense said.

The ministry presents the photos, names, surnames, information about military ranks and date of birth of the buried Shehids.

Work on finding servicemen considered as missing and the identification of persons, whose identity has not yet been established, continues.

Information on this will periodically be presented to the country's public.

May Allah rest the souls of all our Shehids!

We bow our heads in front of our Shehids!

The list of servicemen who died as Shehids in the Patriotic War

AZERTAC

Mehriban Aliyeva: Heydar Aliyev Foundation launches a project on restoration of our religious monuments and mosques in ancient land of Karabakh

[16:47] 08.12.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Mehriban Aliyeva has made an Instagram post on the launch of a project on restoration of our religious monuments and mosques in ancient land of Karabakh. AZERTAC presents the post.

“Dear fellow citizens!

Recent days, we have all been enjoying the pride and joy of the restoration of Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity. Having been under Armenia’s occupation for about thirty years, our lands were liberated due to the courage of our heroic soldiers and officers led by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev.

We are viewing today’s condition of our liberated lands with a heavy heart. Armenian occupants have, over the course of these years, destroyed our cities and districts, residential and administrative buildings, and all the infrastructure there, having plundered our natural resources, subjecting our religious, cultural and historical monuments on these territories to acts of vandalism. No sign of prosperity - once existed in the beautiful corner of Azerbaijan, Karabakh - is seen there.

Nevertheless, I want to assure you that under the leadership of Ilham Aliyev, we will turn the whole region of Karabakh into one of the most beautiful regions of Azerbaijan. Life would revive here again, all the districts restored, and our fellow citizens will live and create in their native lands.

Dear fellow citizens,

Since the first day of its activity, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation has been implementing projects and programmes in Azerbaijan in various spheres. The activity of the Foundation aiming to preserve and restore historical, cultural and religious monuments is well-known. And today, with the feeling of pride, I want to inform that the Heydar Aliyev Foundation has launched a project to restore our religious monuments and mosques - a national reach of the Azerbaijani people – in the Karabakh land. In the framework of this project, restoration, conservation and reconstruction of our sanctuaries in the region will be performed, with participation of local and foreign specialists. Works have already begun on restoration of religious sites subjected to destruction in the city of Shusha and Aghdam district over the course of these years.

Once barbarously destructed, turned into a stall by Armenians, our holy religious sites will revive, and sounds of azan will be heard and prayers read in our mosques all across Karabakh!

With deep respect and love,

Your MEHRIBAN”

AZERTAC

Russian President, German Chancellor discuss situation in Karabakh

[16:37] 08.12.2020

Russian President Vladimir Putin held a telephone conversation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, where the leaders exchanged views on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Kremlin said in a statement.

They emphasized that the consistent implementation of the agreements recorded in the November 9 Statement by the presidents of Russia and Azerbaijan and the prime minister of Armenia facilitated the general stabilisation of the situation in the region.

“The two leaders underscored the importance of resolving the urgent problems of the population that was affected by the armed clashes. In this context, they noted the need to involve specialised international structures in the work conducted by the Russia-established Humanitarian Response Centre.

Both leaders expressed their willingness to further cooperate within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group,” the Kremlin said.

AZERTAC

The Washington Times: Azerbaijan has restored Christian buildings everywhere

[14:42] 08.12.2020

The Washington Times has published an article by Assistant to the Azerbaijani President Hikmat Hajiyev headlined “Azerbaijan has restored Christian buildings everywhere”.

The article reads: “This week, following a six-week war, the last Armenian forces of a three-decade occupation have, under international supervision returned to their own country.

This should be a time for reconciliation, healing and respectful reconstruction. Yet instead, the international media rumbles with accusations that Azerbaijan now plans “cultural genocide” against Christian monuments and heritage.

The “evidence” for these claims — such as it exists — comes from Soviet times, when Azerbaijan was no more a free or independent state than any other part of the USSR. From Stalin’s dynamiting of Orthodox Churches in Moscow to the demolition of Aleksandr Nevsky Cathedral in Azerbaijan’s capital Baku to the destruction of more than 25,000 mosques between 1917 and the 1970s — all across the Soviet world the wilful destruction of religious monuments was state policy.

The opposite is the policy of modern-day Azerbaijan. Since independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has shown the world its commitment to restoration of our multi-faith heritage. Baku’s Armenian cathedral, damaged in the chaos of 1990, has been fully restored, now housing a library of some 5,000 precious Armenian manuscripts.

The head of the Armenian Church has been a welcome visitor to the cathedral. A new, Catholic cathedral has been constructed on land donated by the government, and opened by the pope. Old synagogues have been restored and re-opened, and new Jewish schools have been built.

Beyond our borders Azerbaijan has funded and contributed to religious restoration projects ranging from the catacombs of the Vatican, through Romanesque churches in France, to the stained glass of Strasbourg Cathedral. This is why the world can and must trust the leadership of my country: Our actions are proof of our words.

The administration in which I serve has publicly announced it will restore and rebuild both the Christian and Muslim heritage of this ravaged region — and we now welcome the announcement of UNESCO’s involvement in this project. This international partnership, rightly, shows Azerbaijan’s commitment to the difficult path of rebuilding not only the heritage, but the mixed and peaceful society which the region once enjoyed.

Sadly, we have found too little of that still in existence in the territories we have liberated in the last month.

We knew of the destruction that awaited us for some time, as did many of the 700,000 Azerbaijani’s evicted from these lands in the war of the early 1990s. They have been poring over Google maps since its creation, looking for evidence of what remained of their homes, places of work and worship — with little to find.

Tragically we can now see with our own eyes the tally of destruction wrought by 30 years of illegal occupation. The well-documented desecration of a mosque converted for use as a cowshed was just the start: 700 historic and cultural monuments damaged or destroyed; 927 libraries; 808 cultural centres; 85 music and art schools; 22 museums with over 100,000 artefacts; 4 art galleries, 4 theatres, 2 concert halls.

The profligacy of this waste is staggering — and continues still: last month the BBC screened footage of the burning of homes by those departing under the terms of the peace agreement “so no Azerbaijanis can move in.”

Some might argue that this egregious cultural violence provides sufficient justification for a more robust response. But it does not. We have had enough of destruction. We must move on.

And we believe Azerbaijan’s sensitivity to different cultures and religions — nurtured since independence— is the model to follow. Today we share a country where many thousands of Jews, and Christians of many denominations, live together, openly practicing their faiths and celebrating their cultures alongside their Muslim neighbors.

When Pope Francis visited Baku in 2016, at a meeting of Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders, he remarked on “the harmony which religions can build together, based on personal relations and on the good will of those responsible”.

The goodwill shared between the communities of Abrahamic religions in Azerbaijan can be seen no more powerfully than through a joint article by our country’s Chief Rabbi, Orthodox Archbishop, and the Sheikh-ul-Islam, the country’s Muslim leader appealing to the world to appreciate Azerbaijan for the multi-faith nations that it is today.

We cannot stop accusations being made that Azerbaijan is a threat to Christian heritage. But why would that be true for the territories newly liberated from 30 years of illegal occupation, when we have nurtured multiple faiths and respectfully restored religious buildings to their former glory in the rest of Azerbaijan over the same 30 years?”

AZERTAC

Martin Schuepp hails cooperation between ICRC and Azerbaijan

[13:56] 08.12.2020

Azerbaijan`s Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov has met with Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Martin Schuepp in Baku.

Highlighting the steps taken to stabilize the situation in the region after the joint statement signed by the presidents of Azerbaijan and Russia and the prime minister of Armenia on November 10, Minister Bayramov noted that the ceasefire was ensured by a joint statement and military operations were suspended, and the occupied Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachin districts of the Republic of Azerbaijan were peacefully returned to the control of Azerbaijan. It was stressed that the implementation of the joint statement opened new opportunities for peace, security and cooperation in the region.

Taking into consideration the new situation in the region the hope was expressed that the ICRC will make a positive contribution to improving the living conditions of all people in Azerbaijani territories affected by the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and to ensure peaceful coexistence.

In his turn, Martin Schuepp noted that the ICRC highly appreciates the cooperation between Azerbaijan and the ICRC developed over the past years, as well as the steps taken by Azerbaijan to comply with international humanitarian law, which forms the basis of the organization's mandate. He informed about the work done to resolve the relevant issues related to the mandate of the ICRC, arising from the joint statement of 10 November.

The sides also exchanged views on the prospects of cooperation between Azerbaijan and the ICRC and discussed ways to further increase the efficiency of the ICRC's activities in the country.

AZERTAC

On President`s initiative new metro station will celebrate Azerbaijan`s Victory Day

[13:50] 08.12.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev has put forward an initiative to name a new station of the Baku Metro “November 8” to mark the Victory Day in Azerbaijan`s Patriotic War.

Under a Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers, the new station of the Baku Metro located in Nasimi district, Jeyhun Salimov Street, block 1065 will be named “November 8”.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev signs Order on establishment of “YASHAT” Fund to support war-wounded and families of martyrs

[13:17] 08.12.2020

President Ilham Aliyev has signed an Order on the establishment of the “YASHAT” Fund in order to support the war-wounded and families of martyrs who protected the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Under the presidential Order, the funds of the Fund shall be formed through voluntary financial assistance (donations) provided by citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijanis living abroad, other individuals and legal entities, as well as other sources not prohibited by law.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, Israeli FMs hold phone talk

[12:28] 08.12.2020

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has had a telephone conversation with his Israeli counterpart Gabi Ashkenazi.

The ministers exchanged views on the situation in the region, the issues stemming from the trilateral statement of 10 November, 2020 and stressed the importance of implementation of the joint statement for ensuring peace, security and prosperity in the region.

The sides also discussed bilateral cooperation, including projects implemented in various spheres, as well as other regional and international issues of mutual interest.

AZERTAC

Fighter jets and helicopters conduct training flights before Victory Parade in Baku

[12:23] 08.12.2020

Air Force fighter jets and helicopters, which will be involved in a military parade to be held in Baku to mark the Victory in Azerbaijan`s Patriotic War, are carrying out preparatory training flights, press service of the Ministry of Defense has told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Turkish FM: Armenia will benefit from ongoing regional normalization process

[10:37] 08.12.2020

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has said Armenia will benefit from the ongoing normalization process in the region.

“The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict had dragged for nearly 30 years because of the deliberate policy of Armenia, which instead of benefiting from stability in the Caucasus and economic projects, had preferred continuing the occupation of Azerbaijani lands, as well as that of the political forces uninterested in the political settlement of the problem,” said Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu as he addressed a workshop on Eastern Mediterranean at Akdeniz University in Antalya.

“We do not have any territorial claims to Armenian territories. The ongoing normalization process in the region will benefit both Armenia and its nation. Therefore, we stand for an equitable sharing. We are powerful both morally and legally and are ready to use our power for the common well-being,” Cavusoglu added.

Gunel Malikova
Special Correspondent
Istanbul,
AZERTAC

December 7

Azerbaijani President confers military rank of major general on four servicemen

[21:47] 07.12.2020

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has signed an Order conferring a military rank of major General on four servicemen of the Ministry of Defense.

Under the presidential Order, colonels Agamir Sultanov, Anar Kerimov, Namig Islamzade and Zaur Mammadov were promoted to major general.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan, Italy hail bilateral relations

[20:08] 07.12.2020

Azerbaijan`s Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov has met with a delegation led by Vice-President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Ettore Rosato.

Praising the existing close relations of friendship and cooperation between Azerbaijan and Italy, Minister Jeyhun Bayramov reminded the historic state visit of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to the Italian Republic on February 19-21, 2020. The FM noted that the parties, by signing during the visit the “Joint Declaration on Strengthening the Multidimensional Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Italian Republic”, reaffirmed each other as strategic partners, thereby demonstrating a mutual desire to further strengthen cooperation in political, defense, security, economic, trade, energy, transport, innovation, scientific, educational, cultural and other spheres.

Giving the comprehensive information about the 44-day Patriotic War, which resulted in the liberation of the territories of Azerbaijan, Jeyhun Bayramov expressed appreciation for the support of Italy for Azerbaijan's just position on the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which has posed a serious threat to Azerbaijan and the region as a whole for many years.

Vice-President Ettore Rosato said he has a special sympathy for Azerbaijan, thus despite the COVID-19 pandemic, he visited the country with the big delegation and within this trip, they visited the city of Agdam, destroyed by the Armenian armed forces, as well as the city of Ganja, which was shelled by the armed forces of Armenia. Stressing that Azerbaijan's position is just, Ettore Rosato particularly emphasized that Italy is a friendly country for Azerbaijan. At the same time, Ettore Rosato said that the Italian government has always supported the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The parties also hailed the level of cooperation between the foreign relations committees and friendship groups of the Italian and Azerbaijani parliaments.

AZERTAC

Death toll from Armenian military`s crimes against Azerbaijani civilian population reaches 100

[18:40] 07.12.2020

The Prosecutor General`s Office of Azerbaijan has updated statistics on crimes committed by the Armenian armed forces against the civilian population of Azerbaijan from September 27 to December 7.

Civilian casualties from the shelling by the Armenian armed forces of Azerbaijan`s residential settlements using heavy artillery and missiles reached 100, while 416 people were injured, the Office said in a statement.

A total of 4,186 houses, 135 residential buildings and 548 civilian facilities were damaged as a result of heavy artillery and missile attacks by the Armenian army, according to the official statistics.

AZERTAC

Stone inscriptions of Khudavang Monastery Complex bear evidence of tolerant environment in Azerbaijan

[17:38] 07.12.2020

Members of the Azerbaijani Albanian-Udi Christian religious community have recently visited Khudavang Monastery Complex located in Kalbajar district liberated from the Armenian occupation after almost 30 years.

AZERTAC correspondents also joined the historic visit to the complex. Thirty years later, the photos depicting the magnificent images of the Khudavang Monastery Complex were first posted on the website of AZERTAC.

During the visit, Chairman of the Albanian-Udi Christian religious community of Azerbaijan Robert Mobili said that the Khudavang Monastery Complex entirely belonged to the Albanian Apostolic Church, both historically and architecturally. “The Armenians’ falsifications here are clearly visible from the Armenian crosses and many modern elements of the cross installed at the entrance of the monastery and inside the complex,” he noted. “As our President said, all our religious sites destroyed by Armenian vandals will be restored in our liberated lands,” Mobili added.

Professor Gulchohra Mammadova, who studied the architectural features of Khudavang, said that the complex was the largest monastery complex in Azerbaijan. “The complex includes more than a dozen religious and secular buildings of various sizes and designs. An exciting feature of the basilica – one of the oldest buildings of this complex, is the additional building located next to the main altar. These buildings embody unique traditions of temple construction in architecture of Caucasian Albania,” she added.

Historian and scientist, Professor Ibrahim Zeynalov, in his interview to AZERTAC, said that the Arzu Khatun Church, which occupied a central place in the monastery complex, was one of the most valuable examples of Albanian architecture. “There is an inscription on the wall of another building - the temple of Hasan, which is also included in the complex, confirming that it was built in 1182. Family members of the nobility were buried in a large building adjoined to the complex in 1224,” Zeynalov mentioned.

The complex of Khudavang located in the Vang village of Kalbajar district, on the Tartarchay river’s left bank, is one of the largest and most beautiful examples of Azerbaijan’s Christian architecture.

Many construction inscriptions have survived in the Khudavang complex. A number of names indicated therein such as Arzu, Tursun, Hasan, Shams, Altun, Garagoz, etc. should be considered of exact providing the builders’ Turkic identity.

Armenians, who were resettled in Azerbaijan 200 years ago, have resorted to all kinds of falsification of religious, historical and cultural monuments, which belonged to Azerbaijani people, and have made continues efforts towards this throughout history. After the occupation of the Kalbajar district by the Armenian armed forces in 1993, Khudavang Monastery Complex was presented to the world as an Armenian monument.

After the occupation of the Kalbajar district by Armenia in 1993, the early Christian ethnic communities living in Azerbaijan were deprived of the opportunity to visit the monastery for worshipping. The Armenians, on the other hand, presented the Khudavang Monastery Complex to the world as their own, trying to justify this with the elements of the cross they later installed on the building.

We would like to conclude by highlighting the following remarks by President Ilham Aliyev on Albanian churches during his address to the nation on the occasion of liberation of Kalbajar district from occupation: “Suffice it to look at history and anyone can see that in the 1830s, Tsarist Russia abolished the Albanian Church, gave all the property of the Albanian Church to the Armenian Gregorian Church, and Armenian priests and their patrons began to appropriate these churches. Their main task was to erase the history of Caucasian Albania. But we did not allow that to happen. Azerbaijan has a broad scientific base on this issue. There are research works available. These works are and should be shared not only with the scientific community, but also with the world community as a whole. Caucasian Albania was a great state. Gabala was its capital. Historical sites and churches belonging to Caucasian Albania are our historical and cultural heritage. We are protecting these churches. I have visited these churches many times – in the city of Shaki, in Gabala district, the Udi church. As you know, during the war, on the initiative of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the repairs of the ancient Udi Caucasian Albanian Church in Nij settlement was completed and this church was opened.

AZERTAC

Italian MPs visit Alley of Martyrs

[15:00] 07.12.2020

Members of the Italian parliament have visited the Alley of Martyrs in Baku.

The Italian MPs paid tribute to Azerbaijani heroes who gave their lives for the country's independence and territorial integrity, and laid flowers at their graves.

They were informed on the history of the Alley of Martyrs and redevelopment works carried out in Baku.

AZERTAC

The Canberra Times: Thousands demand removal of Armenia's PM

[13:31] 07.12.2020

Australian The Canberra Times newspaper has published an article headlined “Thousands demand removal of Armenia's PM”.

The article reads: “Tens of thousands of opposition supporters have marched across the Armenian capital to push for the resignation of the nation's prime minister over his handling of the conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

In six weeks of fierce fighting that ended with a Russia-brokered peace deal on November 10, the Azerbaijani army reclaimed land that Armenian forces have held for more than quarter of a century.

Armenia's opposition parties warned Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan there would be civil disobedience across the country if he does not resign by noon on Tuesday.

More than 20,000 protesters rallied in Yerevan on Saturday, chanting "Nikol, you traitor" and "Nikol, go away" as they marched to the prime minister's official residence.

Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a separatist war there ended in 1994. That conflict left not only Nagorno-Karabakh itself but large chunks of surrounding lands in Armenian hands.

In 44 days of fighting that began on September 27, Azerbaijani troops routed the Armenian forces and wedged deep into Nagorno-Karabakh, forcing Armenia to accept the November peace deal.

Azerbaijan celebrated the end of fighting as a national triumph, and President Ilham Aliyev established a new national holiday called Victory Day to commemorate the event.”

AZERTAC

ARAB News: Azerbaijan is restoring its territories liberated from Armenian occupation

[11:23] 07.12.2020

The Saudi Arabian Arab News newspaper has published an article by Azerbaijani Ambassador to the country Shahin Abdullayev headlined “Azerbaijan is restoring its territories liberated from Armenian occupation”.

The article reads: “After 44 days, Azerbaijan has won the war against Armenia, which began cross-border heavy shelling and bombardments on civil populations and installations.

It is almost 30 years since the negotiations to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict failed. In late September 2020, however, with the successful military operations of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces, Azerbaijan was able to implement the UN Security Council Resolutions (822, 853, 874, 884) through liberating territories under occupation. Azerbaijan’s military advantage induced the Armenian government to come to the negotiation table. On Nov. 10, 2020, a major step was taken toward resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with the signing of a trilateral statement by Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia.

The agreement comprised the unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories within a definite schedule, the return of all refugees, and the deployment of Russian peacekeepers in several parts of Nagorno-Karabakh. The cardinal element of the statement was that there was no word about the status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

After the active phase of the operations, when footage was released from the liberated territories, it became apparent that Armenians had vandalized cities during the occupation. Armenian damage in the residential areas was accompanied by the destruction of Azikh and Taghlar caves, “Qara kopek” and “Uzarlik” hill kurgans, the first human settlements in the territories. According to the latest data, 63 out of 67 mosques in Nagorno-Karabakh were destroyed, and four of them had major damage. The city of Aghdam became a ghost town, which was home to 150,000 Azerbaijanis before war. During these years the overall loss to the Azerbaijani economy is estimated at hundreds of billions of US dollars.

After the trilateral statement signed on Nov. 10 and ahead of the handover, some Armenians leaving Kalbajar set their houses on fire. Schools, cultural centers and other civilian objects were also burned; consequently, the public infrastructure is significantly damaged. Similar incidents have been observed in many parts of Nagorno-Karabakh. Recently, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev stated that foreign experts will be invited for up-to-date calculations of the damage resulting from the occupation.

Units of the Azerbaijani Army entered Lachin district on Dec 1. The Lachin district had been under the occupation of Armenian Armed Forces since May 18, 1992.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts. The 1994 cease-fire agreement was followed by peace negotiations then further conflict.

Not a single civilian Armenian was killed during the six-week war. Not a single school, house, hospital or educational center was put under fire from Azerbaijan.

At the same time, villagers from outside of Nagorno-Karabakh — in the Kalbajar, Lachin and Aghdam districts — set fire to their homes and forests, killed their cattle, and cut down trees and power lines before fleeing to Armenia ahead of a deadline that would see territories handed over to Azerbaijan as part of a peace agreement. Residents of those districts in Azerbaijan, which have been controlled by Armenian separatists for decades, began a mass exodus after it was announced that Azerbaijan would regain control.

By the destruction of the settlements, Armenians aimed to prevent Azerbaijanis from a possible return. After the Armenian side's capitulation, President Ilham Aliyev said that Azerbaijan would mobilize its economic potential to rebuild and revive Nagorno-Karabakh.

“The situation in the lands liberated from the occupation foreshadows great difficulties. There are currently no living conditions in these places. But we will restore these regions, all our districts, we will take all steps to create a normal life for our citizens,” President Ilham Aliyev said as he addressed the nation.

“The construction of the Fuzuli-Shusha highway and the Barda-Aghdam railway has already begun. This shows that we plan this work as efficiently as possible and, at the same time, in a short time, so that to organize all these activities without wasting time. Relevant state bodies have already been set up and all this work will be carried out in a coordinated manner.”

“The restoration of destroyed and ruined infrastructure, including the felled trees in Lachin, will also be in the spotlight, water reservoirs will be built. This in itself is one of the factors that will have a great impact on the development of agriculture and building an environmental equilibrium,” the President said.

“The overall economic, agricultural and tourism potential of all the liberated districts is great. We must maximize this potential and turn the Karabakh region into one of the most beautiful regions not only in Azerbaijan, but also in the world, and I am sure that we will achieve this.”

Azerbaijan Railways CJSC will be allocated \$2.9 million from the state reserve fund for the design and construction of the Barda-Aghdam railway with a length of 45 km. Another major step was taken with the start of construction of the new Fuzuli-Shusha highway. This highway will pass through the Fuzuli, Khojavand and Khojaly districts, starting from the village of Ahmadbayli in the Fuzuli district. It will cover more than 20 settlements in the regions, including Fuzuli and Shusha.

The speed of the new projects is enabling the rapid development of other infrastructure. The suitability of the region to a plethora of economic activities will orient the capital flow. President Ilham Aliyev said: “Karabakh will be reborn. It will be revived and reinvigorated. It will become a real paradise.”

AZERTAC

December 6

Footage of Zulfugarly village of Kalbajar district released

[17:51] 06.12.2020

The Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan has released a video footage of the Zulfugarly village of the Kalbajar district.

AZERTAC presents the footage.

AZERTAC

Khankendi-bound humanitarian cargo delivered to Ganja

[17:45] 06.12.2020

The humanitarian cargo, sent by the Russian Federation to Khankendi in accordance with the agreement with the Republic of Azerbaijan, has been delivered to Ganja international airport.

The cargo is being further transported via Ganja-Barda-Aghdam-Khankendi motorway.

AZERTAC

Israeli intelligence minister: Azerbaijan is our important geopolitical and geostrategic partner

[13:37] 06.12.2020

“Azerbaijan is our important geopolitical and geostrategic partner,” said Israeli Minister of Intelligence Eli Cohen at a meeting in the Knesset with representatives of the Azerbaijani diaspora organization "Azerbaijan House in Israel". According to the Israeli minister, the State of Israel supports and respects the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

“Next year we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of our inter-governmental relations. During these successful years of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Israel, the great importance of strategic relations between the Jewish state and the multicultural state with Muslim population has been proved. Our friendly states cooperate as real and reliable strategic partners, and we have always stood side by side and shoulder to shoulder next to each other. No other country in Eurasia enjoy as close and sincere relations with Israel as Azerbaijan.”

Minister Cohen thanked the Azerbaijani diaspora for the meeting and said that despite the fact that official Baku has not yet opened a diplomatic mission in Israel, the Azerbaijani government regularly sends official delegations to Israel and, in turn, receives more Israeli guests in Baku. The Israeli minister said: “Despite the pandemic, a significant fact is that the expansion of economic ties with Israel, the purchase of Azerbaijani oil and Israeli investment in Azerbaijan's economy and agriculture continue.” Minister Cohen also hailed the fact that the two countries are promoting educational, humanitarian and cultural projects.

“It should be noted that tolerance and multiculturalism are the foundations of Azerbaijani society. Azerbaijan has always demonstrated that the coexistence of different nations and religions is possible, and any problem can be resolved without the use of force or conflict. It should be noted that President Ilham Aliyev has earned the respect of the vast majority of Israeli society and the Jewish community in the world due to his commitment to the secular state, multiculturalism and tolerance, his sincere attitude to all religions, nations and peoples living in Azerbaijan,” added Eli Cohen.

AZERTAC

Former Turkish ambassador: President Ilham Aliyev's decision to change date of Victory Day is highly commendable

[12:39] 06.12.2020

“President Ilham Aliyev’s Order “On the establishment of Victory Day in the Republic of Azerbaijan” aims to perpetuate the unprecedented victory in the Patriotic War. Azerbaijan honestly deserves to annually celebrate Victory Day on November 10. President Ilham Aliyev’s decision to change the date of Victory Day considering that the Day of Remembrance of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk is marked in Turkey on November 10 is a highly commendable step,” former Turkish ambassador to Azerbaijan Hulusi Kilic has told AZERTAC.

Noting that Ataturk’s personality is always honored with great respect in Azerbaijan, Hulusi Kilic said that national leaders Heydar Aliyev and Mustafa Kemal Ataturk were great personalities who live in people's hearts forever. "Both of them have accomplished historic missions on behalf of Azerbaijan and Turkey."

"I am confident that this wise decision by President Ilham Aliyev will be an excellent topic for researchers studying the Azerbaijani-Turkish relations," the former ambassador mentioned.

Hulusi Kilic expressed his confidence that November 8 - Victory Day would be celebrated as a glorious Victory Day both in Azerbaijan and Turkey.

AZERTAC

Dutch Azerbaijanis stage protest against French Senate and Belgian Parliament resolutions

[11:45] 06.12.2020

Azerbaijani diaspora organizations in the Netherlands have organized a protest rally against the resolutions by the French Senate and Belgian Parliament on the recognition of the self-styled “Nagorno-Karabakh Republic”.

The rally was joined by the Chairman of the Benelux Azerbaijanis Congress in the Netherlands and Belgium Elsever Mammadov, head of the Netherlands-Azerbaijan-Turkey Cultural Center Ilhan Askin, as well as the coordinators of BAC and Azerbaijanis Coordinating Council in the Netherlands Maisa Aghamirzayeva and Lamiya Babayeva.

The rally participants called on France and Belgium to uphold justice and reject the resolutions. Diaspora activist Shamil Mustafayev said that he has handed a protest letter to the Embassy of France. Slogans such as “France, stop supporting Armenian terrorism”, “Karabakh is Azerbaijan” were chanted during the event.

AZERTAC

Milikh Evdayer: Martyrs will forever be in our hearts

[11:15] 06.12.2020

“Today the souls of martyrs who lost their lives for the sake of Azerbaijan rest in peace. They will forever be in our hearts,” Milikh Yevdayev, Head of Religious Community of Mountain Jews, said.

He expressed his happiness over the recent victory and Azerbaijan's reclaiming its historical lands.

AZERTAC

December 5

Azerbaijani, Russian FMs have phone talk

[17:49] 05.12.2020

On December 5, Azerbaijani Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov and Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov held a telephone conversation.

The ministers exchanged their views on the implementation of the trilateral statement of 10 November, 2020 signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia.

The sides also discussed the issues of bilateral cooperation, as well as other regional and international issues of mutual interest.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry reveals funds received by Armed Forces Relief Fund until December 1

[13:55] 05.12.2020

“According to the approved decree №755 of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 17 August 2002, prior to 1 December 2020, the Armed Forces Relief Fund's AZN account amounted to 210.625.007,86 AZN, the dollar account amounted to 11.171.613,65 USD, the Euro account amounted to 181.319,42 EUR, the Turkish lira account amounted to 495.561,33 TRY, the British pound sterling account amounted to 1.844,72 GBP and the ruble account amounted to 5.398.550,00 rubles,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense said.

“It should be pointed out that from November 1 to December 1, the Armed Forces Relief Fund's AZN account amounted to 12.611.973,40 manats, the dollar account amounted to 175.507,81 USD, the euro account amounted to 15.723,23 EUR, the Turkish lira account amounted to 40 TRY, the British pound sterling account amounted to 550 GBP and the ruble account amounted to 336.000,00 RUB.

The leadership of the Ministry of Defense expresses gratitude to everyone who provides financial and moral support.”

AZERTAC

Heydar Aliyev Center, Flame Towers and Baku Olympic Stadium lit up with colors of Azerbaijani flag in commemoration of Patriotic War martyrs

[12:20] 05.12.2020

On December 4, the Heydar Aliyev Center, Flame Towers and Baku Olympic Stadium were illuminated in colors of the national flag of Azerbaijan in commemoration of memory of the Patriotic War martyrs, who sacrificed their lives for the territorial integrity of the country.

In response to Armenia's continued provocations and military aggression, on September 27, 2020, the people of Azerbaijan stood up for the Patriotic war to put an end to Armenia's nearly thirty-year occupation policy and liberate our lands from the clutches of the enemy. As a result of 44-day military operations, the Azerbaijani people won a historic victory and the territorial integrity of our country was restored. 2,783 servicemen of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces died in the Patriotic War.

AZERTAC

December 4

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated Yanshag village of Kalbajar district

[19:23] 04.12.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released a video footage of the liberated from occupation Yanshag village of Kalbajar district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Recep Tayyip Erdogan: France has lost its mediator role within OSCE Minsk group

[18:42] 04.12.2020

France has lost its mediator role within the OSCE Minsk group, said Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

“French President Emmanuel Macron is a trouble for France. With Macron, France is going through a very dangerous time. I hope that France will get rid of the Macron trouble as soon as possible,” Erdogan said.

He also recalled Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev`s remarks against the French resolution, which said: “If France wants this so much, it can give Marseille to Armenians”.

“I give the same advice to France,” Erdogan noted, adding: “As simple as that.”

He reiterated that Karabakh belongs to Azerbaijan, and had been under Armenia's occupation for 28 years.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry: Resolution of French National Assembly is another provocative activity of French Parliament

[17:34] 04.12.2020

“The adoption of the resolution of the French National Assembly entitled "Protection of the Armenian people and the Christian communities of Europe and the East" is another completely unfounded, unfriendly and provocative activity of the French Parliament. The adoption of a biased resolution by the Lower House following the Senate is a sign of the ongoing campaign against Azerbaijan,” said Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“As the name of the resolution suggests, the members of the National Assembly, who have nothing to do with reality and want to add religious tones to the issue, try to present their pro-Armenian positions with artificial justification.

Azerbaijan is a multi-ethnic and multi-confessional state where people of different religions and ethnicities live as one family in harmony and peace. We reject the attempts to present the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict as a clash of religions and civilizations, and strongly condemn such an approach, which poses a serious threat to peace and security.

This resolution has no legal force. Nevertheless, given the political significance of the National Assembly document, as in the case of the Senate, we would like to emphasize that these fundamentally wrong resolutions contradict the norms and principles of international law, the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, UN Security Council resolutions of 1993, as well as bilateral documents between Azerbaijan and France.

This action by the French legislative body seriously undermines the country's mediation mandate, as well as bilateral relations.

It should also be noted that the French National Assembly has never held a hearing or adopted a resolution on the one million Azerbaijanis who have been subjected to ethnic cleansing and fundamental human rights violations. This clearly demonstrates that the position of the French legislative body is completely biased.

The National Assembly's approach, which completely contradicts the provisions of the statement of the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia of November 10, 2020, seriously undermines the efforts to ensure peace and security both in the region and globally.

We would like to note that the Ambassador of France to Azerbaijan will be summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in connection with the adoption of the groundless and biased resolution by the National Assembly, and the strong protest of Azerbaijan will be brought to his attention,” the Foreign Ministry said.

AZERTAC

First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva: We will never forget Patriotic War martyrs

[17:08] 04.12.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has made an Instagram post about the martyrs who died in the Patriotic War. AZERTAC presents the post.

“Dear brothers and sisters!

Today, we commemorate the martyrs who died in the battles of the Patriotic War.

The brave sons of Azerbaijani people sacrificed their lives for the Victory, for the future of Azerbaijan.

Each of them is a real hero, an embodiment of valor and fearlessness.

Today I mourn together with the families of our martyrs and bow my head in front of the parents who raised their sons who are ready to sacrifice their lives for the Motherland. The blood of our martyrs was not shed in vain – we restored historical justice, won the sacred Victory. This Victory has forever went done in the history of Azerbaijani people!

It is the duty of each of us to remember at what cost Victory was achieved! We will never forget the martyrs of the Patriotic War. They will forever remain in our hearts.

May Allah rest the souls of our martyrs in peace! I pray to God for the speedy recovery of the wounded and wish patience to their families and relatives. May the Almighty God protect Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani people!”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan Army honors memory of Shehids of Patriotic War

[16:27] 04.12.2020

“According to the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a minute of silence was announced at 12:00 in the Combined Arms Army, Air Force, Naval Forces, Army Corps, formations, military units, and special military educational institutions in order to pay tribute to the memory of the Shehids (martyrs) of the Patriotic War who sacrificed their lives for the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan,” the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was resolved by military-political means

[14:10] 04.12.2020

“On September 27th Armenia launched large-scale military aggression against Azerbaijan. During 44 days, armed forces of Armenia heavily shelled Tartar and other cities of Azerbaijan situated along the frontline. Armenia fired ballistic missile against Ganja, Barda, Mingachevir, Gabala, Siyazan and other cities which are far away from frontline. They used heavy artillery, ballistic missiles, white phosphorus, cluster munitions to cause mass casualties and forced displacement among Azerbaijani civilians. 94 civilians, including 11 children were killed, more than 400 wounded,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he addressed a Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in response to COVID-19 pandemic at the Level of the Heads of State and Government.

The head of state said: “Azerbaijani Army responded adequately and defended its citizens and territory and launched successful counter attack operation which resulted in liberation of large parts of our occupied territories. Military victory of Azerbaijan during the military operations forced aggressor to surrender and led to signing of trilateral statement of the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Russia and Armenia’s Prime Minister on November 10th, which provided liberation of other occupied territories. Since that time the regime of ceasefire is holding for almost a month. Turkey and Russia play an important role in ensuring ceasefire through Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Center.”

“The Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was resolved by military-political means. In the absence of compliance with the international law it was inevitable to ensure the implementation of Security Council resolutions by force. As a result of which, the aggressor state was enforced to peace,” the President added.

AZERTAC

Ambassador Zacharie Gross: French government does not recognize independence of Karabakh

[13:15] 04.12.2020

“The French government does not recognize the independence of Karabakh,” Ambassador of France to Azerbaijan Zacharie Gross said on Twitter.

“I think one thing should be abundantly clear to all by now. The French government recognizes the independence of its Parliament. It does not recognize the independence of Karabakh,” the ambassador tweeted.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva paid tribute to Azerbaijani martyrs

[12:08] 04.12.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva have today visited the Alley of Martyrs to pay tribute to the Azerbaijani martyrs.

The head of state laid a wreath at the Eternal Flame monument, while first lady Mehriban Aliyeva put flowers at the monument.

The state anthem of Azerbaijan was played.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan observes nationwide moment of silence for Patriotic War martyrs

[12:01] 04.12.2020

A nationwide moment of silence to honor the memory of the Patriotic War martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan was observed at 12:00 on December 4 across Azerbaijan.

Ships and cars sounded sirens throughout the country. The traffic movement was halted for a minute, with the national flag lowered on all buildings.

The icon of the Day of Remembrance is "Khari Bulbul", which is considered a symbol of Shusha.

On December 3, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev signed an Order on the commemoration of martyrs of the Patriotic War.

Commemorative events to honor martyrs of the Patriotic War will be held in all mosques, churches and synagogues of all the cities and regions of Azerbaijan.

2,783 servicemen of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces died in the Patriotic War. Currently, 1,245 servicemen are being treated in medical institutions.

May Allah rest the souls of our Shehids in peace!

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: We remember our martyrs with respect

[12:00] 04.12.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has made a post on his official Facebook account about the Azerbaijani heroes martyred in the Patriotic War.

“We remember our martyrs with respect,” the post said.

AZERTAC

Uzbek citizen expresses shock at Armenian atrocities in Kalbajar

[09:36] 04.12.2020

A citizen of Uzbekistan has said he is shocked by the Armenian atrocities that were committed in Kalbajar.

In his letter addressed to the Azerbaijani ambassador in Moldova, Adashali Muydinov said: "Recently, I have watched a large number of programs highlighting the latest situation in the Karabakh region. I was totally shocked and devastated by what I saw: burned houses and forests, desecrated graves. Wake up, Armenian people! Don't you understand that you are committing an ultimate sin? Don't you know that everyone is equal before God? Do not destroy, but create."

He personally handed his letter to Ambassador Huseyn Guliyev.

During the meeting, Muydinov extended his sincere congratulations to the Azerbaijani President, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, as well as Azerbaijani people on the occasion of the glorious Victory over Armenian armed forces.

Ambassador Guliyev provided an insight into the Second Karabakh War that erupted on September 27 and came to a halt by a Russia-brokered truce on November 10. "As a result of successful military operations conducted by the courageous Azerbaijani Army on the occupied territories, the cities of Fuzuli, Zangilan, Qubadli, Jabrayil, as well as Shusha, the crown of Karabakh have all been liberated."

Gulu Kangarli
Special correspondent
AZERTAC

December 3

Jeyhun Bayramov: Non-compliance with international law and with OSCE principles lie behind the immediate causes of violent conflicts

[20:08] 03.12.2020

“Non-compliance with international law and with OSCE principles lie behind the immediate causes of violent conflicts, which continue to pose a serious threat to regional peace and security,” said Azerbaijan’s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov as he addressed the 27th meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

“This year we commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 30th anniversary of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, which form a common foundation of security for all participating States. The principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and reconfirmed in the Charter of Paris, in particular those related to sovereign equality, territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers, remain valid as ever before and form the basis for our relations,” FM Bayramov noted.

“On this solemn occasion, the participating States must reaffirm their commitment to ensuring unconditional respect for, and implementation of, the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, without any exception, double standards, geographic or any other preferences,” the FM mentioned.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov said: “The trilateral statement signed on 10 November 2020 between Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia has created a ground for putting an end to the almost three-decades-long armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The implementation of this agreement ensured the cessation of all military activities and the return of the Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachin districts to Azerbaijan.

The 10 November Statement also contains an important provision related to the return of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to their homes under the supervision of the UNHCR.

The agreement also envisages the removal of obstacles to all economic and transport links in the region and guarantees for the safe movement of persons, vehicles and cargo between Armenia and Azerbaijan in both directions, including the connection between mainland Azerbaijan and its Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

Under the trilateral statement, the Joint Monitoring Center of the Russian Federation and Turkey will be established to monitor the implementation of agreements by Armenia and Azerbaijan.”

Expressing his gratitude to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Turkey for their respective contributions to make this agreement a reality, FM Bayramov noted: “These neighboring states play an important role as guarantors of the above-mentioned agreement, implementation of which will ensure long-overdue peace and stability in the South Caucasus region.”

“Sustaining peace, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, providing humanitarian assistance to those in need, including returning IDPs and refugees, should be an absolute priority. To this end, Azerbaijan is ready to work with relevant international partners, including ICRC, UNHCR and other UN agencies as well as individual States, which are willing to contribute to peace and stability in the region, in full compliance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on humanitarian assistance of 1991,” the minister added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, Turkish FMs hold phone talk

[18:46] 03.12.2020

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has had a telephone conversation with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu.

During the telephone conversation, the ministers exchanged their views on the 27th meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, as well as other regional issues of mutual interest.

AZERTAC

2,783 Azerbaijani soldiers martyred in Patriotic War

[18:45] 03.12.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released information about the servicemen who were killed and wounded in the Patriotic War.

The Ministry said: “In response to the military aggression of Armenia against our country, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief on September 27, 2020, started the Patriotic War in order to liberate our lands from occupation.

The military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, fighting heroically and bravely in the Patriotic War, inflicted crushing blows on the armed forces of Armenia, destroyed complex engineering construction and bunkers built by Armenia on our occupied lands for many years, and, breaking through the echeloned and densely mined defensive lines, liberated our lands from occupation.

Despite the fact that the Armenian armed forces possessed the most of the strategic high grounds, advantageous combat positions, our glorious and fearless soldiers and officers fighting under the fire strikes of artillery, numerous multiple launch rocket systems, and mortar pieces, as well as in difficult geographical, relief and climatic conditions, managed to defeat Armenia.

The liberation of the city of Shusha, the crown of Karabakh, is one of the unique military operations in world military history.

Our lands, which we dreamed of for almost 30 years, were liberated from occupation at the cost of the blood and lives of our Shehids (martyrs). Highly professional development of combat operations plans, the use of high technologies, effective interoperability of various types of troops, absolute air superiority, maneuverability, and other tactical and strategic advantages of our army have significantly reduced our losses in military personnel. But there is no war without losses.

During the Patriotic War, 2,783 servicemen of our Armed Forces died in combat. Work is underway to identify 103 servicemen among them using DNA analysis. More than 100 of our servicemen are considered as missing. Necessary activities are being taken to find them and inform their families. Currently, 1,245 servicemen are being treated in medical institutions.

Detailed information on the names of the dead servicemen, their date of birth, military rank, and combat path will be additionally presented to the country's public. The Commission, consisting of employees of the relevant government agencies, is working in this sphere.

May Allah rest the souls of all our Shehids!

We bow our heads in front of our Shehids!”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan to celebrate Victory Day every year on November 8

[17:04] 03.12.2020

Taking into account that the Day of Remembrance of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is celebrated in Turkey on November 10, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a decision to change the date of Victory Day.

Victory Day will be celebrated in Azerbaijan every year on November 8.

The liberation of the city of Shusha, the pearl of Karabakh, after 28 years of occupation on November 8 played a decisive role in the fate of the war, led to the recognition of the defeat of the enemy's political and military leadership and the cessation of the hostilities.

Taking into account the historical significance of the city of Shusha and its liberation from occupation, this unprecedented victory - Victory Day, which has become a triumph of the combat determination and strength of our people, which is of exceptional importance for the future development and prestige of our state, will be solemnly celebrated every year on November 8.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev signs order on commemoration of Patriotic War martyrs

[16:25] 03.12.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has signed an Order on the commemoration of martyrs of the Patriotic War.

Under the presidential Order, on December 4, at 12:00, a minute of silence will be observed across the country to pay tribute to martyrs of the Patriotic War who sacrificed their lives for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

AZERTAC

Patriotic War Memorial Complex and Victory Museum to be established in Baku

[16:11] 03.12.2020

President Ilham Aliyev has signed an Order on the establishment of the Patriotic War Memorial Complex and the Victory Museum in the city of Baku.

Under the presidential Order, the Patriotic War Memorial Complex and the Victory Museum will be designed to demonstrate the unprecedented heroism and glorious historic victory of the Azerbaijani people in the Patriotic War and to perpetuate the memory of Azerbaijani martyrs.

AZERTAC

Information of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan

[16:02] 03.12.2020

In response to Armenia's continued provocations and military aggression, on September 27, 2020, the people of Azerbaijan stood up for the Patriotic war to put an end to Armenia's nearly thirty-year occupation policy and liberate our lands from the clutches of the enemy. As a result of 44-day military operations, the Azerbaijani people gained a historic victory and the territorial integrity of our country was restored.

According to the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the establishment of Victory Day in the Republic of Azerbaijan" of December 2, 2020, in order to perpetuate the unprecedented victory in the Patriotic War, it was decided to annually celebrate November 10 as Victory Day in Azerbaijan.

At the same time, November 10 is the Day of Remembrance of the founder of the Republic of Turkey Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, a great figure whose name is inscribed in golden letters in the history of the Turkic world. National leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev said: "As much as Mustafa Kemal Ataturk is dear and respected by the Turks, he is also dear and respected by the Azerbaijanis". Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who loved Azerbaijan with all his heart and said that "The joy of Azerbaijan is our joy, its sorrow is our sorrow", has a place in the heart of every Azerbaijani, and his memory is honored with great respect in our country.

Taking into account that the Day of Remembrance of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk is celebrated in Turkey on November 10, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a decision to change the date of Victory Day.

The liberation of the city of Shusha, dear to every Azerbaijani, the pearl of Karabakh, after 28 years of occupation on November 8 played a decisive role in the fate of the war, led to the recognition of the defeat of the enemy's political and military leadership and the cessation of the hostilities.

Taking into account the historical significance of the city of Shusha and its liberation from occupation, this unprecedented victory - Victory Day, which has become a triumph of the combat determination and strength of our people, which is of exceptional importance for the future development and prestige of our state, will be solemnly celebrated every year on November 8.

Video footage of Husulu and Malibay villages of Lachin district

[14:08] 03.12.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense has released a video footage of the liberated from occupation Husulu and Malibay villages of Lachin district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan`s defense minister meets with commander of peacekeeping forces
deployed in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan**

[13:57] 03.12.2020

Azerbaijan`s Minister of Defense Colonel General Zakir Hasanov has met with Commander of the Russian peacekeeping forces deployed in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan Lieutenant General Rustam Muradov.

The sides discussed the issues of the fulfillment of the provision of the Joint Statement by the presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia, and the prime minister of Armenia.

AZERTAC

Incoming Afghan ambassador presents copy of his credentials to Azerbaijani FM

[13:20] 03.12.2020

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has received a copy of credentials of the newly appointed Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the country Amanullah Jayhoon.

FM Bayramov congratulated Ambassador Amanullah Jayhoon on his appointment and hailed the close relations of friendship and cooperation between Azerbaijan and Afghanistan. It was noted with gratitude that Afghanistan supported Azerbaijan's rightful position on the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which had been a serious threat to the security of Azerbaijan and the region as a whole for many years, especially the support demonstrated during the recent military operations.

FM Bayramov noted that there is a great potential for further development of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Amanullah Jayhoon congratulated the FM and the people of Azerbaijan on the victory achieved under the leadership of Commander-in-Chief of Azerbaijan, President Ilham Aliyev. It was stressed that Afghanistan has always stood by Azerbaijan's rightful position and clearly demonstrated this support. The ambassador said that Afghanistan values relations with Azerbaijan and he will spare no effort to further develop bilateral cooperation.

The sides exchanged views on expanding cooperation on international platforms, as well as other issues of mutual interest.

Minister Bayramov wished the ambassador success in his future endeavors.

AZERTAC

Journalistic reflections: forty-four moments of a sunny autumn

[12:11] 03.12.2020

Mighty commander and wise President Ilham Aliyev turned us into a victorious nation and created new realities in the region

The Patriotic War, which broke out on a fine autumn night, lasted 44 days – as if nature itself favored us as well, warming us with its soothing breath. There has never been such an autumn in my lifetime – one that understandably tamed the dashing temper and delayed the rains and winds until later. Otherwise, the fighting in the mountains would have a real test of strength.

Every moment, every sunny day, which became the embodiment of true heroism, brought us closer to the cherished goal – the liberation of Karabakh. Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev and Azerbaijani soldiers expelling the invader from our lands day after day, and the Azerbaijani people rallying into a mighty fist created a truly heroic epic.

These 44 days irrevocably changed the 30-year-old sorrowful destiny of Karabakh, forever removing the label of forced migrants from the fates of a million people. They made us a victorious nation and created new realities in the region...

Prayers accepted in a God's home

Aghdam, 23 November. President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva kiss the wall of the Aghdam mosque, take off their shoes at the entrance and walk along the flooring of a dilapidated building covered with sand and dust. You should go over this footage too, dear readers (video.azertag.az/site/video/107767). Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, kissing the holy Quran, extends it to President Ilham Aliyev. The head of state, touching the holy book with his lips, puts it on the table. The President and the first lady perform a prayer.

It will transpire later that Ilham Aliyev presented the Aghdam mosque with the Koran he had brought from Mecca. Talking about his pilgrimage to Muslim shrines, President Ilham Aliyev noted that he had been to Mecca four times – once with his father, national leader Heydar Aliyev, and three times as head of state. “I am happy that I prayed with my family inside the Holy Kaaba. I have the same feelings in my heart as everyone else. My first prayer was for the liberation of our lands from occupation. I asked God to give me the strength to liberate our lands from the occupiers, to give us this happiness and to return to the land of our ancestors. Today, in front of the mosque destroyed by vandals, I am saying that I am a happy man. I thank God again for hearing my prayers and giving me this strength. We are living through these historic days having mobilized all our forces. These are truly historic days. Perhaps there have never been such glorious and proud days in the centuries-old history of Azerbaijan.”

Listening to the President's historic speech in front of the Aghdam mosque, the lines from Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva's prayer in the first days of the Patriotic War come to mind: “May the Almighty God protect the Azerbaijani people in their sacred struggle! May the Almighty grant every Azerbaijani the opportunity to kiss the sacred land of Karabakh!”

One can't but recall the pilgrimage of national leader Heydar Aliyev to Mecca. When journalists asked him what he was praying for, he said, "I prayed for Karabakh, Azerbaijan and our people," Heydar Aliyev replied.

For the past 30 years, every Azerbaijani regardless of where they live prayed for the same. And the Almighty heeded our prayers. With God's help, thanks to the unbending resolve of our President and the valiant army, we brought the sworn enemy to its knees. We had the opportunity to kiss the sacred Karabakh land...

A mighty commander who fulfilled his father's covenant

On 8 November, the day of the liberation of Shusha from the occupation, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev visited the Alley of Honor, where he paid a tribute of respect to the blessed memory of national leader Heydar Aliyev. On the same day, in his address to the people from the Alley of Martyrs, the head of state uttered words that moved our hearts: "... I am happy because I have fulfilled my father's covenant. We have liberated Shusha! This is a great victory! The souls of our martyrs and the national leader are rejoicing today! Congratulations to Azerbaijan! I congratulate Azerbaijanis all over the world!"

Listening to this historic address, I recalled the tireless efforts of the national leader to resolve the Karabakh conflict, the tense days and shocks he went through. I personally witnessed this as a journalist who had the honor of covering the state activities of Heydar Aliyev, his foreign visits, meetings with heads of state and government, and numerous negotiations to resolve the conflict. At first, Heydar Aliyev always took a map on his foreign visits and patiently explained to a wide audience during his meetings who Karabakh belonged to. At that time, many countries of the world and politicians, having fallen under the influence of the Armenian lobby, had been misguided. The national leader took every opportunity to convey the truth about Karabakh to the world. Already in his advanced years and in spite of health problems, he covered great distances and flew across the oceans. I remember his visit to France on 5 March 2001 quite vividly. Less than a month later, on 3 April, Heydar Aliyev left for distant America. In Paris and Key West, he held difficult and tense negotiations that lasted for days. Every time the process was drawing to a close, an invisible obstacle arose that nullified all the previous effort.

War or peace? This question haunted Heydar Aliyev. Looking through my archives, I came across his speech of many years ago, in which he voiced some truly visionary phrases that echo with the present day: "...We will resolve this issue, it just takes time. No-one can take our land away from us. Our occupied territories will definitely be returned. At any cost."

The national leader expressed his firm conviction for a return of the occupied lands at a difficult time for our country, when Azerbaijan had just gained independence and got on its feet. At that time, we did not have a full-fledged army and the equipment necessary to return the occupied lands by force. The time Heydar Aliyev spoke about came almost 20 years later. In the 17 years of his presidency, the son of the national leader, Ilham Aliyev, created a mighty Azerbaijan, established a strong army, which is now considered one of world's top 50 most powerful armies. Our army has the most advanced weapons in its arsenal many countries can envy. It was this army that chased the invaders from our lands like dogs acting on the order of its Commander-in-Chief. Azerbaijani soldiers put an end to 30-year occupation at the cost of their lives.

At any cost

Anyone who looks over the history of the last 17 years will understand that Ilham Aliyev did not want war. He wanted the liberation of our lands without sacrifice and bloodshed. From year to year, the head of our state continued peace negotiations, hoping that the OSCE Minsk Group would take effective steps to resolve the conflict. The President showed remarkable patience, put forward his own conditions, warned that Azerbaijan would not allow a second Armenian state to be created on its territory. Ilham Aliyev was stressing that Azerbaijan would liberate its lands at any cost. This meant that if negotiations were not successful, there would be no other option but to resort to a forceful settlement of the conflict.

Minsk Group co-chair countries, international organizations and leaders of major power centers kept repeating the same thing: the conflict must be resolved peacefully and there is no military solution. The president of Azerbaijan stated in return – if necessary, we will resort to a military solution and war should never be discounted. In one of his speeches, Ilham Aliyev said: “At various stages in the negotiations, we were repeatedly offered to abandon the use of force. I never agreed to that. I was even accused of wanting to start a war. I said that I want to resolve the issue peacefully, but the issue must be resolved. What did Armenia want? It wanted to maintain the status quo, make it eternal. They believed that if they achieved what they wanted for 26-27 years, they would continue to achieve that.”

Sooner or later, patience runs out. The actions of Armenia’s presumptuous prime minister Pashinyan, his absurd statements crossed out everything that had been achieved in the course of the peace process and became the last straw that overflowed the cup of patience of our people and the President. Pashinyan said: “Karabakh is Armenia and full stop”. He said he would build a road to Jabrayil. He held a swearing-in ceremony in Shusha, danced in a drunken stupor on Jidir Duzu in Shusha, talked about plans to move the parliament to Shusha, start a “new war for new territories”. He threatened to start a war and get to Baku. This was followed by a treacherous attack in the Tovuz direction of the border. An Armenian sabotage group tried to enter the territory of Azerbaijan. Finally, in the early hours of 27 September, the Armenians resorted to a military provocation in Karabakh, after which the Commander-in-Chief ordered to start a counteroffensive.

Everyone knows what happened after that. AZERTAC kept a chronicle of the triumphant march of the Azerbaijani army in Karabakh. Reports of the successes achieved was circulated in eight languages. Readers can familiarize themselves with our summaries from the combat zone in the sections CƏBHƏ XƏBƏRLƏRİ; НОВОСТИ С ФРОНТА; FRONTLINE NEWS; NACHRICHTEN VON DER FRON; NOUVELLES DE LA LIGNE DE FRONT; NOTICIAS DE FRONTERA; الجبهة خط من أخبار; 前线新闻 on the official website of our news agency.

The Azerbaijani army took 44 days to crush the enemy forces with an iron fist, to plant the national flag in Jabrayil, Fuzuli, Zangilan, Gubadli, Murovdag, Sugovushan, Hadrut, Shusha – in a total of five cities, four settlements and 286 villages, forcing the enemy to surrender.

In terms of its pace, use of modern technology, especially drones, a skillful conduct of combat operations, the combat capability of officers and soldiers, as well as other parameters, the second Karabakh war entered the world’s military history as a war of the 21st century. Along with the Azerbaijani model of development in the international arena, the world is already talking about the Azerbaijani model of war.

21st century war

We will leave the analysis and assessment of the Patriotic War, crowned with the Great Victory of the Azerbaijan Army, as well as the examination of the tactics of warfare to the judgment of military experts and specialists. This war, which lasted 44 days, will be talked about after 44 years. I just want to share my thoughts and observations on this matter.

For 30 years, Armenia, with the active participation of its patrons, including the military engineers of France, was erecting three, four and sometimes even five defense lines along the entire front, creating deeply echeloned defense systems, insurmountable fortifications and obstacles. The main strategic heights were in the hands of the enemy. Difficult terrain, mountains and gorges created additional advantages for the enemy forces. In addition, armaments worth at least \$2-3 billion were donated to Armenia.

Obviously, the occupying army relied on engineering fortifications, countless defensive and offensive weapons in its arsenal. Apparently also counting on this, Pashinyan was voicing threats with foam at his mouth. Suffice it to mention the names of some of the weapons donated to Armenia to get an idea of the scale of support for the invader: S-300, S-125, Osa, Cube, Tor, Krug, Tochka-U antiaircraft weapons system, Elbrus tactical missile system, Acacia, Carnation, Smerch, Grad, Uragan self-propelled artillery mounts, as well as Su-25 attack aircraft, drones, anti-tank weapons, radar stations, ballistic missiles and more...

Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, in his address to the people in connection with the liberation of Lachin district on 1 December, published a list of the enemy equipment destroyed and captured as spoils of war. It turned out to be a long list. Specialists are well aware of the power and cost of this military equipment.

The second Karabakh war showed that the Azerbaijani army is equipped with the most advanced weapons. Thanks to the high-precision strikes of Turkish “Bayraktar” and Israeli drones, hundreds of units of the enemy’s military equipment were neutralized and thousands of enemy soldiers were destroyed in the first days of hostilities. For the first time in the 21st century, such impressive results of hostilities were achieved in a short time. The footage circulated by the Ministry of Defense is already being scrupulously studied in many countries. This information is likely to be included in textbooks on military affairs.

But it is not only about the arsenal. The President has repeatedly emphasized the invaluable merits of the brave Azerbaijani soldiers who planted our flag on the liberated lands. Our soldiers and officers fought like lions. The heroism and professionalism of the Azerbaijani army crushed the defensive lines of the enemy forces, crowning the battles in Shusha with a brilliant victory...

Operation in Shusha, unprecedented in modern military history

The details of the Patriotic War have not yet been fully disclosed, but we can confidently state that the operation to liberate Shusha will go down in history forever.

It was impossible to approach Shusha, considered the crown and heart of Karabakh, with tanks. There were two options for taking the impregnable fortified city. The first of these consisted of the use of air strikes and cannons, but the command rejected this idea because bombing would entail great destruction. Hand-to-hand combat was suggested as an alternative. The heroic soldiers

and officers of the Azerbaijani army armed with firearms made their way through dense forests and deep gorges, climbed mountains and slopes, clashing with the enemy in a hand-to-hand combat and destroying it.

A foreign journalist who visited Khankandi during the battles for Shusha described the helpless state of the Armenians as follows: “The defenders of Shusha have been defeated. Piled on top of each other in the bodies of military vehicles, dozens of them are being taken to the Khankandi hospital. The rest descend from the mountains – tired and throwing off their military gear on the go. Ambulances carrying wounded soldiers zip one after another. The wounds soldiers have received testify to hand-to-hand fighting.” Another report circulated by Le Monde in those days said that the defeated Armenian army personnel were leaving Shusha and fleeing to Khankandi.

On 8 November, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev conveyed to the people the great news of the liberation of Shusha. This victory actually predetermined the outcome of the war. The next day, the liberation of more than 70 settlements was reported, and then Pashinyan, accepting the conditions of the President of Azerbaijan, was forced to sign an act of surrender. As a result, Aghdam district was liberated without a single shot or casualties on 20 November, Kalbajar district on 25 November and Lachin district of Azerbaijan on 1 December.

The Azerbaijani army is an army of warriors-liberators, while the Armenian army is an army of occupiers. Azerbaijani soldiers fought on their own lands, while Armenians fought in foreign territory. This was our moral superiority. The fighting spirit and patriotism of our servicemen played no less important role than the weaponry. Armenian soldiers deserted from their military units en masse, not wanting to fight. In fact, footage of an Armenian serviceman chained to his position were circulated during the war. Meanwhile, Azerbaijani soldiers who had not yet recovered from their wounds were eager to go back to the frontline. Armenians resorted to all sorts of tricks to evade military service, while in Azerbaijan people queued up in front of military enlistment offices to go to the front.

The Patriotic War and its heroic episode, the operation in Shusha, clearly showed who is who. This battle debunked the myth of “an invincible Armenian army”, demonstrated our strength to the enemy and indeed the whole world, becoming a triumph of justice...

Struggle on three fronts and a crushing victory

Weapons are not the only determinants of the outcome of modern wars. The final victory is achieved on the battlefield, in the information space and in the diplomatic plane. A clear confirmation of this is the crushing victory of Azerbaijan in the Patriotic War, which was the result of many years of building an army, focused foreign policy and tireless diplomatic efforts.

In this regard, numerous interviews of the head of our state with foreign media during the active phase of hostilities in Karabakh are worthy of special attention. Thanks to his in-depth knowledge and irrefutable arguments, President Ilham Aliyev managed to neutralize the slanderous campaign launched by pro-Armenian media and single-handedly broke through the information front. Some Western journalists, apparently having received a specific assignment and leaving aside the essence of the matter, referred to fake information and put forward unfounded accusations against the Azerbaijani side. Questions were persistently repeated about Turkey's participation in the conflict, the use of F-35, the involvement of mercenaries from Syria and Libya,

the violation of the ceasefire and many others. The President, patiently and without succumbing to provocations, denied the accusations with facts and arguments, talked about the history of Karabakh and the reasons for the conflict. In a word, using the opportunity, he communicated the true state of affairs to the world.

I would like to dwell on Ilham Aliyev's interview with German ARD TV channel.

Question: When we were there, on that territory, we wondered why Karabakh is so important for Azerbaijan? Are there resources there or does it represent some kind of a symbolic meaning?

Answer: Are Alsace and Lorraine important to you? Is Bavaria important to you? Or Rhine-Westphalia? This is our land, our internationally recognized territory. This is not a matter of resources. The main resources are here in Baku. It is a matter of justice, a matter of national pride and international law.

The answer is short and concise. At the same time, it is so deep and effective that hardly any Western correspondent will dare to ask our President a similar question again.

Looking back over the past 17 years, we can see that President Ilham Aliyev did everything possible to keep the Nagorno-Karabakh issue on the agenda. The head of state raised this issue at meetings, during his speeches, spoke about it from the stands of international organizations and in interviews. Ilham Aliyev tried to convey the realities to the world community, explaining who is the aggressor in this conflict and who is the victim. Everyone knows that now. And this is one of the main factors that determined the triumph of Azerbaijan in the Patriotic War.

Azerbaijan's victory on the battlefield is eloquently characterized by two striking pictures: the victorious and proudly towering Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev and the head of the defeated Armenian army Pashinyan. The Azerbaijani people proudly carried a portrait of the head of state over their heads, while in Armenia Pashinyan became an object of ridicule and a character of anecdotes.

"Pashinyan, you were supposed to build a road to Jabrayil? So? Where is that road? You were supposed to erect a parliament building in Shusha, so? Everything went to hell," President Ilham Aliyev exclaimed mockingly speaking about the Armenian prime minister's silly bravado. The words of the head of state have firmly entered the everyday life of Azerbaijanis, becoming a catch phrase. Those who let their words go down the drain are embarrassed with the words Ilham Aliyev said to the Armenian prime minister: "So, Pashinyan?"...

Incinerated land and the future of Karabakh

In the past, a scorched earth tactic was used in wars. Retreating, the invaders sowed destruction after themselves, plundered and carried away everything they could, and set the rest on fire. This was done so that the local population, the true owner of the land, could not settle in its original lands. In 1977, Article 54 of Protocol No. 1 of the Geneva Convention prohibited the scorched earth tactics. Such actions are regarded as war crimes.

In the 21st century, Armenians are using this barbaric tactic in front of the entire civilized world. As the President of Azerbaijan rightly noted, there is a feeling that a barbarian tribe has swept through these lands. Images of the cities and villages liberated from the occupation are filled

with pain. Armenian savages left behind lifeless ruins ... They cut down trees, burned forests, made the land useless. Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Zangilan are like a desert. Aghdam covered with ruins has turned into a ghost town.

And this is not all the war crimes committed by the Armenians. The Armenian armed forces twice bombed Ganja with ballistic missiles and dropped cluster bombs on Barda. A myriad of shells were fired at Tartar, Aghdam and Goranboy. Civilians – children, women, the elderly – became victims of Armenian fascism; thousands of houses, buildings and infrastructure were destroyed. I can't list everything. Photos, videos, reports and news, reflecting the atrocious crimes of Armenians are provided in the “The world must see Armenian fascism” section on the official website of AZERTAC in seven languages (#Russian, #English, #German, #French, #Spanish, #Arabic, #Chinese). Let the world see the barbaric essence of the Armenians, let it finally realize who we have to deal with. We have not only crushed the Armenian occupiers, but also rid the world of Armenian fascism, which poses a serious threat to all mankind.

On the President's instruction, trips of representatives of the diplomatic corps are being organized to the regions of Azerbaijan liberated from occupation. Thus, foreign diplomats have the opportunity to see Armenian savagery firsthand. The monstrous destruction committed by the Armenian vandals will be documented and submitted to the international court. This time, the Armenian fascists will not get away with it.

The enemy believed that the destruction would scare away the Azerbaijanis and dispel the desire to return to these lands. But they were wrong. For 30 years, the Azerbaijani people have been living with the dream of returning to their native lands, cherishing the dream of Karabakh. During a trip to Fuzuli and Aghdam liberated from occupation, President Ilham Aliyev announced plans for the future of Karabakh. The head of state said that all cities and villages would be restored in accordance with the master plan. The state will provide assistance to citizens returning to their native lands. A road from Fuzuli to Shusha is already under construction. Historical roads leading to the villages of Sugovushan and Talish are being restored.

The second Karabakh war has created a new reality in the region. Our picturesque Karabakh, where thunderstorms once raged over its head, now looks to the future with great hope. In Shusha and in the Aghdam mosque, the adhan is heard again after 27 years, the famous “Karabakh shikastasi” is sung on Karabakh land again. Almost 30 years later on, life returns to these lands...

A new reality in the region or an epilogue

The successful end of the Patriotic War changed the balance of powers in the region and created a new reality. We are not alone. Fraternal Turkey is next to us. Turkish soldiers will also control the ceasefire in Karabakh. Words of support for Azerbaijan continue to be heard from Ankara at the highest level. This political and moral support gives us strength and warns the patrons of Armenians against interference.

The presidents of Azerbaijan and Turkey call each other brothers and our flags fly side by side. This causes pride in the hearts of our friends and envy in the hearts of ill-wishers.

The status quo, which had lasted for nearly 30 years, has sunk into oblivion. The question of status will never be raised again. From now on, the agenda is the restoration of the destroyed cities and villages of Karabakh.

The fight is not over yet. It is not ruled out that Armenia and its patrons may be hatching new plans and resort to provocations. A clear example of this is the biased resolution of the French Senate on Karabakh. This means that, as is the case in the lands liberated from occupation, everything is covered with invisible mines the political arena too. Underwater currents are still raging there. So the struggle continues.

If we look at the numerous conflicts and wars in the world, we can see that it is the stronger side that always has the final say. The most recent example of this is the 44-day Patriotic War of the Azerbaijani people for Karabakh. Over the past 17 years, we have accumulated strength and finally crushed the enemy with an iron fist. The end of the 30 years of occupation and injustice was put in a matter of 44 days. Our strength was demonstrated not only to the enemy. The whole world saw it. Of course, the winner Azerbaijan will grow stronger every day and every year. Its wise President and Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev will confidently lead our people from one victory to another.

Aslan Aslanov
Chairman of the Board of AZERTAC,
Vice-President of OANA
AZERTAC

Video footage from liberated Lachin city

[10:40] 03.12.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released a video footage from liberated Lachin city.

Citing the ministry`s press service, AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

December 2

Azerbaijani, Russian FMs have phone talk

[23:37] 02.12.2020

On December 2, Azerbaijani Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov and Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov had a telephone conversation.

The ministers exchanged views on the implementation of the trilateral statement of 10 November, 2020.

The sides also discussed other regional and international issues of mutual interest.

AZERTAC

Contact underway with ICRC and command of peacekeeping forces of Russian Federation to determine fate of Azerbaijani missing servicemen

[21:23] 01.12.2020

One of the tasks arising from the trilateral statement signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the President of the Russian Federation and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia on November 10, 2020 is to ensure the exchange of prisoners of war, hostages and corpses for humanitarian purposes, the State Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons told AZERTAC.

"The Republic of Azerbaijan is committed to its obligations arising from the norms of international humanitarian law and the principles of humanism. Unlike Armenia, Armenian servicemen and civilians evacuated from the war zone who surrendered to the Azerbaijani Army were immediately removed from the combat zone, and conditions of detention, decent treatment, food, water supply and the right of the wounded to treatment were fully guaranteed in accordance with the requirements of the Geneva Conventions.

The Azerbaijani side regularly provided information on the captured Armenian servicemen to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the command of the peacekeeping forces of the Russian Federation, facilitated the visits of the ICRC representatives to them, and arranged for some detainees to contact their parents by telephone.

Armenian social media is spreading false information about the demonstration of Armenian captives in a military parade on the occasion of the victory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as the inhuman treatment of Armenian captives. We categorically reject such baseless and false information. We state that demonstrating and humiliating prisoners of war is not a characteristic of the Azerbaijani people and our victorious army.

Ignoring the obligations of international humanitarian law, human rights, as well as the Geneva Conventions to which it is a party, as in the first Karabakh war, Armenia hides Azerbaijani prisoners from international organizations, does not provide timely information about them and does not hesitate to treat them inhumanely. There are also indisputable video materials and photos recorded by the Armenian military in this regard.

At the same time, reiterating that the main reason for the capture of Armenian servicemen is Armenia's policy of aggression and illegal occupation, we appeal to Armenian mothers and note that the main culprit in the return of their children is the unconstructive position of the Armenian leadership.

The Republic of Azerbaijan supports the reciprocal exchange of all prisoners and hostages on the "all to all" principle.

Contact is underway with the ICRC and the command of the peacekeeping forces of the Russian Federation to determine the fate of our missing servicemen," the State Commission said.

The official website of the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons "www.human.gov.az", the telephone (+994 12) 405-71-61 and the hotline numbers (+994 12) 8161 are available for citizens to apply.

**Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense: Other logistic support assets brought for
peacekeeping contingent delivered to destination point**

[19:33] 02.12.2020

“The other logistic support assets for the Russian peacekeeping contingent deployed in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan was brought on December 2 and delivered to its destination point through a designated route,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

‘Turkish-Russian joint Karabakh center under construction’

[18:45] 02.12.2020

A Turkish-Russian joint center in Nagorno-Karabakh which will monitor the ceasefire deal between Azerbaijan and Armenia is under construction, said Turkish Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar, according to Anadolu Agency.

“Now, it is under construction. In a very short time, our friends will start their duty there,” Hulusi Akar told visiting representatives of Turkish non-governmental organizations in the capital Ankara.

Turkish and Russian generals as well as other military officers will be at the center together, Akar said, adding that they will work toward making the ceasefire lasting.

Akar said Turkey and Azerbaijan continue training activities and drills, and reiterated Ankara’s support for Baku’s “rightful cause”.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of Garigishlag village of Lachin district

[16:46] 02.12.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released a video footage of Garigishlag village of Lachin district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Victory Day established in Azerbaijan

[15:47] 02.12.2020

President Ilham Aliyev has signed an order establishing Victory Day in Azerbaijan.

Under the presidential order, Victory Day will be marked on November 10 every year.

The order says: "In response to Armenia's latest provocations and military aggression, the Azerbaijani people waged a Patriotic War in order to put an end to the occupation of our lands, force Armenia to peace, implement the requirements of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, return IDPs to their native lands and restore justice.

All the Azerbaijani people were mobilized and united for this sacred cause. After 44 days of military operations, the victorious Azerbaijani Army liberated from occupation the cities of Jabrayil, Fuzuli, Zangilan, Gubadli, Shusha - the crown of Karabakh, Minjivan, Aghband, Bartaz settlements of Zangilan district, Hadrut settlement and many villages of Khojavand district, including Sugovushan village of Tartar district, several villages of Khojaly and Lachin districts, as well as important strategic hills in the direction of Aghdara, Murovdagh and Zangilan.

We have liberated our lands at the expense of the lives and blood of the Azerbaijani people, our hero martyrs, soldiers and officers."

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of Soyudlu gold ore field in Kalbajar district

[14:43] 02.12.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released a video footage of the Soyudlu (Zod) gold ore field in Kalbajar district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev signs order on establishment of the Day of Remembrance in Azerbaijan

[14:19] 02.12.2020

President Ilham Aliyev has signed an order establishing the Day of Remembrance in Azerbaijan.

Under the presidential order, the Day of Remembrance will be marked on September 27 every year.

The order says: “In response to the next military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan, which began on September 27, 2020, the Azerbaijani people waged a Patriotic War for the liberation of their land from the occupation. Armenia, which was unable to withstand the triumphant march of the Azerbaijani Army, committed war crimes by resorting to provocations and targeting innocent civilian population of Azerbaijan. We have liberated our lands at the expense of the lives and blood of the Azerbaijani people, our hero martyrs, soldiers, officers and veterans. As a sign of deep respect for our soldiers and officers, all our martyrs, who fought heroically in the Patriotic War, waved the Azerbaijani flag in our liberated lands and sacrificed their lives for the territorial integrity of our country, September 27 will be marked as the Day of Remembrance in Azerbaijan every year.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry comments on French MPs' planned visit to Nagorno-Karabakh

[13:36] 02.12.2020

Spokesperson for Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry Leyla Abdullayeva has commented on Armenian media reports regarding the visit of a group of French Members of the Parliament to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, where they are planning to hold meetings and assess the humanitarian situation on the ground.

Leyla Abdullayeva said: "The official position of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the visits to its sovereign territory within its internationally recognized borders is clear and remains unchanged. Any visit to the territory of Azerbaijan, including its Nagorno-Karabakh region must be agreed with the Government of Azerbaijan. Those who violate the legislature of Azerbaijan are faced with relevant sanctions and their visit to Azerbaijan in the future is restricted."

AZERTAC

Georgian media highlight Lachin liberation

[10:08] 02.12.2020

Georgian “report.ge”, “interpress.ge”, “24news.ge”, as well as “aktual.ge” news portals have published articles highlighting the liberation of the Lachin district.

The articles say that units of the Azerbaijan Army moved into Lachin which had been under Armenian occupation for 28 years. Azerbaijani tricolor has been hoisted in the liberated district, the articles say.

Khatayi Azizov
Special correspondent
Tbilisi,
AZERTAC

Egyptian portal: Azerbaijani Army moves into Lachin district

[09:00] 02.12.2020

Egypt's "Masravi" news portal has published an article highlighting the entry of the Azerbaijani Army into the liberated district of Lachin.

"According to the trilateral statement signed between the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Russian Federation, and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, units of the Azerbaijan Army entered Lachin district on December 1," the article writes.

The article notes Azerbaijan's glorious victory following the 44 days of fierce fighting that erupted on September 27. "Units of the Azerbaijan Army have moved into the Lachin district which had been under Armenian occupation for more than 27 years". The article emphasizes that negotiations mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group have failed due to Armenia's non-constructive approach. Azerbaijan has restored its territorial integrity in full compliance with norms and principles of international law, as well as UN Security Council resolutions, the article says.

Oktay Bayramov
Special correspondent
Cairo,
AZERTAC

December 1

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Delivery process of logistic support assets for peacekeeping contingent continues

[19:59] 01.12.2020

“The process of delivering logistic support assets to our country for the Russian peacekeeping contingent deployed in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan continues,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The logistic support assets brought for the Russian peacekeepers were delivered to their destination point through a designated route on December 1,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani President: This Victory will forever remain in the history of Azerbaijan as a glorious Victory

[16:57] 01.12.2020

“Who were the leaders of Armenia? For 20 years, Armenia was led by bandits of the Kocharyan-Sargsyan junta and the Armenian people know only too well who led them in the last two and a half years. Their train is off. But it is still not too late. You can still catch this departing train if we give you permission and if our conditions are met. From now on, this will be the case, only this!” said President Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the nation.

The head of state said: “I wonder what conditions Pashinyan can put forward today and who he can put forward those seven conditions to. Where are those seven conditions? They are gone. Azerbaijan should hold talks with the so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh” – where is this condition? It has gone to hell! “Nagorno-Karabakh is Armenia and full stop” – he declared this in Khankandi with such enthusiasm, like a hero, and everyone applauded him. So? Is Karabakh Armenia? Let him come and say this. Karabakh is Azerbaijan! Those who applauded him, representatives of that criminal regime have either been destroyed or have deserted. They acknowledge that they have over 10,000 deserters. He said that they would build the parliament of the so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh” in Shusha, in our historical and ancient city, in our soul and heart. Where is this parliament? We have destroyed it, we have smashed it to smithereens. When he danced drunk on Jidir Duzu, he should have thought about how it might end.”

“We raised our flag in Shusha, in all other cities and districts,” the Azerbaijani President noted. “Everyone saw our strength. Everyone saw our power and our resolve. This iron fist broke their back, crushed them. It is a fist of unity, a fist of strength. After that, Azerbaijan will only follow the path of development and progress. We will continue to take tangible steps in the field of army building, we will further strengthen our army. All instructions have been given. We have both the resolve and experience – irreplaceable experience. All countries are studying the experience of this Patriotic War now. We also have the resources. There is a unity of people and the government. We have proven that we are a great and proud people. We have crushed the enemy. We have broken its back. We have destroyed it. This is a historic Victory. It will forever remain in the history of Azerbaijan as a glorious Victory!” the head of state added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: After parameters of the new corridor have been determined, the city of Lachin will also be returned to us

[16:03] 01.12.2020

“Paragraph 6 of the statement indicates that the Republic of Armenia returns Kalbajar district to the Republic of Azerbaijan on 15 November and Lachin district before 1 December. As you know, the Russian side turned to us and asked for some time. The return of Kalbajar district to us was ensured not on 15, but on 25 November. This part of paragraph 6 has already been fulfilled. Lachin district has been returned to Azerbaijan,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the nation.

“The 5km-wide Lachin corridor will not affect the city of Shusha and will remain under the control of the Russian peacekeeping contingent. I have already commented on this point. The initial version proposed 30 kilometers, then 10 kilometers, and it was supposed to remain under the control of the Armenian armed forces, not of the Russian peacekeeping contingent. We removed this from the statement. It was indicated that on the basis of the consent of the parties, a plan for the construction of a new route along the Lachin corridor would be determined in the next three years, providing for communication between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. Thus, in order to protect this route, the Russian peacekeeping contingent is to be relocated in the future,” the head of state said.

“I would like to comment on this issue as well. What is indicated there? Everyone knows that the Lachin corridor passes through the city of Lachin. So Lachin will remain in the middle of this corridor. During my conversations with the President of Russia, I said that the city of Lachin should also be returned to us. Therefore, we propose to build a new corridor, to develop a route for a new corridor connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia and build it. The deadline is also indicated here – within three years. But I believe we can do it sooner. After the parameters of the new corridor have been determined, the city of Lachin will also be returned to us. This issue deserves special attention because if I had not included it in the statement, the Lachin corridor would always have covered the city of Lachin,” the Azerbaijani President added.

AZERTAC

First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva congratulates Azerbaijani people on liberation of Lachin district

[15:30] 01.12.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has made an Instagram post on the liberation of Lachin district from occupation.

AZERTAC presents the post.

“I sincerely congratulate all of you on the liberation of Lachin district from occupation! May Almighty God bestow his mercy upon our people and health and happiness upon all of our fellow citizens, as well as peace, tranquility and bright future upon our Motherland! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!”

AZERTAC

Turkey, Russia joint center in Karabakh to operate soon

[14:49] 01.12.2020

Discussions on technical details about the establishment and responsibilities of the Turkish-Russian Joint Center were completed and an agreement was signed, said Turkey's National Defense Ministry on Tuesday.

The ministry said on Twitter that necessary work is underway to make the center operate as soon as possible, reminding that on November 11, a memorandum of understanding had been signed via video conference by Turkish Minister of National Defense Hulusi Akar and Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu.

Through the joint center in Nagorno-Karabakh, Turkish and Russian military delegations plan to monitor and control the implementation of the ceasefire between Azerbaijan and Armenia, it added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: No-one will be able to interfere in our affairs and the agreement reached

[13:55] 01.12.2020

“If someone wants to interfere with the statement signed on 10 November, they will be faced with our tough position. There are such attempts. They pursue one goal – to violate this agreement because it is very annoying for some due to a new security format emerging here. The statement reaffirms the establishment of a joint Turkish-Russian center. At the same time, some are annoyed by the security measures adopted here and the implementation of the provisions of the statement. However, no-one will be able to interfere in our affairs and the agreement reached. It is being fulfilled and must be fulfilled,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the nation.

The head of state said: “We have created a new reality, won a victory, crushed the enemy, driven it out of our lands. Thus, we have created a new reality. Everyone will have to accept it, will have to come to terms with this reality, just as Armenia has done. There is Pashinyan's signature under this Statement. He did sign it. He was forced to sign it. In essence, he signed an act of capitulation. Armenia either had to be completely destroyed or sign it. What do others care about that? Let everyone mind their own business.”

“The resolutions of the UN Security Council have remained on paper for 27 years. We said that international law is on our side and that resolutions of the UN Security Council require a withdrawal of the occupying forces from our lands. However, this had no result. We have created a new reality in international legal practices and in our region. We have fulfilled the resolutions of the UN Security Council. We have restored our territorial integrity. We have ended the occupation. I hope that we have organized a new format of security and cooperation in the region for the present and future. Life will show what this format will consist in,” President Ilham Aliyev added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: I always said that if Lachin, Kalbajar and Shusha did not return to Azerbaijan, then there can be no agreement

[13:30] 01.12.2020

“Over the past 17 years we have received repeated signals from various places, from outside circles that we should take five districts now and be content with it. We were told that we had been defeated in the war, that Armenia had won – the implication was the first Karabakh war. We were told to come to terms with this reality. The five districts we were being given were described as a big deal, while Lachin and Kalbajar were supposed to be left for later. We were also told that when we granted independence to Nagorno-Karabakh, then part of these districts could be transferred to us,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the nation.

“I always said that if Lachin, Kalbajar and Shusha did not return to Azerbaijan, then there can be no agreement. My position irritated many in foreign countries. I was saying that our territorial integrity must be restored. I said that the military option is never ruled out. I not only spoke about that. For all these years, having mobilized our resources, we strengthened the country, gathered strength – gathered strength at the international level, within the country, in resolving economic issues, in strengthening the solidarity and unity in the country, and in army building. We have turned this strength into an iron fist, broken the enemy’s back and created a new reality. If some were telling us to come to terms with reality a year ago, I say to them today that everyone should come to terms with the new reality,” the head of state noted.

AZERTAC

**President: We must turn Karabakh into one of most beautiful regions in the world,
and I am sure that we will achieve this**

[13:23] 01.12.2020

“The situation on the lands liberated from the occupation foreshadows great difficulties. There are currently no living conditions in these places. But we will restore these regions, all our districts, we will take all steps to create a normal life for our citizens,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the nation.

Noting that the first projects have already started, the head of state said: “The construction of the Fuzuli-Shusha highway and the Barda-Aghdam railway has already begun. This shows that we plan this work as efficiently as possible and, at the same time, in a short time, so that to organize all these activities without wasting time. Relevant state bodies have already been set up and all this work will be carried out in a coordinated manner.”

“The restoration of destroyed and ruined infrastructure, including the felled trees in Lachin, will also be in the spotlight, water reservoirs will be built. This in itself is one of the factors that will have a great impact on the development of agriculture and building an environmental equilibrium,” the President said.

“The overall economic, agricultural and tourism potential of all the liberated districts is great. We must maximize this potential and turn the Karabakh region into one of the most beautiful regions not only in Azerbaijan, but also in the world, and I am sure that we will achieve this,” President Ilham Aliyev added.

AZERTAC

BERNAMA: Azerbaijani army enters Lachin region after 28 years

[12:59] 01.12.2020

The Malaysian National News Agency BERNAMA has published an article headlined “Azerbaijani army enters Lachin region after 28 years”.

The article says: “Azerbaijan’s army has entered the Lachin region following 28 years of occupation by Armenian forces.

According to the trilateral statement signed by the presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation and the prime minister of the Republic of Armenia, units of the Azerbaijan Army entered the Lachin region on December 1.

Relations between the former Soviet republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, a territory recognized as part of Azerbaijan, and seven adjacent regions.

When new clashes erupted on September 27, the Armenian army launched attacks on civilians and Azerbaijani forces and violated several ceasefire agreements.

During the 44-day conflict, Azerbaijan liberated several cities and nearly 300 settlements and villages from the Armenian occupation.

On November 10, the two countries signed a Russia-brokered agreement to end fighting and work toward a comprehensive resolution.

The truce is seen as a victory for Azerbaijan and a defeat for Armenia, whose armed forces have been withdrawing as the agreement specified.”

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev congratulates Azerbaijani people on liberation of Lachin from occupation

[12:19] 01.12.2020

President of Azerbaijan, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev has congratulated the people of Azerbaijan on the liberation of Lachin district from occupation.

AZERTAC reports that conveying this good news in his address to the nation, the President said: “It is with great joy that I inform you that Lachin district has been liberated from occupation. I cordially congratulate all the people of Azerbaijan on this occasion. The liberation of Lachin district from occupation is a historic event. Moreover, we have returned Lachin district without firing a single shot. We have forced the enemy to do this. The bright victory won on the battlefield has led to this remarkable result – three of our districts, Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachin, have been returned to us. We have returned these districts without firing a single shot and without a single martyr.”

The head of state said: “Lachin district is one of our biggest districts. Lachin district will play an important part in the future economic development of Azerbaijan. First of all, we will return Lachin to the people of Lachin. I sincerely congratulate dear residents of Lachin on this wonderful event. When Lachin was occupied, just over 50,000 people lived in it. Today the population of Lachin district has reached 80,000 people. Of course, one of our main goals will be to return the residents of Lachin there as soon as possible. We will also try to return the former internally displaced persons to all other districts liberated from the occupation as soon as possible.”

AZERTAC

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation

[12:07] 01.12.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has addressed the nation.

AZERTAC presents the address.

Address of President Ilham Aliyev to the nation

- Dear fellow countrymen,

It is with great joy that I inform you that Lachin district has been liberated from occupation. I cordially congratulate all the people of Azerbaijan on this occasion. The liberation of Lachin district from occupation is a historic event. Moreover, we have returned Lachin district without firing a single shot. We have forced the enemy to do this. The bright victory won on the battlefield has led to this remarkable result – three of our districts, Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachin, have been returned to us. We have returned these districts without firing a single shot and without a single martyr.

Lachin district is one of our biggest districts. It covers an area of 1,800 square kilometers. The rich nature of Lachin district, its historical sites and underground riches are our national treasure. Lachin district will play an important part in the future economic development of Azerbaijan. First of all, we will return Lachin to the people of Lachin. I sincerely congratulate dear residents of Lachin on this wonderful event. When Lachin was occupied, just over 50,000 people lived in it. Today the population of Lachin district has reached 80,000 people. Of course, one of our main goals will be to return the residents of Lachin there as soon as possible. We will also try to return the former internally displaced persons to all other districts liberated from the occupation as soon as possible.

Of course, the situation on the lands liberated from the occupation foreshadows great difficulties. Everything is destroyed there – the infrastructure is destroyed, buildings are demolished, administrative buildings are demolished. There are currently no living conditions in these places. But we will restore these regions, all our districts, we will take all steps to create a normal life for our citizens. As you know, the first projects have already started. Relevant funds have been allocated from the President's contingency fund. The construction of the Fuzuli-Shusha highway and the Barda-Aghdam railway has already begun. This shows that we plan this work as efficiently as possible and, at the same time, in a short time, so that to organize all these activities without wasting time. Relevant state bodies have already been set up and all this work will be carried out in a coordinated manner.

In Lachin district, we have large forest areas – 22,000 hectares of its territory is covered by forest. This is also our great asset. Kalbajar district has 24,000 hectares of forest. In Zangilan and Gubadli districts, there are 12,000 hectares. At the same time, Hadrut district and a part of Khojavand district liberated from occupation have large forest areas too. Forests are the lungs of our planet. The hated and savage enemy had been cutting down and plundering our forests for 30

years, and recently set them on fire. Despite this, most of our forests remain intact because the enemy could not get into these forests, as they are located in remote mountain ranges. Of course, the restoration of destroyed and ruined infrastructure, including the felled trees, will also be in the spotlight.

I must also say that our great river, the Hakari, which is more than 100 kilometers long, originates in Lachin district. This is an issue of great strategic importance. I can say that more than 10 of our large and small rivers originate in the lands liberated from occupation. I would like to highlight four of them because the length of these rivers exceeds 100 kilometers. The Tartarchay, which is 200 kilometers long, the Bazarchay, which is about 180 kilometers long, the Khachinchay, which is about 120 kilometers long – these three rivers are located in Kalbajar district. The Hakari river is also one of our largest rivers, with a length of over 100 kilometers. This is very important because the sources of the main rivers passing through the territory of Azerbaijan are located in other countries. The sources of three of our main rivers, the Kur, the Araz and the Samur, are located in other countries. Of course, the fact that the sources of four large rivers are located on the territory of our country gives us a great advantage. These territories were under occupation, but they have now been liberated from occupation. Of course, our water resources will be of great importance in restoring the lands liberated from occupation and for future life there. Relevant instructions have already been given and there are plans to build reservoirs there. This in itself is one of the factors that will have a great impact on the development of agriculture and building an environmental equilibrium.

The overall economic, agricultural and tourism potential of all the liberated districts is great. We must maximize this potential and turn the Karabakh region into one of the most beautiful regions not only in Azerbaijan, but also in the world, and I am sure that we will achieve this.

At the same time, the strategic importance of Lachin district lies in the fact that the Lachin corridor runs through the territory of the district and through the city of Lachin. As you know, this corridor has been transferred under the control of Russian peacekeeping forces. For many years, the corridor was under the control of the Armenian armed forces, the occupiers. I can say that the initial version of the joint statement signed on 10 November contained a provision on keeping this corridor under the control of the Armenian armed forces. I opposed this and as a result, control over this corridor was transferred to Russian peacekeepers. I think this is a great achievement. The Lachin corridor has been cleared of Armenian occupying forces. I must also say that a lot of work was done on the initial version of the statement, especially after the liberation of the city of Shusha from the occupation. The initial version of the statement suggested that the width of the Lachin corridor should be 30 kilometers. I was categorically against this and said that these claims of the Armenian side were absolutely unfounded. There is no need for such a wide corridor to ensure security measures within the corridor. Therefore, I considered this proposal as being absolutely unacceptable and expressed my opinion. The second version envisaged the Lachin corridor as being 10 kilometers wide. I didn't agree to that either, as a result of which agreement was reached on a corridor 5 kilometers wide. The 5km corridor is wide enough for us, for the Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh and for ensuring security.

I should also say that the return of Lachin district to Azerbaijan, especially the issue related to the Lachin corridor, has always been discussed as a very important and separate topic in the negotiations held over many years – for about 30 years. In general, the Armenian side believed that the entire Lachin district should be given to them as a corridor. Unfortunately, some Western circles supported this position, which made Armenia's position even more irreconcilable, and one

can say that the enemy became completely impudent. As a result, a very serious policy of settlement was carried out in Lachin district. Illegal settlement was also carried out in other places liberated from occupation, but not to the same extent, not in the same volume. For example, if we look at Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Zangilan and Gubadli districts, there were more military units there. All the houses and buildings there were destroyed by the hated enemy. Servicemen, members of their families and a small number of civilians used to live there. The Armenians brought from abroad were not sent there. Lachin district was very seriously taken under Armenian control and a very large settlement program was implemented there. Thousands of people lived there. According to some sources, about 10,000 people may have lived there. In other words, the Armenian leadership had no intention of returning Lachin district to Azerbaijan. When topics related to the Lachin corridor were raised during the negotiations, both Armenia and its patrons always noted that, no, Lachin district is a separate topic. Although we were not told this directly, there was always an opinion that Lachin district should be retained by Armenia in some form.

In connection with the process of negotiations, I must also say – I want the Azerbaijani people to hear this information from me – that the issue of returning the occupied districts to Azerbaijan was the central topic of the negotiations for a reason. This was our position. But here, too, a phased solution was envisaged. We were also in favor of that. The return of five districts to Azerbaijan at the first stage, the return of Kalbajar and Lachin districts with the exception of the Lachin corridor at the second stage. Every time the Armenian side said that if these seven districts were returned to Azerbaijan, then the issue of a status for Nagorno-Karabakh must be resolved at the same time. Another issue is that Armenia was simply engaged in imitating the negotiations and was not going to return a single district to us. But in any case, their position was that five districts could be returned, but in order to return Lachin and Kalbajar districts, Azerbaijan must recognize either the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh or the vote that would have taken place there, and the date of such a vote would have been determined. If Nagorno-Karabakh had been granted independence, then Armenia would have returned Kalbajar and Lachin districts to Azerbaijan, but the Lachin corridor would have been given to Armenia, and the width of this corridor was not determined. These issues were on the negotiating table.

I can say that over the past 17 years we have received repeated signals from various places, from outside circles that we should take five districts now and be content with it. We were told that we had been defeated in the war, that Armenia had won – the implication was the first Karabakh war. We were told to come to terms with this reality. The five districts we were being given were described as a big deal, while Lachin and Kalbajar were supposed to be left for later. We were also told that when we granted independence to Nagorno-Karabakh, then part of these districts could be transferred to us.

I always said that if Lachin, Kalbajar and Shusha did not return to Azerbaijan, then there can be no agreement. My position irritated many in foreign countries. I was saying that our territorial integrity must be restored. I said that the military option is never ruled out. I not only spoke about that. For all these years, having mobilized our resources, we strengthened the country, gathered strength – gathered strength at the international level, within the country, in resolving economic issues, in strengthening the solidarity and unity in the country, and in army building. We have turned this strength into an iron fist, broken the enemy's back and created a new reality. If some were telling us to come to terms with reality a year ago, I say to them today that everyone should come to terms with the new reality. If someone wants to interfere with the statement signed on 10 November, they will be faced with our tough position. There are such attempts. They pursue one goal – to violate this agreement because it is very annoying for some due to a new security format

emerging here. The statement reaffirms the establishment of a joint Turkish-Russian center. At the same time, some are annoyed by the security measures adopted here and the implementation of the provisions of the statement. However, no-one will be able to interfere in our affairs and the agreement reached. It is being fulfilled and must be fulfilled.

I want to say again that we have created a new reality, won a victory, crushed the enemy, driven it out of our lands. Thus, we have created a new reality. Everyone will have to accept it, will have to come to terms with this reality, just as Armenia has done. There is Pashinyan's signature under this Statement. He did sign it. He was forced to sign it. In essence, he signed an act of capitulation. Armenia either had to be completely destroyed or sign it. What do others care about that? Let everyone mind their own business.

A new reality has emerged in our region. We have created it. Azerbaijan has created this reality. We have driven the enemy out of our lands. We have fulfilled the resolutions of the UN Security Council. These resolutions have remained on paper for 27 years. For 27 years, these resolutions have been a piece of paper for many – not only for Armenia but also for others. We said that international law is on our side and that resolutions of the UN Security Council require a withdrawal of the occupying forces from our lands. However, this had no result. We have created a new reality in international legal practices and in our region. We have fulfilled the resolutions of the UN Security Council. We have restored our territorial integrity. We have ended the occupation. I hope that we have organized a new format of security and cooperation in the region for the present and future. Life will show what this format will consist in. In any case, we have done everything necessary to create this new format of cooperation and expelled the enemy from our lands. If issues specified in the statement of 10 November are resolved, then a new cooperation framework will be created in our region.

Therefore, the return of Lachin district to us is, of course, a historic issue. During the war, we liberated an area of about 5,000 square kilometers by military means. At the same time, we have returned the territory about the same size, about 5,000 square kilometers, peacefully. Of course, this cannot be described as a peaceful recovery. We have forced the enemy, who was already on the edge of the abyss and could have been completely destroyed. They had no other option – either to be completely destroyed or to sign an act of surrender. Look at our immense successes both in the military and political planes. Look at the thoughtful policy we have pursued over the years. In many cases, we could not inform the public about details of this policy because it was confidential information, the disclosure of which could have affected the implementation of our plans. However, pursuing a very precise, focused and consistent policy, we worked towards one goal. We had one goal – the goal of clearing our lands from the enemy. We have achieved it – both on the battlefield and at the negotiating table, through agreement. When I said that the issue has a military solution, I meant exactly that. If we had not defeated the enemy, they would never have left these lands of their own free will. The enemy wanted to perpetuate this occupation, and all their nefarious actions pursued this very goal. They gave Lachin district some ugly Armenian name. This name no longer exists, it has been thrown into trash, it was thrown into trash, like all the other ugly names of theirs.

The occupation of Lachin district was a great tragedy. I want to say again that the occupation of any district was a tragedy, but the occupation of Lachin district allowed for overland communication between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. The occupation of Lachin in May 1992, a few days after the occupation of Shusha, was a great loss for us. Armenia could already send

weapons, ammunition and manpower along this corridor. Of course, this led to great losses. About a year later, Kalbajar district was occupied too.

It is possible to say that all this laid the foundation for the subsequent occupation. I would also like to say again that when Lachin district was occupied, there was a struggle for power in Baku. Those who fought this struggle sold Lachin, Shusha, Kalbajar to the enemy, and, one might say, put the Azerbaijani statehood on the edge of a precipice. We remember all that history too well. The liberation of Lachin district today without a single shot being fired and without a single martyr is our great victory.

I want to say again – I have already spoken about this – we would have taken Lachin, Kalbajar and Agdam anyway. We had plans and we were consistently moving towards them. But everyone should know that Kalbajar and Lachin districts have a very difficult natural terrain. The road to Kalbajar district that existed in Soviet times passed through Aghdara district. In Soviet times, this district was called Mardakert and the Armenians lived there. There was no other road, one might say. Now we have entered Kalbajar from Goygol and Dashkasan districts. We could have suffered heavy losses, especially in winter, given the difficult terrain. We could have suffered great losses in liberating Aghdam, Lachin and Kalbajar districts. It would have taken a lot of time.

Therefore, our victory is a historic victory. We have liberated several districts from the enemy on the battlefield, returned three districts and forced the enemy, thus resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is gone. If someone thinks that this conflict is still exists, they are wrong. People living in Nagorno-Karabakh today are citizens of Azerbaijan. I want to say again that they will live better within a united Azerbaijani state. They will get rid of this poverty. Notice that we are currently building a railway from Barda to Agdam. The distance from Agdam to Khankandi is around 20-30 kilometers. How long will a trip from the capital of Armenia to Khankandi take – perhaps ten hours by truck. Moreover, this route lies through mountain roads. From Agdam to Khankandi, it will take half an hour.

This will precondition our future prospects. Therefore, we must be ready for this and build our strategy, take tactical steps so that there is no source of threat in this region any more. The Azerbaijani army is the guarantor of this, of course. If we look at the geography of this region, then everyone can see that Armenia today is connected with Nagorno-Karabakh by a corridor 5 kilometers wide.

The Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh today and the Azerbaijanis who will definitely return there will live in the conditions of good-neighborliness again. There are logistical issues, transport issues, energy security. We will examine all of these issues. Unlike the Armenian leadership, we have a strategic vision and it has already been formed. We are moving towards our goal in a consistent manner. The leadership of Armenia had no vision even in relation to the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. They did not know what they wanted themselves. They used to say that Nagorno-Karabakh was an “independent state”. They used to say that “Nagorno-Karabakh is Armenia”. How can these conflicting ideas be combined in one? What does this mean? It means that the leadership of Armenia consists of incompetent people who do not understand politics. Okay, if this is an independent state, then what is your army doing there? If it is an independent state which is not recognized by anyone, not even Armenia itself, then how is “Nagorno-Karabakh Armenia and full stop”, quoting the Armenian prime minister? So they did not have a clear idea on this issue either. This is the country we were facing.

Of course, we see again, and while on the lands liberated from the occupation, I saw again that they did not want to return a single centimeter of land to us. Otherwise, they would not have invested so much there, so much money, they would not have built these fortifications. They wanted to keep these lands to themselves forever. This is why they concocted these fake maps. This is why they gave our cities their names. This is why they brought Armenians from abroad and placed them there. They committed war crimes and they will be held accountable for all their crimes. This work has already entered a practical phase. The assessment process will begin soon and the damage will be calculated. Steps have already been taken at the legal level. I can already tell the Azerbaijani people about this. I do not want to reveal details yet but this is no longer an intention, but practical steps. We will continue to expose them.

Foreign journalists are being invited to the liberated lands. International media are covering the consequences of Armenian atrocities. They are covering what the Armenians have done to Kalbajar during this time. Like savages, they have demolished, burned, plundered everything and cut down the forests. They portray themselves as a people, so to speak, who have lived here for centuries. A people who has lived here for centuries would never have done this, would not have committed such barbarism. They lived there in the houses of the Azerbaijanis. They didn't build anything themselves, they did not lift a finger, they just exploited everything. They exploited our lands. According to the information available to me, wheat was sown on tens of thousands of hectares there, in particular in Agdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Zangilan districts. I am told that Armenia collected 90,000 tons of wheat on the occupied lands every year. The total volume of Armenia's wheat production, together with what was grown on these occupied lands, amounted to 190,000 tons. Half of this harvest came from our lands. This is illegal exploitation of our lands. They will answer for this, compensate for the damage caused. Now they have lost it all. How will they ensure their food security now? There were large vineyards there. On the way to Agdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil districts, I saw that most of our vineyards had been destroyed. Old trellises remained there. But grape plantations have been preserved in many places. They used them, our water, they generated electricity. Like savages, they invaded and exploited a foreign land, they wanted to change its origin, the names of our settlements. They destroyed our historical sites, created a false history and published maps. This completely contradicts the traditions, rules, the rules of conduct in this region. This shows again that the Armenian people had nothing in common with our region. They have never been a Caucasian people. They are aliens.

We, for our part, have already restored justice. We have restored historical justice.

In the early stages of my presidency, I had hopes associated with the settlement of the conflict. The negotiations were going on to some extent. Albeit small, but progress was being made, certain steps were taken. The return of the occupied lands was in our interests, but equating the principle of self-determination of peoples with the principle of territorial integrity never suited us. However, as was the case with most of the Azerbaijani people, my hopes had dried up. I said back then and I want to say again that we need to think carefully and weigh up when and what to do, how to do it and at what point. We must deal such a blow for the enemy not to be able to recover. We must deliver such a blow for the enemy never to venture to raise its head again more. This war is our glorious Victory. We are proud. But our goal is to prevent Armenian fascism from raising its head in this region. If someone wants to provide Armenia with territory for the establishment of a second state, let them give them a part of their territory. But to demand that an Armenian state be created on historically and legally Azerbaijani lands – it defies all logic? This does not fit into any logic or justice. What do you want from our lands? Countries located thousands of kilometers away from here are now adopting laws, their parliaments are discussing

this issue. What does the French parliament have to do with this issue? How many years has France been co-chairing the Minsk Group? Has it lifted a finger? Has it taken a tangible step to address this issue? But look what happens after this issue has been resolved. The French Senate adopts a resolution to recognize Nagorno-Karabakh.

If you like them so much, then, as I said during the war, give the city of Marseille to the Armenians, change its name, create a second state for them there. But no-one can interfere in our affairs. I want to say again that the concept of the “Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” has already been consigned to history. I would not advise anyone to use this term. Of course, it is possible to use this term only if we speak about history.

During the war, we have practically destroyed the entire Armenian army. During the war, I regularly updated the Azerbaijani people about the destroyed enemy equipment. The war has already ended and a new period begins in the region. But I would like to inform the Azerbaijani people about how we destroyed the Armenian army during the war and why the prime minister of Armenia signed the humiliating act of surrender.

The destroyed equipment of the Armenian army includes:

Anti-tank weapons – 53 pieces, “Smerch” – 4 units, “Grad” – 97 units, “Uragan” – 2 units, Multiple Rocket Launchers – 1 unit, TOS flamethrower – 1, S-300 anti-aircraft missile system – 7 launchers. If we calculate the cost of this specified equipment alone, we can see what a powerful blow we have inflicted on the Armenian army. Seven launchers, one S-300 radar and two S-300 detection stations, “Defense” radar station – 1 unit, “TOR” air defense systems – 5 units, “Osa” air defense systems – 40 units, “KUB” air defense systems – 4 units, “KRUG” air defense systems – 1 unit, “Zastava” air defense systems – 14 units, “S-125” air defense systems – 2 units, unmanned aerial vehicles – 22 units, operational-tactical missile system “Elbrus” – 2 units, ballistic missile – 1, “Tochka-U” missile complex – 1 unit, radio electronic combat systems – 5 units, command and staff vehicle “R-142” – 2 units, radar station “Sky-M” – 1 unit, various radars – 7 units, electronic warfare system “Repellent” – 4 units.

And here is the list of the enemy’s equipment we have destroyed and taken as spoils of war:

Self-propelled artillery installations “Acacia” and “Carnation” – 28 have been destroyed and 5 have been taken as spoils of war, cannons of various calibers – 315 have been destroyed and 37 have been taken as spoils of war, mortars – 63 have been destroyed and 62 have been taken as spoils of war, special vehicles – 10 have been destroyed and 93 have been taken as spoils of war, grenade launchers – 178 have been taken as spoils of war, tractors – 10 have been taken as spoils of war, anti-aircraft guns “Shilka” – 5 have been taken as spoils of war, small arms – 1,380 small arms have been taken as spoils of war. Seven command posts and 11 ammunition depots have been destroyed. Tanks – 287 have been destroyed and 79 have been taken as spoils of war, so 366 tanks in total. The list goes on. Infantry fighting vehicles – 69 have been destroyed and 47 have been taken as spoils of war. Su-25 – 2 aircraft have been destroyed. Trucks – 252 have been destroyed and 270 have been taken as spoils of war.

This gives us grounds to say that there is no Armenian army any more. We have destroyed it. This army was built in decades. It was provided with weapons, ammunition and cutting-edge technology, and free of charge – everyone knows that. Let the experts calculate the cost of the equipment I have just listed is. It is probably worth several billion. Some say over 3 billion, others

say even more. They are counting it now. Where does this poor country get so much money? Armenia's external public debt is \$8 billion. Its foreign exchange reserves are just over 1 billion. This country is mired in debt. External public debt accounts for 60 percent of its gross domestic product. The entire economy in this country is currently falling apart. After the war, the national currency has collapsed. Where does the money come from? It is bankrupt. It is a failed country. Where did it get so much money? And let it show how it had made money transfers. We will also ask international structures. Let them tell us on the basis of what contracts this weaponry was acquired. And was it paid for at all? If it was not paid for, then it means that they got it for free. In a matter of 44 days, we destroyed the equipment they had been collecting for 30 years. There is no Armenian army now, there is none. They are citing falsified figures related to the destruction of their manpower. We have data. If necessary, we will disclose how much manpower the occupying state has lost. We have destroyed the Armenian army. That is why they had to surrender and sign an act of surrender. This should be a lesson for everyone.

I must say that the statement signed on 10 November is being implemented. I would like the Azerbaijani people to know – sometimes it is referred to as a statement signed on 9 November and sometimes as one dated 10 November. We signed this statement with Russian President Vladimir Putin via videoconference on 10 November Baku time. The time difference between us and Russia is one hour. Perhaps this discrepancy is related to this. So the statement signed on 10 November is being implemented. After the signing ceremony, I brought this statement as it is to the attention of the Azerbaijani people and showed again that all our work is transparent. I signed it in front of the people, signed it with great pride, as a winner. I brought the entire text of the statement to the attention of the Azerbaijani people. Today, when the conflict is over, I would like to comment on the implementation of this statement. The issues mentioned in the first paragraph have already been provided. A ceasefire has been in place since 10 November. There have been cases of violation of the ceasefire by Armenia. We provide an adequate response. There were no cases of ceasefire violation by the Azerbaijani side. In general, the ceasefire is being followed. The second paragraph states that Agdam district will be returned to the Republic of Azerbaijan on 20 November. This has been done. The third paragraph indicates that a peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation consisting of 1,960 military personnel armed with firearms, 90 armored vehicles, 380 vehicles and special equipment will be deployed on the contact line in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Lachin corridor. This has been done. The fourth paragraph states that the term of the statement is five years. If the parties do not raise any objection six months before the expiration of the term, the statement and this agreement will be extended. This is clear. In order to increase the effectiveness of control over compliance with the agreements reached by the parties to the conflict, a peacekeeping center is being established to exercise control over the ceasefire. When this statement was being signed, this paragraph was not elaborated in detail. However, when we were signing it, we agreed that it would be a Turkish-Russian center, and this has also already been resolved. Further, paragraph 6 indicates that the Republic of Armenia returns Kalbajar district to the Republic of Azerbaijan on 15 November and Lachin district before 1 December. As you know, the Russian side turned to us and asked for some time. The return of Kalbajar district to us was ensured not on 15, but on 25 November. This part of paragraph 6 has already been fulfilled. Lachin district has been returned to Azerbaijan. The 5km-wide Lachin corridor will not affect the city of Shusha and will remain under the control of the Russian peacekeeping contingent. I have already commented on this point. The original version proposed 30 kilometers, then 10 kilometers, and it was supposed to remain under the control of the Armenian armed forces, not of the Russian peacekeeping contingent. We removed this from the statement. It was indicated that on the basis of the consent of the parties, a plan for the construction of a new route along the Lachin corridor would be determined in the next three years, providing for communication between Nagorno-

Karabakh and Armenia. Thus, in order to protect this route, the Russian peacekeeping contingent is to be relocated in the future. I would like to comment on this issue as well. What is indicated there? Everyone knows that the Lachin corridor passes through the city of Lachin. So Lachin will remain in the middle of this corridor. During my conversations with the President of Russia, I said that the city of Lachin should also be returned to us. Therefore, we propose to build a new corridor, to develop a route for a new corridor connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia and build it. The deadline is also indicated here – within three years. But I believe we can do it sooner. After the parameters of the new corridor have been determined, the city of Lachin will also be returned to us. This issue deserves special attention because if I had not included it in the statement, the Lachin corridor would always have covered the city of Lachin.

The seventh paragraph states that internally displaced persons and refugees will return to the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent districts under the control of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. This is also an important matter. The citizens of Azerbaijan must return to all places in Nagorno-Karabakh where they used to live. This issue will be monitored by the UN. It will take time, of course. This will be decided during regular contacts.

The eighth paragraph states that there is an exchange of prisoners of war, hostages and other detainees, as well as bodies. This process is already going on – both the exchange of bodies and prisoners and hostages.

The ninth paragraph states that all economic and transport links are being restored in the region. In order to organize the unimpeded movement of citizens, vehicles and goods in both directions, the Republic of Armenia guarantees the security of transport links between the western regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. Control over transport communications is carried out by the Border Service of the Federal Security Service of Russia and, by agreement of the parties, the construction of new transport communications linking the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic with the western regions of Azerbaijan will be ensured. This ninth paragraph was included in the statement precisely as a result of my persistence. Because when the peace plan was discussed for many years, the situation was not as clear and specific. In other words, the plan was that all communications would be opened, but there was no talk of a corridor that would link the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic with the rest of Azerbaijan. It was believed that this general expression covers this as well, but here it explicitly states that a corridor is being created between the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and the main part of Azerbaijan, and the security of this corridor will be provided not by Armenia, but by the Border Service of the Federal Security Service of Russia. So this corridor will be absolutely safe. At the same time, the second issue is the construction, by agreement of the parties, of new transport communications connecting the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic with the western regions of Azerbaijan. For a complete and future-oriented solution of this issue, an additional paragraph was included. So what does this mean? It means that there should be two corridors. If necessary, there should be two corridors. This is our historic achievement. We are taking Nakhchivan out of the encirclement and, at the same time, opening a new transport artery. I can say that all countries will only benefit from this. Azerbaijan is establishing a connection with its integral part, Nakhchivan. Azerbaijan connects with Turkey. Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran. Armenia, if it wants, may also join this corridor. Thus, a new five-sided cooperation platform can be created in the region. I have already brought this idea to the attention of the presidents of Russia and Turkey. Both Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Vladimir Putin reacted positively to this. Here is our proposal. We want long-term peace to be established in the region. To achieve this, cooperation needs to develop alongside security measures. We are ready to cooperate. Among the issues mentioned in the ninth paragraph,

the priority for us is the issue of connecting Azerbaijan with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and, at the same time, creating a new transport corridor between Azerbaijan and Turkey. As you know, we put the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway into operation several years ago. This is a railway link between Turkey and Azerbaijan. If this project is also implemented – and I am sure it will be – it will be a new link, and each of the five countries can benefit from it. What could be better than this project for regional security and cooperation? Nothing! Who is the initiator of this? We are! Who included this item here? I did! Today, on 1 December, we are already seeing some progress of this work. I can say that the “Azerbaijan Railways” Closed Joint Stock Company has already been instructed to analyze the Horadiz-Zangilan railway, which the hated enemy has destroyed, and make preliminary calculations. At the same time, issues related to the restoration of railways were also discussed during a recent visit of the delegation of the Russian Federation to Azerbaijan. Armenian railways are owned by the Russian railways – by 100 percent. Therefore, we are discussing this issue not with Armenia, but with Russia. In general, what is there in Armenia that would belong to it? Armenia is not a subject of international relations, but an object of them. Why? Because of the occupation. It has wasted a historic opportunity, failed to become an independent country and missed out on economic opportunities because of the occupation. What has it accomplished? Nothing! We have taken all the necessary measures so far. Transport, energy, economic cooperation – we have completed all projects. At the end of December, the Southern Gas Corridor will be fully commissioned. Its last part, TAP, is being commissioned now. Where are you, Armenia? You are on the sidelines! This energy corridor bypasses Armenia. Who did this? We did! I remember the time when we were defining the route of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline. I was working for the State Oil Company at the time. Tremendous pressure was being exerted on us – in fact, from Western countries. Why does it bypass Armenia? It should not pass through Georgia but through Armenia. Leading Western countries were putting forward conditions to us at the time. We were very dependent on foreign loans back then. I remember that as a result of a campaign carried out by the Armenian propaganda, the Armenian lobby and pro-Armenian foreign circles, the World Bank postponed the provision of a loan that was supposed to be given to us within a year – under various pretexts, allegedly on grounds of environmental standards being violated. However, it was absurd.

Where are you, Armenia? Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan bypasses you. So does Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum. And so does TANAP. We are transporting our gas to Europe today. You, Armenia, could have made money. A part of the gas pipeline could have been in your hands. You would have received money for transit. What have you deprived yourself of? Was it worth it? This occupation, enmity, feelings of hatred for your neighbor have plunged you into such a plight.

We have done all the work related to transport and energy. We have created not only an oil and gas, but also an electricity corridor. There is an energy corridor Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey today. There is an energy corridor Russia-Azerbaijan-Iran today. There is a transport corridor Russia-Azerbaijan-Iran today. This year, the volume of cargo transported along this corridor has increased by almost 30-40 percent. Armenia has been working on the North-South transport corridor for 20 years. And there are no results. What North-South corridor can we talk about? Is it at all possible to build a railway from there, through the mountains, the Megri mountains? You have to be crazy to invest billions in that. Okay, let's imagine that someone invests this money, but where will this railway lead? Armenia, you are a dead end. We have made you a dead end. Who has isolated you? We have! Energy, transportation, electricity – we have isolated it. Did those passing such heinous resolutions today and those behind them help you? No! Did this affect our resolve? No! Why? Because we have a strong will, we have the unity of the people and the government. Because since 1993 to the present day, Azerbaijan has been in good hands. For the

great leader and then for me, the interests of the Azerbaijani people have always been above everything else.

Who were the leaders of Armenia? For 20 years, Armenia was led by bandits of the Kocharyan-Sargsyan junta and the Armenian people know only too well who led them in the last two and a half years. Their train is off. But it is still not too late. You can still catch this departing train if we give you permission and if our conditions are met. From now on, this will be the case, only this! I wonder what conditions Pashinyan can put forward today and who he can put forward those seven conditions to. Where are those seven conditions? They are gone. Azerbaijan should hold talks with the so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh” – where is this condition? It has gone to hell! “Nagorno-Karabakh is Armenia and full stop” – he declared this in Khankandi with such enthusiasm, like a hero, and everyone applauded him. So? Is Karabakh Armenia? Let him come and say this. Karabakh is Azerbaijan! Those who applauded him, representatives of that criminal regime have either been destroyed or have deserted. They acknowledge that they have over 10,000 deserters. He said that they would build the parliament of the so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh” in Shusha, in our historical and ancient city, in our soul and heart. Where is this parliament? We have destroyed it, we have smashed it to smithereens. When he danced drunk on Jidir Duzu, he should have thought about how it might end. We taught him a lesson. We raised our flag in Shusha, in all other cities and districts. Everyone saw our strength. Everyone saw our power and our resolve. This iron fist broke their back, crushed them. It is a fist of unity, a fist of strength. After that, Azerbaijan will only follow the path of development and progress. We will continue to take tangible steps in the field of army building, we will further strengthen our army. All instructions have been given. We have both the resolve and experience – irreplaceable experience. All countries are studying the experience of this Patriotic War now. We also have the resources. There is a unity of people and the government. We have proven that we are a great and proud people. We have crushed the enemy. We have broken its back. We have destroyed it. This is a historic Victory. It will forever remain in the history of Azerbaijan as a glorious Victory!

From the first day of the war to the present – from 27 September to 1 December – I have repeatedly addressed the Azerbaijani people, shared the joy of victory and reported on our liberated cities. I consider myself a very lucky person because this Victory demonstrates our spirit, our unbending spirit. It shows that the Azerbaijani people never intended to put up with such a situation, and the entire nation, the smallest children, the elderly, those who left these lands and lived with the dream of returning, representatives of the younger generation who have never been to these lands but are originally from there lived with one dream. We all lived with one dream and have realized it. All our dreams have come true today. This is a truly great happiness for each of us. The war is already in the past.

A new era begins for our country. A new era of creation, an era of development, an era of restoration of our liberated territories. I am absolutely sure that during this period the Azerbaijani people will show unity and solidarity and demonstrate a strong resolve. Having united again, the Azerbaijani people will do everything possible to restore the destroyed cities and villages. From now on, we will live as a great and proud people. We have said our word in the international arena, we have said it in the region, achieved what we wanted, and I am sure that from now on our people will live happily and in safety.

I know that for all these days the Azerbaijani people were looking forward to my every speech because we were winning from the very first days, and for these 44 days there was no such thing as retreat, not once – although this happens in wars, armies may advance, retreat, make

tactical maneuvers. We did not retreat a single day. Our wounded soldiers, who were in serious condition, were saying in hospitals that they wanted to recover as soon as possible and return to the combat zone. May Allah rest the souls of our martyrs. The parents burying them were still saying – long live the Motherland. They were saying – forward, only forward. May Allah rest the souls of all our martyrs!

Civilians – 94 civilians were killed and more than 400 civilians were wounded by the sworn enemy. People whose houses were destroyed were saying coming out from under the rubble – only forward. You know, everyone should know this, and we are demonstrating to the whole world that we are a great and invincible people. We have won a Victory on the battlefield, in the political arena, and this Victory opens a new era for our country. This will be an era of development, security and progress.

I am concluding my addresses related to this topic. Of course, I am sure that I will continue to express my opinion to my native people. But I want to conclude my addresses related to this period with the words that all citizens of Azerbaijan have been dreaming about: Jabrayil is ours, Fuzuli is ours, Zangilan is ours, Gubadli is ours, Agdam is ours, Kalbajar is ours, Lachin is ours, Shusha is ours, Karabakh is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan! Glory to the Azerbaijani people! Long live Azerbaijan!

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani flag raised in liberated Lachin district

[10:56] 01.12.2020

The Azerbaijani flag was raised in the liberated from occupation Lachin district, the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

The ministry released video footages of raising Azerbaijani flag in Lachin district.

AZERTAC

Anadolu Agency: Every inch of Fuzuli bears scars of genocide

[09:44] 01.12.2020

Turkey's Anadolu News Agency has published an article, highlighting the acts of vandalism committed by Armenian aggressors on the liberated Azerbaijani territories. The article emphasizes that every inch of Fuzuli bears scars of genocide: houses are destroyed and looted, mosques, cemeteries, as well as cultural and historical sights are desecrated and completely demolished. "Among them is Haji Ali Akbar Mosque (XVII), constructed by Karbalayi Safikhan Karabakhi. The mosque's only minaret has withstood demolition."

The article says that Azerbaijan has regained its territories back and Azerbaijani tricolor is hoisted over Fuzuli.

The article also provides an insight into the history of Fuzuli district.

Sabir Shahtakhty
Special correspondent
AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Units of the Azerbaijan Army entered Lachin district

[01:47] 01.12.2020

According to the trilateral statement signed by the presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation, and the prime minister of the Republic of Armenia, units of the Azerbaijan Army entered Lachin district on December 1, Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

November 30

Turkish military sappers arrive in Azerbaijan

[22:15] 30.11.2020

The Turkish Armed Forces' specialists on the disposal of mines and improvised explosive devices have started to provide assistance to the Azerbaijan Army in the liberated from occupation territories, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

"Turkish military specialists will carry out work on demining and clearing these areas from explosive devices, as well as organize training sessions for our engineering units.

We express our gratitude to the Ministry of National Defense of fraternal Turkey for the support provided," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Other logistic support assets for peacekeeping contingent delivered

[20:12] 30.11.2020

“The other logistic support assets for the Russian peacekeeping contingent deployed in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan were delivered to our country on November 30,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The cargo brought by rail to our country was delivered to its destination point through a designated route,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Photojournalist Reza Deghati: These past few days, in Karabakh, I saw cemeteries sacked, houses burned, and mosques turned into barns

[15:29] 30.11.2020

“The vandalism of cultural, spiritual and religious heritage is understandable and unacceptable. I've witnessed it across different conflicts. These past few days, in Karabakh, I saw cemeteries sacked, houses burned and mosques turned into barns,” famous photojournalist Reza Deghati made a post on his Facebook account.

“In the village of Giyasli of the Aghdam district, this 18th century mosque was used during three decades of occupation to keep cows. Before leaving the district the occupant took what they could and burned the mosque. The reconstruction and rehabilitation will be a long process,” the photojournalist said.

AZERTAC

November 29

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Activities on provision of peacekeeping contingent of Russia are being held

[21:30] 29.11.2020

Relevant activities on the provision of the Russian peacekeeping contingent deployed in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan are being held in accordance with the protocol signed between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

The ministry said: "The military personnel, auto and special vehicles, as well as other logistic support assets, arrived in our country from Russia by rail on November 28 and passed border and customs control as required.

The cargo intended for the peacekeepers was delivered to Barda through the Yalama-Baku-Yevlakh-Barda railway route on November 29.

The cargo unloaded from the rail wagons were delivered to their destination point by auto transport escorted by the military police of the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan through the Barda-Aghdam-Khankendi route as planned previously."

"The personnel and cargo is a part of the peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation consisting of 1,960 servicemen, appropriate amount of military equipment, auto and special vehicles as mentioned in the trilateral statement," the Ministry of Defense added.

AZERTAC

Video footage of Shahbulag village of Aghdam district

[21:20] 29.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released a video footage of the liberated from occupation Shahbulag village of Aghdam district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

'PKK terrorists fought in Armenian ranks in Karabakh'

[14:11] 29.11.2020

PKK terrorists fought alongside the Armenian army in Nagorno-Karabakh, the terror group's senior member has confirmed, according to Anadolu Agency.

Speaking to a terrorist-affiliated media outlet, Layika Gultekin, a senior member, said they took part in recent Armenian attacks on Azerbaijan.

"We went to Nagorno-Karabakh to fight alongside Armenian soldiers. We will always be with the Armenians whenever they wish us to be," she said.

Turkish security officials believe the terror group expects to win Armenia's favor for its presence in northern Iraq.

AZERTAC

Video footage of liberated villages of Kalbajar district

[12:33] 29.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released a video footage of the liberated from occupation villages of Kalbajar district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

**Hikmat Hajiyev: Within 28 years of occupation Armenia conducted urbicide to
Aghdam**

[12:21] 29.11.2020

"Aghdam - vivid illustration and recognition of urbicide," Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev said on Twitter.

"Genocide against cities. Within 28 years of occupation Armenia truly and wholeheartedly conducted urbicide to Aghdam," Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of Vang village of Kalbajar district

29.11.2020 [11:27]

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released a video footage of Vang village of Kalbajar district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

November 28

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Diplomatic corps have witnessed consequences of Armenia's brutal rocket and artillery attacks

[15:15] 28.11.2020

“Diplomatic corps have witnessed consequences of Armenia's brutal rocket and artillery attacks,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his Twitter account.

“Shikharkh settlement of Tartar district. During 44 days war Armenia intensively shelled this settlement constructed for IDPs in an indiscriminate manner,” Hajiyev tweeted.

“Smerch missile on October 29th fired to Tartar was taken from private house and delivered to museum of local mayor's office,” he said.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Upon instruction of President Ilham Aliyev taking diplomatic corps, heads of international organizations to Tartar and newly liberated Aghdam district

[11:44] 28.11.2020

“Upon instruction of President Ilham Aliyev taking diplomatic corps, heads of international organizations to Tartar/newly liberated Aghdam district,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his Twitter account.

“In Tartar we will see results of heavy bombardment by Armenia. Aghdam ruined ghost town example of uricide. Exiled Qarabag football club is with us,” the presidential assistant tweeted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of Istisu settlement of Kalbajar district

[11:36] 28.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released a video footage of the liberated from occupation Istisu settlement of Kalbajar district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani flag raised in liberated from occupation Kalbajar city

[09:39] 28.11.2020

The Azerbaijani flag was raised in the liberated from occupation Kalbajar city, the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

The ministry released video footages of raising Azerbaijani flag in the city of Kalbajar.

AZERTAC

November 27

Euronews: Baku promises to restore Aghdam, "Hiroshima of the Caucasus"

[21:13] 27.11.2020

Euronews has posted an article about the liberated Aghdam district of Azerbaijan.

The Euronews correspondent spoke with an Azerbaijani refugee from Aghdam who said everything had changed in his home city. "Nothing is left of what once was here," he said.

Euronews said the word "Aghdam" means "a white house" in Azerbaijani, adding that the city bears evidence of the bloody fighting. That is why Aghdam is sometimes called "Hiroshima of the Caucasus". After Azerbaijan regained control over Aghdam, mine clearance started in the district.

Euronews said that about 30 years ago, thousands of Azerbaijanis left their native lands and became internally displaced persons. Now they want to return here. The Azerbaijani government plans to begin reconstruction work in Karabakh and adjacent districts.

AZERTAC

Oriental plane trees and mulberry gardens planted in Gubadli

[18:33] 27.11.2020

The next tree-planting campaigns have been held in Garalar village of the liberated Gubadli district of Azerbaijan, near the site of the 300-year-old Oriental plane tree natural monument, destroyed by the Armenian occupants, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources told AZERTAC.

“More than 50 Oriental plane trees were planted in accordance with the requirements of the quarantine regime, and 400 mulberry trees were planted instead of the cut mulberry trees along the road, in compliance with the requirements of the quarantine regime. This action has been realized with the participation of employees of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources as well as representatives of Gubadli District Executive Authority.

Thus, it contributed to the restoration of greenery destroyed by the Armenian occupiers in the Karabakh region.

The tree-planting actions were held also in Fuzuli, Zangilan and Aghdam districts liberated from occupation within the autumn tree-planting campaign,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Turkey to reveal Armenia's 'war crimes' in Karabakh

[18:11] 27.11.2020

Turkey's Ombudsman Institution has prepared a report on the alleged war crimes committed by Armenia during the six-weeks of fighting in the Karabakh region, according to Anadolu Agency.

The report will be sent to relevant institutions and organizations in Turkey and around the world, Turkey's chief ombudsman Seref Malkoc said on Tuesday.

Seref Malkoc said they inspected civil settlements being hit by missiles during field visits to Azerbaijan, as well as territories occupied by Armenia.

"Deliberately targeting civil settlements far from the frontline is a crime against humanity," he told Anadolu Agency. "This is incompatible with fundamental rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights, and the Geneva Convention."

Malkov said the report also includes how prohibited weapons and bombs were used, and how schools, places of worship, homes were demolished.

"This report will serve as evidence in international trials," the ombudsman said. "They turned mosques into pigpens and destroyed graves of Muslims."

AZERTAC

EURACTIV news portal publishes article condemning Armenia's environmental terrorism against Azerbaijan

[16:02] 27.11.2020

EURACTIV news portal has published an article by a senior fellow at the Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center) Naghi Ahmadov condemning the environmental terrorism of Armenia against Azerbaijan.

Headlined “The environmental cost of conflict?”, the article reads: “The Nagorno-Karabakh region’s ecosystem, wildlife, and natural resources have been badly damaged by the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

On 9 November, the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a Russia-brokered agreement to end the military operations in Karabakh that had started on 27 September and inflicted massive losses on the Armenian side. According to the joint statement, the Armenians had to leave the occupied Kalbajar region by 15 November (later extended to 25 November), Aghdam region by 20 November and Lachin region by 1 December. While the peace deal guaranteed Azerbaijan’s victory and was thus a cause for great celebration in Azerbaijan, Armenians reacted with fury and deep frustration.

Despite the fact that the Armenians moved to these Azerbaijani regions only after their occupation in the war of the early 1990s, they found it unacceptable to hand those territories back to Azerbaijanis. Media reports showed Armenians in Kalbajar burning houses, cutting down trees, and setting fire to forests before they left the region. It has been reported that they did not shy away from burning down schools and hospitals and butchering the cattle. Unfortunately, these acts have not received an adequate reaction from the international institutions and NGOs that deal with environmental issues.

All these unlawful acts need to be strongly condemned; but, more dramatically than demolishing the buildings, the inhumane attacks against the environment shocked Azerbaijani society and fueled anger, primarily among those people who had been displaced by Armenia from these territories back in the 1990s. Unfortunately, this environmental terror against the occupied regions of Azerbaijan started at the very beginning of the occupation. The region’s ecosystem, wildlife, and natural resources have been violently destroyed over the last 27 years.

On many occasions, the international organizations sounded alarms against the devastation of the environment of the Karabakh region and beyond caused by the occupation. In January 2016, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted Resolution 2085 that condemned the fact that the occupation by Armenia of Nagorno-Karabakh and other, adjacent areas of Azerbaijan had created humanitarian and environmental problems for the citizens of Azerbaijan living in the Lower Karabakh valley. They called on the Armenian authorities to cease using water resources as tools of political influence.

According to the report “Environment and Security: Transforming Risks into Cooperation – The Case of the Southern Caucasus” prepared by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in October 2004, the occupation represented a major challenge for the environment and the security of Azerbaijan, and posed specific problems such as the long-term

impacts of overuse of pastureland, clearing of forests, stockpiling of waste, and irrational use of land in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The report of the environmental assessment mission led by the OSCE to fire-affected territories in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region, conducted from 2 to 13 October 2006, concluded that the areas burned were extensive and the impacts on people, the economy, and the environment were significant. The report prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan also paints a shocking picture of illegal economic and other activities in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan: “The exploitation of the natural resources accompanied by associated ecological disasters, such as tailing dumps and water pollution, has reached such a fast and unobstructed pace that even Armenia-based environmental organizations, including the Pan-Armenian Environmental Front (PAEF), raised [a] red flag.”

The environmental crimes committed by Armenia for many years are also evidenced by Azercosmos satellite images. These pieces of evidence show that the most valuable examples of flora and fauna in the occupied territories have been obliterated. According to preliminary estimates by experts, the damage to the environment and natural resources is valued at about \$265.3 billion.

It is worth noting that the total forest area under occupation was 247,352 hectares; about 13,197 hectares of these are of particular importance. More than 460 wild plants and shrubs grow in these forested areas. Of these, 70 are endemic and do not grow naturally anywhere else in the world. In the Kalbajar region, 968 hectares of trees included on the IUCN Red List were also cut down and sold abroad.

Tofiq Mammadov, the director of the Institute of Dendrology of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, stated that 21 endemic Azerbaijani species, as well as hundreds of rare and endangered plants, were destroyed by the occupying forces of Armenia. Rare forest species including platan (plane tree), nut trees, oaks, and other valuable tree species in Basitchay State Nature Conservation, Aras State Nature Reserve, Qaragol State Nature Conservation Area, and the State Nature Reserves of Lachin, Gubadli, and Dashalti regions have been plundered and subjected to felling and cutting for timber that was exported from the occupied territories for furniture, barrel, and rifle production. Many of these tree species are now on the verge of disappearance.

To put it briefly, as a consequence of the occupation, Nagorno-Karabakh has experienced massive destruction of the ecosystem that can be characterized as “ecocide,” which calls for assigning criminal responsibility.

As a result of the liberation of the territories from occupation, Azerbaijan has discovered new incidences of environmental terror carried out by the Armenians on these lands for almost 30 years. In order to ascertain the true condition of the flora and fauna of the liberated territories, it is necessary to conduct an appropriate investigation and objective scientific assessments on the spot and determine the damage caused to nature.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijan is planting trees in the liberated Zangilan and Fuzuli districts, and has already embarked on initiatives to restore the ecosystem of the liberated territories. However, expanding biodiversity and rehabilitating the ecosystem in the region will require the development of a comprehensive program. It may take decades to restore the flora and fauna, as some plants

have been completely destroyed and others are on the verge of extinction. As soon as specialists assess the damage caused to the environment, it will be possible to determine the legal mechanisms to bring those who are responsible for the crime of ecocide to justice and demand compensation.

To sum up, the hostile attitude toward nature and the eco-terror in Nagorno-Karabakh and the adjacent regions of Azerbaijan not only pose a serious threat to the ecological balance, flora and fauna of Azerbaijan but also, along with other provocative actions, instill further hatred and constitute a serious threat to peace and security in the region. Ultimately, this brutal behavior toward the environment, this ecocide, will impede the process of reconciliation between these two countries that are bound together by geography and history.”

AZERTAC

France does not recognize so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh republic”

[15:30] 27.11.2020

Official Paris does not recognize the so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh republic”, the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“On November 25, the Senate adopted a resolution calling for the recognition by the French authorities of the so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh republic". During the debate before the vote, Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, Secretary of State at the Foreign Ministry, recalled the position of the French government on this issue. France does not recognize the so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh republic",” said the statement.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, Italian FMs hold phone talk

[13:11] 27.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has had a telephone conversation with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy Luigi Di Maio.

The ministers discussed the latest situation in the region, including the importance of implementing the trilateral statement signed on November 9, 2020 in connection with a complete ceasefire and the cessation of all hostilities, and the implementation of a number of issues stemming from the statement, the importance of this statement in terms of ensuring lasting peace, safety and prosperity in the region.

The FMs also exchanged views on the development of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. They discussed opportunities for expanding multilateral cooperation.

The sides also discussed other issues of mutual interest

AZERTAC

Russian senator: French Senate resolution on Nagorno-Karabakh will remain as recommendation

[10:17] 27.11.2020

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The French Senate's resolution urging the government to recognize the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent republic will remain as a recommendation, chairman of the Russian Federation Council's Committee on Foreign Affairs, senator Konstantin Kosachev has told Russian RIA Novosti news agency.

The unanimous position of the Senate is demonstration of France's readiness to make harsh moves in politics, Kosachev said, adding "it's little more than demonstration".

Farida Abdullayeva
Special Correspondent
AZERTAC

November 26

Azerbaijan summons French ambassador to present note of protest

[20:37] 26.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Thursday summoned French Ambassador to the country Zacharie Gross.

During the meeting, a note of protest from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan was presented to the ambassador in connection with the adoption of the resolution on "The need to recognize the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" by the French Senate on November 25 of this year.

The firm protest of Azerbaijan on the resolution, which contradicts the norms and principles of international law, the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions of 1993 were brought to the attention of the French ambassador.

The French ambassador said that the position of the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry will be brought to the attention of Paris.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani parliament calls on Government to appeal for exclusion of France from OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship

[20:10] 26.11.2020

The Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan has called on the Government to appeal to the OSCE leadership for exclusion of the French Republic from the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmanship. In its Statement on the resolution, adopted by the French Senate at the instigation of various Turkophobic and Islamophobic political forces and Armenian ethnic groups based in France, the Azerbaijani Parliament said France`s neutrality was questioned due to its position and statements made in recent days.

“The recognition by the French Senate of this puppet body is an attempt to incite the French Government to violate the fundamental norms and principles of international law,” the statement says.

“This step by the French Senate is inconsistent with the commitments of the French Republic in the framework of the EU's global foreign and security policy, including the documents adopted by the Council of the European Union on the territorial integrity of states since 2016. One of the main reasons why the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which posed a threat to the security of the South Caucasus and Europe as a whole, had not been resolved for nearly 30 years, is that the states playing the role of international mediators in peace talks, France in particular, did not refer to the aggressor by its name and treated the aggressor and the victim of aggression in the same manner,” the document emphasizes.

“The resolution of the French Senate made baseless and false allegations that Turkish forces were involved in Azerbaijan`s counter-offensive, mercenaries from some conflict zones in the Middle East were being used against Armenia and war crimes being committed against civilians in Nagorno-Karabakh, but provided no evidence of the above whatsoever. The Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan emphasizes that the new realities created as a result of Azerbaijan's comprehensive efforts in the South Caucasus must be accepted by all international organizations and states, including the French Republic,” the statement mentions.

The Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan also called on the Government of Azerbaijan to reconsider the existing political relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the French Republic, and to deeply analyze the existing economic relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the French Republic and take necessary measures.

AZERTAC

The policy of three "all" or the Armenian scorched-earth tactics

[19:25] 26.11.2020

AZERTAC presents an article by Chairman of the Azerbaijani Bar Association Anar Baghirov headlined "The policy of three "all" or the Armenian scorched-earth tactics".

"The "scorched earth" tactic is prohibited by article 54 of Protocol No. I of the 1977 Geneva Convention; article 55, in turn, prohibits causing damage to the environment.

With the liberation of Azerbaijani localities that were under Armenian occupation for more than 28 years, the whole world is witnessing the real consequences and the essence of the occupation policy of the AGGRESSOR state of Armenia.

The once flourishing cities and villages inhabited exclusively by the Azerbaijani population are now a kind of a personification of ghost cities that were invaded by barbarians, hordes of invaders who, like swarms of locusts, destroyed everything in their path.

The painfully familiar picture described in historical Chronicles has become a part of our modern history. In general, it is often said that history has a way of repeating itself, but with the example of the liberated territories of Azerbaijan, we can painfully state that, in particular, the history of scorched earth tactics repeats itself.

Scorched earth tactics were widely used in world history by invaders of foreign lands, for example, by the Nazis during World War II. There is a known order of the Wehrmacht to burn and destroy all cities and villages in order to deprive the enemy of a roof over their heads (Paul Karel. Eastern Front "Scorched Earth". page 397 — the Document 4.). History also knows an example of the "scorched earth" tactic, known as the three-all policy. Also called the "burn to ashes" strategy, everything meant: kill everything, burn everything, and rob everything.

As a result of the "scorched earth" policy of the Armenian fascists, the occupied settlements of Azerbaijan were also turned into ruins, into a desert area. In this regard, it should be noted that the "scorched earth" tactic is explicitly prohibited by article 54 of Protocol No. I of the 1977 Geneva Convention, and article 55, in turn, prohibits causing damage to the environment.

It is well known that in addition to the complete destruction of civil buildings and infrastructure, historical, religious and cultural monuments of the occupied territories, the Armenian occupiers destroyed thousands of hectares of relict forests and destroyed the environment as a result of illegal extraction of natural resources.

The "scorched earth" policy is a perpetual crime committed by the Armenian military and political leadership since the year 1992. The whole world today is a witness to the indisputable evidence, advertised by the vandals themselves in various media, of how, with the tacit inaction of the occupation authorities, civil objects are burned, infrastructure facilities are rendered unusable, religious and historical monuments of Azerbaijani settlements liberated as a result of the capitulation of Armenia are vandalized.

Simultaneously, the example of looting by Armenian vandals under the leadership of terrorist Ter-Hovhannes Hovhannisyanyan, who in the early 90's openly led gangs of looters and murderers who destroyed the civilian population due to their ethnicity, and in the days of the 44-day war, with a cross on his chest and a Kalashnikov in his hands, threatened to kill every Azerbaijani.

How can a Christian, and even more so a priest, be a murderer of defenseless people, violate one of the main commandments of Christianity: "thou shall not kill"! The worst thing is that under the leadership of "priest"-terrorist vandals are destroying a religious complex Khudavang by removing the tiles from the roof (images of which are available on many open-source resources), and thus arrogantly and cynically in the true tradition of the Armenian hypocritical propaganda announce in advance about the future destruction of the temple after the liberation of Kalbajar.

The footage distributed from all over the liberated territories, including the latest footage of the visit of Supreme Commander-in-Chief, President Ilham Aliyev and First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva to the liberated Aghdam and the mosque desecrated by the Armenian aggressors, once again testifies to the imminent restoration of the "scorched" land of Karabakh. The creative activity and careful attitude of the leaders of Azerbaijan to the religious monuments of all faiths is well-known far beyond the borders of our country. The day when the "scorched" land will flourish and recover following 30 years of barbaric extermination and devastation by the invader is not far off.

Now let everyone who somehow sympathizes with the false sufferers answer the banal question: who is the owner of the land, the one who devastates, burns to the ground and destroys it, or the one who nurtures, creates and cares for it?

That's the whole truth..."

AZERTAC

‘Rivers and lakes of liberated Kalbajar district will be re-studied and evaluated’

[17:39] 26.11.2020

“The rivers and lakes of the liberated Kalbajar district will be re-studied and evaluated”, representative of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources Faig Mutallimov has told AZERTAC.

Faig Mutallimov said: “The liberated Kalbajar district is known for its beautiful nature, favorable relief, rich underground and surface natural resources, mineral water deposits, rivers and lakes with great therapeutic effect. There are many lakes in the region, such as Boyuk Alagol, Kichik Alagol, Ganligol, Dibgol, Ayrigol, Nakhirgol, Boyukgol.

The largest lakes in Karabakh, Boyuk Alagol and Kichik Alagol, are located between the East and South Goycha ranges in the Kalbajar region. The lakes were formed as a result of volcanic eruptions and river crossings.

The Great Alagol is located at an altitude of 2729 meters above sea level, with an area of 510 hectares, a length of 3670 meters and a maximum depth of 9.4 meters.

There are about 30 lakes in the basin of the Great Alagol, including lakes that dry up in summer. The largest of these are Kichik Alagol, Jilligol and Dikpilleken lakes. The surface of the lake is covered with ice up to one meter thick from early November to late April. In June-August, the water temperature is 14-15 degrees.”

Mutallimov noted that 7 rivers flow into the Great Alagol. The largest of them are Gurbagali and Azadchay.

“Kichik Alagol, the second largest lake in Kalbajar, is located 2 km south-east of Boyuk Alagol. Most of the lake, with an area of 0.9 km², a length of 2,000 meters and a maximum depth of 4 meters, is covered with aquatic plants. The water is poured into the Great Alagol.

The main water of the lake is the water of several small rivers, and groundwater plays a role in the increase of water. In summer, the temperature on the surface of the lake does not exceed 14-16 degrees. The water is hydrocarbonate-calcium. From late October to early May, the surface of the lake is covered with ice.

Many large and small rivers flow through the region, the largest rivers are Tartar and Khachin.

The 200-kilometer-long Tartarchay is the most wet tributary of the Kura River in Azerbaijan. It takes its source from mountain springs, mainly formed by groundwater.

The existing water resources in Kalbajar region will be re-studied and evaluated,” the ministry official said.

AZERTAC

Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan adopts statement regarding biased resolution of French Senate

[17:31] 26.11.2020

In its session on 26 November, the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan has adopted a statement regarding the biased resolution of the French Senate.

AZERTAC presents the statement.

Statement of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan

The Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan declares the following in connection with the resolution adopted by the Senate of the French Republic on 25 November 2020 at the instigation of various Turkophobic and Islamophobic political circles and Armenian ethnic groups operating in France:

- The existence of a puppet organization called the “Nagorno-Karabakh republic”, illegally established by the Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1988-1994 and not recognized by any state, was terminated in November 2020;
- The recognition by the French Senate of this puppet body is an attempt to incite the French Government to violate the fundamental norms and principles of international law;
- This step by the French Senate is inconsistent with the commitments of the French Republic in the framework of the EU's global foreign and security policy, including the documents adopted by the Council of the European Union on the territorial integrity of states since 2016;
- The implementation of provisions of this resolution has the potential to deal a crushing blow to the European Union and its Eastern Partnership program;
- One of the main reasons why the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which posed a threat to the security of the South Caucasus and Europe as a whole, had not been resolved for nearly 30 years, is that the states playing the role of international mediators in peace talks, France in particular, did not refer to the aggressor by its name and treated the aggressor and the victim of aggression in the same manner;
- Encouraged by the support of foreign forces interested in continuing instability in the South Caucasus, Armenia, seeking to disrupt the peace talks once and for all and legitimize the occupation of Azerbaijani lands, launched another provocation against Azerbaijan on 27 September 2020, but a 44-day counter-offensive launched by Azerbaijan, which exercised its right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter, forced the aggressor state of Armenia to sign for peace;
- The resolution of the French Senate made baseless and false allegations that Turkish forces were involved in Azerbaijan's counter-offensive, mercenaries from some conflict zones in the Middle East were being used against Armenia and war crimes being committed against civilians in Nagorno-Karabakh, but provided no evidence of the above whatsoever;

- However, there are indisputable facts that chauvinist, racist and terrorist mercenaries from foreign countries, including France, were brought to the war zone and used against Azerbaijan, committing serious war crimes against civilians in Azerbaijani settlements located far from the zone of military action;

- The Armenian armed forces committed a number of massacres against peaceful Azerbaijanis during the war of aggression against Azerbaijan in 1992-1994, including the Khojaly genocide, one of the most horrific tragedies of the 20th century;

- The French Republic, which considers itself an “example” of respect for human rights and democratic values, has chosen to remain silent in the face of these crimes against peaceful Azerbaijanis;

- During the colonial rule, the French armed forces massacred hundreds of thousands of civilians because of their ethnicity and religion. The genocide committed is a black mark on the political history of France that cannot be erased;

- The trilateral statement signed by the presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia and the prime minister of Armenia on 10 November 2020 put an end to the 30-year-old Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the occupation of Azerbaijani lands, and paved the way for future development of the South Caucasus. This trilateral statement established the supremacy of norms and principles of international law, Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 adopted by the UN Security Council in 1993 and supported by the French Republic, UN General Assembly Resolution 62/243 adopted in 2008, has ensured the implementation of resolutions and documents adopted by the European Union and the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement, the European Court of Human Rights and other authoritative international bodies.

The Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan emphasizes that the new realities created as a result of Azerbaijan's comprehensive efforts in the South Caucasus must be accepted by all international organizations and states, including the French Republic. These realities are supported by Russia and Turkey, countries enjoying great authority in the region, and are also accepted by Armenia. Taking into account the above, the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan calls on the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to:

1. To appeal to the OSCE leadership to recall the French Republic from the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, because its neutrality has been questioned due to its position and statements in recent days;

2. To reconsider the existing political relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the French Republic;

3. To deeply analyze the existing economic relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the French Republic and take necessary measures.

AZERTAC

Turkish FM, NATO Secretary General discuss Nagorno-Karabakh

[16:24] 26.11.2020

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg spoke over the phone on Thursday.

The two discussed matters pertaining to the Eastern Mediterranean, Nagorno-Karabakh and Afghanistan.

AZERTAC

Turkish Foreign Ministry: French Senate's call on Azerbaijan to withdraw from its own lands is ridiculous

[14:55] 26.11.2020

A recent motion passed by French lawmakers calling on Azerbaijan to withdraw from the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which Baku had liberated from occupation, is "ridiculous, biased and far from reality," Turkey said on Thursday, according to Anadolu Agency.

"The resolution adopted yesterday by the French Senate on the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute is a case in point that disregards the most basic principles of international law, legitimacy and equity for the sake of domestic political concerns," Turkey's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The ministry also "completely" objected to the "unfounded allegations raised" against Turkey in the French resolution.

Recalling France's position as co-chair at OSCE Minsk group, the statement said the French Senate's resolution was "a clear indicator" of why the group had been unable to find a solution to the long-standing conflict, as well as of its "biases" on the matter.

Citing the Armenian army's "aggression and provocations" it exhibited first in the Tovuz border area and then in Nagorno-Karabakh, it said: "Azerbaijan gave the necessary response and restored its territorial integrity by liberating its lands that had been under occupation for nearly 30 years."

The Azerbaijani army's triumph on the ground was a "materialization" of the rights that were noted in the Minsk process -- of which France is also co-chair -- but were not actualized, added the ministry.

"The relevant UN resolutions order the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenians from the occupied Azerbaijani territories," it added.

"Yet, the French Senate's call on Azerbaijan to withdraw from its own lands, which it liberated from the occupation, is a manifestation of a ridiculous, biased and far from reality understanding that cannot be taken seriously. This decision lacks common sense, which cannot be explained by any reasonable justification, and also limits the ability of France to contribute in real terms to the solution of the issue," the statement noted.

The ministry also defined France's recent "obsession" with Turkey as "unsurprising" but also "thought-provoking."

Turkey further called on France to adopt an "objective and unbiased perception" of Turkey's actions in its surrounding region while refraining from making "extremely erroneous references to history or irrelevant issues" for the sake of bilateral relations.

It also urged France to embrace a "constructive attitude" towards the outcome of the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict that has been ongoing for almost 30 years. "For this, it will be sufficient to make an effort to reach a permanent solution in accordance with international law based on the existing realities."

The statement also conveyed Turkey's readiness to work together with other partners, including France, to find "a sustainable peace that would contribute to regional peace and stability."

AZERTAC

Milli Majlis adopts statement of protest against French Senate`s biased resolution

[14:02] 26.11.2020

The Azerbaijani parliament (Milli Majlis) has adopted a statement of protest against the French Senate`s biased resolution.

The statement was adopted at a session of Milli Majlis held on November 26.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Resolution of French Senate is nothing more than a piece of paper for Azerbaijan

[13:13] 26.11.2020

“The resolution of the French Senate is nothing more than a piece of paper for Azerbaijan,” said Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev as he commented on the adoption of the resolution by the French Senate on the recognition of the self-styled “Nagorno-Karabakh Republic”.

Hikmat Hajiyev said: “On November 18, at the Presidium of the French Senate, a group of senators influenced by the Armenian diaspora and lobby presented a draft resolution No. 145 on "The need to recognize the "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic", which was discussed and adopted on November 25.

First of all, I would like to emphasize that this resolution is nothing but an ordinary piece of paper for Azerbaijan. This piece of paper, adopted to serve narrow political ambitions, along with a gross violation of international law, the UN Charter and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, raises serious questions about France's intentions and objective activities both as a co-chair country of the Minsk Group and a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

This provocative step of the Senate is a manifestation of the traditional Armenian fanaticism of the French political circles.

The open pro-Armenian position of France, which has forgotten that a mediating country must be neutral and fair, has become one of the main factors hindering the peaceful resolution of the conflict. This support has prompted aggressive Armenia to continue the status quo and strengthen the fact of occupation.

It is very regrettable that the French Senate have opted to take a silent position for 30 years regarding the occupation of the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan, the killing of the civilian population, ethnic cleansing, ecological terror, illegal settlement and illegal economic activity in our lands.

We firmly reject the false accusations and slander against Azerbaijan and fraternal Turkey which are reflected in the text of the resolution, and strongly condemn attempts to distort the historical, political and legal aspects of the conflict.

The claims against Turkey and Azerbaijan, which have not yet been confirmed by any evidence, for allegedly involving hired terrorists from abroad in hostilities are groundless. Our relevant entities have brought to the attention of France the facts and evidence of the involvement of mercenaries who are French citizens in the battles on the territory of Azerbaijan within the Armenian armed forces.

We consider the resolution as a clear example of growing Islamophobia in France. The discrimination and persecution in France against the Islamic religion and Muslims under the guise of extreme secularism and freedom of the press reminds us of the anti-Semitism that once reigned in this country and continues to this day.

The French Senate purposefully avoids condemning the military provocations of Armenia committed during 44 days of fighting against civilians, civilian facilities, energy and transport infrastructure located near and far from the conflict zone, shamelessly blaming Azerbaijan, whose villages, towns and cities were subjected to missile strikes, and where most of all civilians were killed.

The pro-Armenian political circles of France must understand that Azerbaijan waged a war against foreign occupying armed forces on its land, and these lands are the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan, recognized by international law. No force can accuse Azerbaijan of this and demand the withdrawal of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces from these territories.

On November 10, 2020, a joint statement signed by the President of Azerbaijan, the President of Russia and the prime minister of Armenia ended the military escalation between Armenia and Azerbaijan and paved the way to practical measures to establish peace in the region.

Unfortunately, it should be noted that, paradoxically, France, which is one of the co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, is trying to disrupt this agreement and reignite the conflict. The hypocritical policy recently pursued by France against our country in a number of international organizations is a matter of serious concern and questions for Azerbaijan.

If the French Senate is so "worried" about justice and international law, then it would be more logical to consider the issue of the Comorian island of Mayotte, which is one of the latest examples of colonization, in accordance with the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the decisions of the Non-Aligned Movement.

We consider the adoption of this resolution as an extremely shameful step for French politics and parliamentarism. The French government must state its official position on the inadmissibility of such provocative steps and express its support for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan by issuing a statement condemning the resolution."

AZERTAC

Consul General Aghayev: How the French Ambassador watered down UNSC documents on Armenia's invasion of Kalbajar

[11:45] 26.11.2020

Article by Azerbaijan's Consul General in Los Angeles Nasimi Aghayev titled "How the French Ambassador watered down UNSC documents on Armenia's invasion of Kalbajar" was published at Medium online platform on November 24.

Aghayev mentions that "On November 25, 2020 Armenia handed the Kalbajar district back to Azerbaijan, in line with the November 10 agreement, which also ended the 44-day-war in Karabakh. Thus a 27-year-long illegal occupation of Kalbajar came to an end. Tens of thousands of forcibly displaced Azerbaijani residents of Kalbajar will finally be able to return home."

The Consul General notes that "The invasion and total ethnic cleansing of Kalbajar by Armenia in early April 1993 was one of the most crucial moments and darkest chapters in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict." An investigation by Human Rights Watch said: "The only outlet from Kalbajar to Azerbaijan proper was over the Murov mountains to the north through the Omar pass, a treacherous journey in winter... 60,000 people were forced to flee their homes... many were taken hostage or killed by indiscriminate fire."

Aghayev further mentions that "These facts are confirmed by a striking video I unearthed and shared recently on social media that went viral. It's a video of the California-born Armenian terrorist Monte Melkonian and his accomplices in Kalbajar in April 1993, who giggle and perform celebratory gunfire, as they give the besieged Azerbaijani civilians ten hours to leave."

Immediately after Kalbajar's invasion, the UN Security Council (UNSC) passed a statement on April 6, 1993, condemning the invasion and demanding the withdrawal of the occupying forces from the district. Referring to recently declassified U.S. State Department cables that were published by Clinton Presidential Library on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, Nasimi Aghayev notes that "From the cables, it becomes clear that at the behest of the French U.N. Ambassador Jean-Bernard Mérimée, the UNSC Statement on Kalbajar's invasion was substantially watered down. Opposing the language presented by U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright and other members of the U.N. Security Council and in an apparent attempt to exculpate Armenia for invasion, Amb. Mérimée insisted on the inclusion of the wording "local Armenian forces" as invaders of Kalbajar... French insistence worked and the UNSC passed the suggested, watered-down language. On April 30, 1993 the UNSC passed a resolution on Kalbajar (res. 822)— the first on the conflict — using the same language. Due to Amb. Mérimée's efforts, the Resolution 822 became the weakest of all four UNSC resolutions passed on the conflict. Three subsequent resolutions (853, 874, 884) did not use the wording "local Armenian forces," included the language "Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic," as well as expressed a clear support for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and demanded the immediate withdrawal of occupying forces from all occupied areas of Azerbaijan."

Aghayev further notes that "As Amb. Mérimée was watering down UNSC documents in favor of Armenia, an ethnic Armenian — Benon Sevan — was U.N. Assistant Secretary General with particular responsibility for the Security Council. Sevan was later accused together with Amb. Mérimée for taking bribes from Saddam Hussein's regime in the Oil-for-Food programme."

“After all, Amb. Mérimée’s strong pro-Armenian bias was also in line with diplomacy pursued by France — a country with one of the largest Armenian diasporas (around 500,000) in the world,” so Aghayev. “Because of Armenian lobby’s potential influence over French diplomacy, in 1997 Azerbaijan strongly objected to France’s co-chairmanship in the OSCE’s Minsk Group—the main international body dealing with the conflict. To establish some balance in the Group, Azerbaijan insisted on and achieved the inclusion of the United States as a co-chair,” the Consul General writes.

Highlighting the French Senate resolution recommending the recognition of the so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh Republic” - a puppet regime of Armenia -, Aghayev emphasizes that “such recognition would not only violate the international law and the very foundations of the international legal system France helped to build after the WWII, it would also contradict France’s status as one of the mediators in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.”

Despite much effort by the Armenian lobby and their allies, they cannot change a very simple fact that President Macron and before him President Putin of Russia enunciated: Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent districts are an integral part of the Republic of Azerbaijan!

“Hopefully, Armenia and its diaspora groups will gradually realize that the only road to peace and prosperity for Armenia and its future generations passes through good neighborly relations with Azerbaijan, not through the occupation of neighbor’s lands, driven by maximalist nationalism,” concludes Aghayev.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry: Resolution adopted by French Senate has no legal force

[11:31] 26.11.2020

“First of all, we would like to note that the proposal for a resolution on "The need to recognize the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" adopted by the French Senate was put forward by a group of overtly pro-Armenian senators. The day before the vote on the resolution, the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to France addressed the members of the Senate in accordance with the hearing procedures of the Senate and provided detailed information on the one-sided and untrue points reflected in the proposal of the resolution. As such, the adoption of a completely biased resolution by the Senate can only be considered as a provocation. It seems that French Armenians widely use the issue of the conflict for election purposes,” said Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Foreign Affairs as it commented on the resolution adopted by the French Senate.

“We would like to emphasize that the resolution adopted by the Senate has no legal force. Nevertheless, given the political significance of the resolution, the imposition of such a resolution by a country with a mediating mandate seriously casts doubt on the country's neutrality. It also undermines France's reputation as a fair mediator in the Azerbaijani society.

Of course, it should be noted that the official position of the French Republic on the settlement of the conflict was voiced by high-ranking state officials, including the President and Foreign Minister. France supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and this is reflected both in the documents signed in bilateral framework and with the European Union. The Secretary of State of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, who addressed the discussions in the Senate, also expressed the official position in his speech.

Instead of adopting biased resolutions, engagement of the French Senate in activities that serve peace, stability and progress in the region would respond to the interests of France and lead to the sustainable development of the region,” the Foreign Ministry said.

AZERTAC

November 25

Political parties operating in Azerbaijan release statement regarding consideration by French Senate of issue of recognition of self-styled entity in Nagorno-Karabakh

[19:26] 25.11.2020

Political parties operating in Azerbaijan have issued a statement regarding consideration by the French Senate of the issue of recognition of the self-styled entity in Nagorno-Karabakh. AZERTAC presents the statement.

Statement of political parties operating in Azerbaijan

As is known, the French Senate is preparing to discuss a resolution today, on 25 November, recommending the recognition of the self-styled entity in Nagorno-Karabakh. As political parties operating in Azerbaijan, we regret to say that this action of the French Senate did not come as a surprise and we expected such a step.

The demonstration of such a biased attitude began in the early days of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict but became even more pronounced during the violation of Azerbaijan's borders in Tovuz district and especially during and after the Second Karabakh War.

We, political figures representing the vanguard of Azerbaijani society most of whom have joined politics specifically to thwart attacks on our territorial integrity, have not forgotten that the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was triggered by Mikhail Gorbachev's adviser Abel Aganbegyan, who promised the Armenian Diaspora in Paris back in 1987 that Nagorno-Karabakh would be separated from Azerbaijan and annexed to Armenia.

The ASALA terrorists, who were released from prison in France during the First Karabakh War, were known for their unparalleled atrocities against Azerbaijanis in Nagorno-Karabakh. We will never forget the fact that people whose terrorist background were beyond doubt were being sent to Armenia and then to Nagorno-Karabakh to fight against Azerbaijanis.

It was under the patronage of France that the Armenian community in the Middle East, especially in Lebanon, gained special privileges and became a state within Lebanon. Formed from amongst Armenians in Lebanon under the patronage of France, ASALA recruited terrorists from the Middle East and formed gangs known for their brutality against Azerbaijanis.

State visits were organized between Azerbaijan and France at the highest level, and our country, having high hopes for France, agreed to France becoming a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group in 1997.

France's economic interests in Azerbaijan have been ensured to the maximum extent. More than 50 French companies successfully operate in Azerbaijan and the volume of their investments in the Azerbaijani economy exceeds \$2 billion. During his visit to Paris in June 2018, President Ilham Aliyev paid special attention to the development of economic relations, held meetings with senior executives of leading French companies and groups, and signed agreements worth \$2.2 billion.

The Azerbaijani state and the Heydar Aliyev Foundation have implemented numerous cultural projects in France, restored monuments in the park of the Palace of Versailles in Paris, the Louvre Museum, and established the Azerbaijani Cultural Center in Paris and the Islamic Art Department in the Louvre.

However, despite all these steps, France did not give up its pro-Armenian bias, and some French companies continued to operate illegally in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan until the last moments of the Second Karabakh War.

In 2018, many French municipalities signed friendship charters with the municipalities of the so-called regime. Although the Azerbaijani side had these charters annulled through the French courts, the Paris Mayor's Office initiated a recognition of the "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" this year.

On 30 September, French President Emmanuel Macron made inaccurate and unserious statements about the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the events on the frontline while in Riga, Latvia, and then slandered our country on the basis of false information and rumors and without any evidence.

At the beginning of November, 42 well-known French figures, including writers, journalists, etc. wrote a joint letter to President Macron urging him to "protect the Armenians of Karabakh".

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said that despite being a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, Paris would continue to unilaterally defend Armenia.

The biased steps that have been taken since the early days of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict show that France is unable to maintain its neutrality as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group. France does not draw any distinctions between the aggressor state of Armenia and the occupied Azerbaijan, defends the aggressor Armenia in a prejudiced manner, is not objective, acts on the side of the aggressor and does not carry out its mediation mission. Recent events have shown that only Russia, a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, and Turkey, a member of the Minsk Group, are interested in a real solution to the conflict. This approach is based on the friendly and close relations among leaders of the three countries.

Justice cannot be guaranteed in the world with double standards and with differing approaches to same events. We believe that the French political elite has never adhered to the ideals of the Great French Revolution. On the one hand, the ideals of brotherhood, freedom, equality, the separation of religion from the state have been proclaimed, but in reality, colonialism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, racism and Christian bigotry have always played an important role in the country's foreign policy. As a result of France's misguided approach, the European Union is now perceived as a Christian club.

France is a country that has committed genocides in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Chad, Gabon, Cameroon, Rwanda, Djibouti, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Today, there are 11 island states in the Pacific, Indian Ocean and Caribbean, and 1 continental territory in South America (French Guiana) and 1 continental territory in North America (Saint-Pierre and Miquelon). About 3 million people live in these colonies, and their nationality is compulsorily marked as French in their passports. Instead of lecturing Azerbaijan on

Nagorno-Karabakh, we would advise the French authorities to take the same approach to the Nagorno-Karabakh issue as they do to the principle of self-determination of these peoples, including the people of Alsace and Corsica, which they have occupied for 300 years.

In addition to such double standards, the French media have published hundreds of articles on the recent occupation of the French political elite by ethnic and economic lobbies. Since the 1980s, almost all of France's leading politicians have been accused in this regard.

The Azerbaijani public is also aware of the fact that Emmanuel Macron has been taken over by ethnic lobbies, specifically the Armenian lobby, and the fact that he coordinates his activities with the interests of the Armenian lobby. While Macron spoke of the importance of protecting “Armenian religious and historical-cultural sites” in Karabakh, his silence on the deaths of 94 innocent civilians as a result of Armenian war crimes during the Second Karabakh War once again demonstrates his hypocrisy. History will show the real reasons behind Emmanuel Macron's zeal for the Armenians.

As political parties, we declare that now is the time to take more concrete steps. If the French Senate adopts a resolution on Nagorno-Karabakh, the country that explicitly supports the aggressor must be removed from co-chairmanship of the OSCE Minsk Group, all political and economic relations with France must be reconsidered, and all cultural projects must be stopped.

New Azerbaijan Party (YAP) – Ali Ahmadov

Civil Solidarity Party – Sabir Rustamkhanli

Ana Vatan (Motherland) Party – Fazail Aghamali

Great Establishment Party – Fazil Mustafa

Whole Azerbaijan Popular Front Party – Gudrat Hasanguliyev

Party of Democratic Reforms – Asim Mollazade

Unity Party – Tahir Karimli

Citizen Unity Party – Sabir Hajiyev

Azerbaijan Democratic Enlightenment Party – Elshan Musayev

National Front Party – Razi Nurullayev

ReAL party – Ilgar Mammadov

Azerbaijan Hope Party - Igbal Aghazade

National Revival Movement Party – Faraj Guliyev

Azerbaijan Democratic Party – Sardar Jalaloghlu

Justice Party – Ilyas Ismayilov

Classic Popular Front Party – Mirmahmud Fattayev

Free Democrats Party - Sulhaddin Akbar

Azerbaijan Liberal Party – Avaz Temirkhan

Azerbaijan National Independence Party – Arzukhan Alizade

Aydinlar Party – Gulamhuseyn Alibayli

Republican Party of Azerbaijan – Subut Asadov

Azerbaijan Social Democratic Party – Araz Alizade

Azerbaijan Social Welfare Party – Asli Kazimova

Great Azerbaijan Party – Elshad Musayev

National Unity Party – Yunus Oghuz

AG Party – Tural Abbasli

Modern Musavat Party – Hafiz Hajiyev

Liberal Democratic Party of Azerbaijan – Fuad Aliyev

Compatriot Party of Azerbaijan – Mais Safarli

Freedom Party – Ahmad Orujov

Alliance Party for the Sake of Azerbaijan – Abutalib Samadov

Free Republican Party of Azerbaijan – Kamil Seyidov

Republican People's Party – Badraddin Guliyev

National Solidarity Party – Alisahib Huseynov

Yeni Zaman Party – Musa Aghayev

Citizen and Development Party – Ali Aliyev

People's Democratic Party of Azerbaijan – Rafiq Turabkhan

Azerbaijan Communist Party – Haji Hajiyev and Rauf Gurbanov

National Congress Party – Ikhtiyar Shirinov

Independent People's Party – Aflan Ibrahimov

United Azerbaijan National Unity Party – Hajibaba Azimov

National Democratic Party of Azerbaijan – Tufan Karimov

Azerbaijan Evolution Party – Teyyub Aliyev

Unity Party – Khudadat Khudiyev

Future Azerbaijan Party – Aghasif Shakiroghlu

Azerbaijan National Movement Party - Samir Jafarov

Azerbaijani Fighters Party – Aghadur Muslumov

Gorgud Party - Firudin Karimov

National Democratic Party of Cognition - Osman Afandiyev

AZERTAC

Ministry of Defense releases another video of entry of Azerbaijani units to Kalbajar district

[16:39] 25.11.2020

“According to the trilateral Statement signed by the presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation and the prime minister of the Republic of Armenia, units of the Azerbaijan Army entered Kalbajar district on November 25,” the Ministry of Defense said.

The Ministry of Defense presents the video of the entry of Azerbaijani units to Kalbajar district from the Dashkasan direction.

AZERTAC

CGTN: Azerbaijan army moves into second district handed back by Armenia

[16:02] 25.11.2020

The website of the English language China Global Television Network (CGTN), operated by the China Central Television (CCTV), has published an article highlighting the liberation of Azerbaijan's Kalbajar district.

The article says: "Azerbaijan said Wednesday its forces had entered the second of three districts to be handed back by Armenia as part of a deal that ended weeks of fighting over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The defense ministry in Baku said in a statement that "units of the Azerbaijani army entered the Kalbajar region on November 25" under the deal signed earlier this month by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia.

Kalbajar was initially scheduled for handover on November 15 but the deadline was postponed by Azerbaijan for humanitarian reasons.

"Engineering work has been completed to ensure the movement of our units in this direction, the difficult mountain roads along the route of the troops' movement are being cleared of mines and prepared for use," the ministry statement said.

Armenia agreed to hand over three districts around Karabakh - Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachin - as part of the deal that stopped an Azerbaijani offensive that had reclaimed swathes of territory lost to Armenian separatists during a war in 1990s.

Aghdam was ceded on November 20 and Lachin is to be handed over by December 1."

AZERTAC

**President: The war showed again who is who. Armenia is a defeated country,
Azerbaijan is a victorious country**

[15:17] 25.11.2020

“From the first days, I said that this issue must be resolved through military and political means. I said that we can stop the military solution at any time and we are ready to do that. But on one condition – Pashinyan must personally say when he will leave our lands. He must make a commitment and provide a timetable. It must be stated when they will leave our lands. As soon as that happens, I will stop the offensive operation,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the nation.

The head of state said: “He has already been punished. At that time, when he put forward seven conditions to us, I said: I have only one condition. I throw your seven conditions in the trash: get out of our land. Go out on your own. If he had listened to me, he would not have fallen into this disgraceful situation.”

“The results of the war just as I said. We liberated Jabrayil, Fuzuli, Zangilan, Gubadli, Murovdag, Sugovushan, Hadrut, most of Khojavand district and Shusha by military means. We broke the enemy's back on the battlefield. One day after the liberation of Shusha, when we liberated more than 70 villages, the enemy knelt down and signed an act of capitulation.”

The Azerbaijani leader added: “The war showed again who is who. Armenia is a defeated country. Azerbaijan is a victorious country. Kalbajar is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!”

AZERTAC

First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva congratulates Azerbaijani people on liberation of Kalbajar

[14:41] 25.11.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has made an Instagram post on the liberation of Kalbajar district from occupation.

AZERTAC presents the post.

“Dear fellow countrymen,

I sincerely congratulate you on the remarkable occasion – the liberation of Kalbajar district from occupation! May our Glorious Victory bring abundant joy, smile and happiness to every home and family, and peace and tranquillity to our country! May Almighty God protect our people, our Motherland and our President! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!”

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijan has taken necessary steps to restore its territorial integrity

[14:19] 25.11.2020

“When our soldiers saw that the Armenian population of one village of Aghdam district could not leave on time, they created conditions for them to leave. No-one insulted to them. But the hated enemy is burning our forests, burning our houses, destroying water lines,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the nation.

The head of state said: “We have drawn water lines everywhere – to remote mountains, to mountain villages. We will restore them all, all of them. Relevant instructions have already been given, and I am confident that we will do it in time.”

“The enemy gave Kalbajar another ugly name. They had made maps of the “Nagorno-Karabakh Republic”. Where are those maps? They all gone. Those maps are just a piece of paper. The whole territory of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, Shusha, as well as seven surrounding districts, were included in the “Nagorno-Karabakh Republic”. These maps were published, included in textbooks and displayed at exhibitions. They presented these maps as “Nagorno-Karabakh Republic”. What is left of those maps now? Nothing! Azerbaijan has taken the necessary steps to restore its territorial integrity,” President Ilham Aliyev added.

AZERTAC

President: Preliminary instructions have already been given in connection with restoration of railway to Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic

[13:36] 25.11.2020

“We will restore the railways. In particular, preliminary instructions have already been given in connection with the restoration of the railway to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. Tangible steps have already been taken to restore the Barda-Aghdam railway. This road is a must for the restoration of Aghdam district and for the comfort of the people who will live there in the future. So all this work will be carried out in a planned manner and the people of Azerbaijan will be regularly updated about the work to be done,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the nation.

“We must do all the work in a planned manner. I want to say again: first of all, all the damage will be calculated with the participation of international experts. Then lawsuits will be filed. Then comes the reconstruction of our cities and villages on the basis of master plans. The necessary measures related to agriculture, other infrastructure projects, water and electricity will be taken. Then come roads. When we drove the enemy out of Shusha, it destroyed the water line feeding the city. There is no water in Shusha now. This is what the enemy is like,” the head of state added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani President: Armenia is a terrorist state, and there are many signs of this terror

[13:19] 25.11.2020

“Several of our large rivers originate in Kalbajar district. The largest of them is the Tartar River, which is 200 kilometers long. There are also the Bazarchay and Khachinchay. Their length is about 200 kilometers. These rivers feed a large area. But the hated enemy deprived us of these opportunities because the Tartar River flows into the Sarsang water reservoir built on the initiative of great leader Heydar Aliyev in the 1970s. The Sarsang water reservoir was built to provide irrigation to 6-7 districts of the Aran zone of Karabakh at the time,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the nation.

The head of state said: “Aghdam, Goranboy, Yevlakh, Barda, Tartar and other districts were irrigated from there. The hated enemy cut off water supply. It cut off water supply in the summer and released it in the winter, thus flooding the lands. There was also environmental terror against us. Armenia is a terrorist state, and there are many signs of this terror. There are signs of the destruction of our historical sites, the genocide against our civilian population, deforestation, changing the course of our rivers and other signs. The water of the Tartar River, which originated from Kalbajar, was first collected in the Sarsang water reservoir and then in the Sugovushan water reservoir, thus serving the interests of the occupier, whereas we did not get water at all. After we took over the Sugovushan settlement, water supply was resumed and is now expected to provide water to 100,000 hectares.”

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Historical sites of Kalbajar - both mosques and churches are our historical treasures

[12:56] 25.11.2020

“Kalbajar is our ancient land. It is the land of ancient Azerbaijan. Kalbajar is one of our largest districts in terms of territory. The historical sites of Kalbajar are our great asset. Both mosques and churches are our historical treasures,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the nation.

“The people of Azerbaijan know this well, and the whole world should know that churches in Kalbajar belong to the ancient state of Caucasian Albania. There are many historical documents confirming this. This is no secret. Armenian “historians” and fraudsters have simply Armenianized ancient Albanian churches, added their own inscriptions on them and appropriated these churches. Suffice it to look at history and anyone can see that in the 1830s, Tsarist Russia abolished the Albanian Church, gave all the property of the Albanian Church to the Armenian Gregorian Church, and Armenian priests and their patrons began to appropriate these churches,” the head of state said.

“Their main task was to erase the history of Caucasian Albania. But we did not allow that to happen. Azerbaijan has a broad scientific base on this issue. There are research works available. These works are and should be shared not only with the scientific community, but also with the world community as a whole,” President Ilham Aliyev added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev congratulates Azerbaijani people on liberation of Kalbajar from occupation

[12:38] 25.11.2020

President of Azerbaijan, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev has congratulated the people of Azerbaijan on the liberation of Kalbajar district from occupation.

AZERTAC reports that conveying this good news in his address to the nation, the head of state said: “Kalbajar district has been liberated from occupation today. I heartily congratulate all the people of Azerbaijan on this occasion. Dear people of Kalbajar, let your eyes be clear! Your native district has been liberated from occupation. The people of Azerbaijan have been looking forward to this day for years.”

The President said: “The occupation of Kalbajar district was a great tragedy. The occupation of each district was a great tragedy. After the occupation of Shusha and Lachin districts in May 1992, the occupation of Kalbajar also created a geographical link between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.”

“Everyone knows that the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region did not have a border with the Republic of Armenia. Armenia was separated from Nagorno-Karabakh by Lachin district and the Lachin corridor. The occupation of Lachin, Shusha and then Kalbajar districts created a geographical connection between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh over a large area, and this was the enemy's goal. After the occupation of Kalbajar, it is possible to say that communication was established between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh in many ways. First of all, weapons, equipment and manpower were sent there from Armenia. At the same time, it provided great advantages for Armenia's subsequent policy of aggression,” President Ilham Aliyev added.

AZERTAC

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation

[12:05] 25.11.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has addressed the nation.

AZERTAC presents the address.

Address of President Ilham Aliyev to the nation

- Dear fellow countrymen. Kalbajar district has been liberated from occupation today. I heartily congratulate all the people of Azerbaijan on this occasion.

Dear people of Kalbajar, let your eyes be clear! Your native district has been liberated from occupation. The people of Azerbaijan have been looking forward to this day for years. Kalbajar district was occupied on 2 April 1993. Innocent people were savagely expelled from their ancestral lands. The historical sites and nature of Kalbajar have been severely damaged.

The occupation of Kalbajar district was a great tragedy. The occupation of each district was a great tragedy. After the occupation of Shusha and Lachin districts in May 1992, the occupation of Kalbajar also created a geographical link between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Everyone knows that the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region did not have a border with the Republic of Armenia. Armenia was separated from Nagorno-Karabakh by Lachin district and the Lachin corridor. The occupation of Lachin, Shusha and then Kalbajar districts created a geographical connection between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh over a large area, and this was the enemy's goal. After the occupation of Kalbajar, it is possible to say that communication was established between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh in many ways. First of all, weapons, equipment and manpower were sent there from Armenia. At the same time, it provided great advantages for Armenia's subsequent policy of aggression.

The occupation of Kalbajar district is the direct responsibility of the then ruling Popular Front of Azerbaijan. In general, the main culprit in the occupation of our lands is the Popular Front of Azerbaijan. Because if they had not come to power illegally in 1992, if they had not staged a coup, perhaps our lands would not have been occupied. Of course, it is very difficult to go back in history and say what could and could not have happened. But in any case, they have played a direct role in the occupation of our lands, and they bear this responsibility. Because in the spring of 1992, the struggle for power reached its peak. There were internal conflicts in Azerbaijan, chaos, crisis, a political crisis, and the struggle for power led to very serious consequences. Armenia continued to take advantage of this to occupy our lands. After the occupation of Shusha and Lachin, the situation reached a critical level. Taking advantage of this, the Popular Front of Azerbaijan came to power as a result of a coup. But what happened after that? After that, they focused all their efforts on strengthening the weakened government, organizing persecutions in our country, applying censorship and taking other anti-democratic steps. Our lands were under occupation, our civilian population was expelled from their ancestral lands, but the Popular Front of Azerbaijan and its leadership had only one goal – to fill their pockets, appoint their relatives and prolong the life of their government. The occupation of Kalbajar was the result of these ugly steps. It could not have been otherwise. The younger generation may not remember this, but they should know who was leading Azerbaijan at that time, people of what knowledge and what skills were leading

Azerbaijan. Those people had no experience. Those people – the people who were represented in the government at the time, the people who held high positions – had never led a single department, not a single small enterprise. How could they run the country, especially in a crisis? But their yearning for power, their greed, their appetite and avarice led to this situation in Azerbaijan. Look who governed Azerbaijan at the time?! The speaker of parliament was a junior researcher, in fact, a failed researcher. The secretary of state was a careerist from the Komsomol who had betrayed his leader at a later stage, set his eyes for his post, rejoiced in his death more than anyone else, and lived his entire life under the control of foreign circles. What kind of management would you expect from them? What kind of patriotism would you expect from them? What professionalism would you expect? The minister of foreign affairs was a random person who couldn't speak any foreign language, a physics teacher, someone who had no idea at all what foreign relations are, what international norms and principles are. He simply walked around like a tourist and said what he wanted to say. The minister of defense was a math teacher. Can a math teacher be a defense minister? It was this math teacher who handed Shusha over to the enemy. He said that if Shusha was lost, he would shoot himself in the head. It is still hanging around here and there. We have returned Shusha, we did! You sold it, traitors. The minister of internal affairs – there were widespread robberies, journalists were getting arrested, beaten up and thrown into the trunks of cars during live broadcasts. Such were the leaders of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan. The prime minister was a junior researcher on scientific communism. Look at these contrasts. The man responsible for advancing the country's economy on the principles of a market economy was a junior researcher on scientific communism. What kind of governance, what kind of reforms, what kind of defense could you expect? Our grief and tragedy is that random people came to power, usurped power and took our country into the abyss.

If Heydar Aliyev had not come to power at the request of the people in 1993, Azerbaijan would not only have lost the remaining lands, but would have also lost its statehood in general. They started a civil war to maintain their weakened government. They took our own soldiers prisoner. They bombed Ganja. Let no-one forget that! Those unaware should know this, the younger generation should know who caused us this trouble. Who is to blame for this tragedy? Who is to blame for the plight of a million people? The government of the Popular Front of Azerbaijan at that time. In fact, if we were to draw comparisons now, their collective image is like that of Pashinyan – incompetent, not knowledgeable, weak-willed, cowardly, deserter, inexperienced in management, influenced by foreign circles, ruled by them and destroying their own country. Look, they are all like Pashinyan. Those who do not know them should look at Pashinyan if they want to get an idea about them. Let them look at his steps and see the image of the then Popular Front of Azerbaijan and the country's leadership.

Kalbajar is our ancient land. It is the land of ancient Azerbaijan. Kalbajar is one of our largest districts in terms of territory. The historical sites of Kalbajar are our great asset. Both mosques and churches are our historical treasures. The people of Azerbaijan know this well, and the whole world should know that churches in Kalbajar belong to the ancient state of Caucasian Albania. There are many historical documents confirming this. This is no secret. Armenian "historians" and fraudsters have simply Armenianized ancient Albanian churches, added their own inscriptions on them and appropriated these churches. Suffice it to look at history and anyone can see that in the 1830s, Tsarist Russia abolished the Albanian Church, gave all the property of the Albanian Church to the Armenian Gregorian Church, and Armenian priests and their patrons began to appropriate these churches. Their main task was to erase the history of Caucasian Albania. But we did not allow that to happen. Azerbaijan has a broad scientific base on this issue. There are research works available. These works are and should be shared not only with the scientific community, but also

with the world community as a whole. Caucasian Albania was a great state. Gabala was its capital. Historical sites and churches belonging to Caucasian Albania are our historical and cultural heritage. We are protecting these churches. I have visited these churches many times – in the city of Shaki, in Gabala district, the Udi church. As you know, during the war, on the initiative of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the repairs of the ancient Udi Caucasian Albanian Church in Nij settlement was completed and this church was opened. We are protecting these churches as our cultural heritage. Therefore, no-one should be worried. These churches will continue to be protected by the state. Azerbaijan's policy on multiculturalism and inter-religious relations is praised by the whole world and world leaders. Let certain Western circles who want to express their concern look at our destroyed mosques, the Aghdam, Shusha, Zangilan, Jabrayil, Fuzuli and other mosques. These mosques have either been destroyed or desecrated – pigs were kept in them. Why isn't this causing concern? Why has no-one raised this issue for 30 years except for us? I have repeatedly raised this issue from international forums and in contacts with my foreign colleagues. Why wasn't anyone worried about that? Why didn't anyone want to send an international delegation on this issue? The Azerbaijani people want answers to these questions. We know the answer. Therefore, I want to say again that those who want to interfere in our work or to accuse us of something should first of all look in the mirror.

Kalbajar district has fascinating nature and diverse cultural heritage. Several of our large rivers originate in Kalbajar district. The largest of them is the Tartar River, which is 200 kilometers long. There are also the Bazarchay and Khachinchay. Their length is about 200 kilometers. These rivers feed a large area. But the hated enemy deprived us of these opportunities because the Tartar River flows into the Sarsang water reservoir built on the initiative of great leader Heydar Aliyev in the 1970s. The Sarsang water reservoir was built to provide irrigation to 6-7 districts of the Aran zone of Karabakh at the time. At that time, after the construction of the Sarsang water reservoir, 100,000 hectares of land that had never been irrigated started receiving water. Aghdam, Goranboy, Yevlakh, Barda, Tartar and other districts were irrigated from there. The hated enemy cut off water supply. It cut off water supply in the summer and released it in the winter, thus flooding the lands. There was also environmental terror against us. Armenia is a terrorist state, and there are many signs of this terror. There are signs of the destruction of our historical sites, the genocide against our civilian population, deforestation, changing the course of our rivers and other signs. The water of the Tartar River, which originated from Kalbajar, was first collected in the Sarsang water reservoir and then in the Sugovushan water reservoir, thus serving the interests of the occupier, whereas we did not get water at all. After we took over the Sugovushan settlement, water supply was resumed and is now expected to provide water to 100,000 hectares.

There are large forest areas in Kalbajar district. There are 24,000 hectares of forest in Kalbajar district. This is our great asset. The hated enemy cut down, looted and sold these trees. Look at the ugly things they have been doing in recent days, burning forests to create an environmental catastrophe. These thieves cut down forests and take them to Armenia for sale. They burn down houses they did not build. They entered the houses of the people of Kalbajar, broke into them and lived there. They burn down schools and kill pets they can't take with them. See who we were facing, what savages we were facing! I repeat, and I will say this every time that our victory is not only a victory over the Armenian state. We have also destroyed Armenian fascism.

We will restore Kalbajar, let no-one have any doubts about that, and life will return there. Agriculture will develop in Kalbajar, especially livestock breeding. We have large pastures there. Kalbajar has ample natural resources. The enemy has brutally exploited these resources. In Soviet

times, Istisu water, which was popular throughout the Soviet Union, was produced in Kalbajar. Istisu is under our control again now. It used to be a big resort. The hated enemy has destroyed everything. There are images of that and everyone can see them. We will restore all of that, we will rebuild Kalbajar, the villages, the city of Kalbajar. I have ordered to prepare a master plan for the reconstruction of the city – not only in the city of Kalbajar but also in all other cities, and life will return there.

In Kalbajar, the hated enemy committed another crime and conducted illegal settlement. People from Armenia and foreign countries have settled there illegally. This is a war crime, a war crime under the Geneva Convention. We will hold the enemy accountable. They will answer for all the war crimes, for all this destruction. When I was in Aghdam, I could not find a single safe building. The same applies to Fuzuli and Jabrayil. They have destroyed everything, as if a savage tribe had passed through.

But, for our part, will build and create. We will revive these cities and districts. We have major plans on the restoration of these lands. These plans are already being implemented, infrastructure projects are being implemented. The construction of a new road to Shusha has already begun. In Soviet times, there was one road Shusha – from Aghdam to Khankandi and from there to Shusha. We are now building a new road from Fuzuli district. This road will pass through a part of Khojavand district. I have ordered to do this as soon as possible. However, this is a huge task, there was no road there before and a new road is being built through forests. There are ravines, hills and the terrain is very difficult. But we will do it. We will restore the railways. In particular, preliminary instructions have already been given in connection with the restoration of the railway to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. Tangible steps have already been taken to restore the Barda-Aghdam railway. This road is a must for the restoration of Aghdam district and for the comfort of the people who will live there in the future. So all this work will be carried out in a planned manner and the people of Azerbaijan will be regularly updated about the work to be done. We must do all the work in a planned manner. I want to say again: first of all, all the damage will be calculated with the participation of international experts. Then lawsuits will be filed. Then comes the reconstruction of our cities and villages on the basis of master plans. The necessary measures related to agriculture, other infrastructure projects, water and electricity will be taken. Then come roads. When we drove the enemy out of Shusha, it destroyed the water line feeding the city. There is no water in Shusha now. This is what the enemy is like.

When our soldiers saw that the Armenian population of one village of Aghdam district could not leave on time, they created conditions for them to leave. No-one insulted to them. But the hated enemy is burning our forests, burning our houses, destroying water lines. Do they think that this will stop us? We have drawn water lines everywhere – to remote mountains, to mountain villages. We will restore them all, all of them. Relevant instructions have already been given, and I am confident that we will do it in time.

The enemy gave Kalbajar another ugly name. They had made maps of the “Nagorno-Karabakh Republic”. Where are those maps? They all gone. Those maps are just a piece of paper. The whole territory of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, Shusha, as well as seven surrounding districts, were included in the “Nagorno-Karabakh Republic”. These maps were published, included in textbooks and displayed at exhibitions. They presented these maps as “Nagorno-Karabakh Republic”. What is left of those maps now? Nothing! Azerbaijan has taken the necessary steps to restore its territorial integrity.

I want to return to the period of negotiations. At that time, I was repeatedly told that the conflict should be resolved only peacefully. I can say that all international organizations, the leaders of all superpowers I was in contact with have repeatedly said that there is no military solution to the conflict. These statements are also available in the media. What was I saying? I said there was one! I said that if necessary, we would liberate our lands by military means. I said that war is never ruled out. During the talks, it was repeatedly proposed at various stages that the Azerbaijani side renounce the path of war. I never agreed to that. Then they started accusing me, saying that Ilham Aliyev wanted to start a war. I said that I wanted to resolve the issue peacefully, but I want to resolve it. What did Armenia want? To maintain the status quo and make it eternal. They believed that if they had achieved this in 26-27 years, then they would continue to do so. They believed that their patrons would always defend them, stand behind them and fight for them. They generally think that the whole world owes them something. They want to rule their country with this harmful and sick mentality that someone must come and help them. What are you capable of doing? If you always cling to someone's skirt and hope for some privileges, then what are you capable of doing? This mentality has led their society in the wrong direction. Today, they are dissatisfied with everyone. Even today, people are making claims about why no-one is defending us. Who should anyone protect you? You are an independent country – if it is possible to say so at all – so live as an independent country. This is first. Second, you have invaded someone else's land. You have left a million people homeless. You have destroyed all buildings, houses and cities. You have acted like a savage. Justice is not on your side, international law is not on your side, historical truth is not on your side. But they thought that they would keep these lands under occupation forever. They believed that time would pass and generations would change, the Azerbaijani people would forget this and come to terms with this situation. They were wrong. We never intended to put up with this situation. As President, I have been doing my best over the years to ensure that the Nagorno-Karabakh issue is always on the agenda, it is always at the center of the agenda. Let the feelings of patriotism, national pride and solidarity rise to a higher level within the country. And this issue should always be on the agenda at the international level. Let everyone know what the truth is, let everyone know who is the aggressor and who is the victim, and we have achieved this. Everyone in the world knows that now. If we pay attention to the foreign media during the Patriotic War, we will see that, of course, biased, Islamophobic, anti-Azerbaijani, pro-Armenian articles and reports prevail. However, at the same time, unlike earlier times, many objective and truthful reports and articles were published. I can say that we have won the information war. We have won the war on the battlefield, we have won the war in the information space, we have won the war in the political arena. The results of the war were as I was saying. From the first days, I said that this issue must be resolved through military and political means. I said that we can stop the military solution at any time and we are ready to do that. But on one condition – Pashinyan must personally say when he will leave our lands. He must make a commitment and provide a timetable. It must be stated when they will leave our lands. As soon as that happens, I will stop the offensive operation. He has already been punished. At that time, when he put forward seven conditions to us, I said: I have only one condition. I throw your seven conditions in the trash: get out of our land. Go out on your own. If he had listened to me, he would not have fallen into this disgraceful situation. The results of the war just as I said. We liberated Jabrayili, Fuzuli, Zangilan, Gubadli, Murovdag, Sugovushan, Hadrut, most of Khojavand district and Shusha by military means. We broke the enemy's back on the battlefield. One day after the liberation of Shusha, when we liberated more than 70 villages, the enemy knelt down and signed an act of capitulation. I still do not know where he signed it. They are hiding it. They will probably tell us one day. Pashinyan, where did you sign this act of capitulation? He was forced to accept our conditions.

The war showed again who is who. Armenia is a defeated country. Azerbaijan is a victorious country. Kalbajar is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense releases new video footage of entry of Azerbaijan
Army units to Kalbajar district**

[10:46] 25.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released a new video footage of the entry of the Azerbaijan Army units to Kalbajar district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Units of the Azerbaijan Army entered Kalbajar district

[01:22] 25.11.2020

According to the trilateral statement signed by the presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation, and the prime minister of the Republic of Armenia, units of the Azerbaijan Army entered Kalbajar district on November 25, Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

"Engineering work has been completed to ensure the movement of our units in this direction, the difficult mountain roads along the route of the troops' movement are being cleared of mines and prepared for use," the ministry said.

According to the ministry, photo and video footages from Kalbajar will be presented during the day.

AZERTAC

November 24

Release of the Press Service of the President

[22:19] 24.11.2020

On November 24, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev had a phone conversation with President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin.

During the conversation, they discussed the issues related to the implementation of provisions of the joint statement signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the President of the Russian Federation and the prime minister of Armenia dated November 10. They hailed the durable ceasefire regime and the establishment of close ties between the leadership of the Russian peacekeeping mission and the leadership of the relevant structures of Azerbaijan.

The heads of state also discussed the issues to provide humanitarian aid to the Azerbaijani and Armenian people.

During the conversation, the sides also discussed the issues of construction of transport infrastructure and the opening of transport communications in accordance with the provisions of the joint statement signed on November 10. They expressed confidence that long-term peace would be ensured in the region.

Heads of religious confessions in Azerbaijan issue joint statement on destruction of religious monuments in Karabakh

[14:27] 24.11.2020

Of the 67 mosques in Karabakh, 63 have been razed to the ground, the remaining three have been severely damaged

Heads of religious confessions in Azerbaijan have issued a joint statement on the destruction of religious sites by Armenian vandals in Karabakh.

AZERTAC presents the statement by the press service of the Caucasian Muslims Office.

Joint statement by Heads of religious confessions in Azerbaijan

We, the leaders of Muslim, Orthodox, Albanian-Udi and Jewish confessions in Azerbaijan, express the wishes of the believers and appeal to the heads of state and government, heads of international organizations, religious leaders and the world community.

After 30 years of struggle to restore its territorial integrity, the flying of the tricolor state flag of Azerbaijan above Karabakh lands these days again means a victory of historical justice and stability in our multi-ethnic and multi-religious country. Azerbaijan and its President His Excellency Mr. Ilham Aliyev have been pursuing a peace policy for many years, demonstrating consistency in the peaceful settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of international law, and decisions and resolutions of international organizations. Over these years, political talks have failed to produce results, and the UN resolutions calling for an unconditional withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijan's territories have not been implemented. Forced to prevent further military provocations by the Armenian side, the people of Azerbaijan rose to war with the aim of restoring the country's territorial integrity, and this war resulted in the triumph of international law and justice. Along with Muslims, there are Christians and Jews among those who became martyrs for the territorial integrity of our country.

Nevertheless, the world community must know that not only has Armenia committed ethnic cleansing, genocide and occupation against Azerbaijan, but also has pursued a policy of aggression against the diverse cultural and spiritual heritage of our country. Armenia's state policy based on mono-ethnicity aimed at leaving only Armenian traces in the occupied territories. Armenia, which has created a society intolerant towards other nations and religions, has tried to completely erase the ancient Albanian, Orthodox, Muslim religious and cultural heritage that historically existed in the occupied territories of multi-ethnic and multi-religious Azerbaijan. It has either completely destroyed our cultural and spiritual heritage or misappropriated – Armenianized and Gregorianized – them by falsifying their history and origins.

Unlike Armenia, thousands of citizens of Armenian descent live in peace in Azerbaijan, the capital Baku and various regions, and the Armenian church and its library in the center of Baku have been renovated and protected by the state. Mosques, temples and cemeteries, historical monuments, museums, libraries in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan have been destroyed and looted; Caucasian Albanian Christian temples and Russian Orthodox churches have been Gregorianized; mosques have been turned into barns and subjected to unprecedented insults such as using them to keep animals forbidden in Islam. Out of 67 mosques in Karabakh 63 have been

razed to ground and the remaining three have been severely damaged. Armenia has completely demolished the historical Azerbaijani religious sites in its territory – Yerevan’s “Shah Abbas”, “Sardar”, “Haji Novruz Ali” and other mosques, and changed the architectural style of the Blue Mosque. Not content with destroying only Muslim mosques, Armenia has usurped the Gregorian Orthodox Church in Shusha, the Albanian-Udi temples in other districts, and completely destroyed the Khojavand Orthodox Church. The main goal of the aggressor state, which has been cherishing an illusion of creating a “Great Armenia”, in committing such acts of vandalism was to annihilate both our historical past and our spiritual memory in the lands where we have lived for millennia.

Having pursued aggressive policies for years, the Armenian regime has ignored the norms of international law and international humanitarian law, has committed environmental crimes in the occupied territories through fires, use of phosphorus bombs, poisonous substances and mines. The atrocities committed while withdrawing from the territories of Azerbaijan, real facts of pillaging tangible and spiritual heritage sites, theft of artworks, forests and civilian objects being set ablaze are being extensively covered by global media.

Armenia's actions aimed at destroying and falsifying the religious and cultural heritage of the multi-ethnic and multi-religious people Azerbaijan represent a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, as well as an attack on the entire culture of the mankind and world heritage.

Upholding multicultural traditions, the Government of Azerbaijan considers the protection of cultural and spiritual values a priority and makes an invaluable contribution to restoration of historical sites, mosques and churches within the country and elsewhere around the world, including the Vatican, France, Bulgaria and Serbia. Known as one of the world's centers of multiculturalism, Azerbaijan has hosted a number of prestigious international events promoting inter-civilizational and inter-religious dialogue, including the Second Baku Summit of World Religious Leaders in November 2019. During the visit to Azerbaijan in October 2016, Pope Francis praised the cooperation and dialogue between different cultures and religions in our country.

At present, Armenia conducts fabricated religious propaganda against Azerbaijan, claims that Azerbaijan is taking steps to destroy religious and cultural sites in our liberated territories and attempts to portray its own provocations as those of our country. Despite all these real facts, Armenia’s continued hypocritical statements, fake news and false information depicting itself as a suffering nation cause legitimate anger of the Azerbaijani people and representatives of all faiths living in our tolerant and multicultural country.

The President of Azerbaijan has repeatedly stated in his addresses and interviews that all religious and cultural sites and places of worship in the liberated territories will be restored, every person’s faith will be respected and peaceful coexistence will be ensured as is the case in other parts of Azerbaijan. As the leaders of Orthodox, Catholic, Mountain Jews, Albanian-Udi Christian, Ashkenazi-European Jews and other religious communities, who have lived prosperously in Azerbaijan throughout our history and freely performed our religious rites, we support this peaceful policy of Azerbaijan and extend our blessing to efforts aimed at restoring our history and culture.

We, the leaders of religious confessions in Azerbaijan, appeal to the heads of state and government of foreign countries, heads of international organizations, religious leaders and the

world community to support the establishment of peace, tranquility and coexistence in our country and the region where we live!

Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade

Chairman of the Caucasian Muslims Office

Alexander

Archbishop of Baku and Azerbaijan

Milikh Yevdayev

Head of the Mountain Jews Community in Azerbaijan

Alexander Sharovski

Chair of Baku Religious Community of European Jews

Shneur Segal

Chief Rabbi of Azerbaijani Ashkenazi Jews

Robert Mobili

Head of the Albanian-Udi community

Baku, 24 November 2020

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva visited liberated from occupation Aghdam city

[11:29] 24.11.2020

As earlier reported, on November 23, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Victorious Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva visited the liberated from occupation the city of Aghdam.

Driving the car on the way to Aghdam, **President Ilham Aliyev** said:

- Look at the enemy's line of defense. The enemy had several lines of defense all the way to the city of Aghdam, look at that.

Now we are driving into the liberated lands. The destination is the city of Aghdam. We have liberated the city of Aghdam and the occupied lands of Aghdam district without firing a single shot. We have defeated the enemy on the battlefield and forced them to withdraw from Aghdam district.

Look, here is another line of defense. On the right are the houses of Azerbaijani citizens destroyed by the enemy. Let the whole world see what the savage enemy has done to our villages, what savages we were facing, what savages we have defeated. The whole world should see this.

There is not a single safe building here. Everything is destroyed. They have destroyed our houses and villages, they exploited our lands. The enemy will be held accountable for all the war crimes. We will also invite journalists to Aghdam, including foreign journalists and representatives of the diplomatic corps. Let them come and see.

The head of state raised Azerbaijani tricolor flag in Aghdam. The national flag of Azerbaijan is now flying proudly in Aghdam, which was liberated from occupation after 27 years. Every Azerbaijani watches this with pride and great joy.

The head of state and first lady then visited the Aghdam mosque. The mosque with two minarets, which became a place of hope and refuge for the survivors of the Khojaly genocide, was also savagely destroyed by the enemy.

President Ilham Aliyev presented the Holy Quran he brought from Mecca to the Aghdam mosque.

The Azerbaijani President and first lady prayed in the mosque.

The head of state made a speech in front of the Aghdam mosque.

Speech of President Ilham Aliyev

-Dear fellow countrymen.

As you know, the occupied city of Aghdam and Aghdam district were liberated on 20 November. I have congratulated the people of Azerbaijan, the people of Aghdam on this occasion.

Today I am here, in the city of Aghdam. I visited the Aghdam mosque and raised the Azerbaijani state flag there. We have returned to Aghdam. I would like to once again congratulate all the people of Aghdam on this historic event. I know that the people of Aghdam have been looking forward to this day for many years. Both during the occupation, for about 30 years, and during the Second Karabakh War, the Patriotic War, they waited for Aghdam to be liberated from occupation. We have honorably fulfilled our historic mission and liberated the occupied territories from the enemy. The victory on the battlefield made it possible to liberate Aghdam district, as well as Kalbajar and Lachin districts, without firing a single shot and without anyone becoming a martyr.

We have returned to these lands at the expense of the lives and blood of the Azerbaijani people, our martyrs, and the courage of our heroes. We had to gather strength, and we did that. Over the past 17 years, I have repeatedly said to the people that we must be stronger and build a stronger army. The factor of strength plays a decisive role in the world today. Justice is on our side, international law is on our side, and strength should be on our side too. It was because we weren't strong enough that Azerbaijani lands were occupied in the early 1990s. We were gaining strength and becoming stronger. I was saying that every citizen of Azerbaijan should bring this holy day, this day of victory closer with their work, with their hard work and devotion to the Motherland.

We have done a great job at the international level, and I inform the people about this in my speeches. Today, after the war and even during the war, the whole world, all the people of Azerbaijan saw how important this was. If we had not created the necessary legal framework for resolving the conflict, we could have faced problems today. We have had all international organizations adopt decisions and resolutions that recognize and reflect justice and international law. Four UN Security Council resolutions were adopted in 1993, but then we created a solid legal basis for resolving the conflict by having the UN General Assembly, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopt decisions and resolutions. All these important steps have been taken since 2003, and we have got the upper hand in the political arena. At the same time, the "Partnership Priorities" document initialed between the European Union and Azerbaijan two years ago contains clear statements about Azerbaijan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of our borders. This is our great success because we could not achieve this for many years. Some international organizations did not want to call the aggressor by its name. Some international organizations did not want to reveal the identity of the occupier in the documents adopted in connection with the occupation. Even four UN Security Council resolutions did not mention Armenia as an aggressor state and referred to it as "Armenian forces".

We have created a legal basis for resolving the conflict over the past 17 years. In all of my international contacts, I communicated Azerbaijan's position on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, its historical realities and the current situation to all my colleagues. The Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has a special place in almost all of my bilateral international contacts. It is enough to look at my speeches. Over the past 17 years, I have expressed my views on this issue in almost all of my speeches, informing the world community about it. Unfortunately, in the early 1990s, the world did not have a full picture of the conflict and there was distorted information. There was information circulated by the Armenian lobby. Otherwise, the American Congress would not have passed the notorious Section 907 while our lands were occupied. Azerbaijani lands were under occupation, but the US Congress recognized Azerbaijan as an aggressor and deprived us of humanitarian aid. The Armenian lobby achieved this at the time. Azerbaijani diplomacy simply failed to take adequate steps to counter them.

We have won the information war. We have fully informed the world about the Khojaly genocide. There was no information about the Khojaly genocide in the world. It is possible to say that the “Justice for Khojaly!” campaign and the recognition of the Khojaly genocide by more than 10 countries as an act of genocide created a picture reflecting the realities of the conflict and conveyed it to the world community.

We, the country chairing the Non-Aligned Movement, have kept this issue in the spotlight during our presidency of the Non-Aligned Movement, the second largest institution after the United Nations. Today, Azerbaijan chairs the organization, which brings together 120 countries. A summit was held last year. The people of Azerbaijan saw again how important this was. Because during the Second Karabakh War, there were attempts at the UN, the UN Security Council to adopt a new resolution. If that resolution had been adopted, it would not have stopped us, of course, but it could have created an unnecessary picture. It was countries of the Non-Aligned Movement that prevented the adoption of that resolution and supported us. I also thanked them and said that they stood behind us like men even though great powers were putting great pressure on them. Many members of the Non-Aligned Movement recognize Azerbaijan as an independent and strong country ready to defend them. We have provided humanitarian financial assistance to more than 30 countries during the pandemic, including special assistance to the Non-Aligned Movement through the World Health Organization. All this work has paid off. We were able to get the necessary international support in the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh issue, which is a key issue for us.

Today we chair not only the Non-Aligned Movement, but also the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States. Our international authority is quite high, and it has played a special role in having this conflict resolved.

During these 17 years, I have always said that we must give a strong impetus to the economic sector, ensure economic independence, and we did that. Today we do not depend on anyone economically. If we were, we could come under pressure. There was pressure anyone, but to no avail. Because it is pointless to use the economic factor against us. We do not depend on anyone, we do not depend on any country, on any international financial institution. On the contrary, we are a donor country now, we lend money to others. Our strong economic potential and financial resources have allowed us the opportunity to fully ensure economic independence. This has also played a special role in our victory. Because if we were not economically independent, we would not be able to achieve political independence. Without political independence, we could not liberate our lands from the enemy, an enemy with great powers behind it, with very influential circles of those powers, Armenian lobby organizations.

These factors have increased our strength and paved the way for our victory. The number one issue is our military strength. I have repeatedly said that building up our military capacity is the first issue for us. It is no coincidence that during my presidency, our military expenditures were in first place among budget expenditures every year. I have said or explained to our people that we do have many other issues, there are problems that need to be addressed, but our main problem is that our lands are under occupation. This is why military expenditures come first among others. We bought the necessary equipment. We demonstrated this equipment and modern weapons in the numerous parades on Azadlig Square. We adopted the most advanced trends in the development of our army. We bought weapons that would give us an advantage, and the Second Karabakh War showed that.

Today, many countries, many developed countries are studying our experience. Many experts dealing with this issue are noting that Azerbaijan waged a war of the 21st century. For the first time in the 21st century, historic achievements of this scale and effect have been made in such a short period of time. On my way here, I saw at least three lines of defense. But according to the information given to me by the military, there were five lines of defense here. In Fuzuli as well. Thanks to the heroism and professionalism of our soldiers and officers, we have crushed these lines of defense. We are technically equipped with the most modern weapons, and the Second Karabakh War showed that, there are videos. They are now being studied, they will be studied in many countries and will be included in military books.

At the same time, we were strengthening the combat capability of our army because it was clear that victory could not be won by weapons alone. It is a soldier and an officer who raises the flag, raises the flag on the enemy's positions, raises it on liberated lands. Our soldiers and officers fought like lions. We gave martyrs. May God have mercy on all our martyrs! May God grant their parents patience! We have wounded servicemen, and they are recovering. Many of them have already recovered. May God send healing to them! We have won this war at the expense of our heroic soldiers and officers. I am sure that the operation to liberate Shusha from occupation will forever go down in history. We have destroyed the enemy in an almost hand-to-hand battle, crossing ravines, forests and mountains with light weapons, and liberated Shusha, the crown of Karabakh.

All these factors have preconditioned our victory. I want to emphasize again that the people of Aghdam have been waiting for this day for many years – for almost 30 years. At the same time, they were waiting during the Second Karabakh War. I know and feel that as our cities, districts and villages were liberated from occupation, the people of Aghdam also looked forward to when their villages and the city of Aghdam would be liberated. Jabrayil was liberated, Fizuli was liberated, Hadrut was liberated, Zangilan, Gubadli, Sugovushan, Shusha were liberated, and the people of Aghdam probably wondered why Aghdam was not being liberated. I can say that now. I wanted to communicate this information to the people of Aghdam in some form, but they should also understand that I could not do that during the war. There were five lines of defense here. The enemy was waiting for us here. We could not afford to attack where the enemy was waiting. We kept a large military contingent in this direction so that the enemy's military forces would stay here and not go elsewhere. After the liberation of Fuzuli, Hadrut, most of Khojavand district and Shusha, of course, we already intended to move towards the city of Aghdam. The order was issued that the next direction was Aghdam. The enemy also knows and already admits that if they had not accepted my conditions to leave our lands, they would have died here. Because we were coming to Aghdam.

It is too early to reveal all the secrets of the war. Very interesting issues will emerge in the future. But I can say with full confidence today that the Aghdam operation was part of our plans. We would have taken Aghdam anyway, but there would have been casualties, a great number of casualties. Therefore, after liberating Shusha and more than 70 of our villages on 9 November, we broke the enemy's back, they surrendered, raised a white flag, agreed to my terms and admitted their defeat.

Almost from the first days of the war, I was saying in my numerous interviews and appeals to the people – all this can be seen, everything is documented – give us a timetable. I said, Pashinyan, you personally, not your foreign minister or defense minister, who were fired after this defeat, but you, Pashinyan, must give us a timetable, you must do it yourself, and I succeeded.

If he had listened to me, he would not be in such a bad situation now. I am fully convinced that we would have liberated our occupied lands anyway. The enemy thought that someone would help them out. They thought that all their supporters would come and fight with us instead of them. They made a big mistake. After the liberation of most of Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Hadrut, Zangilan, Gubadli, Shusha, Sugovushan, Khojavand districts on the battlefield, the enemy fell to its knees and is on its knees today. We have broken the enemy's back. We have won a glorious victory. We have proved to the whole world that their legends and myths are all nonsense. There are more than 10,000 deserters in the Armenian army and there would have been more. If we carried out the planned operation in Aghdam, thousands of Armenian servicemen would either fled or died. We have shown that it is the people of Azerbaijan who are truly warlike. We have shown that we will never put up with this occupation. Let them look at my speeches. I have said perhaps a thousand times in the last 17 years that we will not come to terms with this occupation. They thought that they could keep our lands under occupation forever. Because those who invested so much and built so many fortifications here, in Fuzuli, in Jabrayil wanted this. There were several days of fierce battles for Soltanli village of Jabrayil district. They built fortifications there that may not have existed in the world. Why? They did not want to leave. They thought that they would live there forever. They wanted to Armenianize our lands. The whole city of Aghdam has been destroyed. They demolished it in the 1990s so that if a peace agreement was signed, the Azerbaijani people would not be able to come and live here. Everything is mined. Most of the mines are here. But they were wrong. For all these years, we have been living with one desire, with one wish – to return to these lands, and we have returned. We have destroyed the Armenian army. The Armenian army is almost non-existent now. We have destroyed war criminals. We have destroyed their scum. I said this in Fuzuli and I want to say again that we have destroyed Kocharyan's and Sargsyan's army. We have shown our strength against Kocharyan and Sargsyan. We have defeated them. Who is Pashinyan? I do not want to talk about him now. I have already said what is necessary. Kocharyan and Sargsyan, you have knelt before us, you have brought this place, all the occupied lands, to this plight. You have destroyed this mosque. They fled and hid during the Second Karabakh War. They could not even stick their noses into the battle zone. So where is your heroism? I said to them – take out this metal scrap, it has no value. You are wearing orders of heroes on your chest. They you false heroes. Look, I am standing here, in front of the mosque you have destroyed, in the city of Aghdam which you destroyed, I came here with my army. I came here as a winner, while you will live the rest of your pathetic life with a mark of defeat and cowardice. Why are you hiding there like mice? Kocharyan and Sargsyan, I am telling you. Pashinyan is nobody. His only concern now is to stay in power. Therefore, he is imprisoning captures all the opposition. The West remains silent about this, it is silent, it has water in its mouth. Can't they see what's going on there? War criminals and Khojaly executioners, we have destroyed you. Azerbaijani soldiers, Azerbaijani officers have destroyed you. And it serves you right!

Today, it is very painful to see the city of Aghdam destroyed. But a few years ago, when I was in this area, in our trenches, I looked at that building through binoculars. It is difficult to express these feelings in words, it is impossible. It was so painful to look at our city on our own lands, to see that building from afar through binoculars and not to be able to come here. Many times when I was on the line of contact, in the trenches, I thought that one day we would return, we would restore our territorial integrity.

Today, I presented the Holy Quran I brought from Mecca to the Aghdam mosque. I am happy to have visited Mecca four times. Once with my late father and three times as President. I am happy that I prayed with my family inside the Holy Kaaba. I have the same feelings in my heart as everyone else. My first prayer was for the liberation of our lands from occupation. I asked God

to give me the strength to liberate our lands from the occupiers, to give us this happiness and to return to the land of our ancestors.

Today, in front of the mosque destroyed by vandals, I am saying that I am a happy man. I thank God again for hearing my prayers and giving me this strength. We are living through these historic days having mobilized all our forces. These are truly historic days. Perhaps there have never been such glorious and proud days in the centuries-old history of Azerbaijan. We have achieved this thanks to our unity and our strength. Nobody helped us. On the contrary, they only wanted to hamper us. I will talk about this in detail one day.

It was the Republic of Turkey that supported us morally and politically for 44 days, my brother President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and leaders of several other Muslim and non-Muslim countries. We have achieved this victory through unity, determination, resolve and strength. Today, after the end of the war, some leaders from Western circles are raising the question of what will happen to Christian temples in the liberated lands under the control of Azerbaijan. They express these concerns both during conversations with me and in their official statements. No-one should worry, especially the leaders of Western countries which ignite Islamophobic sentiments, those who have turned a blind eye to the insults of Islam and even justified those who insulting it. They have no right to talk about it. This is first. Second, all the temples in our territory are our historical assets. Azerbaijan hosts the Baku Humanitarian Forum or the Forum on Intercultural Dialogue every year. Azerbaijan hosts summits of leaders of world religions. Look and see what is being said about us. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation cites the attitude towards Islam in Azerbaijan as an example. During his visit to Baku, Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Kirill praised the work done in this area in Azerbaijan and visited Orthodox churches. In his official speech during his visit to Baku, Pope Francis spoke about tolerance, religious tolerance and multiculturalism in Azerbaijan. Who can criticize us? Those who shut down mosques? Can those throwing the heads of killed pigs into Muslim mosques teach us a lesson and express concern? They do not need to express any concerns. All our historical sites are protected by the state. On my instruction and at the expense of the state, two Orthodox churches are being repaired, while the third church has already been repaired. An office building is under construction built. During the war, the church of our Udi brothers was repaired and put into operation by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. Our Caucasian Albanian churches are our national treasure. Our Georgian churches, the Armenian church. The savage enemy kept cows and pigs in this mosque. These pictures are available on the internet. They kept pigs in the liberated Zangilan mosque, in the Jabrayil mosque.

We work very closely with UNESCO. But if they wants to come and visit Christian temples, they should come here. Come and tell what the wild Armenians have done here. Also, a few years ago, the ambassadors of Minsk Group co-chair countries visited this mosque. They conducted fact-finding missions twice and told me that they had visited the Aghdam mosque. Why didn't they raise this issue? Why didn't certain Western leaders express their concern? Does this mean that Muslim mosques can be insulted, cows and pigs can be kept and destroyed? If so, let them say so, let them deal with the problems in their countries and not interfere in our work. Let no-one interfere in our work. We have come here ourselves. We have come here in spite of the efforts of all those countries, we have come in spite of all the provocations, we have shed blood and we are standing on our land. Let everyone mind their own business. We have given and will give the answer to those who want to interfere in our work.

It is a historic day today. We are celebrating our glorious victory. The ruined city of Aghdam is a witness to Armenian atrocities. We will restore the city of Aghdam and all the villages. Let

no-one ever doubt that. It will be a difficult task. Of course, it will take a lot of effort. But just as we have shown unity for 44 days, I am confident that we will show unity and determination in the restoration of our liberated lands. We will restore all our cities and built even more beautiful cities. We will restore the remaining historical sites in our cities and show our strength once again.

We have won our victory by chasing the enemy with an iron fist, and now we are standing on our own land.

Long live the people of Azerbaijan! Long live the Azerbaijani soldiers and Azerbaijani officers! Aghdam is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

X X X

On their way back from Aghdam, President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva watched the destroyed city from a car.

Mehriban Aliyeva: There is not a single building that has not been demolished.

President Ilham Aliyev: The flag I have raised. Kudos!

AZERTAC

November 23

First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva shared footages from Aghdam on her Instagram account

[18:28] 23.11.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has shared footages from Aghdam on her official Instagram account.

AZERTAC presents the footages.

AZERTAC

The National Interest: The true source of troubles behind the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

[17:17] 23.11.2020

US-based *The National Interest*, a bimonthly international affairs magazine has published an article by Dr. Kamal Makili-Aliyev, a senior lecturer in international law and human rights in Malmö University in Sweden, an affiliated researcher of Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and author of the *Contested Territories and International Law* (Routledge, 2020) dedicated to the legal issues in the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict.

Headlined “The true source of troubles behind the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict”, the article reads: “With the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh in its most active phase since 1994, the questions about the legal status of this mountainous region located in the Caucasus are being discussed in the wider media more frequently. An unfortunate feature of such discussions is the fact that legal questions are usually discussed by specialists in fields other than international law. This results in quasi-legal or even unsubstantiated arguments that have no relevance to real legal science.

One such argument that has recently surfaced is a false equation mark between situations in Kosovo and in Nagorno-Karabakh. It wrongly claims that Kosovo can serve as a precedent for the so-called “remedial secession” of Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan. The simple fact of the matter is that Kosovo, as a case, has no connections to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

This can be tested by a simple analysis of the international law position vis-à-vis Nagorno-Karabakh’s legal status. First, and foremost—it is a recognized part of the territory of Azerbaijan. The international community confirmed this several times through the United Nations. The most vivid example is 2008 UN General Assembly resolution 62/243 “The Situation in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan.” Moreover, that fact was confirmed judicially by the European Court of Human Rights in the 2015 case *Chiragov et. al. v. Armenia*. The court confirmed two necessary preconditions for military occupation (effective control and boots on the ground in paragraphs 180 and 186) and, thus, confirmed that Armenia occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent seven regions of Azerbaijan.

Second, unlike Kosovo, Nagorno-Karabakh’s autonomy was tied to a separate sovereign state—Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic (AzSSR). AzSSR was in accordance with the Soviet Union’s Constitution of 1977 (Article 76) one of the sovereign member-states of the union. Nagorno-Karabakh, on the other hand, did not have a sovereign status. When the Soviet Union fell apart, its internal administrative borders became the international borders of the union’s former members, including Azerbaijan and Armenia. Moreover, none of the member-states or other entities of the Soviet Union had a chance to separate from the Soviet Union using its 1990 law that regulated secession. Soviet Union fell apart before the conditions of the law could be fulfilled by anyone.

Third, the right of peoples to self-determination, which was widely (but falsely) claimed for the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, was proven by competent international law specialists to be inapplicable to minorities and not a right to secession. The Armenian minority in Nagorno-Karabakh does not constitute separate “people” from peoples of Azerbaijan or Armenia. They are ethnically Armenian and formally citizens of Azerbaijan. Not a population of a theoretical

overseas colony to be decolonized by the right to self-determination. That is why this right is in no way applicable to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Fourth, there is no “right to remedial secession” in international law. The International Court of Justice basically said as much in its Advisory Opinion on Kosovo’s declaration of independence. The concept of remedial secession is actually a political concept, one that is not very closely connected to international law. Moreover, trying to connect the concept of remedial secession to Nagorno-Karabakh is simply cynical, as it was an Azerbaijani population that was persecuted and forcefully removed from Nagorno-Karabakh, not the Armenian minority.

The issue of Nagorno-Karabakh being a part of Azerbaijan affects even the political positions of key regional states and extra-regional players. All of the permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United States and the UK) recognize that recent fighting was within the sovereign borders of Azerbaijan and that Armenia was not a victim of aggression. Even Russia, which has military bases in Armenia, and which owns most of Armenia’s critical infrastructure, and has clear interests in the well-being of its strategic partner, has confirmed that the fighting had nothing to do with the sovereign territory of Armenia and, thus, cannot trigger collective defense obligations.

All of the above makes calls for the recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent state unreasonable. It would be in clear breach of international law and against the position of the international community. The United States should consider that any such move against international legal order will threaten the system of international security that the United States has been building together with others since 1945.”

AZERTAC

Secretary General of Council of Europe welcomes ceasefire agreement

[16:37] 23.11.2020

In her response to the letter addressed by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov, Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejčinović Burić welcomed the ceasefire agreement of 9 November 2020, and underlined that she would continue to follow developments in light of its ongoing implementation.

AZERTAC

November 22

Kuwait Times: Azerbaijan troops enter first district ceded by Armenia

[16:12] 22.11.2020

Kuwait Times newspaper has published an article highlighting Azerbaijani troops' entering Aghdam district.

Headlined "Azerbaijan troops enter first district ceded by Armenia", the article says:

"Azerbaijan said Friday its troops had entered a district bordering Nagorno-Karabakh that was previously home to Armenian separatists, as part of a Russian-brokered deal to end weeks of fighting in the region. Troops moved into the district of Aghdam, one of three to be ceded, the Azerbaijan defence ministry said, a day after Armenian soldiers and tanks withdrew from the territory.

Azerbaijan is also to recover the Kalbajar district wedged between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia on November 25 and the Lachin district by December 1. Armenian residents of Aghdam hurriedly picked pomegranates from trees around their homes and packed vans with furniture before fleeing ahead of the deadline to cede the mountainous province. Ahead of the handover, residents set their homes on fire, leaving nothing behind for their bitter rivals.

'Wild enemy'

In a televised address, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev called Armenians who destroyed property as they fled a "wild enemy". "They are embarrassing themselves in front of the whole world," he said. On Thursday, people celebrated in Baku, with cars parading through the city with flags of Azerbaijan ally Russia and Turkey. Separatists in Nagorno-Karabakh and several surrounding districts had captured the territory and claimed independence following a post-Soviet 1990s war that left around 30,000 dead. Their claim was not recognized internationally, however, even by Armenia. As part of the peace accord, Armenia agreed to return 15 to 20 percent of Nagorno-Karabakh territory captured by Azerbaijan in recent fighting, including the historic town of Shusha.

Return of refugees

A Russian peacekeeping force totalling 1,960 troops has now deployed to the region, the defence ministry said Friday, and set up checkpoints and observation posts along the strategic Lachin corridor that connects Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday that providing humanitarian aid to residents of "severely hit" Nagorno-Karabakh was now a priority, and called on the UN and the World Health Organization to send delegations to the region. He maintained that the peacekeepers had "helped end the bloodshed and prevent further casualties." Most of Azerbaijan's south-western district of Aghdam has been under the control of Armenian separatists since 1993. Before the post-Soviet war it was inhabited by 130,000 people-mostly ethnic Azerbaijanis who were expelled from their homes.

‘Ancestral lands’

In his national address Friday, Aliyev promised Azerbaijanis that they would return to “ancestral lands”. UNESCO on Friday said that Director General Audrey Azoulay had proposed a preliminary field mission to the region during a meeting with representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan to ensure the protection of cultural heritage sites.

Armenia’s health ministry said this week that more than 2,400 troops had been killed in the fighting. The agreement to cede disputed territory spurred a political crisis in Armenia with the opposition flooding the streets of the capital Yerevan and calling for Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan’s resignation. The presidency announced Friday the replacement of defense minister David Tonoyan. Armenian police told AFP they had detained dozens of protesters Friday at a rally in Yerevan where demonstrators calling for Pashinyan to resign formed a human chain and blocked major roads.”

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: A promising new situation has emerged in the region

[12:33] 22.11.2020

“A promising new situation has emerged in the region. I am confident that positive trends will continue to grow. In any case, Azerbaijan is ready for this and today we will discuss in detail our vision of how we think the region will develop. Of course, the trilateral statement is an important step towards establishing a strong and lasting peace in our region,” said Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev as he received Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

“I would like to emphasize the personal role of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, who very actively and effectively participated in the development of the text of the agreement, and the fact that the agreement is being successfully implemented is largely due to the fact that this text also contains the signature of the President of the Russian Federation,” the head of state said.

“I would also like to note the important role played by the President of Turkey Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan in strengthening security measures in the region. In general, I think that the format of cooperation both in terms of the peacekeeping mission and in terms of the long-term cooperation in the region is acquiring new outlines today. I think that this meets the fundamental interests of the countries of the region because countries of our region should certainly play a leading role, including the matters of strengthening security. What was agreed in the trilateral statement suggests that, with goodwill and a constructive approach, it is possible to resolve issues that previously seemed insoluble,” the President of Azerbaijan emphasized.

AZERTAC

Russian Foreign Minister speaks to media in Baku and responds to questions from journalists

[11:37] 22.11.2020

On 21 November, following a meeting with President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov addressed the media and responded to questions from journalists.

AZERTAC presents the speech of the Russian Foreign Minister and his answers to questions.

- We have completed the negotiations with the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Heydar oglu Aliyev. The talks were held in the format of our interagency delegation and then additional consultations were held in a narrow format. The main conclusion is that the relevance and the absence of any alternative to the agreement reached by the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia on 9 November, the agreement that stopped the bloodshed and laid the foundation for a long-term settlement of the situation around Nagorno-Karabakh, has been fully confirmed. The President of Azerbaijan today paid special attention to the need for consistent and conscientious implementation of all the components of the joint trilateral statement. Our positions also completely coincide with regard to the need for creating conditions for the restoration of inter-religious and interethnic peace, coexistence and reconciliation. We have discussed a number of specific directions that will contribute to this and which we will jointly implement together with the Azerbaijani and Armenian sides.

Among other areas, we are interested in the international organizations of the UN system, the International Red Cross, being actively involved in solving humanitarian problems and working together with Russian peacekeepers and with the Center for Humanitarian Response. The President of Azerbaijan has specific proposals on how to make this work more effective, and we discussed them with interest today. We will continue to work together in this direction. In general, on matters related to bilateral relations, we have noted consistent and progressive development of our strategic partnership and outlined specific steps to return to face-to-face events as soon as the situation with the coronavirus infection allows. This includes the intergovernmental commission, the interregional forum, the Baku Humanitarian Forum and the Forum on Youth Initiatives. We have ample instruments for the development of bilateral cooperation and, of course, we will extensively use them in the future. We have discussed our cooperation in international organizations – the UN, the OSCE, where we have coinciding positions on most key issues. We also have joint projects within the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, there is such an organization, and within the framework of interaction of the five Caspian littoral states. So we consider the results of the talks to be very positive, as they allow us the opportunity to report to the President that his instructions on the visit of the interagency delegation to Armenia and Azerbaijan have been fulfilled. We will now sum up the results and report on our assessments, which, I hope, will form the basis for additional decisions on the development of our ties. I am ready to answer a couple of questions.

- **Thank you very much, Sergey Viktorovich. “Kommersant” newspaper. Russian intelligence bodies warned earlier that the United States and its NATO allies are trying to undermine the 9 November agreement and squeeze Russia out of the Caucasus. Have you discussed this issue with your partners here in Baku and in Yerevan? What did they tell you?**

And maybe this issue was raised at your meeting with the Minsk Group co-chairs in Moscow?

- At the beginning of our today's talks here in Baku, the President of Azerbaijan noted in general terms that not everyone was impressed with the agreement reached on 9 November. We also note, as you have just mentioned, that there have been attempts to question these agreements, but I think that these attempts will not be crowned with success. First of all, because the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group – Russia, France and the United States – have repeatedly emphasized the need to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh problem on the basis of the very principles that are now being materialized in the development and implementation of the trilateral joint statement of 9 November. Secondly, of course, we always emphasize – as we also did during the visit to Moscow of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs, our French and American colleagues – in relation to this and any other conflict that it is first of all necessary to stop people dying, stop people dying in bloody wars, so that a peaceful life could be established, so that religions and cultures could coexist and people representing different ethnic and confessional groups could live together in peace and security. If we put this at the forefront, then I do not see any reason that would give at least some opportunity to interpret the agreements of 9 November in a negative way or to question them. If we put geopolitical ambitions first, then we cannot do anything about this. But we will firmly reject such attempts and will concentrate on the implementation of the agreements that meet the fundamental interests of the peoples living in this region.

- Mr. Lavrov, the trilateral statement provides for the unblocking of economic and transport links in the region. What contribution do you think the implementation of this paragraph can make to the further expansion of economic cooperation between countries of the region?

- I think this is one of the key provisions. We spoke about this in great detail today. The President of Azerbaijan is sincerely committed to realizing as soon as possible the opportunities that open up in connection with the unblocking of transport, economic and infrastructure communications and projects. Vital routes intersect in this region, including North-South and East-West. Incidentally, the Turkish side and the Iranian neighbors of Azerbaijan and Armenia are involved in them. In fact, when all the restrictions that have existed for almost 30 years are removed, the prospects seem very impressive. We talked about this in detail today. And the way the unblocking of all these ties will allow the region's economy to breathe deeply will probably meet the task of quickly improving the living conditions of people who will now be free from any restrictions, and this will also be the most important material prerequisite for inter-religious and interethnic peace to be established here. So this is one of the key areas of our work in the very near future.

- You said that your position on many issues fully coincides with that of the Azerbaijani side. If we talk about Turkey's role specifically in this settlement and in general, can you please tell us if everything also fully coincides? To what extent was the Turkish factor discussed today? Perhaps there is something new? And is there any chance that Turkey's influence could squeeze Russia out, so to speak?

- President Putin spoke very exhaustively on this topic in his interview on 17 November. Turkey is a real factor in this region. In fact, not only in this region, but beyond. Turkey is our partner in many areas. Of course, sovereign Azerbaijan has the right to choose its foreign policy partners, just like sovereign Armenia chooses its foreign policy partners. Therefore, perhaps, the

art of politics is to fully take into account all the factors that really affect the situation in a particular region when promoting any initiatives. And the success of the negotiations – protracted and difficult talks which took place on the initiative of President Putin together with the President of Azerbaijan and the Prime Minister of Armenia was, in general, largely due to the realistic assessments that all the participants in the negotiations expressed and were guided by. So, as you know, we have an agreement with the Turkish side, which is supported by Azerbaijan, to establish a Russian-Turkish monitoring center on the territory of Azerbaijan. It will remotely monitor the implementation of the ceasefire in and around Nagorno-Karabakh using technical means. This will be an additional factor that will make it possible to ensure the stability of the ceasefire, in which Russian peacekeepers are playing a key role, of course.

- A joint statement was signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia on 10 November. How would you assess the significance of this document?

- This is the key document that will finally, after 30 years of a frozen conflict, pave the way for peace in this region. The document fully meets the interests of both the Azerbaijani and Armenian population of this region and is aimed at ensuring that the conditions that have now developed and the implementation of which will allow people who have always lived here to return to coexistence, to live side by side with each other regardless of ethnicity, regardless of religious beliefs, in peace and security. This is the most important factor. Thank you.

AZERTAC

November 21

President Ilham Aliyev received Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov

[20:19] 21.11.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has received Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov.

AZERTAC reports that a Russian interagency delegation, including deputy prime ministers Alexander Novak and Alexei Overchuk, Minister of Health Mikhail Murashko, Head of the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing (Rospotrebnadzor) Anna Popova, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Executive Board of Russian Railways JSC Oleg Belozarov were present at the meeting.

Welcoming the guests, **President Ilham Aliyev** said:

- Dear Sergey Viktorovich.

Dear members of the delegation.

I am glad to welcome you to Azerbaijan. It is nice to see you again. I am glad that you are visiting us with such a large delegation. The composition of the delegation is evidence of the agenda of today's discussions. In general, the agenda of our relations is quite extensive and covers all areas. But today, of course, we will first of all talk about the issues related to the implementation of the trilateral statement, which was signed by the presidents of Russia, Azerbaijan and the prime minister of Armenia, as well as issues of strengthening security measures in the region.

A promising new situation has emerged in the region. I am confident that positive trends will continue to grow. In any case, Azerbaijan is ready for this and today we will discuss in detail our vision of how we think the region will develop. Of course, the trilateral statement is an important step towards establishing a strong and lasting peace in our region. I would like to emphasize the personal role of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, who very actively and effectively participated in the development of the text of the agreement, and the fact that the agreement is being successfully implemented is largely due to the fact that this text also contains the signature of the President of the Russian Federation.

I would also like to note the important role played by the President of Turkey Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan in strengthening security measures in the region. In general, I think that the format of cooperation both in terms of the peacekeeping mission and in terms of the long-term cooperation in the region is acquiring new outlines today. I think that this meets the fundamental interests of the countries of the region because countries of our region should certainly play a leading role, including the matters of strengthening security. What was agreed in the trilateral statement suggests that, with goodwill and a constructive approach, it is possible to resolve issues that previously seemed insoluble.

We are well aware of all the vicissitudes of the settlement process. But I am glad that we have managed to reach the decisions that will allow both the people of Azerbaijan and the people

of Armenia the opportunity to live in peace, to try to heal the wounds of war, to try to think about the future, about a common future, a safe future for us, for our neighbors, and thus contribute to the strengthening of security in our region.

We are also glad that other members of the Minsk Group who did not directly participate in the elaboration of provisions of the statement have also expressed their attitude, a positive attitude towards the text of the statement, albeit with a slight delay.

Of course, we had the right to expect a more prompt reaction from them, but apparently there were certain factors that did not allow them to develop a position. But as they say, it is better late than never. I know that a meeting of representatives of the OSCE Minsk Group was held in Moscow. I think that their positive approach to the statement will also play an important role in strengthening security measures and long-term peace.

I would also like to note that I fully share the position of the President of the Russian Federation who expressed hope not to hear the phrase “Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” again. I also hope I will never hear it again. And when we talk about Nagorno-Karabakh, we will only hear news related to the development, elimination of the consequences of the war and reconciliation of the countries that were once at war with each other.

Welcome again. We are always glad to see you and look forward to constructive work today.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said:

-Thank you very much, dear Ilham Heydar oglu. First of all, I would like to convey the warmest greetings of the President of the Russian Federation. We are here as part of an inter-ministerial delegation based on your agreement that we would carry out such a visit in a fairly short time. And this reflects our intentions, the intentions of the President of the Russian Federation to support, actively support efforts to implement the agreements of 9 November and, at the same time, emphasize the special strategic nature of our partnership with the Republic of Azerbaijan. The conversations that will be held with our colleagues in their areas of our interaction today will, of course, be aimed at ensuring that our bilateral relations advance and flourish for the benefit of our peoples.

We highly appreciated the position of Azerbaijan in support of the 9 November statement. As you said, dear Ilham Heydar oglu, not everyone immediately perceived this agreement correctly, trying to interpret it not from the point of view of the result, which consisted in stopping the bloodshed, in the transition to a peaceful life, in establishing a recovery process, and in solving humanitarian problems, and attempted to interpret it through the prism of geopolitical games, which, of course, does not meet the requirements of the modern world. We particularly appreciate the fact that the President of Azerbaijan, dear Ilham Heydar oglu, always emphasizes the task of reconciliation in this region, which, as we are deeply convinced, is the whole point of further work if we really think about the people and not about some introduced interests.

Through our peacekeepers, together with our Azerbaijani colleagues and with the participation of the Armenian side, we actively coordinate specific ways of solving humanitarian problems in the interests of returning people. This is about the arrangement of civilian infrastructure, the establishment of everything necessary to unblock economic and transport communications and, of course, the involvement of international organizations, the Red Cross, UN

agencies on refugees, food affairs, children's problems, UNESCO, which should be more actively involved in the issue of preservation of cultural and religious heritage in this ancient region.

And, of course, we expect the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, who have been leading the political process together with Russia for many years, to join the solution of these issues on the basis of the agreements of 9 November. As you and President Putin have repeatedly stressed, this is in line with the principles that have always underpinned the activities of the OSCE Minsk Group.

Thank you very much for your hospitality.

President Ilham Aliyev thanked for Vladimir Putin`s greetings and asked the minister to extend his greetings to the Russian President.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani President: Document signed after 44 days of armed hostilities essentially put end to many years of confrontation

[18:37] 21.11.2020

“After 44 days of armed confrontation and hostilities, a document was signed, which I consider to be a very important political document. It essentially put an end to the many years of confrontation. I would like to express my gratitude to you, as well as the leadership of Russia, President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin for his active personal participation in the preparation and adoption of this important political document,” said President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev as he received a delegation led by Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu.

“During the hostilities, the Armenian side flagrantly violated all norms of warfare, as well as humanitarian norms. Our cities and villages were bombarded on a daily basis. As a result, 94 Azerbaijani civilians were killed, including children and women, more than 400 were injured and over 3,000 houses either fell into disrepair or were completely destroyed. Cities located near the war zone were subjected to shelling, mortar and artillery shelling almost on a daily basis, but there were also ballistic missile attacks on the cities of Ganja, Mingachevir, Barda and other cities. Those were targeted attacks aimed at killing the civilian population. We have documented all these war crimes, the use of ballistic missiles, cluster munitions and phosphorus munitions, and corresponding instructions have been given in connection with further legal actions to be taken by the Azerbaijani side,” the head of state added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: A ceasefire monitoring center is a very important element in strengthening stability and security in the region

[18:31] 21.11.2020

“We welcome the active course of negotiations between the Russian Federation and Turkey on the establishment of a ceasefire monitoring center in Azerbaijan. We consider this a very important element in strengthening stability and security in the region,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he received a delegation led by Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu.

“We are also grateful to the Turkish leadership and personally to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his participation in creating the prerequisites for the cessation of hostilities. The fact that both Russia and Turkey are two friendly countries for us – our two neighbors will participate in measures to observe the ceasefire and to exercise control over it – also speaks volumes of the strengthening of the format of interaction between our two neighboring countries, and also within the framework of regional cooperation. I do hope that the current ceasefire and our further plans to normalize relations with Armenia, if perceived positively by the Armenian side, can create a new situation in the region, a situation of cooperation, a situation of strengthening stability and security. Everyone will benefit from this – the peoples inhabiting our region, our neighbors and the whole world will be more secure,” the head of state said.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev received delegation led by Russian defense minister

[17:30] 21.11.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has received a delegation led by Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation Sergei Shoigu.

AZERTAC reports that welcoming the delegation, President Ilham Aliyev said:

- Dear Mr. Minister.

Dear members of the delegation.

I am glad to welcome you to Azerbaijan. Sergei Kuzhugetovich, we met three months ago, when you visited us in connection with the Army Games. Today we will discuss issues related to the implementation of the trilateral statement signed by the Presidents of Russia, Azerbaijan and the prime minister of Armenia. In our opinion, provisions of the statement are being implemented successfully, and this once again demonstrates the readiness of both the Azerbaijani and Armenian sides to put an end to the long-term conflict and come to a political settlement.

Last time I told you about our position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. You visited us at the end of August. Then, in July and August, there were two attempts of military provocation, armed provocation against Azerbaijan. One was committed at the border in Tovuz district and the other in August. The first one was committed in July, while in August there was an attempt on the part of a sabotage group of the Armenian armed forces to penetrate through the contact line. The head of this group was detained and his testimony showed precisely the intention to arrange an armed provocation. This policy was continued and ended with the fact that our settlements were once again attacked by Armenian armed forces at the end of September. So we had to give them a worthy response. We all know very well what happened afterwards.

After 44 days of armed confrontation and hostilities, a document was signed, which I consider to be a very important political document. It essentially put an end to the many years of confrontation. I would like to express my gratitude to you, as well as the leadership of Russia, President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin for his active personal participation in the preparation and adoption of this important political document.

Unfortunately, during the hostilities, the Armenian side flagrantly violated all norms of warfare, as well as humanitarian norms. Our cities and villages were bombarded on a daily basis. As a result, 94 Azerbaijani civilians were killed, including children and women, more than 400 were injured and over 3,000 houses either fell into disrepair or were completely destroyed. Cities located near the war zone were subjected to shelling, mortar and artillery shelling almost on a daily basis, but there were also ballistic missile attacks on the cities of Ganja, Mingachevir, Barda and other cities. Those were targeted attacks aimed at killing the civilian population. We have documented all these war crimes, the use of ballistic missiles, cluster munitions and phosphorus munitions, and corresponding instructions have been given in connection with further legal actions to be taken by the Azerbaijani side.

Armenia has extensively used foreign mercenaries. We have numerous photo and video documents. We have passports of foreign citizens, in particular, citizens of France, the USA, Lebanon, Canada, Georgia and other countries. Some of these people are of Armenian origin, some are not. This, however, does not change the essence of the issue because the participation of foreign mercenaries on the part of Armenia, of course, is unacceptable.

Despite all this, the result of hostilities is known to everyone. The Azerbaijani Army has achieved a brilliant military victory, and we moved on to the plane of political settlement. Yesterday the Azerbaijani Army entered the city of Aghdam, the rest of the occupied Aghdam district. So provisions of the statement are being fulfilled.

We also welcome the deployment of the peacekeeping mission of the Russian Federation, which works in working contact with our bodies and, as far as we know, with the Armenian side. I believe that this is an important factor in stabilizing the situation, and there have been no serious violations of the ceasefire since the signing of the statement. And I am sure there won't be any.

We also welcome the active course of negotiations between the Russian Federation and Turkey on the establishment of a ceasefire monitoring center in Azerbaijan. We consider this a very important element in strengthening stability and security in this region. We are also grateful to the Turkish leadership and personally to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his participation in creating the prerequisites for the cessation of hostilities. The fact that both Russia and Turkey are two friendly countries for us – our two neighbors will participate in measures to observe the ceasefire and to exercise control over it – also speaks volumes of the strengthening of the format of interaction between our two neighboring countries, and also within the framework of regional cooperation. I do hope that the current ceasefire and our further plans to normalize relations with Armenia, if perceived positively by the Armenian side, can create a new situation in the region, a situation of cooperation, a situation of strengthening stability and security. Everyone will benefit from this – the peoples inhabiting our region, our neighbors and the whole world will be more secure.

Greetings again. I am very glad that you are visiting us with a large delegation. We have an extensive agenda today. So welcome again.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said: Thank you, dear Mr. President. First of all, I am grateful that you found the time to meet with us, to discuss some of the urgent issues and mostly issues that have become relevant. Time flies fast. Not so much time has passed since the adoption of the plan by the leaders of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, since the adoption of what I believe is a historic statement, but the peacekeeping contingent, the peacekeeping forces have already taken up the positions that were determined, i.e. the 23 posts were taken under control in the direction of the highway in order to ensure the security of the line of contact. The return of refugees has begun. All the work that has been done to date is bearing fruit, of course.

As you have said, the ceasefire has been observed during all this time, perhaps with the exception of some rare and what we consider minor exchanges, and I am confident that this will continue to be the case.

AZERTAC

Famous photojournalist Reza Deghati hurries to Karabakh

[16:36] 21.11.2020

“I told Armenia’s Ambassador to France that even if you were 500 million, not 500,000, I would still tell the truth”

We called Reza Deghati several times. The phone was busy. Then he called back. He said he was on his way to Karabakh. We agreed that he would answer our questions via “WhatsApp”...

Reza Deghati, a world-famous photojournalist who came to Azerbaijan from Paris during the fateful days of the Patriotic War, communicates the realities of Karabakh to the world through the language of his art. He says the French media are not interested in sending a photojournalist to Azerbaijan. He was even offered to go to Armenia for any payment he would have asked for in exchange for his services. Originally from Tabriz, the Azerbaijani photojournalist bought a plane ticket with his own money and came to Azerbaijan to capture the historic days of our country on his camera. His photos are being widely circulated by TV channels, news agencies and news sites these days. Reza Deghati captures the events of Karabakh and other parts of the country during and after the war, gives interviews to the media and is invited to various TV channels. In other words, there is not even a minute of free time left. He answered our questions on the way to Fuzuli and said that AZERTAC could publish as many photos from his Instagram page as it wants on its website.

- You have been in Azerbaijan for more than a month. Where did you go and what did you capture on camera?

- These days I was working in two directions: both in the liberated territories, and in Barda, Tartar, Ganja and other places that came under cluster munitions shelling from Armenia. As our soldiers advanced, I followed them...

Reza Deghati shared his new photos from the Khudafarin Bridge with the following caption: “IDPs from Jabrayil will see these places for the first time in 27 years”.

Sharing photos from the funeral of 16-year-old Orkhan Ismayilzade, a resident of Tartar district, Reza Deghati wrote: “Orkhan was killed as a result of Armenian shelling of Tartar while picking pomegranates in his garden. The red color of the pomegranate sadly reminds us of its blood”.

Photos from the funeral of 7-year-old Aysu Isgandarova, who died during the bombing of Barda, are accompanied with the following comment: “When the bombing took place, she and her younger sister were collecting flowers”.

- What do you feel when you see destroyed cities, villages and historical sites?

- You know, I am actually an architect, and I look at them through the eyes of an architect. I did not find a single safe house in the villages I went to. There were only two mosques that were relatively safe. Pigs and cattle were kept in the ancient mosques in Mamar village of Gubadli and Alkhanli village of Fuzuli. I took photos of all that...

Photos with the caption “Mosque turned into a pigsty” are also accompanied with the following comment: “I entered the mosque, looked around, the floor was covered with feces, the smell was horrible. I saw two pots of water for the animals. The soldiers told me that when they entered the mosque, it was full of pigs”.

Reza Deghati writes about a mosque in Fuzuli’s Alkhanli village: “The scene I saw here was not any different from what I saw earlier. Apparently the Armenians have a tradition of turning mosques into barns. This shows their attitude to Muslim places of worship”.

Our interviewee says he heard that our liberated cities and villages used to be beautiful in the past. When these places are restored, it would be better to give preference to traditional style rather than modern architecture. For example, ancient villages have been preserved in Italy, France and Spain, and millions of tourists visit them. The Karabakh region could be the same.

Reza Deghati currently shares thousands of photos he took in Karabakh and other parts of Azerbaijan on social networks. “National Geographic”, “Time Photo” and other popular magazines publish his works. They are also posted on “PixPalace” platform.

The photojournalist has also met with witnesses of the 20 January tragedy, the Khojaly genocide, refugees and IDPs, captured scenes depicting the atrocities of Armenian fascists and people suffering from the loss of their loved ones. The works of Reza Deghati, who speaks about the realities of Azerbaijan in a language understandable to everyone, the language of photos, have been exhibited in many European countries.

- You live in France, where the Armenian lobby is strong. Have you experienced any pressure, persecution or obstacles?

- I have lived in France for 40 years. I am a citizen of this country. Since 1992, I have been trying to communicate the Khojaly tragedy and the issue of IDPs to the world, and since then I have been the target of the Armenian lobby. For example, they come to my exhibitions and tear up the photos displayed there. Once, just a few hours before the opening of the exhibition, some swear words were written on all the pictures. It has also happened that when I spoke at conferences, they shouted that I was a man of the Azerbaijani government. They write a lot against me on the Internet. Once the Armenian Ambassador to France invited me to a conversation in Paris. Ministers, diplomats and ambassadors working in this country usually have respect to artists of other nationalities. There was a time when, for example, the President of France invited me to sit next to him during lunch at an event. When the Armenian Ambassador to France invited me to dinner, I asked him what he would like to talk about. He said he liked my photos. In those days, a large exhibition of my photos was underway near the parliament building in Paris. There was a famous photo from Khojaly in that exhibition – a photo I took of a woman screaming after finding the bodies of her son and husband with their eyes hollowed out. The Armenian Ambassador tried to intimidate me and turn me away from my path by saying that there were 500,000 Armenians in France and I was alone. He even said: “You are originally from Tabriz and Armenia has very good relations with Iran and Iranians, so work with us.”

I objected. I said that as a photojournalist I was responsible for telling the world what I saw, including the massacre the Armenians committed in Khojaly. I said that even if you were 5 million or 500 million, not 500,000, I would still tell the truth, stood up and left. The next day, they sent a man who tore up that famous photo at the exhibition. I left that stand blank and wrote that I was

not being allowed to hold an exhibition in Paris where everyone is supposed to be able to speak their mind. So I posted this photo on my website and anyone can see it. I also posted other photos on my website. The Armenian lobby also hired a lawyer to sue me... Another form of pressure is financial. Over the years, they have prevented me from implementing 20-30 projects. For example, any museum in France would want to exhibit my photos, but such museums come under pressure and the exhibitions do not take place.

Reza Deghati has been traveling the world for over 40 years. He is the author of more than 30 books. He has received a number of international awards. He was awarded the Honor Medal of the University of Missouri and is an Honorary Doctor of the American University of Paris. The French government has awarded him the Knight of the National Order of Merit. He has held exhibitions “Emigrant’s Thoughts” and “Crossroads of Destinies” in Paris, “One World, One Tribe” in Washington, “War + Peace” in Normandy and “Hope” in Doha. The photographer has participated in a total of 250 exhibitions.

AZERTAC

ARAB News: Azerbaijan is the victor in the Nagorno-Karabakh war

[16:05] 21.11.2020

The Saudi Arabian Arab News newspaper has published an article by Azerbaijani Ambassador to the country Shahin Abdullayev headlined “Azerbaijan is the victor in the Nagorno-Karabakh war”.

The article reads: “After 44 days of fighting, Azerbaijan has triumphed in the war against Armenia, which had started the conflict with heavy cross-border shelling and bombardment of various civilian populations and installations. On Nov. 10 Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia signed an agreement to end the fierce fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The aggressor Armenia’s military preparedness proved insufficient. It was demotivated and demoralized that day after day it was confronted with retreat and defeat. During this war faith superseded nationalism, harmony conquered horrendous crimes and, last but not least, Armenia’s own nationalism defeated its regional and global terrorist franchises.

The fall of the strategic city of Shusha proved to be fatal for Armenia, which decided to sign a deal with Azerbaijan, with Russia and Turkey deployed as peacekeepers to make the truce effective. Armenia has been notorious for genocidal activities against the peaceful people of Azerbaijan for centuries. The attackers have been disturbing the geographic and social balance of the illegally occupied areas through holding fake elections and referendums which ultimately proved inadequate to settle Nagorno-Karabakh.

During all these painful years, the Azerbaijani leadership has been advocating a just solution for Nagorno-Karabakh in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council (Resolution 884, adopted unanimously on Nov. 12, 1993, reaffirmed earlier resolutions). These clearly rejected the illegal occupation by Armenia and demanded its withdrawal. However, complex regional and international power dynamics could not resolve the issue, which has been frozen for the past 29 years. Now Azerbaijan has ousted Armenia from its territory, where, since the deal was signed, houses and public installations have been set on fire by leaving Armenians.

Recent clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh started on Sept. 27. The Azerbaijani army responded to Armenian provocations and started its peace enforcement operation. Azerbaijan’s military drones initially softened Armenian targets and prepared an easy entry for its ground troops onto the battlefield. It also preserved its armed forces and inflicted heavy losses on the Armenian forces. Meanwhile, Armenia adopted a human shield policy to respond to Azerbaijan’s superior drone campaign. According to Azerbaijan figures four big cities and 300 villages have been liberated from Armenian forces since Sept. 27.

Armenia’s strategy consisting of spreading hostilities beyond the occupied region of Nagorno-Karabakh to other Azerbaijani territories. While the Azerbaijani army was successfully liberating major parts of Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenian forces wasted their time and resources firing Soviet-made missiles at Azerbaijani towns such as Ganja, Tartar and Barda.

The main aim of this was to inflict massive civilian losses and raise the political and economic cost for Baku.

Armenia even bombarded strategic energy facilities such as the Mingachevir hydroelectric power station and the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline. It demonstrated the Armenian frustration and designs to undermine the energy security and infrastructure of the entire region. Moreover, it targeted the civil population and infrastructure of Azerbaijan to draw Baku into attacking Armenia directly. Such a reaction would have boosted Yerevan's propaganda and would have offered Armenia a legitimate reason to call on the CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization) to send its troops to Armenia.

Azerbaijan showed restraint when it responded to Armenia on the battlefield. Not a single civilian Armenian was killed during six-week-long war. Not a single school, house, hospital or educational center was fired upon by Azerbaijan, which showed its international commitment to superior human values.

According to the peace deal, Armenia will also guarantee transport from mainland Azerbaijan to the Nakhchivan exclave. Russian peacekeepers will monitor this transport corridor as well as the Lachin corridor between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia for five years. Turkish peacekeepers will join the Russians to monitor the frontline. Internally displaced persons and refugees will return to Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding regions under the control of the UN refugee agency. Last but not least, prisoners and bodies will be swapped. All in all, this is a big victory for Azerbaijan. It will certainly be written in golden letters in the history of the country.

The liberation of Nagorno-Karabakh has now become reality, which once again shows that nationalism does not have any place in the world. Coexistence and concept of shared prosperity is the way forward. It is indeed a wake-up call for all the supporters of ethnic cleansing that humanity may be the only benchmark for regional cooperation, and that horrendous crimes and conspiracies are always short-lived."

AZERTAC

Euractiv: How did the Second Karabakh War change Armenia and Azerbaijan?

[14:25] 21.11.2020

Euractiv news portal has published an article by a senior analyst at the Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center) Vasif Huseynov headlined “How did the Second Karabakh War change Armenia and Azerbaijan?”

The article reads: “Between 27 September and 10 November Armenia and Azerbaijan fought the second major war over the Nagorno-Karabakh region and surrounding districts of Azerbaijan which had been occupied by Armenia in the wake of the First Karabakh War in the early 1990s.

The war resulted in a devastating defeat of Armenia whose leaders conceded to sign the Russia-brokered ceasefire agreement and committed to withdraw Armenian armed forces from the Azerbaijani territories by 1 December 2020.

Addressing the nation immediately after signing the agreement in a video-conference with Russia’s President Vladimir Putin on 10 November, President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan declared victory and congratulated his citizens on the restoration of Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity.

The war has significantly changed the social and political environment in Azerbaijan, generating unanimous public support to the government and its policies concerning the conflict.

The government enjoys the support even of the oppositional forces who used to be critical of the government before the war. Hence, not only did the 44-day war restore Azerbaijan’s control over the occupied part of its internationally-recognized territories but also created remarkable solidarity in Azerbaijan which has the potential to serve as a favorable ground for future economic and political reforms.

The war brought about markedly different consequences for Armenia shocking the society who had been persuaded of the invincibility of the Armenian army and its absolute superiority over the military capabilities of Azerbaijan.

The Russia-brokered peace deal was a cold shower for millions of Armenians who were constantly deceived by their political and military leadership during the war. This, on the one hand, caused a nation-wide distrust in the ruling forces, on the other hand sparked a fierce political crisis.

Hours after the announcement of the peace deal, Armenians stormed into the building of the parliament and lynched the parliamentary speaker. Similar attacks were reported against some other officials in the following days.

Thousands of Armenians, including politicians, experts, diaspora representatives, called for the immediate resignation of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, although the withdrawal from the peace deal was accepted to be impossible by many of them.

In a televised address to the nation on 16 November, President Armen Sarkisyan of Armenia, who had previously declared that the peace deal had not been consulted with him in advance,

called for snap parliamentary elections, saying that this is needed to resolve a political crisis sparked by the war.

Sarkisyan, the president of Armenia since April 2018 with largely ceremonial powers, added that his proposals reflect the dominant view of political party leaders and public figures with whom he had held consultations.

Although it is not clear if Prime Minister will follow the calls for his resignation, several members of his government have already resigned over the last week since the establishment of ceasefire agreement.

Most importantly, Minister of Foreign Affairs Zohrab Mnatsakanyan resigned from his position after a disagreement about the content of negotiations held before the war.

While Pashinyan told the Parliament that war could have been avoided had Armenia agreed to return the seven territories outside Nagorno-Karabakh proper, and Shusha, to Azerbaijan, Foreign Ministry denied the existence of a question of Armenian troops withdrawing from Shusha in any stage of peace negotiations before the war.

Apart from its political repercussions, the military defeat of Armenia has ratcheted up the economic crisis provoked earlier this year by the pandemic-related restrictions.

Public debt of the country has already approached 70% of its GDP, a frightening figure for the fragile economy of Armenia. The war has caused also humanitarian crisis due to the move of illegal settlers from Azerbaijan's recently liberated territories.

The world was shocked by the behaviors of those Armenians who were required by the ceasefire agreement to leave the places they have illegally settled in after the displacement of Azerbaijani people in the early 1990s.

President Aliyev stated that "99% of the liberated territory" including hospitals, houses and monuments have been destroyed by Armenians. He added that Azerbaijan will raise lawsuits before international courts to make Armenia pay compensation.

Seeing this as a real threat, former Prosecutor General of Armenia and former representative of Armenia at the European Court of Human Rights Gevork Kostanyan said that Armenia would have to pay more than 50 billion dollars in compensation.

"If we do not take a competent legal counterattack in time, the shameful document signed by Nikol Pashinyan will also lead to serious financial problems for us, which even our descendants cannot pay," Kostanian warned.

What is more, not only did Armenians leaving Azerbaijani territories burn the houses they had lived in, but also cut trees and set fire to forests in order not to leave something valuable to Azerbaijanis. This comes extra to the destruction Armenia has carried out in the territories it has held under control over the last thirty years.

Despite potential consequences not only for the territories of Azerbaijan, but also for the larger region, there were calls by Armenians to destroy the entire fauna and flora of the Karabakh region, before handing this to Azerbaijan.

For example, Stepan Danielyan, Chairman of the Center for Partnership for Democracy, even proposed to “blow up the Sarsang reservoir, poison the rivers going to Azerbaijan, burn all the forests, and in the extreme case spread the waste of the nuclear power plant” in the territories of Karabakh. Unfortunately, his call for eco-terrorism has been supported by many people.

Thus, the defeat in the Karabakh war has pushed Armenians into a political crisis, environmental crimes, and violent extremism against each other. On the contrary, Azerbaijan celebrates the historic victory, and up to a million IDPs are looking forward to returning to the homelands from where they were forcefully expelled around thirty years ago.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, French FMs hold phone talk

[13:42] 21.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has had a telephone conversation with Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France Jean-Yves Le Drian.

The sides exchanged their views on the latest situation in the region, the implementation of the trilateral statement of 9 November, various issues stemming from the agreement, as well as humanitarian issues. The FMs stressed the importance of studying the situation and preservation of historical and religious monuments in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding districts and noted the cooperation to be realized in this regard.

The sides also discussed other issues of mutual interest.

AZERTAC

November 20

First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva congratulated Azerbaijani people on the liberation of Aghdam

[17:31] 20.11.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has made an Instagram post on the liberation of Aghdam district from occupation.

AZERTAC presents the post.

“Dear fellow countrymen,

I sincerely congratulate you on the liberation of Aghdam district from occupation, and extend my best wishes to each of you! May peace, stability, tranquility and security always reign in Azerbaijan! May every home in our country be filled with light, kindness and happiness! May Almighty God protect our people, our Motherland and our President! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!”

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Our Army hoisted Azerbaijani flag in Aghdam

[20:13] 20.11.2020

According to the trilateral statement signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the prime minister of the Republic of Armenia, and the President of the Russian Federation, the Azerbaijan Army Units, which entered the Aghdam district on November 20, conducted several activities in the territory, Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the mine-clearing of the terrain was carried out at nighttime to ensure the safe movement of the army units in this direction, engineering work was completed and the roads along the route of the movement were prepared for use. "Currently, appropriate measures are being taken to deploy the military personnel and armored vehicles of our units in the territory.

The liberated from occupation Aghdam district came under the control of the Azerbaijan Army. The National Flag of Azerbaijan was raised in the center of the Aghdam city, the National Anthem was performed and a report was delivered to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev.

The Juma Mosque and its territory were cleaned up by our servicemen, Azan was recited in the Mosque, and Friday prayers were held," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

BERNAMA: Azerbaijan enters Aghdam in line with Karabakh deal

[19:47] 20.11.2020

The Malaysian National News Agency BERNAMA has published an article headlined “Azerbaijan enters Aghdam in line with Karabakh deal.”

The article reads: “Azerbaijani forces entered Aghdam district in Nagorno-Karabakh following 27 years of occupation, reported Anadolu Agency (AA), quoting the Azerbaijan’s Defence Ministry on Friday.

The ministry said in a statement that the Azerbaijani army entered the district as part of a ceasefire deal with Armenia that was brokered by Russia.

Armenian forces occupied some 77 per cent of the district in 1993, forcibly displacing nearly 200,000 Azerbaijanis from their homeland.

Relations between the former Soviet republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia have been tense since 1991 when the Armenian military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, a territory recognised as part of Azerbaijan, and seven adjacent regions.

New clashes erupted on Sept 27 and the Armenian army continued its attacks on civilians and Azerbaijani forces, even violating humanitarian cease-fire agreements for 44 days.

Baku liberated several cities and nearly 300 settlements and villages from the Armenian occupation during this time.

On Nov 10, the two countries signed a Russia-brokered agreement to end fighting and work toward a comprehensive resolution.”

AZERTAC

President: Why don't Western countries and international organizations react to repressions in Armenia?

[16:41] 20.11.2020

“Our victory has already created big problems in Armenia. But look at the reaction of international organizations. Is there a reaction? No!” President, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev said in his address to the nation, AZERTAC reports.

“Every day an opposition leader gets arrested in Armenia in a completely unfounded manner. Has any Western country reacted to this? No! Did they condemn it? No! Leaders of major opposition parties have been arrested, but no-one speaks up. Where are you, the Council of Europe? Where is the Council of Europe, which despises Azerbaijan and tries to discredit us? Why are you tight-lipped? Or the monitoring committee. Several rapporteurs for Azerbaijan have been appointed there. Armenia must be monitored. Why are you silent, the Council of Europe? Where are your leaders, where is your monitoring committee, where is the political committee? Don't you see that there are repressions in Armenia? Can't you see that the dictator is doing whatever he pleases? In fact, a defeated dictator, a humiliated dictator. So why don't you speak up? Where is your democracy, where are your human rights? Is there an answer? No! And there won't be one. Even after my words, there will be none. They will cover it up, hush it up,” the head of state said.

“The European Parliament has adopted more than 10 ugly and false resolutions against Azerbaijan. Why are you silent, the European Parliament? You consider yourself the center of democracy in the world. Speak up, make a statement, make a statement and condemn this. A dictator destroys all the opposition right in front of everyone in the world. He kills a man. One of the persons who occupied the parliament has already been found dead. Why don't you speak up? Why? Non-governmental organizations which regularly campaign against us, why are you silent, why don't you speak up? When we were hit with a ballistic missile, you were silent, when we were hit with cluster munitions and phosphorus bombs, you remained tight-lipped. Great countries, countries that claim to European leaders, why are you silent? Tell me, answer me!” the President added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani President: If sober-minded forces come to power in Armenia, we are ready to establish normal relations with them

[15:29] 20.11.2020

“The current geographical situation in the Karabakh region, of course, has greatly increased our capabilities. Just look at the map, let everyone see who has what opportunities,” said President, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the nation.

The head of state said: “There is an internal crisis in Armenia now. This is natural. Because a military defeat, such a shameful defeat can, of course, lead to turmoil in any country. Therefore, if sober-minded forces come to power in Armenia now, after the crisis, we are ready to establish normal relations with such sound forces. But we have nothing to do with the executioners, those who shed the blood of the Azerbaijani people. Let everyone know that!”

“After that, of course, Azerbaijan's opportunities in this region will expand, including the opportunities for influence. But our opportunities are meant only for cooperation. All the work we have done in this region so far has given impetus to cooperation. All our projects – energy, transport and humanitarian projects – have deepened cooperation. We have not taken a single wrong step. For example, we have not taken a single step that could cause any problems for our neighbors. Therefore, our relations with neighboring countries are normal and good. I can actually say that they can serve as an example for many,” the President noted.

“What are Armenia's relations with its neighbors like? There was this occupation with Azerbaijan, territorial claims against Turkey. Russia is dissatisfied, so to speak. I know why they could not bring weapons through Iran - because Iran is our friendly and brotherly country and because it closed its airspace on our request. Because they did not want Armenia to kill Azerbaijanis. They are making the same claims to Georgia now because Georgia also closed its airspace during the war and did not allow for the transportation of weapons by land. They also did not want the savage enemy to kill our civilians either. They claim that Russia did not help them. In his interview, the Russian President gave quite clear and accurate information and expressed his position. Azerbaijan was waging war on its territory recognized by international law. Therefore, there can be no talk of an interference of some allied relations. They criticize everyone. They are dissatisfied with everyone. How can one live with such a mindset?” President Ilham Aliyev added.

AZERTAC

President: If Armenian fascism rises again, they will receive 10 times more and no-one can stop us

[14:59] 20.11.2020

“We did not fight against the civilian population. They are the ones who fought against our civilian population. We have 94 martyrs among civilians and more than 400 wounded civilians. More than 3,000 houses have been destroyed. Their losses among civilians are much lower,” said President, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the nation.

“However, they targeted our civilians in cities and villages. Ganja was hit by ballistic missiles. They hit Barda with cluster bombs, with phosphorus bombs. This is a war crime. The city of Tartar is almost destroyed. The largest number of shells fell on Tartar. Every morning, I was told how many shells landed there. One day, two thousand shells fell on a small town. Isn't this Armenian savagery? Isn't it a repeat of the Khojaly genocide? See who we were faced with and who we defeated? I repeat: we have not only restored our territorial integrity, we have also broken the back of Armenian fascism,” the head of state said.

“We have saved the region from Armenian fascism, we have saved the world from Armenian fascism. It may resurrect but we will not allow that to happen. Everyone should know that. We will take any steps necessary to defend ourselves. We will take any steps necessary to protect our citizens, and no-one can stop us. The whole world saw that in 44 days. No-one can stand in front of us or put forward conditions to us. In the early days of the war, representatives of the countries that wanted to impose conditions on us, to threaten us, to slander us, some Western countries – they received our harsh response. They saw that we were not a country that bows to others. Neither am I a leader who accepts everything, any word. I have responded to them with a vengeance and will continue to do so if necessary. Therefore, if Armenian fascism rises again, if any provocation is committed against us, they will receive 10 times more and no-one can stop us,” the Azerbaijani President added.

AZERTAC

**President Ilham Aliyev: After that, Armenia will have to live with the mark of a
“defeated country”**

[14:41] 20.11.2020

“Azerbaijani soldiers and officers showed true heroism. However, the number of deserters from the Armenian army exceeds 10,000 people. They are saying this themselves, their officials are saying that there were more than 10,000 deserters. This shows again what army is invincible and what army is a heroic army,” said President, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the nation.

The head of state said: “Their army, in fact, that gang of their could only fight against civilians. The Khojaly executioners and other killers who burned our villages, killed our people and civilians cannot be considered servicemen. Their army consists of thieves. So many bent Armenian generals have been arrested in the last two years! The generals who sell soldiers’ stew are thieves. Their “heroes” are cowards and their leaders are criminals. The Armenian leadership itself says that for 20 years, from 1998 to 2018, the country was governed by bandits, thieves, cowards and deserters. Who has led it for the last two and a half years? The whole world can see that. So what name can one give to this country? Only one name – a failed state. What is the cause of this failure? Occupation! I have said this many times. Everyone can look up my speeches and interviews. I said that this occupation would lead Armenia to the abyss. I said that we would never come to terms with this occupation and return our lands sooner or later. But Armenia will waste a historic opportunity. Armenia has not been able to become an independent country for nearly 30 years. It is not independent today either. Armenia is in fact a colony.”

The Azerbaijani President added: “Was this the dream of the Armenian people? Was this their expectation? Why couldn't they become an independent country? Because of the occupation! What did they gain from the occupation? Nothing! They were disgraced in the political sphere, in all international organizations, we worked hard to disgrace them. Decisions and resolutions meeting our interests and based on international law were adopted. They were defeated on the battlefield and humiliated in front of the whole world. After that, they will have to live with this mark, with the mark of a “defeated country”.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev congratulates Azerbaijani people on liberation of Aghdam

[12:29] 20.11.2020

President, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev has congratulated the people of Azerbaijan on the liberation of Aghdam district from occupation.

AZERTAC reports that conveying this good news in his address to the nation on November 20, the head of state said: “I sincerely congratulate you on the liberation of Aghdam district. I heartily congratulate all the people of Aghdam. Dear people of Aghdam, you are no longer IDPs. You will return to your ancestral land.”

“The liberation of Aghdam district is the result of a trilateral statement signed on 10 November. I have repeatedly said that the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is possible both politically and militarily. We have been trying to resolve this issue politically for many years. However, the whole world saw that this issue was not resolved due to the position of Armenia, and it was our legal right to resolve the issue by military means. This right is recognized by international norms and principles. This right is given to us by the UN Charter. Every country can defend itself, and we have defended ourselves,” President Ilham Aliyev emphasized.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation

[12:02] 20.11.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has addressed the nation.

AZERTAC presents the address.

Address of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev

Dear fellow countrymen,

I sincerely congratulate you on the liberation of Aghdam district. I heartily congratulate all the people of Aghdam. Dear people of Aghdam, you are no longer IDPs. You will return to your ancestral land.

The liberation of Aghdam district is the result of a trilateral statement signed on 10 November. I have repeatedly said that the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is possible both politically and militarily. We have been trying to resolve this issue politically for many years. However, the whole world saw that this issue was not resolved due to the position of Armenia, and it was our legal right to resolve the issue by military means. This right is recognized by international norms and principles. This right is given to us by the UN Charter. Every country can defend itself, and we have defended ourselves.

The liberation of Aghdam district is a historic event. I can say that Aghdam is the largest of the occupied districts in terms of population. Before the occupation, 143,000 people lived in Aghdam district. At present, the population of Aghdam district is 204,000 people. 73 percent of the district was occupied, and in the remaining areas, the areas under our control, we have carried out major construction and landscaping work in recent years. We gave Guzanli village the status of a settlement and made Guzanli the center of Aghdam district. Social facilities, infrastructure and industrial enterprises have been established in Guzanli on my instruction. Jobs have been created for our people. Guzanli was supplied with natural gas, all other infrastructure projects were implemented there, a large Olympic Sports Center, a hospital, schools and a Mugham Center were built. I personally attended the opening of all these facilities. I must also say that 18 IDP camps have been built in the part of Aghdam district that was under our control on my instructions in recent years, and we have been able to accommodate 93,000 IDPs in Aghdam district. Due to the work done and major investments made, 45 percent of the population of Aghdam district lives in the territory of Aghdam district today.

A new era begins for Aghdam now. We have major plans. Everything in the occupied territories is destroyed. My visits to Fuzuli and Jabrayil were covered in the media, and everyone, the whole world could see what a savage enemy we are facing. There is not a single sound building left in Jabrayil or Fuzuli, only some military units and buildings belonging to the military units. All the remaining infrastructure, all buildings, houses, historical monuments, religious sites have been destroyed by the savage enemy.

I addressed the people of Azerbaijan from those ruins and said that we would restore these lands, these cities and these villages. The Armenians believed that the Azerbaijani people would

never return to these lands after this devastation. They were wrong. They do not know that native lands live and will live forever in the hearts of the Azerbaijani people, in the heart of all our people. All our refugees lived with a desire to return to their native lands and build a new life for themselves with the support and assistance of the state.

We will also restore the city of Aghdam. Of course, we must do everything in a comprehensive manner. A master plan will be prepared, specialists will be involved, infrastructure projects will be implemented in a planned manner, office buildings, social facilities, roads and other necessary work will be carried out. The state will help citizens to return there. Therefore, the restoration of Aghdam district will have a special place in our future plans because it is a large district in terms of territory and, at the same time, as I said, it is the largest district in terms of population.

As a matter of fact, our restoration work has already begun. During my visit to Fuzuli, all relevant instructions were given on the construction of a new road from Fuzuli to Shusha, funds were allocated from the President's contingency fund – initially 50 million manats. But these funds will not be sufficient. Additional funds will be allocated next year. According to my instructions, the Ahmadbayli-Alkhanli-Fuzuli-Shusha road is divided into several parts. I have instructed to involve several companies so that we can build this road without wasting time and in a short time. The people of Azerbaijan know that the road to Shusha used to be the Aghdam-Khankandi road, but it is not possible to use this road yet. However, the trilateral statement signed on 10 November states that all communications will be opened, including the Aghdam-Khankandi-Shusha highway, which will be opened after some time. I believe that the opening of communications, as well as the roads and communications connecting the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and the rest of Azerbaijan, will also contribute to long-term peace in the region in the future.

These issues will be resolved in a planned manner. We started the first major project. In the same manner, we will take consistent steps to restore the city of Aghdam and all its infrastructure. The people of Aghdam and all the other districts liberated from occupation can rest assured that the Azerbaijani state will always stand by them.

The liberation of Aghdam was possible as a result of the glorious military victory. If Azerbaijan had not defeated Armenia on the battlefield, Armenia would not have left our lands of its own free will. There are many reasons for this. First of all, because of the fortifications they had built in those regions, in the occupied territories. A lot of money was invested there. Those fortifications were intended to prevent the Azerbaijani Army from passing through them. But they were wrong again. They could not calculate our strength correctly. They did not know what the Azerbaijani Army and Azerbaijani citizens were capable of doing. They did not know that it was our strength, equipment and morale that led us to that Victory. They did not know that the people of Azerbaijan have been living with the desire to return to their ancestral lands for all these years. All these and other factors paved the way for our Victory.

Therefore, by building these fortifications and taking other steps, they pursued the goal of perpetuating this occupation. Otherwise, they would not have changed the names of our historical cities and villages. Aghdam was given an ugly name, Fuzuli was given another ugly name. They drew up new maps, in which the so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh republic” covered not only the former Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region but also all the occupied territories, and they presented this to the international community.

I have repeatedly told the mediators dealing with this issue to pay attention to that. You are talking about a peaceful solution to this issue but we see the exact opposite. We see that the heritage of Azerbaijan is being erased in these lands, Azerbaijani monuments and historical sites are being Armenianized, Azerbaijani mosques are being destroyed, all our historical and cultural heritage is being erased, new maps are being drawn up. When maps of the so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh republic” are published in textbooks prepared for Armenian schools, all the lands occupied are attributed to this self-styled entity. Books and booklets published by Armenia in foreign languages cover all the occupied territories and the so-called entity. They do the same when illegally participating in international exhibitions. Okay, but what next? You are saying that the issue will be resolved peacefully.

What happened to these maps now? These maps have gone to hell, these maps no longer exist. The occupiers vacating Kalbajar district are destroying all houses, buildings, schools, and showing their savagery yet again. All leading international media outlets have filmed this and spread these images around the world, embarrassing them. They are putting themselves to disgrace. They cowardly ran away from us. They could not stand in front of us. Those who call themselves an invincible army, a warlike people – what happened to your warlike army? Where is it? It has been crushed, we have crushed it, we have destroyed it. There is no Armenian army. We have destroyed it. Our victory on the battlefield also preconditioned our political victory. Aghdam district returns to us without firing a single shot or killing a single person. This is our great political success. But this would not have been possible without the military victory.

The people of Aghdam fought heroically in the First Karabakh War and many were martyred. They fought bravely in the Second Karabakh War, the Patriotic War, and there were martyrs. I would like to take this opportunity to pay a tribute of respect to all the martyrs who gave us this Victory. May God have mercy on them and grant patience to their relatives. Addressing the parents and relatives of our martyrs, I once again express my gratitude to them for raising such wonderful and brave children for our state and our people. I wish our wounded soldiers and officers a speedy recovery and return to normal life. May God send them healing. An action plan is being prepared for their rehabilitation and relevant instructions have been issued. They will always be in the spotlight.

Thus, the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is already in the past, as also acknowledged by international experts. Azerbaijan has achieved a brilliant victory on the battlefield and in the political arena. Measures will be taken to improve these lands. First of all, mine clearance work should be carried out. This is also a time-consuming issue. Because the hated enemy has mined large areas of land. After that, work on infrastructure projects should be undertaken. Instructions have already been issued to analyze the existing infrastructure. We now have satellite and other capabilities. When I visited Fuzuli and Jabrayil districts, I used a new road built in a short time. It is a temporary road, but it is usable. In other words, we will do all this work, and our great return plan is being developed now.

As for the war, I must say again that Azerbaijani soldiers and officers showed true heroism. However, the number of deserters from the Armenian army exceeds 10,000 people. They are saying this themselves, their officials are saying that there were more than 10,000 deserters. This shows again what army is invincible and what army is a heroic army. Their army, in fact, that gang of their could only fight against civilians. The Khojaly executioners and other killers who burned our villages, killed our people and civilians cannot be considered servicemen. Their army consists of thieves. So many bent Armenian generals have been arrested in the last two years! The generals

who sell soldiers' stew are thieves. Their "heroes" are cowards and their leaders are criminals. The Armenian leadership itself says that for 20 years, from 1998 to 2018, the country was governed by bandits, thieves, cowards and deserters. Who has led it for the last two and a half years? The whole world can see that. So what name can one give to this country? Only one name – a failed state. What is the cause of this failure? Occupation! I have said this many times. Everyone can look up my speeches and interviews. I said that this occupation would lead Armenia to the abyss. I said that we would never come to terms with this occupation and return our lands sooner or later. But Armenia will waste a historic opportunity. Armenia has not been able to become an independent country for nearly 30 years. It is not independent today either. Armenia is in fact a colony. Was this the dream of the Armenian people? Was this their expectation? Why couldn't they become an independent country? Because of the occupation! What did they gain from the occupation? Nothing! They were disgraced in the political sphere, in all international organizations, we worked hard to disgrace them. Decisions and resolutions meeting our interests and based on international law were adopted. They were defeated on the battlefield and humiliated in front of the whole world. After that, they will have to live with this mark, with the mark of a "defeated country". They lived in Baku, Ganja, in all our cities and districts. Did they have any problems? No! They lost that. They had to leave here, having expelled our people and pursued a policy of ethnic cleansing. What did they gain? Nothing! And now, in this humiliated state, they are biting each other and destroying what little is left of their statehood. I told them to come to their senses and stop this occupation. As long as this occupation continues, Armenia will not be able to develop. Politically dependent, militarily dependent and economically incomplete. They have developed a very harmful ideological basis. Their ideology is based on lies, historical falsifications and the past. How can a country that cannot give up the falsified past move forward? Look how many wars there have been in the world. Take the last 100 years, 200 years. So many people have died in these wars. But who has lived with this enmity, who has lived with hatred in their hearts for years? Who has raised their children in the spirit of hatred? This is their future and this is their reality. The Soviet Union lost tens of millions of people during the war with Germany, but 10 or 20 years later, there was peace. The relations between Russia and Germany are now developing normally. European countries too. How many wars did France wage with Italy? How many wars did Germany and France wage? The people of what country, as they say, keep this hatred simmering in their hearts? This is what has brought Armenia to its current state. They themselves are guilty of all their troubles. On the other hand, how can a country that cannot establish normal relations with its neighbors develop? They are putting forward territorial claims against Turkey. They have no mind. It is suicidal to make territorial claims against a large country like Turkey.

The territorial claims against Azerbaijan. They were able to materialize these claims only for some time, occupied our lands and expelled the neighboring people from their homes. They thought they were right and created a false history. They now seek help from all other countries, as if the whole world owes them. You are an independent country, so live as an independent country. If you can't live as an independent country, then become part of another country. Take that flag off the pole, fold it, put it in your pocket, go and live in another country. They themselves are the cause of their own troubles. This blow we have dealt to them, these events that have befallen them will awaken them perhaps, so that they can live as a normal country, if they make the right choice and if they normalize relations with their neighbors.

Why am I talking about this? Because we live in this region and in this neighborhood, whether we like it or not. As President and Commander-in-Chief, I am interested in ending hostilities in our region, in the South Caucasus, and establishing normal and businesslike relations. At least this is what we want. I said during the war and I repeat: we have no problems with the

Armenian people. We did not carry out ethnic cleansing of the Armenian people, as they did against us. We have not destroyed their historical monuments, we are protecting them, and as you know, we have taken important steps in this regard.

We did not destroy their cities, although we could have done that. It wasn't too difficult to destroy Khankandi after taking Shusha. We could have destroyed in a day. Did we do that? No! But what did they do to our cities? Therefore, we have no problems with the Armenian people. I want to say again that all peoples living in a single Azerbaijani state have equal rights, including the Armenian people. Thousands of Armenians live in Azerbaijan. Is there anyone in our country who says a word to them? No! They live normally as Azerbaijani citizens. I am sure that the Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh today will one day realize that the only way for them is to live side by side with the people of Azerbaijan, to live in the neighborhood and to give up all these ugly deeds.

As for yet another fabrication made by Armenia today, I want to clarify that as well. It is claimed that 90,000 Armenians fled Nagorno-Karabakh and became refugees. It is a lie. A maximum of 60,000-65,000 people lived in Nagorno-Karabakh and our occupied lands before the Second Karabakh War. Where did we learn that? We have operational information. We have many sources of information in that region, and this is one of the reasons for our success. We knew exactly and we know what is happening there now, where the head of their junta is hiding. He was probably aware too that we knew that. This is why he couldn't take his nose out and sat in the bunker. We have objective information, we have sources, we have satellite images. Therefore, I say with full confidence that a maximum of 65,000 people lived in Nagorno-Karabakh, including the occupied territories. So where did 90,000 refugees come from? Another lie, another fraud. Now they will cling to others, asking and begging for help. "Help me" is the core principle of their ideology. What nation can develop with this ideology? Who has ever benefited from expecting and begging, and then taking offence and putting forward demands?

We will expose these lies about the number of refugees, and even if there were refugees, it is not our fault. We did not fight against the civilian population. They are the ones who fought against our civilian population. We have 94 martyrs among civilians and more than 400 wounded civilians. More than 3,000 houses have been destroyed. Their losses among civilians are much lower. However, they targeted our civilians in cities and villages. Ganja was hit by ballistic missiles. They hit Barda with cluster bombs, with phosphorus bombs. This is a war crime. The city of Tartar is almost destroyed. The largest number of shells fell on Tartar. Every morning, I was told how many shells landed there. One day, two thousand shells fell on a small town. Isn't this Armenian savagery? Isn't it a repeat of the Khojaly genocide? See who we were faced with and who we defeated? I repeat: we have not only restored our territorial integrity, we have also broken the back of Armenian fascism. We have saved the region from Armenian fascism, we have saved the world from Armenian fascism. It may resurrect but we will not allow that to happen. Everyone should know that. We will take any steps necessary to defend ourselves. We will take any steps necessary to protect our citizens, and no-one can stop us. The whole world saw that in 44 days. No-one can stand in front of us or put forward conditions to us. In the early days of the war, representatives of the countries that wanted to impose conditions on us, to threaten us, to slander us, some Western countries – they received our harsh response. They saw that we were not a country that bows to others. Neither am I a leader who accepts everything, any word. I have responded to them with a vengeance and will continue to do so if necessary. Therefore, if Armenian fascism rises again, if any provocation is committed against us, they will receive 10 times more and no-one can stop us.

The current geographical situation in the Karabakh region, of course, has greatly increased our capabilities. Just look at the map, let everyone see who has what opportunities. That is why I want to say it again. There is an internal crisis in Armenia now. This is natural. Because a military defeat, such a shameful defeat can, of course, lead to turmoil in any country. Therefore, if sober-minded forces come to power in Armenia now, after the crisis, we are ready to establish normal relations with such sound forces. But we have nothing to do with the executioners, those who shed the blood of the Azerbaijani people. Let everyone know that! After that, of course, Azerbaijan's opportunities in this region will expand, including the opportunities for influence. But our opportunities are meant only for cooperation. All the work we have done in this region so far has given impetus to cooperation. All our projects – energy, transport and humanitarian projects – have deepened cooperation. We have not taken a single wrong step. For example, we have not taken a single step that could cause any problems for our neighbors. Therefore, our relations with neighboring countries are normal and good. I can actually say that they can serve as an example for many. What are Armenia's relations with its neighbors like? There was this occupation with Azerbaijan, territorial claims against Turkey. Russia is dissatisfied, so to speak. I know why they could not bring weapons through Iran - because Iran is our friendly and brotherly country and because it closed its airspace on our request. Because they did not want Armenia to kill Azerbaijanis. They are making the same claims to Georgia now because Georgia also closed its airspace during the war and did not allow for the transportation of weapons by land. They also did not want the savage enemy to kill our civilians either. They claim that Russia did not help them. In his interview, the Russian President gave quite clear and accurate information and expressed his position. Azerbaijan was waging war on its territory recognized by international law. Therefore, there can be no talk of an interference of some allied relations. They criticize everyone. They are dissatisfied with everyone. How can one live with such a mindset?

From now on, we will move even faster along the path of development. We have achieved what we wanted on the battlefield. Our soldiers and officers showed their strength. We have shown our strength in the political sphere, and the trilateral statement fully meets our interests. This is why this statement was signed in front of the eyes of the whole world, by the President of Russia and myself. It is still impossible to say where the Armenian prime minister signed it. But that doesn't matter much. It doesn't matter if it happened in a warehouse, a locked-up room or a bunker in which he lives. His signature is there. It is, in fact, an act of capitulation. This is the Victory of Azerbaijan, the return of our lands and the raising of our flag. Fizuli, Jabrayil, Zangilan, Gubadli, Hadrut, Sugovushan, Murov Mountain and Shusha were liberated from the occupiers on the battlefield, including several villages of Lachin district and a part of Kalbajar district. This is what conditioned our victory. Our victory has already created big problems in Armenia. But look at the reaction of international organizations. Is there a reaction? No! Every day an opposition leader gets arrested in Armenia in a completely unfounded manner. Has any Western country reacted to this? No! Did they condemn it? No! Leaders of major opposition parties have been arrested, but no-one speaks up. Where are you, the Council of Europe? Where is the Council of Europe, which despises Azerbaijan and tries to discredit us? Why are you tight-lipped? Or the monitoring committee. Several rapporteurs for Azerbaijan have been appointed there. Armenia must be monitored. Why are you silent, the Council of Europe? Where are your leaders, where is your monitoring committee, where is the political committee? Don't you see that there are repressions in Armenia? Can't you see that the dictator is doing whatever he pleases? In fact, a defeated dictator, a humiliated dictator. So why don't you speak up? Where is your democracy, where are your human rights? Is there an answer? No! And there won't be one. Even after my words, there will be none. They will cover it up, hush it up. The European Parliament has adopted more than 10 ugly and false resolutions against Azerbaijan. Why are you silent, the European Parliament?

You consider yourself the center of democracy in the world. Speak up, make a statement, make a statement and condemn this. A dictator destroys all the opposition right in front of everyone in the world. He kills a man. One of the persons who occupied the parliament has already been found dead. Why don't you speak up? Why? Non-governmental organizations which regularly campaign against us, why are you silent, why don't you speak up? When we were hit with a ballistic missile, you were silent, when we were hit with cluster munitions and phosphorus bombs, you remained tight-lipped. Great countries, countries that claim to European leaders, why are you silent? Tell me, answer me! But it turns out that anyone can come and lecture us here. I am answering all of them, all of them, and with a vengeance.

Sitting in a bunker, the Armenian dictator has completely isolated himself and his nation from the world, while in Azerbaijan there is a unity of the people and the government. This is the difference. This is our strength. Our strength is in our unity. Strength and unity. The people of Azerbaijan probably remember me saying repeatedly in the last three to four years that the world is changing, relations are changing, international law does not work, the factor of strength comes to the fore, the principle of "might is right" prevails. All this can be seen in my speeches. Because I correctly analyze the international situation. I do not want to say that we should follow this path. No. Our path is the path of justice and international law. We have not done anything outside of international law. But I said that the factor of strength comes to the fore, and we must be ready for that. Preparations were going on for all these years, both in the economic sphere and in the field of international relations, first of all, in the field of army building. We gathered strength, hit at the right moment and caved the enemy's head. We crushed it so hard that they will remember this forever. We left a mark on their head. The Azerbaijani people are a victorious people. The Azerbaijani Army is a victorious army. We have won the war on the battlefield, we have won politically and we have liberated our lands from occupiers.

Today, I am proud to share the news of the liberation of Aghdam with my people, to share this great news. I am sure that the days we are living through, these moments will remain in the memory of every Azerbaijani forever. We are writing history, new history. We are writing a new glorious history of our people, our country. This is a history of Victory. But most importantly, we must ensure the return of our citizens to the liberated lands. We must mobilize all our resources. We must mobilize all our financial resources to return our citizens to their native lands as soon as possible.

Dear people, dear people of Aghdam, I would like to sincerely congratulate you once on this wonderful and historic occasion again. I wish you good health and happiness. Aghdam is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Units of Azerbaijani Army entered Aghdam district

[08:30] 20.11.2020

In accordance with the trilateral statement signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the prime minister of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation, the units of the Azerbaijani Army entered Aghdam district on November 20, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, photos and video footages from Aghdam district will be presented during the day.

AZERTAC

November 19

Azerbaijani Ombudsperson sends video message to international community on restoration of IDPs' rights

[12:59] 19.11.2020

Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan Sabina Aliyeva has sent a video message to international community on the liberation of Azerbaijani territories and the restoration of rights of nearly one million IDPs.

AZERTAC presents the video message.

I am Sabina Aliyeva, the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

This is a historical moment for Azerbaijan as well as for the whole region. The Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict has been ended by the statement signed by both countries. This statement has a historic significance. This statement puts an end to the 30 years-long occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan and brought a long-awaited peace and stability to our region.

Almost one million people who once forcibly displaced from their homelands and became IDPs, now will be able to return to their lands. We are happy that their rights have been ensured.

Azerbaijani Armed Forces launched counter-offensive operation in its internationally recognized territory and liberated its occupied lands in compliance with international law. Many people lost their lives. Unfortunately, this is the inevitable result of any war and the military operation must be the last resort to apply.

But Azerbaijan waited for 30 years hoping that Armenia will implement the relevant UN documents and restore the violated human rights of internally displaced persons. Unfortunately, no step has been taken in this regard. The human rights of those people and the demands of the well-known resolutions of the UN Security Council were ignored.

The international documents must not be a piece of paper and they must be respected and implemented. Disrespect to the international law and international documents can lead the world only to chaos.

We are very sorry for those civilians who lost their lives in different regions of Azerbaijan. They had nothing to do with the battles in the conflict zone and lived far from it. But they were deliberately targeted with the ballistic missiles at their homes. Unfortunately, there were many human losses - children, women, elderly people. The civilians must not be a target in the battles. This is also the requirement of international humanitarian law.

Azerbaijan respects the human rights of all people who lived in Nagorno-Karabakh and did not displace any one forcibly.

We will continue our collaboration with all respective international human rights organizations and human rights institutions in the name of human rights and peace.

Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

AZERTAC

November 18

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: White phosphorus was widely used by Armenian armed forces for burning forests around Shusha

[19:45] 18.11.2020

“White phosphorus was widely used by the Armenian armed forces for burning forests around Shusha,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has told journalists.

Hikmat Hajiyev said: “What we see here is another fact proving that the white phosphorus was used by the Armenian armed forces. The representative of the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) has provided detailed information about it. White phosphorus ammunitions were also previously used by the Armenian armed forces.”

"During the military operations, we had already reported the wide usage of white phosphorus by the Armenian armed forces for burning forests around Shusha. White phosphorus was widely used by the Armenian armed forces not only in these operations, but also in previous ones – during the battles in April 2016. They mainly targeted civilians, civilian facilities, fields, as well as the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. Now, we are collecting information to appeal to international organizations, as well as inform the International Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Although white phosphorus is not considered a chemical weapon, it has harmful health effects. Once absorbed into the human body, it can cause a sudden death and severe burns,” the President's Assistant added.

AZERTAC

Release of the Press Service of the President

[18:17] 18.11.2020

On November 18, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Šefik Džaferović made a phone call to President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

Šefik Džaferović welcomed the signing of a statement on the restoration of peace in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. He noted that the signing of this statement based on morality, justice and the norms and principles of international law will bring stability to the whole region and open new prospects. Šefik Džaferović also pointed out Bosnia and Herzegovina's position on supporting the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, adding his country's Parliamentary Assembly adopted a relevant resolution on this issue.

During the phone conversation, President Ilham Aliyev informed Šefik Džaferović about all the details of the signed statement and its implementation, as well as the current situation in the region. President Ilham Aliyev hailed the principled position of Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Šefik Džaferović on the issue of supporting the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan by Bosnia and Herzegovina.

They said that the two countries enjoy high-level friendly relations, noting that there are great opportunities for expanding economic ties.

The sides also agreed on the organization of the high-level reciprocal official visits when the coronavirus pandemic situation permits.

November 17

First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva congratulated Azerbaijani people on National Revival Day

[18:00] 17.11.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has made an Instagram post on the occasion of National Revival Day.

According to AZERTAC, the post says: “I cordially congratulate all the people of Azerbaijan on the occasion of National Revival Day and wish each of our compatriots robust health, love and happiness! Today, we are all united by the most positive and sincerest feelings for our Motherland, the feelings of pride for it, for its successes, achievements and victories! May the solidarity of the Azerbaijani people and our state independence last forever! May peace, prosperity and security always reign in Azerbaijan! May Almighty God protect our people and our homeland!”

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva visited liberated from occupation Fuzuli and Jabrayil districts, as well as Fuzuli and Jabrayil cities

[16:17] 17.11.2020

As reported earlier, on November 16, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Victorious Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva visited the liberated from occupation Fuzuli and Jabrayil districts, as well as Fuzuli and Jabrayil cities.

AZERTAC reports that President Ilham Aliyev instructed to build a road from Fuzuli district to Shusha city. The construction of the road has already started. President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva viewed the progress of a project's implementation.

President Ilham Aliyev said:

- It is a very significant day in the life of our country today, it is a historic day. The foundation of the Fuzuli-Shusha highway is being laid today. I heartily congratulate all the people of Azerbaijan on this occasion. This road is very important because this road leads us to Shusha, the crown of Karabakh.

Many roads have been built in our country in recent years. I can say that more than 16,000 kilometers of roads have been built since 2004, and these roads are of high quality. According to this indicator, Azerbaijan is in the leading position in the world. But this road has a special significance. As I said, this road leads to Shusha. At the same time, this is the first project to be implemented in the liberated lands.

After the liberation of Shusha, the enemy realized that there was completely no point in resisting us. One day after the liberation of Shusha, the heroic Azerbaijani Army liberated more than 70 settlements from the occupiers, and this was actually the last blow to the enemy. It is no coincidence that on 10 November, the enemy actually signed an act of capitulation. 8 November is a day of our glorious victory. The people of Azerbaijan will always celebrate this day from now on. The liberation of Shusha from occupation showed our strength, the professionalism of our Army, the courage and heroism of our servicemen. The capture of Shusha was an operation that required great professionalism and courage. I am confident that this operation will have a special place in the world's military history books. Because this operation was carried out only by our heroic servicemen who were armed with light weapons, crossed mountains, forests and paths. The liberation of Shusha from occupation is our glorious victory.

We have already started construction work. Eight days after the Victory Day and six days after the capitulation of Armenia, the construction of the Fuzuli-Shusha highway begins from here – from the settlement of Alkhanli. This road will be very comfortable and broad. This road will allow us the opportunity to get to Shusha and back quite comfortably.

The Second Karabakh War is our glorious victory. The occupied territories have been liberated from the occupiers. The damage caused by the enemy is being calculated and will be calculated accurately. All the affected people will return to their ancestral lands with state support. We will carry out this work in a planned way – first of all, the calculation of damage, accurate records, and then the reconstruction work.

As you know, the enemy has destroyed all the infrastructure in the occupied and liberated lands. Our cities have been almost destroyed, and this once again shows the savagery of the enemy. The whole world will see it now. The whole world will see what kind of savage enemy we are facing.

We are currently at the stage of political settlement of the conflict. At this stage, Azerbaijan is achieving and will achieve what it wants. The military phase of the conflict is over. The liberation of Shusha and the liberation of more than 70 settlements on 9 November put an end to the military phase of the conflict. I said at the beginning of the conflict, of the Second Karabakh War and want to repeat with great pride today that military-political solutions to the issue were available, and Azerbaijan proved that on the battlefield. We forced the enemy to sign an act of capitulation, and thus our occupied Aghdam, Lachin and Kalbajar districts will return to Azerbaijan in the coming days. But look at the atrocities committed by the hated enemy – they burn houses, burn schools, cut down trees, break power lines. The whole world can see that, all the leading international channels have shown that. They have no conscience, no shame, no morality whatsoever. Therefore, the victory in the Second Karabakh War is of tremendous historic significance. This is not just a matter of liberating Azerbaijan from its occupiers. At the same time, it shows the whole world and all the occupiers that this is how they end up. This is the end of invaders and occupiers.

This beautiful groundbreaking ceremony today has a great symbolic meaning. We are building a new road from the liberated city of Fuzuli, from the villages before it to Fuzuli and from Fuzuli to Shusha. This road has never been here before. Azerbaijani citizens probably know that in Soviet times the road to Shusha passed through the territory of Aghdam – the Aghdam-Khankandi-Shusha road. It is not yet possible to use that route now.

I once again heartily congratulate all the people of Azerbaijan on this wonderful event. Karabakh is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva then posed for photographs together with road builders.

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The head of state and first lady arrived in the liberated from occupation Fuzuli city. President Ilham Aliyev raised the glorious Azerbaijani flag in the city of Fuzuli.

These views are one of the most glorious pages in the modern history of Azerbaijan. The Victorious Commander-in-Chief raised Azerbaijan's tricolor flag on the historical land liberated by the heroic Azerbaijani Army.

President Ilham Aliyev said:

-The city of Fuzuli has been liberated from the occupiers. The Azerbaijani flag has been raised in Fuzuli. We have returned to Fuzuli. But it hurts to see the destroyed villages and the city of Fizuli along the road. Look what these savages have done to our city! They have destroyed everything, they have destroyed houses, they have destroyed all the infrastructure, there is not a single safe building. The whole world should see what the Armenian savagery means, and we will show it to the whole world. Not only Fizuli but also Agdam and other cities. It was as if a savage

tribe had passed through these lands. They wanted to destroy and plunder everything, to erase our cultural, historical and religious heritage, but they could not achieve what they wanted. Because we had to come back, we had to return. We have come back, we have returned. We have driven the enemy out of our lands and raised the State Flag of Azerbaijan here. From now on, we will live in this land, as we have done for centuries, our people have lived here for centuries.

The hated enemy had also changed the name of Fuzuli, gave it some ugly name. Fuzuli is named after our genius, our great poet Mahammad Fuzuli. We have restored this name. The destroyed city of Fuzuli is a living witness to Armenian fascism. The whole world must see this and not remain silent, as it has been silent and indifferent for 30 years. That indifference actually reinforced Armenian occupation. We were urged to put up with this situation, to resolve the issue peacefully. We have heard the same words year after year for 30 years – there is no military solution to the conflict, this issue must be resolved peacefully. But we have proved that there is a solution to the conflict, including a military solution. Thanks to the courage and bravery of our heroic servicemen and at the cost of the lives of our martyrs, we have proved this to the whole world. There is a military solution to the conflict, and we have achieved it. If it had not been for this military solution, the enemy would not have signed an act of capitulation. From the first days of the war, I said that the Armenian leadership, Armenia's Commander-in-Chief – if such a title can at all be attributed to him – should declare, provide a timetable when they will come out of each district. Then we would have stopped. Otherwise, we will go to the end, and we did. Fuzuli, Hadrut, Jabrayil, Zangilan, Gubadli, Shusha, and more than 70 villages were liberated one day after the liberation of Shusha. A total of more than 300 settlements were liberated, the enemy's back was broken, the enemy knelt down and was forced to surrender on 10 November by signing an act of capitulation precisely due to our strength. We forced the enemy to do so, we showed the enemy where it belongs, we showed the greatness of the Azerbaijani people.

For 30 years, the Armenian leadership, their patrons, pro-Armenian and Azerbaijan-phobic forces had been inventing myths about Armenia's strong army, the Armenian people being combative and the Azerbaijani people being unable to fight. We have destroyed this fabrication, we have shown who is a combative people, we have shown who is a victorious people. Those who led Azerbaijan in the early 1990s simply did not pay attention to army building and dragged our country into chaos and anarchy. In those years, when our lands were occupied, the then government started a civil war, the PFPA-Musavat tandem took their own soldiers prisoner and bombed Ganja. This was why the lands were lost. The Armenian people are going through what the Azerbaijani people went through in 1992.

The people of Azerbaijan overthrew that hated government a year later. After Heydar Aliyev came to power, all the positive tendencies began to develop. Our army is one of the strongest armies in the world today. We have shown the whole world that it is the Azerbaijani people who are invincible, it is the Azerbaijani Army that is victorious. We have destroyed the Armenian myth, we have destroyed the Armenian fabrications, we have put them in their place, we put them on their knees and they will live with this mark, they will live with this mark of humiliation. We, for our part, will live with pride from now on – as a victorious people, as a strong state, as an invincible army, as a strong-willed nation.

During these 44 days, there was regular pressure, threats, orders, messages and signals from different sources and places. I said that no-one can stand in front of us, we will go to the end. The hated enemy must accept our conditions, provide an exact date, and they were forced to do so in the end. This is why the people of Azerbaijan and Azerbaijanis all over the world are celebrating

our great victory with great pride these days. This Victory befits our people, befits our brave sons, befits our state, and this Victory has shown our strength. It showed that Azerbaijan would never put up with this situation. For the 17 years I have been President and Commander-in-Chief, I have repeatedly spoken about the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. I said that we would never allow for the establishment of a second Armenian state on historical land of Azerbaijan. I said that the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan had never been and never would be negotiable. I said that Azerbaijan would restore its territorial integrity. I said that if it was not possible to do that peacefully, we would restore it by military means. My speeches are everywhere. They have been published. I said these words and I did what I said. We have restored our territorial integrity, expelled the occupiers from the occupied territories, prevented the establishment of a second Armenian state, and there can be no talk of any status. There is a single Azerbaijani state. There is a multiethnic, multi-confessional and progressive Azerbaijani state. All citizens of Azerbaijan, representatives of all peoples and religions live normally, in peace and harmony here. The Armenian people will live like this too. We have nothing against the Armenian people. I have said in numerous interviews over the past 44 days that they are our citizens and they will see that they will live well under the leadership of Azerbaijan, that they must get rid of the criminal and cowardly junta. The separatist leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh are cowards. Their cowardice was witnessed by the Armenians living there and by the Armenians living in Armenia. So many people fled! The head of their junta was hiding in a bunker and couldn't even stick out his nose. Where is your courage and bravery?

We have defeated the Armenian army and, at the same time, taught a lesson to the criminals who led Armenia for years. Pashinyan has destroyed his country in the last two years, and now he is only preoccupied with how to save his own life from the wrath of the Armenian people. We have destroyed the Kocharyan-Sargsyan army. They have destroyed our lands. This time these cowards could not even stick their noses into the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. Where is your heroism? The fake “hero” orders you have put on your chests – take out this metal scrap and throw them into the bin, we have defeated you. Pashinyan is nobody. Kocharyan and Sargsyan, the executioners of the Azerbaijani people, the executioners of Khojaly, we have defeated you, we have destroyed your army. If Armenia had not signed the act of capitulation, they know how this war would have ended. This is our strength. This is our unity. The iron fist has crushed your head, and from now on no-one will speak to us in the language of ultimatums. In particular, the humiliated Pashinyan, who put forward seven conditions to us, we hit him on the head with those conditions. What happened to those conditions? I had one condition – get out, go away, and that condition was met. Thanks to our strength, thanks to our unity, thanks to our heroes, thanks to our martyrs. Here, in the liberated city of Fuzuli, I once again pray for God’s mercy on all our martyrs, wish patience to their relatives and thank their parents for raising such heroes for our state and our people. Their memory will live forever in our hearts. I wish God's healing to all our wounded servicemen. I am sure that they will soon return to normal life and will always be in our spotlight.

All our servicemen, the residents of Fuzuli and other liberated lands should know that we will restore all these places. I said earlier that we could not find a single building in Fuzuli to raise the Azerbaijani flag. But we will restore them all. Relevant instructions have been given, we will do everything in a planned way, we have invited international experts, and they will come. We will calculate all the damage together. After that, we will invite urban planning specialists – both Azerbaijani and foreign. They will come here and a new urban plan will be established. Restoration of villages, cities, infrastructure, environmental measures – all these plans are there. We will do it all, Inshallah, everything! With God's help, we will do it all. Just as we returned our lands,

destroyed the enemy and raised our tricolor flag, we will solve all other issues. Karabakh is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

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While driving, the head of state saw people gathered along the road, and stopped the car to meet with them.

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President Ilham Aliyev, who drove the car to Jabrayil, said:

- Jabrayil district. We are heading for the Khudafarin Bridge. The Khudafarin Bridge is ahead.

These are the houses of Azerbaijani citizens destroyed by the savage enemy.

The Araz River, the Azerbaijani-Iranian border, a border of friendship.

As we drive, we see villages destroyed by the enemy, and we see yet again what kind of savage enemy we are facing. Seeing this, people are further convinced that we have not only restored our territorial integrity, we have also destroyed the predatory enemy. There have been many wars in the world, and some are still going on. The occupation still continues in some places, but I do not believe anyone has ever been faced with such a cruel and inhuman enemy.

Our historic victory is the victory over Armenian fascism. Our victory is the restoration of truth and justice. Today, 16 November will be a special date in my life. Because in a few minutes we will approach the Khudafarin Bridge, our ancient architectural site.

These mountains are ours. They have always been ours. But for about 30 years, the enemy has been sitting in these mountains, in these lands, in the lands of our ancestors, challenging us.

We will restore all the houses destroyed by the savage enemy.

This is the Khudafarin water reservoir.

Below us is the Araz River. Now we are entering a tunnel. The neighboring Islamic Republic of Iran is over there.

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The President and the first lady arrived at the Khudafarin Bridge. These moments will be written in golden letters in the pages of our history.

President Ilham Aliyev hoisted the glorious Azerbaijani flag on the Khudafarin Bridge. It is a source of pride for the people of Azerbaijan that the President raised our flag on the historic Khudafarin Bridge. Khudafarin, a place that has left a deep mark on the spirituality and history of our people, is also a matter of national pride.

President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva then walked along the banks of the Araz River and took photos in front of the Khudafarin Bridge.

Then the President and the first lady left for Jabrayil.

The road to Jabrayil is in the same condition. This is the ugly face of Armenian occupiers. This reveals the true nature of Armenian vandals, reveals their identities.

President Ilham Aliyev: We are entering the city of Jabrayil. The enemy has created military units for themselves here. There is nothing in the city but military units.

President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva arrived in the city of Jabrayil liberated on 4 October.

We are living the moments our people have longed for over many years. The President and Commander-in-Chief also raised our tricolor flag in the city of Jabrayil.

President Ilham Aliyev: The city of Jabrayil has been liberated from occupation and the state flag of Azerbaijan has been raised. I congratulate all the people of Azerbaijan. Karabakh is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

Let's now look at some buildings.

This was the enemy's police station. Now the Azerbaijani police are on guard.

Notice what the hated enemy has done to the city of Jabrayil. The whole world should see this. Let them see and know how wicked an enemy we are facing. All buildings have been destroyed and looted. Their goal was that Azerbaijanis would never live here again. We will live here! We will live forever! We will restore all these buildings, all of them. Notice what is left of them. Has any international organization raised this issue in 30 years? Has any monitoring been carried out here? The whole world will see now what they have done to the city of Jabrayil.

This is the center of Jabrayil. There is not a single safe building. They did not leave behind a single safe building. Only there they build a military unit for themselves. All other infrastructure, houses, buildings, schools, public facilities have been destroyed by the enemy.

They will be held accountable for this. They will answer in international courts. I have said before but I want to say again that international organizations, experts will come here and all the damage will be calculated. The damage caused to us over 30 years will be calculated. The enemy who is destroying Kalbajar these days, cutting down forests, setting buildings and schools on fire will be held to account.

They thought that the people of Azerbaijan would never return here after this destruction. They have destroyed it for that purpose. But they were wrong. We are back. Look, we are standing here, on our native land, in the city of Jabrayil. We will restore all these places.

A new master plan will be drawn up. Relevant instructions have been given. A master plan will be developed for each city. All office buildings, public buildings, schools and medical centers

will be established here. All infrastructure will be put in place. Streets, parks and alleys will be built. Victory monuments will be erected in all the cities and life will return here.

The people of Azerbaijan will live, build and create here again. But today's history will never be erased. These destroyed houses are witnesses to Armenian savagery. Azerbaijani people used to live in these houses. The hated enemy came here and drove them out of their lands, destroyed their buildings, appropriated and plundered their property. The enemy is a thief, an immoral and dishonest enemy. I want to say again that our brilliant victory is not only about the restoration of the territorial integrity of our country. It is also about a struggle between good and evil. The forces of evil have been defeated and we have won. Because we are here to create and build. The Armenians have only destroyed everything.

We will restore all this. We will restore everything. The people of Azerbaijan will show their greatness yet again. We will prove to the whole world that we are a great nation. We are back, we have come back through fighting. No-one has given us these lands. No international organization has put pressure on the aggressor. No-one demanded that they implement UN Security Council resolutions. Their goal was simply to keep the conflict in a neither-war-nor-peace status, to keep everything in a frozen state, to perpetuate the occupation, to erase the historical heritage of our lands, to Armenianize our lands, to give our cities and villages their ugly Armenian names and erase this issue from the memory of the Azerbaijani people. But they were wrong. I have repeatedly said that we will never put up with this occupation. Every resident of Jabrayil lived with a desire to return to the land of their ancestors.

Justice has prevailed. The victorious Azerbaijani Army has won. The enemy's back is broken. The enemy has been driven out of our lands. The Azerbaijani flag has been raised in the liberated lands and will fly there forever.

Karabakh is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

AZERTAC

First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva shared on her Instagram page footages from Jabrayil district

[00:38] 17.11.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has shared on her official Instagram page footages from the liberated from occupation Jabrayil district.

AZERTAC presents the footages.

AZERTAC

November 16

Prosecutor General's Office: As result of Armenian provocations, 94 civilians were killed and 414 people injured

[14:57] 16.11.2020

The Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan has revealed the statistics on crimes committed against civilians as a result of Armenian provocations from September 27 till November 16.

As a result of the shelling of Azerbaijan's residential settlements with heavy artillery and missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces, 94 civilians were killed and 414 people were injured.

Moreover, 3,410 houses, 120 residential buildings and 512 civilian facilities were damaged as a result of Armenia's military aggression.

AZERTAC

Turkish presidency moves motion on troop deployment in Azerbaijan

[14:11] 16.11.2020

The Turkish Presidency on Monday submitted a motion to the parliament to deploy Turkish troops in Azerbaijan, according to Anadolu Agency.

The motion, which was submitted by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government, seeks to deploy troops for peacekeeping in Karabakh region for one year.

The deployment “will be for the benefit and welfare of the people in the region,” the motion said, adding the move will also be in Turkey’s national interests.^[L]_[SEP]

The motion will be voted on in the parliament on Tuesday.

AZERTAC

Video coverage from liberated Domi village of Khojavand district

[13:03] 16.11.2020

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has released a video coverage from the liberated from occupation Domi village of Khojavand district.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the video.

AZERTAC

November 15

Video coverage of liberated from occupation Dashbashi village of Khojavand district

[21:36] 15.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released a video coverage of the liberated from occupation Dashbashi village of Khojavand district.

AZERTAC presents the video coverage.

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Armenia requested extension of deadline for fully emptying Kalbajar until November 25

[20:55] 15.11.2020

"Work continues on the implementation of the joint statement signed by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan and President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin on November 10," Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev said at a briefing.

Hikmat Hajiyev said that one of the requirements of the statement was the handover of Kalbajar until November 15. "But the Armenian side requested - through Russia - that the deadline be extended. The weather is getting worse, there is only one road in that direction and the road capacity is low. Taking this into account, Azerbaijan demonstrated humanity and agreed to extend the deadline for the handover of Kalbajar until November 25. The obligations remain in force, there is no need to sign a special statement on the deadline extension."

Hikmat Hajiyev noted that Aghdam was set to be handed over on November 20, while Lachin until December 1.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, Russian FMs hold phone talk

[20:32] 15.11.2020

On November 15, Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov held a phone conversation.

The sides exchanged views on the latest situation in the region, implementation of the trilateral statement of 10 November, coordination of various issues stemming from the agreement, including implementing the issues of a humanitarian character.

The ministers also discussed other issues of mutual interest.

AZERTAC

Group of Peers from House of Lords of UK Parliament send letter to The Times explaining superiority of principle of territorial integrity

[18:38] 15.11.2020

“The principle of the people’s right to self-determination cannot be applied, in the form of unilateral secession, to the Armenians living in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan”

On November 5, The Times published a letter from a group of House of Lords members who in an attempt to distort the context of the events happened in the history of the South Caucasus undermined the superiority of the principle of territorial integrity.

In response to this letter, another group of Peers from House of Lords which have much more profound knowledge of the region and its history, has sent a letter to The Times explaining why the principle of self-determination cannot simply govern the future of the region. The letter which unfortunately has not been published by the newspaper, reads as follows:

“Sir,

We do not agree with the letter from some of the noble Peers including the Rt Revd. Dr Alan Smith, Bishop of St Albans (Nov 5).

It must be remembered that Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. Four UN Security Council Resolutions, adopted in 1993 (822, 853, 874, 884) recognize Nagorno-Karabakh to be part of Azerbaijan. These resolutions demanded the withdrawal of Armenian forces from Nagorno-Karabakh – this demand has still not been fulfilled.

The principle of the people’s right to self-determination cannot be applied, in the form of unilateral secession, to the Armenians living in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan.

By the time Armenians in the area claimed independence in 1992, there was already a Republic of Armenia which had been established in 1991. Therefore, Armenia has already utilized its right to self-determination, and simply cannot create second Armenian state in what is an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan. It should also be remembered that, following Armenia’s self-proclaimed independence, hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis had to flee from the territory and remain displaced.

Importantly, international documents (such as Chapter 1 of the 1945 UN Charter and the 1975 Helsinki Final Act) establish that claims of self-determination are unsustainable when they are accompanied by egregious violations of international law, such as prohibiting the threat or use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a State (peremptory norms or jus cogens).

We maintain that there is an urgent need to secure peace and end suffering in the region, but this cannot be achieved by self-determination.

Lord Sheikh; The Rt Hon. Lord Bruce of Bennachie; Lord Evans of Watford; Baroness Uddin; Baroness Hussein-Ece

Aynura Taghiyeva
Special Correspondent

London, AZERTAC

Aerial video of liberated from occupation Hadrut settlement and Tugh village of Khojavand district

[15:23] 15.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released an aerial video of the liberated from occupation Hadrut settlement and Tugh village of Khojavand district.

AZERTAC presents the aerial video.

AZERTAC

**Foreign Ministry: Information released by some media about recall of Azerbaijani
Ambassador to Russia does not reflect truth**

[12:07] 15.11.2020

"The information released by some media about the recall of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Russian Federation does not reflect the truth," Ministry of Foreign Affairs told AZERTAC.

"We remind that the appointment and recall of diplomatic representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan in foreign countries fall within the competence of the President of the country. Thus, all information disseminated in this regard should be based only on official sources," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Release of the Press Service of the President

[00:25] 15.11.2020

On November 14, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin made a phone call to President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

During the conversation, the practical aspects of implementation of the agreements enshrined in the trilateral statement on Nagorno-Karabakh was discussed.

The sides hailed the fact that the ceasefire is being observed, and the situation on the contact line is quite calm.

The Russian President noted that Christian temples and monasteries are located in the districts returned to the Republic of Azerbaijan in accordance with the trilateral statement. In this regard, he stressed the importance of preserving and ensuring the normal functioning of these shrines.

President Ilham Aliyev noted that Azerbaijan is a multinational and multi-confessional country, where the rights and freedoms of all peoples and representatives of all religions are fully guaranteed.

Ancient Muslim and Christian temples located in the territory of Azerbaijan are protected by the state.

President Ilham Aliyev said that the Christian temples located in the territories returned to Azerbaijan in accordance with the trilateral statement, will be properly protected by the state. Christians living in Azerbaijan will be able to make use of these temples.

November 14

Turkish Foreign Ministry: The UN Human Rights Council's Special Procedures Mechanism are detached from the facts on the ground

[17:35] 14.11.2020

“The baseless allegations mentioned in the press release of the UN Human Rights Council's Special Procedures Mechanism are detached from the facts on the ground. The reason behind the circulation of these fake news is Armenia's intention to divert attention away from its illegal occupation and create the perception of a supposedly "victimized country fighting against international terrorism".

It is proven that Armenia has recorded images of the members of the Syrian National Army and circulated them on the internet as pseudo evidence. Neither these fake videos nor the comments of people paid in exchange of testimony have any credibility or validity,” a statement by Hami Aksoy, Spokesperson of Turkish Foreign Ministry says.

“The press release made without waiting for Turkey's views and based on black propaganda products of fake images and fabricated news has undermined the credibility of the UN Special Procedures Mechanism. What is expected from the Mechanism is to work transparently and collect the views of all relevant parties, rather than make biased and misleading statements.

On the other hand, we find it positive, yet insufficient, for the statement to mention that Armenia has used foreign fighters in the clashes. It is common knowledge that Armenia deployed Syria based PKK / YPG terrorists to Karabakh. In fact, many PKK terrorists, whose names were known to us, were neutralized by the Azerbaijani army in the fighting.

As the Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan has confessed, many ethnic Armenian citizens of third countries took part in the clashes in Karabakh. We would have expected the Special Rapporteurs to investigate this information, which is supported with images in open sources, in greater detail and reflect it in the statement.

Although the statement mentions deliberate attacks on civilians, we deem it a deliberate neglect not to mention that it was Armenia doing this. As stated by Prime Minister Pashinyan's military adviser, Armenia has deliberately attacked civilian settlements in Azerbaijan with illegal cluster bombs in order to create chaos among the people, thus has committed war crimes. Armenia's violation of international law has also been recorded by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International,” the statement notes.

**Ankara,
AZERTAC**

New video coverage of liberated from occupation Talish village of Tartar district

[16:56] 14.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released a new video coverage of the liberated from occupation Talish village of Tartar district.

AZERTAC presents the video coverage.

AZERTAC

Video footage from liberated Gulabird village of Lachin district

[15:19] 14.11.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense has released a video footage from the liberated from occupation Gulabird village of Lachin district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Jordanian FM stresses importance of respecting international law to ensure lasting peace in region

[12:24] 14.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov has had a telephone conversation with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ayman Hussein Al-Safadi.

The ministers exchanged views on the latest situation in the region and the signing of a trilateral statement on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Minister Jeyhun Bayramov stressed that the joint statement was based on international law and UN Security Council resolutions.

Minister of Jordan Ayman Al-Safadi welcomed the agreement, which called for a complete ceasefire and the cessation of all military operations in the conflict zone. He stressed the importance of respecting international law to ensure lasting peace in the region.

The sides also discussed other issues of mutual interest.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Exchange of bodies of several servicemen who died during the fighting around Shusha city was held

[12:05] 14.11.2020

Through the intermediary and participation of the Russian peacekeeping forces stationed in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the bodies of several servicemen who died on the battlefield around the Shusha city were collected, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“As part of this humanitarian action, the bodies of the dead servicemen of the Armenian armed forces were collected and handed over to the Armenian side.

Also, within the framework of this action, the bodies of six servicemen of the Azerbaijan Army, who became Shahids (martyrs) during the battles around the Shusha city, were received.

This humanitarian action was implemented in accordance with article eight of the Statement of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the prime minister of the Republic of Armenia, and the President of the Russian Federation dated November 10, 2020.

We express our gratitude to the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation and personally to Minister of Defense General of the Army Sergei Shoigu for organizing this humanitarian action,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

November 13

Video coverage of liberated from occupation Khandak and Muradkhanli villages of Gubadli district

[18:06] 13.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released a video coverage of the liberated from occupation Khandak and Muradkhanli villages of Gubadli district.

AZERTAC presents the video coverage.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video coverage of liberated from occupation
Sugovushan village of Tartar district**

[17:12] 13.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released a video coverage of the liberated from occupation Sugovushan village of Tartar district.

AZERTAC presents the video coverage.

AZERTAC

BBC airs reportage from Kalbajar: Armenians are taking absolutely everything with them, even removing all the windows and toilets

[16:38] 13.11.2020

According to the reached agreement, the Armenians are leaving Kalbajar district.

The BBC News Channel aired a video reportage highlighting Armenians leaving from Kalbajar district which also confirms the implementation of the agreement.

“Armenians are rushing to leave. They are taking absolutely everything with them, leaving nothing behind. They even remove all the windows and toilets. They burn and destroy everything they cannot carry with them. They want to do more damage, especially by setting fires to forests and houses in Kalbajar,” BBC correspondent said.

All these facts prove once again that Armenians continue to destroy and plunder material and cultural resources in the territories of Azerbaijan.

President Ilham Aliyev also stated this fact in his interview with Russian Interfax agency on October 28. “When we liberated Fuzuli, we were unable to find a single building intact - just imagine. In the whole city. And tens of thousands people lived there. No building. I was called, and I said raise the flag on a flagpole. Do you understand? This is what they did. And look at the ruins of Aghdam, Jabrayil district. Everything is in ruins. It looked as if barbarians were there, not people. They took everything away, roofs, windows, toilets, sinks. They are just thieves,” the head of state said.

AZERTAC

EU High Representative hails signing of trilateral statement on Nagorno-Karabakh

[12:25] 13.11.2020

Azerbaijan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell have held a telephone conversation.

The sides exchanged views on the latest situation in the region, signing of a tripartite statement on a complete ceasefire and cessation of all hostilities, including the withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the surrounding regions of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan on the basis of the UN Security Council resolutions, return of IDPs to their homes, implementation of humanitarian exchanges, as well as the issues of opening all communications including the construction of new communication lines.

High Representative Joseph Borell praised the signing of a trilateral statement by the President of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of Russia on November 10. He stressed the importance of respecting the agreement and ensuring its implementation. Joseph Borell stressed the need to continue the dialogue between the parties.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Heads of Azerbaijani diplomatic missions abroad should refrain from making arbitrary statements that contradict the official position of the country

[01:05] 13.11.2020

"On November 9, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin had a telephone conversation in connection with the tragic incident involving a helicopter belonging to the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan made a statement on the same day. The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan has launched a criminal case in connection with this accidental tragedy.

The Prosecutor Generals of Azerbaijan and Russia had a telephone conversation on the progress of the investigation. A mutual exchange of information on the progress of the investigation is underway.

The comment by the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Russian Federation on this issue is inappropriate. Such a case cannot undermine the Azerbaijani-Russian relations," Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev told AZERTAC.

The presidential assistant said: "Also, what the Azerbaijani ambassador to Russia said about the status of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, without getting to the heart of the matter, is unacceptable. Heads of Azerbaijani diplomatic missions and other officials abroad should refrain from making arbitrary statements that contradict the official position of the country and the policy pursued by President Ilham Aliyev."

AZERTAC

November 12

Video coverage of liberated from occupation Tugh village of Khojavand district

[19:53] 12.11.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense has released a video coverage of the liberated from occupation Tugh village of Khojavand district.

AZERTAC presents the video coverage.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan Defense Minister meets with Commander of peacekeeping forces to be deployed in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan

[19:45] 12.11.2020

Azerbaijan's Minister of Defense Colonel General Zakir Hasanov has met with Lieutenant General Rustam Muradov, the Commander of the Russian peacekeeping forces to be deployed in the operational zone in accordance with a joint statement by the Azerbaijani and Russian presidents and the prime minister of Armenia.

The sides discussed the issues of organization and implementation of a peacekeeping mission.

AZERTAC

Video coverage from liberated Khojik village of Gubadli district and Hovuslu village of Jabrayil district

[18:57] 12.11.2020

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has released a video coverage from the liberated from occupation Khojik village of Gubadli district and Hovuslu village of Jabrayil district.

AZERTAC presents the video coverage.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry: We welcome signing of Memorandum on establishment of Joint Russian-Turkish Center for control over ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh

[18:09] 12.11.2020

“We welcome the signing of the Memorandum on the establishment of the Joint Russian-Turkish Center for control over the ceasefire and cessation of all hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone on November 11, 2020, based on the Joint Statement signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation on November 10, 2020,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Foreign Affairs told AZERTAC.

“We are pleased to note that the Joint Working Group will be established in a short time in connection with the formation and functioning of the Joint Center, to be located in the territory of Azerbaijan and carrying out control over the ceasefire regime and the cessation of all hostilities.

We believe that the activities of the Joint Center will contribute to increasing the effectiveness of control over the ceasefire and thus ensuring peace and security in the region,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry: It is regrettable that statement by Canadian FM
openly expresses pro-Armenian sentiments**

[17:44] 12.11.2020

“It is regrettable that the statement by the Canadian Foreign Minister on the cessation of military operations between Armenia and Azerbaijan is unilateral and openly expresses pro-Armenian sentiments,” said Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Foreign Affairs as it commented on the statement made by the Canadian Foreign Minister on November 11, 2020.

“It looks like the Canadian Foreign Minister who did not make any statement that would condemn the occupation of the Azerbaijani territories by Armenia and the violation of human rights of hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis nearly for 30 years and contribute to the negotiation process and support the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, now began to engage with the conflict.

We remind that the joint statement on complete ceasefire and cessation of all hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia was signed on November 10, 2020 by the President of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of Armenia and the President of Russia. This agreement, based on UN Security Council resolutions, is currently being implemented.

No state, especially those far from the territory can be more interested in ensuring peace and security in the region than the countries of the region.

If Canada truly wants to ensure sustainable peace in the region, then it should act in accordance with the principles of international law and UN Security Council resolutions and make statements in this respect. The contrary is nothing, but the damage to the political settlement of the conflict and thus the establishment of peace in the region,” the Foreign Ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated Azikh, Akaku and Aghbulag villages of Khojavand district

[16:03] 12.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released a video footage of the liberated from occupation Azikh, Akaku and Aghbulag villages of Khojavand district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

**Turkey, Russia sign memorandum on establishment of joint center to monitor
ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh**

[15:59] 12.11.2020

Turkish National Defense Minister Hulusi Akar and Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu have signed a memorandum on the establishment of a joint center to monitor the ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Describing this memorandum as an important step to maintain the ceasefire and stability in the Karabakh region, Hulusi Akar wished the activities to be carried out under the agreement be effective and beneficial for the region.

In order to increase the effectiveness of control over the implementation of the agreements by the Parties to the conflict, a peacekeeping center shall be deployed to exercise control over the ceasefire. The provision on the establishment of the peace control center is included in the statement signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and President of the Russian Federation.

The decision to establish a joint monitoring center will allow a reliable control over the parties' compliance with the cessation of the hostilities and will provide a sound basis for the settlement of the conflict.

The joint center, which will be deployed on the territory of Azerbaijan, will be involved in collecting, summarizing and verifying information on the observance of the ceasefire. The center is to deal with any complaints, questions, or concerns related to violations of the agreements.

AZERTAC

UK welcomes agreement by Azerbaijan and Armenia to end Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

[13:26] 12.11.2020

“The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomes the agreement by Azerbaijan and Armenia to end the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict,” UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said on Twitter.

“They have made difficult decisions to prevent further loss of life. We encourage all sides to continue working together for a lasting peace settlement in the interests of their citizens,” he added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry: Statement made by France on cessation of all military operations is completely biased

[12:02] 12.11.2020

“The statement made by Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France Jean-Yves Le Drian regarding the statement signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation on cessation of all military operations is completely biased and contrary to its mandate as the co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group,” said Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“We should mention that the French Foreign Minister, with the statement that reflects a unilateral and clearly pro-Armenian position, has no authority to speak on behalf of the other co-chairs.

Unfortunately, we have not observed the French Foreign Minister making any statements during all these years based on its mandate as the co-chair and the country that voted as a permanent member of UN Security Council in favor of 1993 resolutions, on the implementation of the related UN SC resolutions.

We do not remember when the demand for an immediate end to the illegal presence of the armed forces of Armenia in the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan and the return of those forcibly expelled from these territories was voiced by the French Foreign Ministry.

Maybe France is not interested in the gross violation of fundamental human rights of hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis as a result of the conflict?!

France should not be concerned about Azerbaijan's legitimate efforts to ensure the country's territorial integrity within its international borders and restore the human rights of more than one million Azerbaijanis in full compliance with international law,” the Foreign Ministry said.

AZERTAC

OIC expresses concern over destruction of Islamic historical shrines in occupied territories of Azerbaijan

[10:35] 12.11.2020

The General Secretariat of the OIC has expressed deep concern about the condition of historical monuments in and around Nagorno-Karabakh that are an integral part of Islamic heritage.

The statement issued by the OIC reads: “The deliberate destruction and looting of material and spiritual artefacts, particularly the destroyed Mosque of the recently liberated Mamar village of Gubadli district as well as misappropriation and falsification of history are a clear evidence of a policy of aggression.

The abuse of centuries-old heritage sites in the occupied territories is in clear breach of international law and conventions, namely the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the 1954 and 1999 protocols thereto. The OIC adopted in its 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Minister Resolution No. 3/46-C on the “Protection of Islamic Holy Places”, “...condemning the barbaric acts committed by the Armenian aggressors in the Republic of Azerbaijan with the aim of total annihilation of the Islamic historic and cultural heritage.”

AZERTAC

OSCE PA President hails statement on cessation of hostilities in Karabakh as crucial

[08:35] 12.11.2020

President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly George Tsereteli has said the statement on cessation of hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region is of crucial importance. The signing of the statement will also ensure the protection of civilians living in the conflict zone, he said.

Expressing his deep condolences over the casualties during the war, George Tsereteli called on the parties to immediately begin the exchange of corpses and prisoners of war.

“I call on all parties to reaffirm their commitment to peace talks in order to ensure the safe return of IDPs and refugees, achieve a comprehensive settlement of the conflict and build a common future,” the OSCE PA President emphasized.

Khatayi Azizov
Special Correspondent
AZERTAC

November 11

**President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva met with servicemen
undergoing treatment at Clinical Medical Center No 1**

[20:05] 11.11.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Victorious Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva have met with the servicemen undergoing treatment at Clinical Medical Center No 1.

The head of state made a speech at the meeting.

Speech of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev

- Dear servicemen, the Patriotic War is over. Azerbaijan has won a brilliant victory in this war, our lands have been liberated from occupation, we have expelled the occupiers from our lands. I have come to congratulate you personally on this glorious victory, to express my gratitude to you, to express the gratitude of the Azerbaijani people to you for fighting heroically, for your exceptional contribution to expelling the enemy from our lands. You were wounded, you put your lives on the line and showed tremendous courage.

The Second Karabakh War will go down in history as Azerbaijan's glorious victory. All our people have shown unity and solidarity in achieving this victory. All the steps taken were aimed at inflicting crushing blows to the enemy with few losses and in a short period of time so that to force the enemy to leave our lands. Victory on the battlefield also led to victory in the political arena. If we had not won this victory on the battlefield, I do not believe that the occupier would have left the remaining lands. The enemy, which had been trying to occupy our lands for almost 30 years in various ways, wanted to perpetuate this occupation. We could not achieve any results through negotiations. We won this war at the expense of the lives of our martyrs, the courage of our servicemen and the policy of our state. I ask you to remember all our brothers and sisters who were killed in the Great Patriotic War by observing a minute of silence.

May God have mercy on all our martyrs! May God send healing to you! May God send healing to all our wounded soldiers and officers!

This victory will remain in the history of Azerbaijan forever. Both on the battlefield and at the negotiating table, we were able to achieve what we wanted. We were able to liberate the cities of Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Zangilan, Gubadli, Shusha using military force. We raised our flag in those lands, our flag flies there now. Today, the whole world sees what Azerbaijan is capable of doing. Both in the political sphere and in the field of military construction, we gained an advantage from the first days of the war thanks to the professionalism of our servicemen and consistently advanced towards this last goal.

The fighting was fierce, the enemy put up stiff resistance. Let everyone know that the victory achieved over these 44 days was achieved thanks to the professionalism and heroism of our servicemen. The enemy did not want to leave the occupied territories of its own accord, and you, the people who took an active part in these battles, know very well what fortifications they had

built there in 30 years. It took great heroism and military professionalism to break through those fortifications and crush those lines of defense. Also, the geography of that region is a fortification in itself. Shusha is an impregnable fortress. Panahali Khan built that city so that he could protect the people of Shusha from the enemy as much as possible. It is a symbol of great professionalism and courage to capture Shusha in a few days with little losses and without causing great damage to the city. The enemy had been making preparations on these lands for 30 years. These preparations show that they did not want to leave our lands voluntarily. If they did, why did they spend so much money on these issues? This shows that during all this time – for about 30 years – the enemy was simply deceiving us, deceiving the mediators that they would leave our lands. This was a lie, and the scene on the battlefield confirms that again. At the same time, the landscape of the liberated lands shows that the enemy lived with hatred for the Azerbaijani people. Otherwise, why would they demolish all the buildings? Almost 99 percent of our liberated territories have been destroyed – residential buildings, schools, hospitals, public buildings, historical sites, graves of our ancestors, mosques. Now we are spreading these images so that everyone can see them in the media. This is savagery and vandalism. This is a war crime. The enemy has committed a war crime, and I have already issued instructions to calculate and record the damage. Groups have already been mobilized and international experts will be invited. With the participation of international experts, the entire material and moral damage will be calculated, and we will take the enemy, both individuals and collectively, to international courts, they will pay compensation, be held to account. They are already being held to account for their ugly deeds.

We tried to resolve this issue peacefully. In particular, as the head of state I have been working to resolve the issue peacefully for 17 years, and this is the main reason why this issue has taken such a long time to be resolved. International mediators also assured us that this issue could be resolved peacefully. But over the past year, we saw that we were simply being deceived and the peace process was almost paralyzed. The new leadership of Armenia has, in fact, disrupted the process of negotiations with unacceptable and harmful steps and statements and was making no secret of that in recent months. Demonstrative steps were taken to show both us and the whole world that the occupied territories would remain under occupation forever. They published various maps. These maps indicated the borders of the “Nagorno-Karabakh Republic”, which included all the occupied territories. They changed the names of our historical cities and gave them new ugly names. They changed the names of all our villages. They wanted to erase our historical and cultural heritage. They wanted to bring Armenians from abroad to Shusha and settle them there. As a result of the construction of new communications and roads, they wanted to accelerate that settlement, especially in the regions along the Araz River. Due to financial and political support from the Armenians living abroad, some municipalities in several countries already decided to recognize the "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic". What does all this show? All this shows their belief that they could both legitimize the occupation and succeed in promoting the so-called criminal entity in this way. When we saw that they were simply deceiving us, trying to insult us and our holy places, we said our word and I did not hide it. During all this time, for 17 years, I had been saying that if this issue was not resolved peacefully, we would resolve it militarily. Whatever people may say, I still think the same and I am saying the same today. For the past 44 days, I received so many calls and so many signals to stop. I said that I had one condition for the enemy – leave our lands and we will stop. Let him say that he is leaving and we will stop. Let him provide a timetable, a date, and we will stop. But the enemy believed that they could stop our successful attack.

Already after the first weeks they realized that they would not be able to stand in front of us. Therefore, they began to appeal to the international community more actively, asking them international organizations and some countries to stop us. I said that no-one could stop us and that

we would go to the end. Pashinyan must accept my conditions and declare that he is leaving specific districts at a specific date, and we have achieved that. The joint statement signed on 10 November was in fact an act of Armenia's peaceful capitulation. Just as after the end of World War II, Hitler's henchmen signed an act of capitulation in front of the military leaders of the allied countries, I also said that Pashinyan must sign an act of capitulation in a live format, in the form of a video conference. But frankly speaking, Russian President Vladimir Putin asked me not to insist on that too much. I thought that Pashinyan was already humiliated enough, was already punished for his ugly deeds, was already on his knees and had already accepted all my conditions. The signed statement also approved a timetable for the withdrawal of the occupying forces from Aghdam, Lachin and Kalbajar districts. I said that I did not object. I told him to sign it wherever he wanted, in a dark room, in a warehouse, far away from the cameras. And that is what happened. All the people of Azerbaijan saw the signing ceremony between myself and President Putin. Pashinyan, where did you sign this document? It doesn't matter much. Because it is impossible to find him now. And no-one can ask Pashinyan where he signed it.

We have once again shown our strength and the unity of our people. We have shown that no force can stand in front of us, no force can turn us away from the right path. You carried out this historic mission – Azerbaijani soldiers, Azerbaijani sergeants, Azerbaijani officers. Of course, we have a strong army and a high level of technical equipment. The whole world has seen what technical capabilities we are using. I can also say that our victories and military operations are being studied all over the world today both in terms of technical capabilities and in terms of operational steps, preparation and implementation of operations. This is a new generation of warfare, which combines planning, technical equipment, application of technology, proper planning and implementation of operations, combat capability and high morale of our servicemen. But as I have said several times, it is not our hardware but our soldiers and officers who have won this victory. They have liberated our lands from the enemy and given this Victory to our people. Therefore, the first heroes of this victory are Azerbaijani soldiers and Azerbaijani officers, and everyone should know that. We have proved that we are a great nation. We have proved that we show solidarity and unity. This unity had already existed in society before, but after this victory it rose to an even higher level. This unity will allow us the opportunity to revive the liberated lands and return our IDPs to those lands as soon as possible. The Karabakh region, our beautiful historical land, will be reborn, revived and revitalized. Karabakh, an integral part of Azerbaijan and one of the most beautiful corners of our country, will become a real paradise.

It is not too difficult to imagine the feelings of our people. I have been receiving thousands of letters every day during this period. Letters full of joy, full of gratitude, full of pride really touch me. Today, when our TV channels and websites show people who have lived the life of an IDP for many years, their feelings and words, I want to cite the expression they love and say the most. They say, I am no longer a refugee. Do you know what this means? It is a manifestation of perhaps the happiest moments, both in the lives of these people and in the lives of all of us, in my life. They say, I am no longer an IDP. They wanted to get rid of this burden. They wanted to rid themselves of this expression pasted on us by the hated enemy, and this day arrived.

Dear former IDPs, you are not IDPs any longer. I address them in the presence of our heroic soldiers and officers: you are not IDPs any longer, you are going home. We will get you back. Those sitting here, thousands of our soldiers and officers are returning you to your native lands. We, the Azerbaijani state, will do our best to take you back as soon as possible. First of all, of course, security measures must be taken. The hated enemy has planted mines almost everywhere in those areas. Now the mine clearance process must begin. We will now involve international

organizations. Because we have limited internal capacity to do this in a short time. First of all, security, then infrastructure, then all other restoration issues will be addressed. At the same time, as you know, during these 44 days, the enemy wanted to avenge its defeat on civilians. As a result, 93 civilians were killed, more than 400 civilians were injured, more than 3,000 buildings were either destroyed, burned or damaged. I have already instructed to send groups to the regions, so the damage is being calculated. All the destroyed houses will be rebuilt at the expense of the state. All the damaged houses will be restored by the state. The lost property of our citizens will be restored, lost livestock will be given to citizens. So our citizens can rest assured that all their lost property will be restored. I promise that the houses to be built for them will be better, of higher quality and more spacious than the previous ones. We will do all that. For us, the well-being and security of our people is the priority issue. But during this period, the most important issue for me was to return our lands, restore our territorial integrity, raise our flag in Shusha, raise our flag in all other occupied lands. We have achieved this!

We are living through historic moments. You can see people celebrate this holiday in the streets. This holiday is celebrated all over Azerbaijan, by all Azerbaijanis around the world. This holiday is celebrated in brotherly Turkey just like here. This is natural. Because we are one nation, two states. These days, I have repeatedly thanked my dear brother, President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan. We talked on the phone yesterday. I thanked him again. Turkey's political and moral support played a huge role in achieving this victory. Because the words of the President, my brother from the first hours that "Azerbaijan is not alone, Turkey is with it", stopped the attempts of many to intervene in this conflict. During all this time, the President, ministers and officials have always expressed their support for us. You see how many delegations are coming here. Several delegations come here from Turkey almost every week. The support and solidarity Turkey has shown are highly appreciated by the Azerbaijani people.

Now a new era begins in our lives. This period will usher a happy future for our country. A new era begins in your life. You have been wounded. But you can rest assured that we will heal you. We will bring our most severely wounded servicemen back to life. Our doctors are working around the clock now. After that, all necessary measures will be taken to return you to normal life. As you know, modern prostheses are brought for our servicemen who lost their hands, arms and legs in the First Karabakh War on the personal initiative and under the control of Mehriban Aliyeva. There are the prostheses people can use to play football. All this will be provided. You can be sure of that. Regarding your future life, I want to appeal to all government agencies and private companies already. I state that special steps will be taken to provide jobs for our servicemen, our heroic and wounded servicemen. We will always take this into account.

The problems of martyr families will be resolved. We have almost solved the housing problems of most of the families of our martyrs who were in line. This year, the families of 1,500 martyrs will be provided with houses and apartments by the state. Today, I am instructing all relevant agencies to provide financial support to the relatives of those killed in the Second Karabakh War, the Patriotic War as we call, as soon as possible, and they are being registered now. After accurate registration, they will be provided with apartments and houses.

During all these 44 days, before and after, I will reward our servicemen who have shown heroism on the battlefield and in the rear. Relevant instructions have already been issued. I have already instructed and I want to declare in your presence that new orders and medals will be established in Azerbaijan. These orders and medals will be awarded to servicemen and civilians distinguished in the Patriotic War. I also proposed the names of these orders and medals. I think

you and the Azerbaijani people will like these names. I have also instructed that the military equipment of the enemy we have taken as booty be brought to Baku. I asked for a place to be chosen where we will demonstrate this equipment. All people of Azerbaijan will go and see what we have brought back. Some of the destroyed equipment is in such a state that it is impossible to bring it now. But I regularly updated our people on how much of the enemy equipment we had destroyed. In fact, their army has no equipment left, its army is almost non-existent. They have admitted that themselves. They themselves admitted that Azerbaijan had beaten them. So we will demonstrate the military equipment we have taken as booty. I have many plans. Hopefully, we will do it all. We will further strengthen this historic victory in the legal and political spheres. After that, our citizens will live comfortably and return to their homeland. Thanks to you, Azerbaijan will enter a new era.

This is why I came to pay my respects to you today, immediately after the end of the war. I would like to thank your parents for raising such heroic children for the state. I have come to express my personal gratitude and congratulations to you. The first people I congratulate are you and all our heroic warriors in your person. I have come to say that I will always be with you. You can count on me. Our heroic warriors will always be in my spotlight in the future. I congratulate you again, get well soon and return to normal life. Karabakh is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

X X X

Senior Lieutenant Mail Asgarov: I completed my active military service as an officer and was released into reserve. When partial mobilization was announced by your order, I also returned to military service, and we fought with the enemy in the direction of Fuzuli district where I was wounded. I am very proud that my comrades did not leave our mission unfinished and won.

At the hospital where I was treated after my injury, we were looking forward to your speeches on the liberation of our lands from occupation. One of the most important speeches for us was the news of the tricolor flag being raised in Shusha, the cradle of Azerbaijani culture. You granted it to us. I would like to express my special gratitude to you for that.

In your last speech, or rather in your latest speech, you addressed the people and said that we defeated the enemy like an iron fist. I would describe it in such a way that this iron fist represents the unity of our people, the solidarity of our people, the strength of our army and, in particular, the great confidence of the people in you. So I say this as someone who is among the people, it is the great confidence people have in you. This ensured our victory. We crushed the enemy with that fist.

We express our endless gratitude to you for giving us this Victory, this joy, this triumph. I take this opportunity to congratulate you and you, Mehriban khanim, on this victory. Thank you very much.

President Ilham Aliyev: Thank you very much. We have been waiting for this victory for a long time. Our people deserve this victory. Our people are a victorious people. Thank you, guys.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: The Second Karabakh War will go down in history as Azerbaijan's glorious victor

[18:51] 11.11.2020

The Patriotic War is over. Azerbaijan has won a brilliant victory in this war, our lands have been liberated from occupation, we have expelled the occupiers from our lands. I have come to congratulate you personally on this glorious victory, to express my gratitude to you, to express the gratitude of the Azerbaijani people to you for fighting heroically, for your exceptional contribution to expelling the enemy from our lands. You were wounded, you put your lives on the line and showed tremendous courage, President of Azerbaijan, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev said in a meeting with servicemen being treated at Clinical Medical Center No. 1, AZERTAC reports.

The head of state said: "The Second Karabakh War will go down in history as Azerbaijan's glorious victory. All our people have shown unity and solidarity in achieving this victory. All the steps taken were aimed at inflicting crushing blows to the enemy with few losses and in a short period of time so that to force the enemy to leave our lands. Victory on the battlefield also led to victory in the political arena. If we had not won this victory on the battlefield, I do not believe that the occupier would have left the remaining lands. The enemy, which had been trying to occupy our lands for almost 30 years in various ways, wanted to perpetuate this occupation. We could not achieve any results through negotiations. We won this war at the expense of the lives of our martyrs, the courage of our servicemen and the policy of our state. May God have mercy on all our martyrs! May God send healing to you! May God send healing to all our wounded soldiers and officers!"

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: France obviously pursues a pro-Armenian policy, while it should act as a neutral party in accordance with its mandate

[18:32] 11.11.2020

“French officials make one-sided, biased and non-objective statements, which run counter to the mandate of France as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group. France obviously pursues a pro-Armenian policy and makes completely groundless accusations against Azerbaijan, while it should act as a neutral party in accordance with its mandate,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev told journalists.

Hikmat Hajiyev said: “France did not have any role in the adoption of a joint statement by the Azerbaijani and Russian presidents and the Prime Minister of Armenia. France is probably experiencing envy in Russia’s role on this issue.

Armenian Prime Minister’s signing this document says everything. Now France attempts to be more Armenian than the Armenians themselves.

France does not have any authority to speak on behalf of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs.

While France, as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, has not taken any steps towards the elimination of Armenia’s ongoing occupation against Azerbaijan and the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, it now demonstrates unilaterally assiduous commitment. I wonder if France has ever worried about Azerbaijani IDPs who were unable to return to their homelands during these 30 years? However, on the contrary, the liberation of Azerbaijani lands from the occupation, and ensuring the rule of international law continues to concern France.

Finally, I would like to remind French authorities that the name of Shusha city - the historical land of Azerbaijan which has a special place in the heart of Azerbaijani people and was liberated from the occupation, is not “Shushi” but “Shusha.”

AZERTAC

EU Reporter: War in Karabakh - How fake news appears on Western media

[18:00] 11.11.2020

The Brussels-based EU Reporter magazine has published an article headlined “War in Karabakh: How fake news appears on Western media”.

The article says: “With the resumption of hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh, which is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, numerous news reports began to appear in the media about the two countries involved in the conflict: Armenia and Azerbaijan. Surprisingly, some Western media outlets demonstrated an openly partisan attitude in reporting the conflict.”

“On 30 September, a BBC story claimed that several hundred mercenaries were allegedly transported to Karabakh before the outbreak of the war, from the Syrian territory controlled by Turkey. The publication claimed that it received this information via a messenger from one of the militants, but immediately noted that it could not confirm the veracity of his words,” the article mentions.

“Around the same time, France 24’s The Observers programme published several user-generated videos that allegedly showed Syrian militants preparing to leave for Azerbaijan. The main ‘evidence’ of these videos’ authenticity was that the soldiers in the film spoke Arabic and discussed the cities of Aleppo and Idlib,” the author says.

“It is surprising that such obvious falsifications somehow get on to the pages of leading foreign publications. Yerevan has so far been unable to provide any evidence of the presence of so-called mercenaries in Karabakh fighting for Azerbaijan,” the article emphasizes.

“It is clear that the Karabakh conflict, like any other war, is a huge tragedy. Throughout the fighting, civilians on both sides have suffered. However, the Western press has failed to focus its attention on certain developments. In particular, the shelling by Armenian troops of the peaceful city of Ganja - located far beyond the combat zone - remained widely unnoticed by the world’s media,” the article says.

“In modern armed conflicts, confrontation on the information front is becoming as important as it is on the battlefield. After all, the enemy can present even a bloodless operation as a ‘war crime’, setting the whole world against the winner. As the Karabakh conflict illustrates, the real state of affairs at the frontline is not always reflected accurately in the international media. The press needs to consistently present the real facts without bias, so that the truth of this war can be told for posterity,” the article concludes.

AZERTAC

Turkey, Russia to jointly monitor Karabakh peace deal

[17:34] 11.11.2020

Turkey's president on Wednesday announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on a joint Turkish-Russian center to monitor the Karabakh peace deal, which has ended weeks of armed conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, according to Anadolu Agency.

“Turkey will join the peacekeeping forces in the [Karabakh] region to monitor the implementation of the deal with Russia,” Recep Tayyip Erdogan told a parliamentary group meeting of his party in the capital Ankara.

The MoU on the center, which will be established on Azerbaijani territories that were liberated from Armenia's occupation, was signed this morning, Erdogan added.

He went on to say that with this deal 28 years of occupation on Azerbaijani lands and Karabakh officially comes to an end.

Referring to an article of Tuesday's Russia-brokered peace deal, he said: “A road will be constructed to connect Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan Autonomous Region.”

The Turkish president also congratulated Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and the Azerbaijani people over the liberation of territories under Armenia's occupation.

AZERTAC

**President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva met with servicemen
undergoing treatment at Clinical Medical Center No 1**

11.11.2020 [14:05]

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva have met with the servicemen undergoing treatment at Clinical Medical Center No 1.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyeu: Our martyrs destroyed geopolitical games

[14:30] 11.11.2020

“May Allah have mercy on the souls of our martyrs. They, at the cost of their lives, destroyed the geopolitical games, which for years have been trying to impose the status quo on Azerbaijan based on the occupation on the principle of "fait accompli". Our lands have been liberated from occupation. Shusha, the heart of Karabakh, has been liberated,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyeu made a post on his Twitter account.

AZERTAC

Hulusi Akar: Azerbaijani Army has demonstrated its power to entire world

[13:48] 11.11.2020

"We are very happy with the achieved result. This is a revival. The Azerbaijani Army has demonstrated its power to the entire world," Turkey's National Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said in a post on his Twitter account.

"You have achieved a success that will go down in Azerbaijan's history in golden letters," Hulusi Akar tweeted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, Turkish defense ministers met

[12:09] 11.11.2020

A meeting has been held between Minister of Defense of Azerbaijan, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov, and Minister of National Defense of Turkey Hulusi Akar at the Central Command Post of the Ministry of Defense.

The sides discussed the issues of Azerbaijan-Turkey bilateral military cooperation.

AZERTAC

**Festive celebrations of glorious victory in Baku through camera lens - PHOTO
SESSION**

[09:06] 11.11.2020

Residents of Baku who took to the streets and squares of the capital city following the President, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev's message, continued to celebrate a glorious victory in the Karabakh through the night.

Throughout the day, the people flew to the streets sharing their feelings of joy and pride over the historic victory and praising the head of state.

Those songs and joyful dances praising the homeland, Karabakh, the heroic Azerbaijani soldier added a special taste to the festivities.

AZERTAC presents photos highlighting the festive atmosphere in the capital city on November 10.

AZERTAC

November 10

Mevlut Cavusoglu: Dear Azerbaijan achieved a significant victory on the battlefield and at the diplomatic table

[19:38] 10.11.2020

“Dear Azerbaijan achieved a significant victory on the battlefield and at the diplomatic table,” Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu made a post on his Twitter account.

“I cordially congratulate Azerbaijan on this success. We will continue to be one nation, one soul with our dear Azerbaijani brothers”, Mevlut Cavusoglu tweeted.

AZERTAC

Mehriban Aliyeva: The territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan is restored!

[18:00] 10.11.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has made an Instagram post on the occasion of the historic Victory.

In a post on her official Instagram page, Mehriban Aliyeva says:

“My fellow compatriots!

The great day – the day of Victory has come! The territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan is restored! The historical justice is restored! I do sincerely congratulate the Azerbaijani people on this truly landmark event!

Armenia has acknowledged its total and unconditional capitulation! We have accomplished our noble mission of liberation with honor! We have made a stand for Motherland, liberated ancestral Azerbaijani lands from the occupation, gained a victory so desperately awaited by Azerbaijan! Over long years, we have waited for the triumph of truth and the historic justice! Our almost 30 year-long participation in the negotiation process for peaceful settlement is an obvious case of our commitment to the peace. During 27 years, Armenia has been ignoring the UN Security Council resolutions that demand immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of aggressor forces from all occupied Azerbaijani territories. There was no end of military provocations staged by Armenia. Azerbaijan has demonstrated and proved to the entire world that it is able, on its own, to liberate its occupied lands using own forces and might, and Azerbaijan has done so!

During military actions that lasted since 27 September 2020, the Azerbaijani Army has liberated over 300 living districts, including 5 cities and 4 towns coupled with a huge number of strategic elevations. Only a few hours following the liberation of cultural pearl of Azerbaijan – the city of Shusha, our soldiers have succeeded to put under their control 72 living districts and 9 strategic elevations which have incontestably led the military and political leadership of Armenia into the impasse.

Our Army has fought for the sake of its sanctuaries, our Motherland, our common home, and it has stood up and became victor in this sacred battle!

In these minutes, Azerbaijanis around the world are driven by sentiments of joy and pride! They feel proud of our President, our brave soldiers and officers, our patriotism, unity, staunchness and solidarity of the Azerbaijani people!

Each of us is immensely thankful to our President, Commander-in-Chief - Ilham Aliyev! The modern and strong Azerbaijani Army is created under his leadership! Indeed, thanks to his staunch will, braveness, resolve and determination, the Azerbaijani Army has made enemy to collapse by defining the end result of this war and bringing its victorious end! Respect, passion, confidence, faith and support of the Azerbaijani people that are the sources of force of our President have helped him to terminate the Armenian-Azerbaijani, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict which is one of the longest conflicts in Eurasia. Under his leadership, we have gained the Victory

that restored our people's self-confidence! The greatness of this Victory will leave a centuries' long imprint in the history of the Azerbaijani State!

Dear brothers and sisters:

There have been also tragedies and heavy losses both in the years of treacherous occupation of our lands and in the period of current battles. Peaceful civilians of our cities and villages have perished in the aftermath of cruel attacks far from the combat zone. Children, women and elderly have lost their lives. But, Azerbaijan has stood up! I do once again express my deep condolences to the relatives and beloved ones of the dead! Their death has not gone unpunished! The Azerbaijani Army and the Azerbaijani State have avenged for all bloodshed for all our compatriots!

In the heart of every Azerbaijani, we will always cherish the bright memories, respect and sincere pride for the generation that defended and revived our Motherland! Our soldiers and officers have fought with no spare of their own lives. They have become the examples of nobleness and genuine patriotism. All of them are united today by heroic deeds that they have made for the sake of Motherland and its might! We pay tributes to their fearlessness, will and intrepidity. We revive the memories of all those that have bravely fisted the occupant and restored the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan! We bow our heads before those parents that have grown and educated their brave sons whose names are forever inscribed in the history of the Azerbaijani State! May Allah rest the souls of all our martyrs that have died for the sake of Motherland in peace!

This war has once again demonstrated us one thing that we knew throughout the centuries: a friend in need is a friend indeed. Our thanks go to all our friends around the world! Our thanks go because you have shared our grievance and openly expressed their principled and fair standpoint in support of the Azerbaijani people. I express my particular gratitude to the brotherly Turkish people and personally, to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Their solidarity and support cause the sense of pride of every Azerbaijani!

We thank the representatives of mass media. Thanks to their high professionalism, objective vision, impartiality, rapidness and responsibility, it has become possible to deliver current Azerbaijani realities to the entire world. Thanks go to our citizens that defended the position of Azerbaijan out of their Motherland and demonstrated the aggressive nature of Armenia to the international community! Thanks go to the entire Azerbaijani people that formed the iron fist and shown our solidarity and might of the Azerbaijani State to the entire world!

My fellow compatriots:

I congratulate all on the day of Great Victory! Congratulations on the day of great triumph! Congratulations on the day of glory and might of Azerbaijan! Congratulations on the day of liberation of Karabakh! We have gained the Victory! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

With lots of respect and love

Your MEHRIBAN"

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan, Russian FMs hold phone talk

[17:19] 10.11.2020

On the initiative of the Azerbaijani side, Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has had a phone conversation with Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov stressed the importance of the trilateral statement signed on November 10 on the initiative of the Russian Federation, noting that this document marked a new stage in resolving the long-running conflict. Minister Bayramov thanked Russia for its continued efforts to ensure peace in the region.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov hailed the signing of this statement, which is an important step towards resolving the conflict. He said the decision was of great importance for ensuring sustainable peace in the region.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani people celebrate glorious victory Photo highlights

[15:41] 10.11.2020

Addressing the Azerbaijani people tonight, Victorious Commander-in-Chief, President Ilham Aliyev has announced the news of our glorious victory - the defeat of Armenia.

Thus, the 30-year-long occupation has ended. Following the President's nationwide address, people flew to the streets of the capital Baku to share happiness of the historic victory.

The nationwide celebration of the glorious victory is still going on with great enthusiasm. Hundreds of thousands of citizens, holding Azerbaijani flags, portraits of Victorious Commander-in-Chief, are chanting slogans to express gratitude to our Glorious Azerbaijani Army, Victorious Soldiers.

AZERTAC presents photos taken on the streets and avenues of the capital city.

AZERTAC

Brilliant expression of respect and reverence to Martyr's souls

[15:39] 10.11.2020

Following the President, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev's message of the glorious victory, thousands of Baku residents, guests of the city, people from the regions are fleeing to the Alley of Martyrs to pay tribute to the heroic sons of their Motherland who gave their lives in the battles for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the liberation of our lands.

There are people of all ages among those who are visiting this sacred place.

The flags of Azerbaijan and Turkey are waved side by side. The people pay tribute to the immortal souls of the martyrs, honor their memory by laying red carnations on martyrs' graves and chanting slogans in honor of the Victorious Commander-in-Chief and glorious Azerbaijani army.

AZERTAC presents photos from the Alley of Martyrs.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation

[14:56] 10.11.2020

On November 10, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation.

AZERTAC presents the address.

Address of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev

- Dear fellow countrymen.

It is a historic day for our country today. An end is being put to the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict today. I think that the trilateral statement that has just been signed will put a full stop in resolving the issue. The statement has been signed by the President of Azerbaijan, President of Russia and Prime Minister of Armenia. I would like to familiarize you with the text of the statement:

“Statement by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and President of the Russian Federation

We, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan I. H. Aliyev, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N. V. Pashinyan and President of the Russian Federation V. V. Putin, declare the following:

1. A complete ceasefire and a cessation of all hostilities in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict shall be introduced at 00:00 hours Moscow time on 10 November 2020. The Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, shall stop at their current positions.
2. Aghdam district shall be returned to the Republic of Azerbaijan before 20 November 2020.
3. Along the contact line in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Lachin corridor, a peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation shall be deployed in the amount of 1,960 military personnel with small arms, 90 armored personnel carriers, 380 units of automobile and special equipment.
4. The peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation shall be deployed in parallel with the withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces. The period of stay of the peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation is 5 years and shall be automatically extended by further five-year periods if none of the Parties declares six months prior to the expiration of the period of its intention to terminate the application of this provision.
5. In order to increase the effectiveness of control over the implementation of the agreements by the Parties to the conflict, a peacekeeping center shall be deployed to exercise control over the ceasefire.

6. The Republic of Armenia shall return Kalbajar district to the Republic of Azerbaijan before 15 November 2020 and Lachin district before 1 December 2020, while retaining the Lachin corridor (5km wide), which shall provide a connection of Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia and shall not affect the city of Shusha.

By agreement of the Parties, a plan for the construction of a new route along the Lachin corridor shall be determined in the next three years, providing communication between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, with subsequent redeployment of the Russian peacekeeping contingent to protect this route. The Republic of Azerbaijan shall guarantee the safety of citizens, vehicles and goods traveling along the Lachin corridor in both directions.

7. Internally displaced persons and refugees shall return to the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent districts under the control of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

8. The exchange of prisoners of war and other detainees and bodies of the dead shall be carried out.

9. All economic and transport links in the region shall be restored. The Republic of Armenia guarantees the safety of transport links between the western regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in order to organize unhindered movement of citizens, vehicles and goods in both directions. Control over transport shall be exercised by the bodies of the Border Guard Service of the Federal Security Service (FSB) of Russia.

By agreement of the Parties, the construction of new transport communications linking the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic with the western regions of Azerbaijan shall be provided.

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

President of the Russian Federation.”

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Dear fellow countrymen, dear sisters and brothers.

This statement has historic significance. I must say that this statement has been signed in a videoconference format. At the first stage, the heads of the three states were supposed to sign the statement in this videoconference format. However, at the very last moment, the Armenian prime minister refused. This is somewhat understandable because this statement is actually tantamount to Armenian military capitulation. Therefore, this statement was signed by the President of Russia and myself in a videoconference format. This statement has been prepared in Russian. I have put my signature here, this document was submitted to the Russian Ambassador after the signing and the heads of state and government of Russia and Armenia will sign this document afterwards.

I want to say again that this action of Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan is understandable. However, I think that everyone should be held accountable for what they do. Everyone must have some respect for themselves even in the most difficult and critical situations for themselves and

for their country. Pashinyan will sign it anyway. We have forced him to do that. But he will sign it in a closed place, in a locked-up room, far from the cameras, in a cowardly and treacherous manner. He is not signing it of his own free will. He is signing it under pressure from the iron fist!

This statement is our glorious victory. I am glad to be sharing this good news with the people of Azerbaijan today. I think that one of the reasons why this statement has been signed is our brilliant victory, our historic victory, the liberation of Shusha from occupation. Shusha is the crown of Karabakh! The liberation of Shusha has great political and strategic significance, as well as great moral significance. We have returned to Shusha, we have returned Shusha, we will live in Shusha, people will live in all other lands liberated from occupation. People will return to those lands, live there, our people's 30-year longing will come to an end.

I think that the reason for this statement being signed was yet another glorious military victory on 9 November – National Flag Day. Because on 9 November, the Azerbaijani Army liberated 72 settlements from the occupiers. By liberating Shusha, by liberating 72 settlements on 9 November, by liberating about 300 settlements since 27 September, we broke the back of the Armenian army. Pashinyan was forced to sign the statement – in a very pathetic and miserable state. I have signed this statement with great pride and joy because this statement puts an end to the long-standing occupation. This statement allows us the opportunity to return our other occupied regions – Aghdam, Lachin, Kalbajar – without bloodshed. There is a very short deadline, these districts will be returned to us by the end of this month. This is great happiness. I take this opportunity to congratulate the residents of Aghdam, Lachin and Kalbajar districts, all the people of Azerbaijan on this occasion. Every time an occupied district or city was liberated, I congratulated the residents of those cities and districts. I can imagine what it means for them. Some, perhaps many, have lost hope because the issue had not been resolved for many years. Over the past 17 years, I have been in numerous meetings with the IDPs, attended ceremonies to present them with new homes, and I saw that their hopes were diminishing with every passing year. I saw it. I saw it with a sore heart. I saw that some of them had already lost hope. Yes, they expressed their gratitude, of course, we have created good conditions for them and resolved their problems. As you know, the work done for the IDPs in Azerbaijan is not done in any other country. There are IDPs in many countries around the world, but the situation of our IDPs is incomparably better than in other countries. But their main desire has been to return to their native lands, and they asked me, “Mr. President, please return us there”. Every time I met with them, I saw a strong resolve, invincibility, loyalty to the state, but at the same time, I saw grief and longing in their eyes. This is over, my fellow compatriots, may your eyes be clear now, you are going back, we are going back, Azerbaijan is going back! Azerbaijan is restoring its territorial integrity. Could there be a greater happiness?

The IDPs are well aware that we will do our best to help them return to their ancestral lands. We will rebuild these liberated lands. The whole world can see now what the hated enemy has done to these lands. All our buildings have been destroyed, all our historical sites have been destroyed, our museums have been looted, our nature has been severely damaged, our mosques have been destroyed and desecrated. In the half-destroyed mosques in the liberated lands, the savage enemy kept pigs to insult us and hurt our pride. But we took revenge on them with a vengeance. We have avenged the victims of Khojaly, we have avenged our martyrs.

While announcing the liberation of Shusha to my people on 8 November, I said that I bow to the memory of our martyrs. The martyrs of the First and Second Karabakh Wars will forever live in our hearts. May God have mercy on all our martyrs. As a result of their heroism and self-

sacrifice, we will return to our lands. May God heal all our wounded soldiers, may they recover soon and return to normal life, and we will do our best for their recovery. Even our seriously wounded soldiers and officers who are in the most difficult condition should know that we will do our best to bring him back to normality. We all owe this victory to them. They liberated our land from the occupiers piece by piece, they raised our flag in the occupied and liberated lands, they hoisted our flag there. This is a victory for all of us, for all the people of Azerbaijan. The people of Azerbaijan have once again shown what a great nation, what a patriotic nation, what a people with an iron will we are. Thirty years of suffering, 30 years of despair, 30 years of longing did not break our people, did not affect our resolve in a negative way. On the contrary, we have become even more united, even stronger, we said 'enough is enough', we will not tolerate this occupation any longer. We said that we would drive the enemy out of our lands! We are not interested in any negotiations. You know very well that over the past year I did not talk about negotiations at all. I did not want to deceive my people, I have never deceived and I will not deceive it. The Azerbaijani people know this. When I said before the war that I knew what to do and when, I am sure that the vast majority of our people understood what I meant and patiently waited for this day, believed in me as President and Commander-in-Chief, believed and waited, and this day has arrived. Enough, this occupation shall end! How much longer will our cities remain under occupation? How much longer will the hated enemy pollute our nature, walk, eat, drink, dance and insult us in our lands? We said that we would show the enemy its place, drive the enemy out of our lands, and we drove them away!

Historians will tell what happened on 27 September. I think many people know how it all started. The patience of the Azerbaijani people had already run out, and I was telling the Armenian prime minister in recent meetings that he should not play with fire, he should not abuse the patience of the Azerbaijani people. You don't know the people of Azerbaijan well enough, you will find out what we are but it will be too late. Come round, get out of these lands, these lands do not belong to you. But what did they do? In order to conduct illegal settlement there, they brought Armenians from abroad to Shusha in a demonstrative manner, in gross violation of international law, international conventions, including the Geneva Conventions, in order to insult us. It was in Shusha that the leader of the gang who is now looking for a hole to hide, the leader of the junta was sworn-in and the prime minister of Armenia attended. Wasn't that intended to annoy us? Did they think that no-one would hold them to account for that? We did, we put them to their knees, they are on their knees now! There is hardly anyone he didn't call over the past 40 days, begging for help and humiliating himself. We have humiliated him and we were absolutely right. When he danced drunk on Jidir Duzu in the holy city of Shusha, he should have thought that this day would come, he would receive his punishment, hide like a mouse, take this document and sign it crying. We showed him his place, we taught him a lesson. We chased them out of our lands like dogs. I said that we would chase them, that we would chase them like dogs, and we chased them, we chased them like dogs. He is now signing this document out of fear, knowing that we will come to Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachin. No-one can stop us. Everyone sees our strength, everyone understands what our iron fist is like. That is why we have driven them out and are perfectly right in doing that.

We have destroyed almost all of their equipment. We have passed the fortifications they had built for 30 years, our soldiers have passed them like lions. They have crushed the enemy, and were perfectly right to do that because they are on their own land. We abide by international law. We respect international law. We did not take revenge on civilians, we will never take revenge on civilians. In fact, this is why there are very few civilian casualties on the enemy side. What did they do? They could not confront us on the battlefield, fled and then fired on civilians with ballistic

missiles. This is a war crime. They will be held accountable for this war crime. To hit the city of Ganja with ballistic missiles from Armenia is a disgrace, a despicable act, a crime. It is a war crime to shoot Barda with cluster munitions. I said earlier that the city of Tartar is similar to the city of Stalingrad, which was destroyed during World War II. Every day, hundreds of shells landed there. Even though it is not a big city, not a single one left. But the Armenians fled. Their “invincible” army was destroyed, desertion began, the head of the junta in Nagorno-Karabakh ordered that whoever ran away would be held accountable. Did any of us run away? It didn't happen! Not a single person! This is what the people of Azerbaijan are! Civilians lost their homes, their property, their loved ones, but kept saying, “Long live the Motherland”. Go ahead, go forward! The letters to me say, Commander-in-Chief, go forward! We support you, go forward, don't stop, and so I did, I did not stop.

I gave about 30 interviews during this war. I have probably never given so many interviews in my entire life. Some were wondering why Ilham Aliyev does not give interviews. I thought that I had sufficient opportunities to express my position and often expressed my views on all matters. All my activities are transparent and all my meetings are reported on to the public. I didn't think it necessary. But when it was necessary, I gave about 30 interviews and said in those interviews that we respect international law, we defend international law, we defend justice, and we are implementing UN Security Council resolutions. I said that all our steps were based on the norms and principles of international law, were based on morality, and all our steps were taken in this direction. We took our revenge on the enemy, we took it on the occupier. We have not dealt with and will never deal with civilians. There is no major destruction in the cities where the enemy lives and hides because we did not open fire on civilian facilities. That is the difference between us.

I said after the war started that many, almost all politicians involved in this issue were saying that there was no military solution to this conflict. What was I saying? I said there was! I was criticized. People were asking what Ilham Aliyev was saying. They were saying that there is no military solution. I said if there is not, then solve it peacefully. You have these opportunities in your hands. You are a superpower, you have a great reputation, you have great opportunities. What is Armenia compared to you? Can't you influence it? Or don't you want to put pressure on it? No, they said, it is impossible to wage war and the issue must be resolved peacefully. OK, a peaceful solution may be sought for one year, for two years, but for 30 years? How much longer will you try to fool us? However, we have proved that there is a military solution. And I said what I wanted. I said to Pashinyan, make a statement, make a commitment, provide a timetable, provide a schedule. I have been saying this since the first day of the war. Everyone can see it. In my interviews and in my addresses to the nation, I said openly – provide a timetable, provide a schedule, get out, leave, and I will stop. They were asking us from here and there to stop. But why didn't you tell them to stop when they occupied our lands? Why didn't anyone say to Armenia, which has been occupying our land for 30 years, “get out of there!” What is this? Well, we are now relying on our own strength to liberate these lands by giving martyrs and shedding blood. Why are you telling us to stop and not telling them to get out? No-one says that. They tell us to stop. I said I would not stop. No-one can stop me. I said I demand from you, Pashinyan, you personally, not your foreign minister or anyone else – you must make a personal commitment, you must provide a date by which you will get out of our lands. There is that commitment in this statement. We forced him, we compelled him, we made him assume this commitment by beating him up for all his evil deeds, for keeping those pigs in our mosques. He who keeps pigs in our mosques is a pig himself. Now there is an obligation in this document. He will get out of the rest of the occupied lands by 1 December. Therefore, there is a military option. But as I said, I want this military stage to stop so that we could move on to the political stage. What happened? Exactly

what I was saying. That I was saying is coming true today. The military phase is over and we are moving on to the political phase. We have signed a document that favors our interests the most. Pashinyan has signed it. There was no other option. In essence, this is a confession of defeat. This is a military capitulation. In principle, I could ask him to come and sit there, down below, and sign it there. But I am no such person. Why humiliate anyone? He has already humiliated himself. He put himself in this disgraceful situation. He should have thought of today when he put his stomach forward and danced in a drunken state in Jidir Duzu. This is it. No-one can joke with us. No-one can play with the patience of the Azerbaijani people. No-one can insult us. If you do, you will learn a lesson. And we have taught him a lesson.

Therefore, the issue has already been resolved – of course, if Armenia adheres to the ceasefire. I have already given all my orders. I have given my orders to command centers and we will stop. We respect our own signature. The other side must also stop. Because if it doesn't stop, we won't stop either.

International observers know who violated the ceasefire. Who violated it the first time by bombing Ganja with a ballistic missile, who violated the ceasefire the second time less than five minutes after it was declared, and the third time by hitting Barda with cluster missiles. If they breaks it again, I think they will regret it even more. Therefore, we were able to achieve what we wanted. We were able to force the enemy. I actually gave them an ultimatum. I said – you must leave, if you don't, I will go to the end. Until the end! On 8 November, I said in the Alley of Martyrs that I would go to the end and no force could stop me.

We won this victory on the battlefield. About 300 settlements, including Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Zangilan, Gubadli, Shusha, Hadrut, Sugovushan and other settlements were liberated on the battlefield.

These victories forced the enemy to return Aghdam, Lachin and Kalbajar districts to us by political means. But it would be wrong to look for any good intentions of the Armenian side here. They have no idea what good intentions are. They he was simply forced. Because he knew that if he did not sign this document, we would get these lands ourselves. Everyone knew that. I said that I do not want to shed blood. We must stop the war, so get out of our lands! And this is exactly what happened.

I would like to mention one more issue. I have just acquainted my dear people with the text of the document. A new control mechanism is being applied here. The fifth paragraph of the statement reads: “In order to increase the effectiveness of control over the implementation of the agreements reached by the Parties to the conflict, a peacekeeping center shall be deployed.” I can say that Russian and Turkish servicemen will work in this center. Thus, Turkey will officially play a role in the future settlement of the conflict and monitoring the ceasefire.

In my remarks at the signing ceremony in the videoconference format, I praised the efforts of both the President of Turkey, my dear brother Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin. Because they made truly great efforts during these 44-45 days to resolve the issue peacefully. At the same time, I am very glad that these two leaders have already played a positive role in ending the conflict. I think that it also largely determines the format of future cooperation in the region. Because if we look at the history of relations between Turkey and Russia today, I think they are at the highest level. Both countries are friendly and neighboring countries for us. So I think that this format of cooperation can be even more diverse in the future.

Another important issue I would like to emphasize is that a link is being established between the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and the rest of Azerbaijan. The opening of all communications and roads also shows that a new transport and communication infrastructure can and should be created. We have, of course, been very supportive. I can say that this paragraph was included in this statement at my insistence. It has no bearing to the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict but I am glad that my requirement was accepted. Thus, a historic step was taken to connect the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic with Azerbaijan, with the main part of Azerbaijan by land. The hated enemy besieged Nakhchivan in the early 1990s and shortly before. All communication lines were cut off. At that time, energy resources were transferred there from the main part of Azerbaijan. As a matter of fact, the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic was in a very difficult situation. At the same time, there were attacks from the territory of Armenia. I have said many times that it was thanks to the courage and activities of great leader Heydar Aliyev that Nakhchivan was not occupied. Armenian vandals did have such plans.

Therefore, I would like to emphasize this and congratulate the people of Nakhchivan on this occasion. I must say that the people of Nakhchivan, as indeed residents from all other regions, took an active part in the second Karabakh war. Now the war is over, some issues that have not been disclosed will be revealed, and everyone will know that the people of Nakhchivan, along with servicemen from all other regions, have shown great heroism, selflessness, and became martyrs for the liberation of our lands.

I would like to touch upon one more issue. These days we saw the unity of the Azerbaijani people. Our army received support from all our regions. People in all our regions lived these days with great excitement, watched news from the front on TV, radio, on the Internet every day, rejoiced at our successes. We saw this in all our regions. We were further convinced of how wonderful our country and our people are. Representatives of all nationalities and all religious confessions living in our country showed courage fighting the enemy and restored the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. This is our great asset, a great value. I have said this many times. Armenia is deprived of such happiness because it is a mono-ethnic state, no-one lives there except for the Armenians. In Eurasia, in our region, there is no other country like this because no-one can live there. They are expelled, subjected to ethnic cleansing like the Azerbaijanis, or representatives of another nationalities cannot live there. They are being squeezed out, they are being squeezed out, they are being squeezed out. But our advantage lies precisely in this. A multinational and multi-confessional Azerbaijan has asserted itself in this war, representatives of all peoples have displayed true unity and heroism. I want to say again that this war clarified many issues yet again.

I would like to mention one more issue. You probably noticed that this statement contains not a single word about the status of Nagorno-Karabakh! Where are the demands of the Armenian side that Nagorno-Karabakh should be granted independence? When I offered them autonomy, they did not agree, they said no, it is an “independent state”. For many years, they have been living as an “independent state” and must gain independence from Azerbaijan. Not a word, Pashinyan! What happened? What is it, Pashinyan? This will probably remain the talk of the town for many years. What happened, Pashinyan? You were going to pave a road to Jabrayil. You danced. But where is the status? The status went to hell, it failed, it was scattered to smithereens, it is not and will not be there. As long as I am President, there will be no status. Therefore, this document is of great importance. I am sure that the Azerbaijani people, having shown great attention to this document, will read it in detail, with great attention, and they will see how great a political victory we have won. Our military victory plays an exceptional role in achieving this political victory. Of course, the work carried out in our country in recent years, the excellent atmosphere that has

developed, the unity of the people and the government, the achievement of a positive level of political relations, our international authority, our activities in the international arena – all this and, of course, the army building have made our victory possible. These days, I also noticed the following. Even people with different political views, those who are critical of our work and often express unfounded criticism, showed a model of high consciousness during this period. I have always said that there are and should be different views on the political plane, this is normal. There must be opposition, this is also normal. We, as in any democratic country, of course, have all these freedoms. Only one thing should not be there – it is impossible to be in opposition to the state, to the statehood. You can't live with the thought “the worse the government, the state, the better for me”. I can say: these days, I saw that we can all unite in national issues. This is also very important for our future because we all want Azerbaijan to develop and become an even more powerful country. We have demonstrated our strength on the battlefield, on the political plane, in any format. We showed our independence. The day will come, and some issues will probably be revealed that could not be revealed during the war. Perhaps I can also clarify some issues. Then everyone will see what ordeals we had to overcome, how much pressure we came under. We can say that they routinely told us to stop, stop, stop! But we went forward because I felt the support of the people, I saw their confidence in me. Nothing could stop me because I knew we were right. We are restoring our territorial integrity, returning our lands. This war showed the whole world how great the Azerbaijani people are – the unconquered people, the people with iron resolve, the victorious people, our victorious army! We are proud of our people, our army! I am sure that all citizens of Azerbaijan believe that these days and minutes are the happiest in their lives. I am also happy to convey good news and these messages to the Azerbaijani people. I am happy to have signed this historic document. I am happy that we are returning to our homeland, to our native Karabakh, Shusha, which is the crown of Karabakh, and we will always live in these lands! From now on, no-one can move us from these lands!

The expression “Karabakh is Azerbaijan, and exclamation mark” has already become a symbol of our victory. I said it a year ago. I am proud that my statement has already become a national slogan. Today we can say with great pride that Fuzuli is ours, Jabrayil is ours, Zangilan is ours, Gubadli is ours, Aghdam is ours, Lachin is ours, Kalbajar is ours, Shusha is ours, Karabakh is ours, Karabakh is Azerbaijan! Glory to the Azerbaijani people! Long live Azerbaijan!

AZERTAC

Release of the Press Service of the President

[13:26] 10.11.2020

On November 10, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev held a phone conversation with President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The heads of state congratulated each other on Azerbaijan's brilliant victory in the Karabakh war. President Ilham Aliyev once again thanked the President of Turkey and the Turkish people for their political and moral support for Azerbaijan during the war.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed gratitude to the President of Azerbaijan for the high appreciation of his country's support.

The Azerbaijani and Turkish presidents said that the two friendly and brotherly countries and peoples will continue to stand by each other.

During the phone conversation, the sides hailed the establishment of a Turkish-Russian peacekeeping center to monitor the ceasefire and expressed confidence that this center will contribute to ensuring lasting peace in the region.

Mustafa Sentop: Tragic page of history ends with Azerbaijan`s victory in Karabakh

[12:54] 10.11.2020

Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Mustafa Sentop has congratulated Azerbaijan for its recent victories in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

“Azerbaijan`s legitimate right and victory have finally been acknowledged by the enemy. Armenia has had to retreat and surrender from Karabakh which it had occupied and where it had conducted massacres,” Mustafa Sentop said on Twitter.

Sentop also congratulated the Azerbaijan`s army and commemorated the martyrs.

“A tragic page of history has ended with Azerbaijan`s victory in Karabakh.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Russian President Vladimir Putin met in a videoconference format

[06:50] 10.11.2020

On 10 November, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin met in a videoconference format.

According to AZERTAC, Russian President **Vladimir Putin** said:

- Good evening, dear Ilham Heydar oglu.

President Ilham Aliyev: Good evening, Vladimir Vladimirovich.

President Vladimir Putin: Today we are signing a trilateral declaration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation.

I hope very much that the decision set out in our joint statement will not only put an end to the many years of confrontation between Armenia and Azerbaijan, not only put an end to bloodshed on this land, but also create reliable mechanisms to exercise control over the agreements we have reached in our statement today. But most importantly, it will create favorable conditions for a long-term historical future, for the development of relations in the region, first of all, friendly relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia in the interests of both the Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples. Thank you.

President Ilham Aliyev: Thank you, dear Vladimir Vladimirovich. For my part, I would like to say that I am very glad that an end is being put to the long-term conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan today, an end is being put to the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by an agreement on important positions that has taken more than one hour and, in general, more than one day. We have reached a settlement that I believe meets the interests of the peoples of Azerbaijan, Armenia and countries of the region. I must say that the military-political settlement of the conflict we are now seeing will, I am sure, lead to long-term peace and accord in our region and put an end to confrontation and bloodshed.

The Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is one of the longest-running conflicts in our region, in Eurasia, and the fact that it is coming to an end today is a historic event. It is a historic event first of all for the people of Azerbaijan, which are finally getting rid of the many years of occupation. It is also a triumph of the norms and principles of international law, the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, which, unfortunately, remained on paper for a long time.

Vladimir Vladimirovich, I would like to express my gratitude to you for your active participation in the settlement of process in previous years, especially during the hot phase of the conflict. And the fact that the three leaders of the countries are signing this document today speaks volumes of the special role of the Russian Federation in the settlement of this conflict. And I am sure that the role of the Russian Federation in further activities in the region, including the overcoming of the consequences of the conflict and the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia, will also be significant.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, today for his active participation in the political settlement of the conflict. One of the provisions of today's statement is the joint peacekeeping mission of Russia and Turkey. Thus, we are creating a completely new format of interaction in the region not only within the framework of the conflict settlement but also for future development. Because one of the provisions also stipulates the unblocking of all transport communications, which will benefit all countries of the region. Therefore, I sign this document today with a feeling of joy and a sense of pride, and I would like to congratulate the entire Azerbaijani people on this historic event. Thank you.

President Vladimir Putin: I think, as I said, that this will indeed benefit the interests of both the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples. Russia, for its part, will do everything possible to ensure that all the positions reached during the negotiations between the three parties, the statement we are signing today, are implemented. Thank you.

President Ilham Aliyev: Thank you, Vladimir Vladimirovich. Let's move on to signing.

President Vladimir Putin: Yes.

President Ilham Aliyev and President Vladimir Putin signed the statement.

President Vladimir Putin: Thank you, Ilham Heydar oglu.

President Ilham Aliyev: Thank you very much, Vladimir Vladimirovich.

President Vladimir Putin: I wish you all the best. I wish all the people, all peoples living in these territories all the best. I want to express hope that we have done a good deed and created good basic conditions for the progressive development of relations between all countries of this region for the benefit of the people living in these territories, for the benefit of the Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples. Thank you.

President Ilham Aliyev: Thank you again, Vladimir Vladimirovich. Thank you for your personal involvement, and I am sure that what happened today will go down in history as a very important historic date in the history of the peoples of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Thank you again.

President Vladimir Putin: Thank you.

President Ilham Aliyev: All the best.

President Vladimir Putin: Goodbye.

President Ilham Aliyev: Goodbye.

AZERTAC

Statement by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and President of the Russian Federation

[06:22] 10.11.2020

We, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan I. H. Aliyev, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N. V. Pashinyan and President of the Russian Federation V. V. Putin, declare the following:

1. A complete ceasefire and a cessation of all hostilities in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict shall be introduced at 00:00 hours Moscow time on 10 November 2020. The Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, shall stop at their current positions.

2. Aghdam district shall be returned to the Republic of Azerbaijan before 20 November 2020.

3. Along the contact line in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Lachin corridor, a peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation shall be deployed in the amount of 1,960 military personnel with small arms, 90 armored personnel carriers, 380 units of automobile and special equipment.

4. The peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation shall be deployed in parallel with the withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces. The period of stay of the peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation is 5 years and shall be automatically extended by further five-year periods if none of the Parties declares six months prior to the expiration of the period of its intention to terminate the application of this provision.

5. In order to increase the effectiveness of control over the implementation of the agreements by the Parties to the conflict, a peacekeeping center shall be deployed to exercise control over the ceasefire.

6. The Republic of Armenia shall return Kalbajar district to the Republic of Azerbaijan before 15 November 2020 and Lachin district before 1 December 2020, while retaining the Lachin

corridor (5km wide), which shall provide a connection of Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia and shall not affect the city of Shusha.

By agreement of the Parties, a plan for the construction of a new route along the Lachin corridor shall be determined in the next three years, providing communication between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, with subsequent redeployment of the Russian peacekeeping contingent to protect this route. The Republic of Azerbaijan shall guarantee the safety of citizens, vehicles and goods traveling along the Lachin corridor in both directions.

7. Internally displaced persons and refugees shall return to the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent districts under the control of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

8. The exchange of prisoners of war and other detainees and bodies of the dead shall be carried out.

9. All economic and transport links in the region shall be restored. The Republic of Armenia guarantees the safety of transport links between the western regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in order to organize unhindered movement of citizens, vehicles and goods in both directions. Control over transport shall be exercised by the bodies of the Border Guard Service of the Federal Security Service (FSB) of Russia.

By agreement of the Parties, the construction of new transport communications linking the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic with the western regions of Azerbaijan shall be provided.

10 November 2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia

President of the Russian Federation

Release of the Press Service of the President

[04:21] 10.11.2020

On November 10, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a phone call to President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin.

The Azerbaijani President offered his condolences over the downing of a helicopter of the Russian Air Force in the Nakhchivan section of the Azerbaijan-Armenia border.

President Ilham Aliyev offered apology over this tragic accident, saying the helicopter was taken for a helicopter of the Armenian air force in the hours of darkness.

The head of state asked to convey his condolences to the relatives and loved ones of those who were killed, and wished the injured pilot soonest recovery.

President Ilham Aliyev said the Azerbaijani side was ready to pay compensation to the families of the killed and injured pilots.

President Ilham Aliyev told President Vladimir Putin that the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan launched a criminal case into the incident and that an investigation was ongoing. Those guilty would be punished and the Russian side would be informed of this, the head of state said.

President Vladimir Putin thanked President Ilham Aliyev for the telephone call, and said such incidents were unacceptable.

The presidents expressed their confidence that such incidents would not happen in the future.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Russian President Vladimir Putin met in a videoconference format

[06:50] 10.11.2020

On 10 November, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin met in a videoconference format.

According to AZERTAC, Russian President **Vladimir Putin** said:

- Good evening, dear Ilham Heydar oglu.

President Ilham Aliyev: Good evening, Vladimir Vladimirovich.

President Vladimir Putin: Today we are signing a trilateral declaration of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation.

I hope very much that the decision set out in our joint statement will not only put an end to the many years of confrontation between Armenia and Azerbaijan, not only put an end to bloodshed on this land, but also create reliable mechanisms to exercise control over the agreements we have reached in our statement today. But most importantly, it will create favorable conditions for a long-term historical future, for the development of relations in the region, first of all, friendly relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia in the interests of both the Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples. Thank you.

President Ilham Aliyev: Thank you, dear Vladimir Vladimirovich. For my part, I would like to say that I am very glad that an end is being put to the long-term conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan today, an end is being put to the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by an agreement on important positions that has taken more than one hour and, in general, more than one day. We have reached a settlement that I believe meets the interests of the peoples of Azerbaijan, Armenia and countries of the region. I must say that the military-political settlement of the conflict we are now seeing will, I am sure, lead to long-term peace and accord in our region and put an end to confrontation and bloodshed.

The Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is one of the longest-running conflicts in our region, in Eurasia, and the fact that it is coming to an end today is a historic event. It is a historic event first of all for the people of Azerbaijan, which are finally getting rid of the many years of occupation. It is also a triumph of the norms and principles of international law, the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, which, unfortunately, remained on paper for a long time.

Vladimir Vladimirovich, I would like to express my gratitude to you for your active participation in the settlement of process in previous years, especially during the hot phase of the conflict. And the fact that the three leaders of the countries are signing this document today speaks volumes of the special role of the Russian Federation in the settlement of this conflict. And I am sure that the role of the Russian Federation in further activities in the region, including the

overcoming of the consequences of the conflict and the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia, will also be significant.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, today for his active participation in the political settlement of the conflict. One of the provisions of today's statement is the joint peacekeeping mission of Russia and Turkey. Thus, we are creating a completely new format of interaction in the region not only within the framework of the conflict settlement but also for future development. Because one of the provisions also stipulates the unblocking of all transport communications, which will benefit all countries of the region. Therefore, I sign this document today with a feeling of joy and a sense of pride, and I would like to congratulate the entire Azerbaijani people on this historic event. Thank you.

President Vladimir Putin: I think, as I said, that this will indeed benefit the interests of both the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples. Russia, for its part, will do everything possible to ensure that all the positions reached during the negotiations between the three parties, the statement we are signing today, are implemented. Thank you.

President Ilham Aliyev: Thank you, Vladimir Vladimirovich. Let's move on to signing.

President Vladimir Putin: Yes.

President Ilham Aliyev and President Vladimir Putin signed the statement.

President Vladimir Putin: Thank you, Ilham Heydar oglu.

President Ilham Aliyev: Thank you very much, Vladimir Vladimirovich.

President Vladimir Putin: I wish you all the best. I wish all the people, all peoples living in these territories all the best. I want to express hope that we have done a good deed and created good basic conditions for the progressive development of relations between all countries of this region for the benefit of the people living in these territories, for the benefit of the Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples. Thank you.

President Ilham Aliyev: Thank you again, Vladimir Vladimirovich. Thank you for your personal involvement, and I am sure that what happened today will go down in history as a very important historic date in the history of the peoples of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Thank you again.

President Vladimir Putin: Thank you.

President Ilham Aliyev: All the best.

President Vladimir Putin: Goodbye.

President Ilham Aliyev: Goodbye.

President Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation

[06:28] 10.11.2020

On November 10, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation.

AZERTAC

Statement by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and President of the Russian Federation

[06:22] 10.11.2020

We, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan I. H. Aliyev, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N. V. Pashinyan and President of the Russian Federation V. V. Putin, declare the following:

1. A complete ceasefire and a cessation of all hostilities in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict shall be introduced at 00:00 hours Moscow time on 10 November 2020. The Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, shall stop at their current positions.

2. Aghdam district and the territories held by the Armenian Party in Gazakh district of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall be returned to the Azerbaijan Party before 20 November 2020.

3. Along the contact line in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Lachin corridor, a peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation shall be deployed in the amount of 1,960 military personnel with small arms, 90 armored personnel carriers, 380 units of automobile and special equipment.

4. The peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation shall be deployed in parallel with the withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces. The peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation shall be deployed for a period of five years with automatic extension by further five-year periods if none of the Parties declares six months before the expiration of the period of its intention to terminate the application of this provision.

5. In order to increase the effectiveness of control over the implementation of the agreements by the Parties to the conflict, a peacekeeping center shall be deployed to exercise control over the ceasefire.

6. The Republic of Armenia shall return Kalbajar district to the Republic of Azerbaijan before 15 November 2020 and Lachin district before 1 December 2020, while retaining the Lachin

corridor (5km wide), which shall provide a connection of Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia and shall not affect the city of Shusha.

By agreement of the Parties, a plan for the construction of a new route along the Lachin corridor shall be determined in the next three years, providing communication between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, with subsequent redeployment of the Russian peacekeeping contingent to protect this route. The Republic of Azerbaijan shall guarantee the safety of citizens, vehicles and goods traveling along the Lachin corridor in both directions.

7. Internally displaced persons and refugees shall return to the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent districts under the control of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

8. The exchange of prisoners of war and other detainees and bodies of the dead shall be carried out.

9. All economic and transport links in the region shall be unblocked. The Republic of Armenia shall provide for transport communication between the western regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in order to organize unhindered movement of citizens, vehicles and goods in both directions. Control over transport shall be exercised by the bodies of the Border Guard Service of the Federal Security Service (FSB) of Russia.

By agreement of the Parties, the construction of new transport communications linking the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic with the western regions of Azerbaijan shall be provided.

10 November 2020

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The head of state asked to convey his condolences to the relatives and loved ones of those who were killed, and wished the injured pilot soonest recovery.

President Ilham Aliyev said the Azerbaijani side was ready to pay compensation to the families of the killed and injured pilots.

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President Vladimir Putin thanked President Ilham Aliyev for the telephone call, and said such incidents were unacceptable.

The presidents expressed their confidence that such incidents would not happen in the future.

Prosecutor General's Office: Investigation launched into downing of Russian military helicopter

[02:42] 10.11.2020

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan immediately launched an investigation into the shooting down of a Russian Mi-24 military helicopter in the Nakhchivan part of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border on November 9 at 6.30 pm.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the dead crew members and wishes soon healing to the injured.

AZERTAC

November 9

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry makes statement on the downing of Russian military helicopter

[22:57] 09.11.2020

According to information received in the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan from the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, a Mi-24 military helicopter of the Russian Federation was shot down in the Nakhchivan section of the Armenian-Azerbaijan state border on November 9 at 18:30.

According to AZERTAC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made a statement in connection with the incident.

The Ministry said:

“The following should be underlined in this regard:

- the helicopter flew in the close proximity to the Armenian-Azerbaijani state border amid continuing active clashes in the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone;
- the flight took place at a low altitude during hours of darkness, outside the radar observation of the air defense system;
- helicopters of the Russian air force had not been previously sighted in the area;

The duty combat crew decided to open fire in the wake of the aforementioned factors and due to tightened situation in the region amid a high-level combat readiness in connection with the potential provocations of the Armenian side.

The Azerbaijani side offers an apology to the Russian side in connection with this tragic incident, which is an accident and was not directed against the Russian side.

The Azerbaijani side expresses its sincere condolences to the families of the killed crew members and wishes the injured a speedy recovery.

The Azerbaijani side affirms its readiness to pay appropriate compensation."

AZERTAC

Head of Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh appeals to Azerbaijani citizens of Armenian origin

[21:11] 09.11.2020

Head of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan Tural Ganjaliyev has appealed to Azerbaijani citizens of the Armenian origin.

"Dear Azerbaijani citizens of the Armenian origin!

I know that you follow my appeals to you very carefully. This makes me happy. My last appeal was watched by a large of our citizens of Armenian origin. I have received many inspiring messages and appeals from you in this regard. I am very glad that there are many supporters of peace and coexistence among our Armenian residents. Thank you for your kindly attention to me!

It is clear from your appeals to me that, you expect peace to be established soon. Like you, all citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan are waiting for the restoration of our territorial integrity, and peaceful coexistence of both Armenians and Azerbaijanis.

I remember the good old days very well. We have not forgotten the laughter of Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the streets of Shusha and Khankendi. We have not forgotten the old men playing backgammon under the trees, or in the teahouse. We have not forgotten the people walking in the parks, cafes and restaurants, enjoying the fresh mountain air. We have not forgotten the joint participation of both Armenian and Azerbaijani athletes in sports competitions. We have not forgotten the days when we shared each other's joys and sorrows.

I know you have not forgotten either. We will live again as good neighbors. Armenian and Azerbaijani children will go to kindergarten and school together again. The children will be divided into mixed teams and will play football in the neighborhoods.

To live together within the legal system of the Republic of Azerbaijan is the only way to restore those days . Once again, I ask you to stay away from the battlefields! Every human life is precious to us. Do not take up arms against the Azerbaijani soldier who is the guarantor of your future and security. Azerbaijani soldiers are humanists. Just trust them. They will not harm you. The Armed Forces of Azerbaijan is ready to provide the necessary humanitarian and medical support to civilians. If you have children serving in the army, withdraw them.

Let's try to end this conflict as soon as possible, with minimal losses, and let's try to establish peace. Then, we - the Armenian and Azerbaijani residents of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, will soon be able to live together in peace, as we did in the past. I assure you that both the Gazanchi Church and other cultural monuments in Shusha will be restored.

As noted by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev, we have nothing against the Armenian people. This war is being waged against the corrupt military-political leadership of Armenia and against the so-called criminal junta, which you also suffer from."

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Victorious Azerbaijani Army liberated 48 more villages, 1 settlement and 8 strategic hills from occupation

[20:44] 09.11.2020

“The victorious Azerbaijani Army has liberated from occupation Mets Taghlar, Salakatin, Zoghalbulag, Aragul, Taghavard, Boyuk Taghavard, Zardanashen, Shahar villages of Khojavand, Shushakand, Mukhtar, Dashalti villages of Khojaly, Ashađi Guzdak, Govshatli, Mirzajamalli, Shakarjik, Mardinli, Shikhli, Garamammadli, Dovlatyarli, Hajili, Huseynbayli, Sarajig villages of Fuzuli, Sobu, Garagoz, Isgandarbayli villages, Bartaz settlement, Bartaz strategic hill (2300 metres), Sighirt hill (1370 metres), Shukurataz hill (2000 metres) and 5 more nameless hills of Zangilan, Galajig, Mollahasanli, Asgarkhanli, Yukhari Nusus, Ashig Malikli, Niftalilar, Garar, Chalabilar villages of Jabrayil, Garamanli, Khandak, Hamzali, Mahrizli, Hal, Balligaya, Ulashli, Tinli, Khojahan, Boyunakar, Garagoyunlu, Charali villages of Gubadli, Gulaburd, Safiyan, Turklar villages of Lachin. Glory to the Azerbaijani Army! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” President, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev said in a post on his Twitter account.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Enemy's "OSA" anti-aircraft missile system was destroyed in the Khojavend direction of the front

[20:53] 09.11.2020

"On November 9, the enemy's "OSA" anti-aircraft missile system, which was placed at the firing point in the Khojavend direction of the front, was destroyed by the precise fire of our units," Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said in a statement.

AZERTAC

President: We will invite international experts to evaluate the damage caused by Armenia to Azerbaijan

[18:55] 09.11.2020

"First we will need to evaluate the damage caused by Armenian state against Azerbaijan and against the property of our citizens. Because in the liberated territories almost everything is destroyed,"

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has told the BBC News in an interview.

"I said many times that in the big city of Fuzuli, where ten thousands of people live we could not find any building in order to put a flag on. So, we raised it on a derrick. Therefore, first, we will evaluate the damage, we will invite international experts in order to evaluate the damage which was caused to our ecology, to our infrastructure, to our civilians who lost their houses and to our state, to our historical heritage, because all the mosques were destroyed, all the museums were destroyed. This is first. And after that, of course, there will be lawsuits, lawsuits against Armenian state, and we are already preparing for that. Second, we will need to create at least initial conditions for people to live there. We need to provide construction materials we need to invest in infrastructure," he said.

AZERTAC

Video footage from liberated Shusha city

[17:35] 09.11.2020

The Ministry of Defense has released a video footage from liberated Shusha city.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Magnitude and scale of destruction in deoccupied lands of Azerbaijan by Armenia even unimaginable

[17:13] 09.11.2020

"It is even unimaginable to see the magnitude and scale of destruction in deoccupied lands of Azerbaijan by Armenia for 30 years," Assistant of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

"Even very single brick and stone was looted. Soon such destruction of Armenia will be changed for construction and building better future for returned IDPs," he said.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Nobody is asking Pashinyan why he hits with ballistic missiles Ganja

[16:17] 09.11.2020

"The city of Khankandi was full of military objects. The city of Shusha was full of military objects. We do not attack civilians unlike them. They attacked Ganja with ballistic missiles, deliberately destroying the civilian compound," President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has told the BBC News in an interview.

"We closely watch the western media and during these 40 days I had maybe almost 30 interviews. All of them were very aggressive and as if it was not an interview, as if it was a kind of accusation. Nothing is happening on Armenian side? Nobody is asking Pashinyan why he hits with ballistic missile Ganja."

"Why he killed 92 people, why they attack funeral in Tartar, why they use Smerch with cluster bombs to attack Barda, killing 21 persons, and injuring 70. No one asks him, where does he get weapons? Only attack on us. Only demonizing Azerbaijan from international media," he said.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Victorious Azerbaijani Army liberated 23 more villages from occupation

[14:36] 09.11.2020

“The victorious Azerbaijani Army has liberated Qobu Dilagharda, Yal Pirahmadli, Yukhari Yaghlivand, Dilagharda, Seyid Mahmudlu, Alasgarli villages of Fuzuli, Damirchilar, Chanagchi, Madatkand, Sighnag villages of Khojaly, Susanlig, Domi, Tugh, Akaku, Azikh villages of Khojavand, Huseynalilar, Soyudlu, Ashaghi Sirik villages of Jabrayil, Yukhari Mollu, Ashaghi Mollu, Khojik villages of Gubadli, Kechikli and Ordakli villages of Zangilan from occupation. Glory to the Azerbaijani Army! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” President, Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev said in a post on his Twitter account.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani President: Armenia is making a big mistake, because if they listened to us from the very beginning the war would have stopped long time ago

[14:16] 09.11.2020

"Our position was very clear from the very beginning. We are ready, and are still ready to stop any time when Armenian side will commit itself to the liberation of the occupied territories. I am saying this from the very beginning of the war that if Armenian prime minister publicly will make a commitment that they will liberate the occupied territories we will stop. But so far it's already forty days and there is no sign of him to say this," said President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev as he was interviewed by the BBC News.

"We will fight until the end if Armenia does not make a commitment that they will withdraw from occupied territories. I think Armenia is making a big mistake, because if they listened to us from the very beginning the war would have stopped long time ago, and we would have been already on the negotiation table," he said.

AZERTAC

Bernama highlights liberation of Shusha

[13:34] 09.11.2020

Malaysian news agency Bernama has posted an article highlighting President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev` announcement that Azerbaijan`s ancient city of Shusha has been liberated from occupation.

“Shusha, which was under occupation for twenty-eight and a half years, has been liberated! Shusha is free now! We have returned to Shusha! We have won this historic victory on the battlefield. 8 November 2020 will forever remain in the history of Azerbaijan. This history will live forever,” said Azerbaijan`s president,in his address to the nation, the agency reported.

"President Aliyev also said that the victory is won on the battlefield and not at the negotiating table."

"I have said many times that, despite all the statements, there are military solutions to this conflict, the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and we are proving it on the battlefield today. Nearly 30 years of meaningless negotiations did not bring us any closer to the result.

“Our ancient historical lands had been under occupation for almost 30 years. In the process of negotiations, the Armenian side simply wanted to gain time, strengthen the status quo and perpetuate it. Over the years, signals sent to Azerbaijan from various power centres were repeatedly urging us to put up with the situation. However, showing determination, courage and political will, we did not go for any agreement that did not meet the interests of the Azerbaijani people," Bernama quoted the Azerbaijani head of state as saying

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by BBC News

[12:56] 09.11.2020

On November 6, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by BBC News.

AZERTAC presents the interview.

-President Aliyev, thank you for your time for speaking to us on BBC News. Do you intent to fight for every square inch of Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding seven territories?

-Our position was very clear from the very beginning. We are ready, and are still ready to stop any time when Armenian side will commit itself to the liberation of the occupied territories. I am saying this from the very beginning of the war that if Armenian prime minister publicly will make a commitment that they will liberate the occupied territories we will stop. But so far it's already forty days and there is no sign of him to say this.

-So, that means you will be fighting to the finish.

-We will fight until the end if Armenia does not make a commitment that they will withdraw from occupied territories. I think Armenia is making a big mistake, because if they listened to us from the very beginning the war would have stopped long time ago, and we would have been already on the negotiation table.

-But with respect Mr. President, you are delivering an ultimatum. You are saying they have to agree to give up all of this territory, and then there can be talks. That's a very big precondition for talks.

-No, not exactly, because what I am saying is based on the basic principles and the basic principles are very clear with respect to the liberation of the territories surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh. It is a very clear message to Armenia and unfortunately, Armenia did not agree to the basic principles which have been elaborated by the Minsk Group co-chairs and the previous Armenian leadership. These basic principles say that in the first stage they have to liberate five occupied territories, at the second stage-two. But four out of the five have already been liberated. Therefore, if they do it when they will liberate part of Aghdam, when they will liberate Kalbajar and Lachin, we will stop.

-So, just to be clear, President, because these locations are not familiar to our international audience. Are you saying that if the Armenian leadership agrees to vacate the territories outside of Nagorno-Karabakh you will stop, you will not fight on?

-Exactly. That is the position which I articulated many times, at the same time, this is not the whole issues on the negotiation table. Of course, after that we will work on the return of Azerbaijani refugees to Nagorno-Karabakh. Because before the war in 1990s, there have been 40 thousand Azerbaijanis living in Nagorno-Karabakh, and the percentage of Azerbaijani population

was 25%. So, they expelled them all, and after that, committed ethnic cleansing, and then, announced independence.

-But the fear is, that if you take control of Nagorno-Karabakh by force, that you may do exactly the same. There are very strong fears being expressed by Armenia that there will be ethnic cleansing of their people.

-These are groundless accusations. First, if Armenia is really concerned about that, why they do not agree to the basic principles? Because if the basic principles are confirmed, and Armenia will make a commitment which I already demand from them for many times, then everything will stop.

-So, you are not asking them to withdraw from Nagorno-Karabakh. You are asking only for the territories alongside.

-We ask and we demand the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions which were adopted back in 1993, which demanded immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories. With respect to the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, they will continue to live there. They are our citizens, and I on many occasions expressed this position.

-Well, with respect President Aliyev, you are saying that the Armenians will consider to live there as your citizens. You have very recently said and I am quoting you here: "If they do not leave we will chase them like dogs." Now, that's hardly the kind of statement that would make people feel safe.

-No. Please be accurate with my statements. What I said, I meant those who continue to occupy our territories, I meant Armenian military-political leadership, I meant the so-called "authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh", this criminal junta which has already, by the way, run away. And I got information that the so-called "leader of Nagorno-Karabakh" is already in Yerevan. So, I meant them, I didn't mean Armenian people.

-So, are you saying that you will give an absolute guarantee that there will be no ethnic cleansing of Armenian citizens in Nagorno-Karabakh?

-Yes. We are not Armenians. They committed ethnic cleansing against us. They expelled all Azerbaijanis from Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts. Thus, we have one million refugees as a result of the ethnic cleansing policy of Armenia. But we will not behave the same way, we will not take revenge. I said many times even when they bombed Ganja, when they bombed Barda, when they bombed other cities and killed 92 people, civilians, I said we will take revenge on the battlefield. Therefore, taking into account, this official position and the fact that there are thousands of Armenians who live in Azerbaijan, and nobody is ethnically cleansing them, why should we do it there?

-Well, with regard to the Armenians who are living here in Azerbaijan, we have been told that many live in fear that they change their surnames, because they do not want to be identified openly as Armenians. So, how can Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh have confidence that they will be safe?

-No. This is wrong information.

-Well, it's coming from people who are here.

-Well, maybe somebody got married and changed the name that's a usual practice here. But no. There are many Armenians who live here and we know that they are Armenians. And by the way, I can tell you, not many people know that the sister of the former Armenian defense minister Arutunyan lives in Azerbaijan. If you would like we can organize the meeting with her. Therefore, this is not actually fear, this is Armenian propaganda.

-But, if this is a propaganda President Aliyev, there is clearly propaganda on both sides. There is institutionalized messaging against the Armenians which takes place here as part of the state dialogue. People have been primed to have hatred for the other side. Are you actually expecting them to be able to co-exist?

-Why they can co-exist in other parts of the world? Do you know that there are villages in the neighboring Georgia, where Armenians and Azerbaijanis live together in the same village? They live together in Russia, they live together in Ukraine, they live together in Azerbaijan, in many other parts of the world. And if you observe the situation in the world now, apart from some pro-Armenian rallies in the West, the situation between Armenians and Azerbaijanis is very calm and quiet. Why can they live there and cannot live here?

-Do you honestly expect a single Armenian to stay and remain in Nagorno-Karabakh, if you take control, and live under the rule of Azerbaijan?

-I think it is possible, because I, as a President, say today and said many times that we want to live side by side. And if we did not want to live side by side why should I say that? Today, as you know, Azerbaijani Army is winning the battle. Today, we liberate one city after another, one village after another. And in principle, anyone in Azerbaijan can say, look, they committed a genocide in Khojaly, they expelled Azerbaijanis from their native lands, they destroyed all our cities and villages.

-Armenians, of course, also claim that they were expelled, and they were the victims of massacres over the years?

-From where have they been expelled? From where? They have not been expelled. We did not commit ethnic cleansing against Armenians. No. Armenians live in Azerbaijan. They expelled us not only from Nagorno-Karabakh, but from seven districts on the administrative border of Nagorno-Karabakh where Armenian population have never lived. They changed the names of the cities, of the villages.

-Well talking about religion President Aliyev, we have had an attack in Armenia. A church, a cathedral attacked.

-That was not in Armenia.

-We have had an attack in Nagorno-Karabakh, I beg your pardon, a church which was shelled twice on the same day. Now, you have said that possibly it was a mistake, you have said you will carry out an investigation. What's the result of the investigation?

-In order to investigate it, we have to be there to investigate. I said many times, either it was a mistake of our artillery or it was a deliberate provocation by Armenians themselves.

-So, they shelled their own church?

-Exactly.

-They, of course, deny this.

-Of course, they deny, they deny everything. They denied that they hit Ganja with ballistic missiles from the territory of Armenia. Armenian prime minister said that it is false information. Though your country, United States, France, Russia can easily detect from where the ballistic missile was launched.

-But with regards to the church...

-With regards to the church, I said, either it was a mistake or they did it deliberately, because the images of that church which I have seen, show that it is a very minor damage. And this damage can be repaired within maximum two weeks. This is first. Second, you are here in Baku, probably you have seen Armenian church in the city center which we restored and we keep thousands of Armenian books. If we are destroying churches as Armenians say, why didn't we destroy it here in Baku?

-But can you say categorically that your forces did not attack the church?

-I say categorically that many times, either it was a mistake or...

-So, you may have done it.

-Who you? Who do you mean by saying you?

-Your forces may have done it.

-It could have been by mistake only. Because there was no military target. Church was not among the military targets. We had military targets in Stepanakert, which is the city called Khankandi in Azerbaijani. We had military targets in Shusha and we hit those military targets because they attacked us. So, probably that was a mistake.

-But could you have made a mistake twice in the same day? It was hit twice?

-Why not? Have you seen the images of Azerbaijani mosques on the occupied territories? They are all destroyed. They keep pigs in our mosques. And the recent video footage of mosque in Zangilan which was liberated show that they kept pigs there.

-But you have made a point, President Aliyev, of talking about the military superiority of your army. You have a 100 thousand men. You have the most sophisticated weapons that can be bought from Israel, from Turkey, particularly the Turkish drones. So, with all of that expertise at your disposal, could there be two mistaken episodes of shelling a church?

-Absolutely, there could be. Because we need to be there in order to investigate. And when we will be there we will repair it. We will restore it. You will see. When we go back to Shusha we will restore it.

-But doesn't that mean if these weapons can be so precise and mistakes can be made so easily that you shouldn't be using them in civilian areas.

-We are not using in civilian areas. We are using them in order to destroy military infrastructure.

-With respect, President Aliyev...

-The city of Khankandi was full of military objects. The city of Shusha was full of military objects. We do not attack civilians unlike them. They attacked Ganja with ballistic missiles, deliberately destroying the civilian compound.

-Well, let me tell you President Aliyev, for our own BBC colleagues have seen that this is not hearsay, this is what was filmed, this was what experienced by BBC colleagues. They were in Stepanakert, in Nagorno-Karabakh on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of October. They witnessed random shelling of the town, including at an Emergency Service Center, an apartment block destroyed. As people tried to flee there was a drone overhead. Shortly afterwards more shelling nearby. They characterized it as indiscriminate shelling of a town without clear military targets. Now this is not hearsay, this was witnessed and filmed by the BBC.

-I doubt this witnessing. I doubt it.

-Well, they were there President Aliyev.

-So what, they were there. It doesn't mean anything. That can be fake news. We had military...

-And why would that be fake news? Why would any journalist go in there to sight to broadcast fake news?

-Because of the biased approach to the conflict. Because of this black propaganda against Azerbaijan in international media.

-So you cannot be guilty of any wrong. Everything is false news.

-Absolutely. It is false news. We closely watch the western media and during these 40 days I had maybe almost 30 interviews. All of them were very aggressive and as if it was not an interview, as if it was a kind of accusation. Nothing is happening on Armenian side? Nobody is asking Pashinyan why he hits with ballistic missile Ganja. Why he killed 92 people, why they attack funeral in Tartar, why they use Smerch with cluster bombs to attack Barda, killing 21 persons, and injuring 70. No one asks him, where does he get weapons? Only attack on us. Only demonizing Azerbaijan from international media. So, that's why what BBC, your colleagues, so-called witnessed there, I do not believe that.

-Well, in fact, they filmed it President Aliyev. But of course, it is important to say that there has been killing of civilians on both sides. There has been an indiscriminate shelling on both sides. We have witnessed here ourselves the aftermath of the attack in Ganja and which ballistic missile was used. So there is no doubt that there have been casualties on this side as well.

-Thank you for that.

-But equally, when you mention cluster munitions there is evidence that you have used cluster munitions in civilian areas, in the streets of Stepanakert, documented extensively by Human Rights Watch, photographs, videos, testimony from witnesses and they actually had the opportunity to go to the scene. Now why are you using cluster munitions which can be so imprecise in a civilian area?

-We are not using them. This is another fake news. It is Armenia who uses the cluster bombs.

-So everything is fake news.

-Of course. Why not? We are facing this fake news for decades. Do you know how many fake news were published in the British press about Azerbaijan? Thousands.

-But you admit President Aliyev you are fighting a war. You are making advances. But then you are telling us on the other hand you are not using these weapons.

-No, we are not, because we are fighting on the battlefield. We are fighting against Armenian army. We are not fighting against civilians. No sense in that, because our task is to liberate the territories. And we liberate one village, one city after another. And we do not use cluster bombs. We don't need it. We have enough other...

-So, the evidence uncovered by Human Rights Watch is fake also.

-Of course, because Human Rights Watch due to very biased approach to Azerbaijan, due to the fact they did not notice any wrong doing in Armenia even when journalists are dying in prison, even when main opposition leader is in prison. They don't report on that. Only against us. Therefore, we stopped cooperation with Human Rights Watch some 5-6 years ago and only now, when this war started, we invited them to come and see, because we wanted them to testify, because there was no way for them to say no. That's why we invited them. So, this organization is not credible in Azerbaijan.

-May I ask President Aliyev how many civilians have been killed on this side now? What is the death toll?

-92 civilians were killed, 405 were wounded, almost 3000 houses either demolished or seriously damaged by Pashinyan regime. So, this is the fact. And you can verify it, when you go there and see.

-We would like to be able to see the frontline for ourselves and during our last trip here we were prevented from travelling independently. Can you give us an assurance that we would be able to go there this time?

-Yes, I think it is possible, but the security measures must be taken in order to protect you. But I think it is possible. It is regulated by the general situation, by the martial law in Azerbaijan. Therefore, it must be in line with these temporary regulations.

-So we can't have free movement at the frontline.

What do you mean, on frontline? Going where the battle is?

-Yes.

There have been journalists there. There have been from...

-But not moving independently.

-What do you mean by saying, "independently"?

-Moving independently without minders from the government. Moving at their own discretion, which is what we do in other conflicts. We decide where we wish to go. We make our own choices we go there, we film.

-I am not sure about that. I think that must be checked with our authorities whether there is a possibility or not. Any company which foreign journalists have, only have one purpose, to protect them and to advise them where they can go and where they cannot go. But there is nothing to hide. You can see our destroyed villages. You have been to Ganja, probably you could go to Barda also. Therefore, we have nothing to hide. We are fighting on our own land. Armenian army is on our land. They are aggressors. We have been the victims of aggression, but today we pay back. Today we show them their place, and we will move them until the end, as I said, if they do not liberate voluntarily the remaining part of the territories.

-That sounds like a very chilling message to Armenian civilians.

-No. Why? We already talked about Armenian civilians. We have nothing wrong in communications with them. I said many times and I think what I say. I keep the words that after we liberate the territory from this criminal gangs which occupied our territory, Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh will live much better. They will have more salaries, because the salaries in Azerbaijan is higher. More pensions, because pensions in Azerbaijan is three times higher than in Armenia. They will have all the social protection. We will invest in those areas largely. They will get rid of poverty.

-Will they have the full range of human rights which people here in Azerbaijan do not have? Will they have a fully free media? Will they have an opposition that's allowed to raise its voice. Will they be allowed to have the things that people here in Azerbaijan do not have?

-You think they do not have it? Why do you think that people in Azerbaijan do not have free media and opposition?

-Because this is what I am told by independent sources in this country.

-Which independent sources?

-Many independent sources.

-Tell me which.

-I certainly couldn't name sources.

-Oh, if you couldn't name that means you are just inventing the stories.

-So, you are saying that the media is not under a state control.

-Not at all.

-And there is a vibrant free opposition media.

-Of Course.

-Where do I see this?

-You can see it on internet. You can see it everywhere.

- But not in newspapers.

-Why? You can see it in newspapers. Whom do you call opposition here? Can I ask you?

-Well, is there allowed to be an opposition here?

-Yes, it is allowed of course.

-I mean NGOs are the subject of the crackdown, journalists are the subject of the crackdown.

-Not at all.

-Critics are in jail.

-No, not at all.

-None of this is true.

-Absolutely fake, absolutely. We have free media, we have free internet. Now, due to the martial law we have some restrictions but before there have been no restrictions. The number of internet users in Azerbaijan is more than 80 percent. Can you imagine the restriction of media in a country where internet is free, there is no censorship, and there are 80 percent of internet users? We have millions of people on Facebook. How can you say that we don't have free media. This is again, a biased approach. This is an attempt to create a perception in Western audience about Azerbaijan. We have opposition, we have NGOs, we have free political activity, we have free media, we have freedom of speech. But if you raise this question, can I ask you also one? How do you assess what happened to Mr Assange? Isn't it the reflection of free media in your country?

-We are not here to discuss my country.

-No, let's discuss. Let's discuss.

-No, President Aliyev.

-In order to accuse me saying that Armenians will not have free media here, let's talk about Assange. How many years, sorry, how many years he spent in Ecuadorian embassy and for what? And where is he now? For journalistic activity you kept that person hostage actually killing him morally and physically. You did it, not us. And now he is in prison. So you have no moral right to talk about free media when you do these things.

-Returning to the conflict...

-Yes, better return to the conflict, because this is not what you like. You like only to accuse, only to attack. But look at the mirror. I told many times. Before coming and lecturing us and in your question accusing me. It's not a question, it's an accusation. You talk like a prosecutor. Why? If you are so democratic and so objective why do you keep Assange in prison? For what? You keep him in prison because of his journalistic activity.

-I am not keeping him in prison President Aliyev.

-You don't like this.

-It's not a question you don't like this.

- You are not used to this.

-It is not the subject of our interview.

-Because you are used only to attack.

-It is not the subject of our interview.

It is not the subject of your interview, but you raise it.

-You raised it.

-No. You raised it.

-You raised the case of Assange.

-You said if you don't have a free media in your country how Armenians can live without opposition? That was your accusation.

-You have answered the question President Aliyev. Could I ask you going back to the conflict? As you say, forty days and counting. How long do you expect this to continue? Is this going to be a battle through the winter?

-Nobody knows. Again, coming back to the beginning of our conversation, if Pashinyan tells today that yes, I accept basic principles and I will liberate part of Aghdam, Kalbajar, and Lachin in one week, or in two weeks, we will stop immediately.

-But he doesn't need to give you a guarantee for liberating the rest of Nagorno-Karabakh. You are speaking about the territories on the outside. I just want to be very clear to understand your position.

-Yes, that's the basic principles. On the basic principles we have very clear picture. Liberation of seven districts, then return of Azerbaijani IDPs, then return of Azerbaijani people, refugees to Nagorno-Karabakh.

-So he has to give you Nagorno-Karabakh also.

-He has to allow Azerbaijanis to go back there. To go back to Shusha.

-So you don't need to be in control of Nagorno-Karabakh.

-Well, what do you mean by the "control"?

-Do you need to take physical control of Nagorno-Karabakh and remove the Nagorno-Karabakh defense forces, remove any Armenian official presence or are you saying that you will be satisfied if your civilians are allowed to return?

-In the basic principles which Armenia did not accept, and actually they are not valid because Armenia did not accept them, in the basic principles there is a provision that Azerbaijanis will return there and they will be living there in peace, in security, with security guarantees. We did not go too far in negotiation process in order to specify what kind of governance will be there. Our position is there must be a certain level of self-governance, like municipal governance or cultural autonomy for Armenians. But we didn't go too far. And if Pashinyan did what I ask from the very beginning, when we liberated Fuzuli, then the war would have stopped, and we would have talked now about how to move on the negotiation table. But he doesn't make this commitment. Therefore, if it continues like that we will continue. There is no other way. We will go until the end before we restore the territorial integrity of the country, which is recognized by the whole world.

-So, President Aliyev, you have made significant advances already and taking territory alongside Nagorno-Karabakh. How soon do you plan to start sending your civilians back?

-First we will need to evaluate the damage caused by Armenian state against Azerbaijan and against the property of our citizens. Because in the liberated territories almost everything is destroyed. I said many times that in the big city of Fuzuli, where ten thousands of people live we could not find any building in order to put a flag on. So, we raised it on a derrick. Therefore, first, we will evaluate the damage, we will invite international experts in order to evaluate the damage which was caused to our ecology, to our infrastructure, to our civilians who lost their houses and to our state, to our historical heritage, because all the mosques were destroyed, all the museums were destroyed. This is first. And after that, of course, there will be lawsuits, lawsuits against Armenian state, and we are already preparing for that. Second, we will need to create at least initial conditions for people to live there. We need to provide construction materials we need to invest in infrastructure.

-So, do you think, it is a matter of years realistically?

-You know, we have already resettled 300 thousand refugees and IDPs during all these times of occupation. And the last years were the most impressive, because only this year we are resettling seven thousand families of refugees. So, we can, I think manage to resettle from 7 to 10 thousand families a year, but of course, for that we need to have infrastructure. We do it in Baku where everything is ready. But in those areas where everything is destroyed we need power stations, we need roads we need water supply. So, all that will take time. I don't know how long it will take but we will try to do everything to do it in a maximum shortest period.

-One or two final quick questions President Aliyev, if I may?

You have huge support from Turkey which is a very strong ally of Azerbaijan. How often do you speak to President Erdogan?

-Very often, especially now several times a week.

-And daily?

-Not daily, but if necessary, may be several times a day. We are brothers, we are friends, and you say huge support, you are right, but I want to specify, this is a political support and moral support. Nothing more than that.

-Are there Turkish pilots here, piloting the drones that are being used?

-No. no.

-So they are being used by your forces?

-Yes. Everything is used by our forces, not only Turkish drones, but Israeli drones and Russian military equipment and military equipment from other countries which we purchase and which we pay for, unlike Armenia which gets it free of charge. Everything is done by us.

-Do you foresee a day when you might want Turkish direct military involvement? We have seen that Armenia has already gone to Russia, and said 'what are you prepared to do?' Do you see a day when you would be asking Turkey to become more involved?

-I don't want to look to far ahead, because it will depend on the situation on the battlefield. It will depend on Armenia's behavior, and on other countries' behavior. Because on many occasions I said that we are against internationalization of the conflict, we asked all the countries, neighboring countries, and not neighboring countries to stay away from this conflict. We are fighting on our land, internationally recognized. So, this is our position. And I think that what is happening now will continue. So there will be no need for any kind of military involvement of Turkey. But, with Turkey, many years ago, we signed the document which provides also military support in case of aggression. So, with Turkey we have more or less the same format legal basis like Armenia and Russia has. So, if Azerbaijan will face an aggression and if Azerbaijan will see that the Turkish military support is needed, then we will consider this option.

-I'm going to beg your assistance just for two more questions, President Aliyev, if I may.

What would you say to those who argue and I'm sure you've heard this argument being made that one of the reasons why the conflict has reignited now and why you are pursuing such a strong advance is because of this very strong backing from Turkey that this really has been the clincher for you.

-No, not at all. And by the way, where is this Turkish military involvement? Who can verify that, who have seen any Turkish soldiers.

-Not involvement on the ground, but the strong political support the constant statements, the very strong backing from a very strong regional power. Has that not been a factor in this?

-Yes. This is a factor, but this factor became very important after the conflict started. Because if you follow the chronology of the conflict, so, this statement started hours after Armenia attacked us and we pushed back. But Turkish political support to Azerbaijan has always been here. It is not just like it happened all of a sudden. It has always been like that. Why the conflict started? I can tell you, because Armenia wanted to disrupt negotiations. They launched an attack on us on 12 July, on the state border, and they entered our territory, we had to push back. And that clash lasted four days. And we stopped after we pushed them back from Azerbaijan and we did not cross the state border. Then in the middle of August, they sent a sabotage group, which crossed the line of contact, and the head of that group was detained, he confessed that they were planning terror acts against civilians. And then they started to shell our cities on the 27th of September, and we had the first victims in the early hours, maybe early minutes among civilians and among our military servicemen. They shelled us with heavy artillery. So, that's how it started. Why it started?

-President, forgive me, because I know you wish to tell us the history. You mentioned the loss of military servicemen. Why is it that you are not releasing figures for your military losses are you concerned that support might wane if people knew how many young men are being killed in this war?

No, not at all. First, we don't have many. If you how to say, look at the scale of the war, and the fact that we had to break those engineering constructions and all those positions which Armenians built for 30 years our losses are minimal losses. Of course, we cannot talk like that because every life of the human being is priceless. But we have much less losses than Armenians because our military capability is much better. And we have modern weapons which allow us to have minimum losses particularly those drones. Because without those drones all those tanks and guns would have killed so many people. So, it is not a reason because we think we will not have public support. On the contrary, those people who live there, close relatives, their sons, their brothers, they ask us not to stop. Can you imagine? I receive thousands of letters every day, thousands of letters, and in no one of those letters I saw that, stop. No. They say, I lost my son, I lost my brother, I lost my husband. Please go until the end. Please go until the end. Because our people have lived in this situation for almost thirty years.

-But that almost sounds President Aliyev like you have nowhere out of this war like you must fight to recover every last inch.

-Yes, that's what I am saying. But at the same time, I said from the very beginning that if Pashinyan, him personally, not his foreign minister, him personally, says Armenia withdraws its troops from Aghdam, from Kalbajar, from Lachin, the three remaining regions which they have to liberate and give us a timetable, we will stop immediately. We don't want to continue this war. We don't want. We want to stop, and what I am saying now I was saying from the very beginning and people who know me, they know that I am a person of my word. What I say, I do. If Pashinyan tells that today, I promise you that we will stop immediately, but he doesn't do it. He doesn't do it. He wants to regain back. He wants to use these ceasefire opportunities to regroup his forces, to mobilize more people. He is now as you said sent a letter to President Putin for military assistance. Thus, admitting his defeat, and if he admits his defeat why he cannot say that he will liberate the territories. These territories do not belong to Armenia. These are our lands. They have to give them back to us. If they don't do it, as I said, we will go until the end. No way to stop.

-Do you know how many civilians have been killed inside Nagorno-Karabakh by the activities of your forces?

-No, we don't know. We heard the official information from Armenian defense ministry. We do not believe this official information.

-They say 45 civilians.

-Yes. I know. 45 or 47. We don't know. I cannot say anything which I don't know. But I think that it is much exaggerated, because we did not attack their villages, we did not attack their cities. We only attacked

-With respect, President Aliyev, there is a documentary, evidence of attacks on their villages and on their cities.

-I did not finish yet. We attacked Khankandi, because Khankandi was full of military installations. So, we had to destroy them.

-Civilian houses have been destroyed.

-It happens sometimes during the war. It happens. We are not so accurate you know, if their artillery is just next to the house. It is not like Ganja when they hit deliberately by ballistic missiles the civilian compounds where there was no in the radius of maybe 20-30 km a military object.

-But are you troubled by reports of civilian loss of life?

-Yes, of course. I regret. I regret that it happened, and I express condolences to all those who lost their relatives. I mean civilians in Nagorno-Karabakh. But again, taking into account the scope of conflict, again saying that every life of the person is priceless, still, their losses are very low.

-And this shows that we are not fighting against civilians. Do you know how many civilians they killed during the war of the 90s? Thousands. Thousands.

-There are concerns...

-The Khojaly genocide. They killed 613 innocent people among them 63 children and 106 women only because they were Azerbaijanis. The Khojaly genocide is a well-known documented fact.

-Do you accept that there is a danger now of a humanitarian catastrophe this winter in Nagorno-Karabakh? You are closing in. You could be in a position soon to besiege the area. What is going to be the fate of the civilians inside?

-That's the question not to me but to Pashinyan to stop, and I say how to stop.

-But you could cut them off. If they are cut off by your forces how can they survive?

-We will take care of them. We will take care of them. Absolutely, no doubt about that. We will provide them with everything, with food with water with everything. No doubt about that. And all our, all our military commanders got a direct instruction from me in the first hours of the conflict that civilians must be taken care of. Do you know the story about two elderly persons whom we found in Hadrut? Their relatives, and military they just left them and (went), ran away. So, one lady and one gentleman of almost 90 years old. And we brought them here to Baku. We put them to the hospital, and we surrendered them to Armenia. But do you know what happened? When that old gentleman was already on the border in Gazakh far away from here, Armenians refused to accept him. They said 'he is ill and he will die soon, we don't want him'. You know. That's what they've done and this person under the care of Red Cross was put to the hospital and the lady was surrendered to them and the man, unfortunately, died. That's how we treat civilians. Therefore, those who live in Nagorno-Karabakh now, they can be absolutely sure that we will take care of them and they will live under Azerbaijani umbrella much better.

-But 90 thousand of them approximately have already fled, they don't seem to be comforted by these assurances.

-According to our information, the real population of those who lived in Nagorno-Karabakh was from 60 to 70 thousand people. All those figures are highly exaggerated. Therefore, I doubt that 90 thousand could flee, because maximum 70.

-May I ask you a long-term question President Aliyev? How do you see the future of the South Caucasus how do you see peace coming here? I mean do you ever see a day when there will be peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia?

-Yes, if you ask my position, I think it is possible. But it depends not only on me, it depends only on Armenian side. And during this forty days of war, on several occasions, I said that I wish to see the day when three South Caucasian countries would be working together. As for instance we do with Georgia. Our close strategic partner and friend. Look how many projects we implemented with them. How close our relations are. They are based on historical legacy and they are based on pragmatism on balance of our interests. So why Armenia became isolated? Because of occupation. And if you look at the map for instance, our energy and transportation projects, you will see that they bypass Armenia. The shortest way for us to deliver our resources to the international markets was through Armenia and we offered them that in the 1990s. We said, 'look, liberate the territories let's build the pipeline through Armenian territory, and then entering Nakhchivan and then Turkey, we will then combine the interests of all countries'. We will make all countries of the region in a certain way inter dependent. And that will be a guarantee for peace.

They said 'no'. I offered many times through the Minsk Group co-chairs, they can approve it, financial assistance, social programs in Nagorno-Karabakh financing from our budget, if they liberate territories. They said no. I offered autonomy, the highest possible autonomy in the world, I offered to Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenians said no. They said no to everything. So, what happens now is their fault. By the way, the first president who was overthrown by Karabakh clan published an article saying that what Azerbaijanis are offering now to us they will not offer. That was in the middle of 90s.

-And you would accept an autonomus status now for Nagorno-Karabakh.

-Now, I prefer not to talk about that, because now situation on the ground have changed. But I offered this many times and Armenians rejected it.

-So, now what do you want for Nagorno-Karabakh?

-Nagorno-Karabakh is part of Azerbaijan. It will be part of Azerbaijan as any other region of Azerbaijan. If it will depend again on what will be Armenian government's behavior? It is still not too late for them to be reasonable. It is still not too late for them to get more on the negotiation table. Because after we take control of other cities and villages, there will be nothing to talk about. So, they are losing time. And if they behave reasonably, we can work on some forms of self-governance. We are not against it. But they should not violate territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. They should be based on the best practice which European countries, like Italy like Sweden and Finland have between themselves. Why there should be something different? And then of course, the peace will come to the region and I think that, but frankly speaking, with this prime minister of Armenia I don't think that there is any possibility for peace. There must be a change of government in Armenia, reasonable people must come, those people which are not affiliated with bloodshed and military crimes. And then, I think, by joint actions we can create a new format of cooperation in the Southern Caucasus among Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia which used to be in Soviet times. We had friendly relations, we lived together.

-Is there any compromise that you can offer for the sake of peace? Is there anything that you can say now you are prepared to give?

-You know I cannot offer compromise when other side just is not willing to compromise. During these times Armenian prime minister also on several occasions was interviewed by foreign journalists, and he was asked. There was one program Russian TV, they were asking same questions to me and to him. And when I was asked about compromise I said what I am saying to you. When he was asked about compromise three times he said self-determination for Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. But this is not a compromise. What compromise they are ready to do? And by the way, today their opportunities to compromise is shrinking, because we are getting those territories back by force. Our compromise is still on the table. But it is not a 100% sure that it will be on the table if we take all these territories back. Then, what will we talk about? So, for Armenian prime minister for him, for his own sake, the best thing is now to listen to me and to say publicly 'we liberate Aghdam, Kalbajar, and Lachin'. And we stop, and there will be a ceasefire, and if they don't violate it again, and we will come back to those issues which you refer to-status, autonomy, cultural autonomy, community, et cetera. But we can be fair and I always fair with our people. Today situation changed therefore, what I offered to them a year ago, two years ago maybe is not valid. But it is premature to talk about it. Let's see.

-Have you a hope of a peaceful settlement?

-Yes. I have a hope, because my hope is based now on our success on the battlefield. My hope is not based on Armenian constructive position, because what we have seen on the battlefield, what we have seen in Fuzuli, in Jabrayil. We saw that they were not planning to liberate the territories. They were just lying to us, they were lying to co-chairs of the Minsk Group, because they invested so much in these fortifications, that they would have never, never liberated that. It took us a lot of time to take control of Fuzuli because of that. And then, when we were moving by the Araz river towards the state border with Armenia, on several villages there have been very severe clashes and it took us several days to break that defense.

-President Aliyev, I wanted to ask you, if I may, a question on behalf of our Azerbaijan service of BBC and if you would be happy to reply in your own language? I think they would be very happy to have that. What kind of future do you see here for the people of Azerbaijan after this conflict? Some would say here, and I know you disagree but some would say that this is a society which still does not have full freedom, full human rights. Do you see a peace dividend if this conflict finishes? Do you see the society here being able to move on from the Nagorno-Karabakh issue which is so consuming what future do you see here?

- I think that the future of our country will be very bright. We have made great strides in recent years. Today, our country's successes in both political and economic spheres are recognized by international organizations. Great successes have also been achieved in the international arena. Azerbaijan has become a very strong country. All issues within the country are being resolved. Of course, the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will give our country a new lease of life. First of all, people will be able to return to their ancestral lands and visit the graves of their relatives. The Azerbaijani state will definitely provide them with maximum assistance in this. We will rebuild the occupied lands, build houses, office buildings, schools. Thus, a new era will begin for our country. This new period will usher ample opportunities, and I believe that the positive trends will intensify not only in the economic sphere but also in the field of political relations. Azerbaijan will further enhance its role in the international arena. Respect for Azerbaijan will increase. As a strong state, we are restoring our territorial integrity, we are restoring justice and international law. So I am confident that the future development of our country will be very successful. We have achieved all our goals so far. We have achieved all the goals I have stated. The restoration of our territorial integrity and the return of our lands have been my main tasks as President. I am glad that I have coped with these tasks with dignity, and we are returning to our lands thanks to the support, hard work and courage of the Azerbaijani people. The selflessness of the Azerbaijani people shows once again that we are a great nation, we have demonstrated unity, and this unity will strengthen us even more, will make our country even stronger.

-Great. President Aliyev thank you so much. You have been very generous with your time this morning, and we are very grateful.

-Thank you for your questions.

-Thank you.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Armenia violated the ceasefire on the state border

[10:23] 09.11.2020

"Armenian armed forces units fired at the positions of the units of the Azerbaijan Army located at the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border using mortars and small arms," Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said in a statement.

"Starting from the night on November 8 to 00:50 on November 9, the positions of our military units located in Tovuz, Gadabay regions of Azerbaijan were intermittently fired by the enemy from the direction of Berd and Chambarak regions of Armenia."

AZERTAC

The latest situation on the front on November 9

[10:08] 09.11.2020

"During the day on November 8 and night of November 9, the units of the Armenian armed forces fired at the positions of the units of the Azerbaijan Army and our human settlements in different directions of the front with various small arms, howitzers, and mortars," Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said.

"The combat operations in the Aghdere, Aghdam, Khojavend, and Gubadli direction of the front continued with varying intensity. During the day, the enemy was seriously hit in the main directions of the front. In some areas of the front, the enemy was forced to retreat suffering heavy casualties in personnel and military vehicles."

"During the day, a large number of enemy troops, 1 - T-72 tank, 1 - D-30 howitzer, 1 - mortar, 1 - military truck full of ammunition were destroyed and wrecked. Currently, combat operations are underway. The operational situation is under the control of our troops."

AZERTAC

The Azerbaijani Army fully controls Shusha, Defense Ministry

[02:16] 09.11.2020

The Armenian side is spreading misinformation about the restoration of control over Shusha in order to hide its failure in the battles for Shusha and to calm down its society, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

"We declare that the Azerbaijani Army fully controls the city of Shusha," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy fled, leaving some positions in Khojavand direction of front

[02:00] 09.11.2020

Heavy blows were inflicted on the enemy as a result of the offensive operation carried out by the Azerbaijan Army in the Khojavand direction of the front, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

"Damage was inflicted on enemy positions by fire strikes in this direction of the front. The enemy, who suffered heavy losses, fled, leaving some frontiers."

AZERTAC presents video footage reflecting these moments.

AZERTAC

November 8

Azerbaijan Defense Ministry: The enemy suffers heavy losses in the Khojavand direction of the front

[21:39] 08.11.2020

As a result of the offensive operation carried out by the Azerbaijan Army in the Khojavand direction of the front, heavy blows were inflicted on the enemy, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the 2nd and 4th battalions of the 2nd motorized rifle regiment of the Armenian armed forces suffered casualties in personnel and military vehicles. "There are shortcomings in the regiment's combat and ammunition supply.

There were a large number of dead and wounded among the military personnel of the units of the 3rd motorized rifle regiment of the Armenian armed forces as a result of 120 mm mortar shelling by our units in the Khojavand direction of the front. It turned out that the commander of one of the units of the regiment, together with the military personnel, left the combat positions and fled.

Artillery strikes were also launched on the positions of the enemy units around the Red Bazaar in Khojavand district.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: High-ranking enemy officials were killed in Khojavand direction of front

[17:30] 08.11.2020

At around 14:00 on November 8, the airstrikes were inflicted on the foremost command post of the Armenian armed forces in the Khojavand direction of the front, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“As a result of airstrikes by the Azerbaijan Air Force Su-25 attack aircraft and use of the UAVs, enemy trenches and shelters were destroyed, and high-ranking officials were annihilated,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy fired at our residential settlements

[09:46]08.11.2020

On November 8, from 07:40 to 08:10, Armenian armed forces fired at the villages of Tartar, Aghdam and Aghjabadi districts, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, units of the Azerbaijan Army took retaliatory measures to suppress the enemy's firing points.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Armenia violated ceasefire on the state border

[09:24] 08.11.2020

Armenian armed forces units fired at the positions of the units of the Azerbaijan Army located at the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border using mortars and small arms, Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

"Starting from the night of November 7 to November 8 until 05:00 in the morning, the positions of our military units located in Tovuz, Gadabay, and Dashkasan districts of Azerbaijan were intermittently fired by the enemy from the direction of Berd, Chambarak, and Vardenis regions of Armenia," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The latest situation at the front on November 8

[09:15] 08.11.2020

During the day on November 7 and night on November 8, the Armenian armed forces units fired at the positions of the units of the Azerbaijan Army and our residential settlements in various directions of the front with different small arms, howitzers, and mortars, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the combat operations continued with varying intensity, mainly in the Aghdara, Aghdam, Khojavand, and Gubadli directions of the front. "During the day, the enemy was seriously hit in the main directions of the front. In some areas of the front, the enemy was forced to retreat, suffering casualties on personnel and military vehicles.

The enemy, who is unable to resist in the front, finds firing at peaceful population and civilian infrastructure as a way out. As a result of artillery shelling of villages of Tartar, Barda, Aghdam, Aghjabadi, and Gubadli districts by Armenian armed forces units last day, some civilians were killed and injured, civilian infrastructure was damaged. The retaliatory actions taken by the Azerbaijan Army were only against legitimate military targets.

During the day, a large number of enemy troops, 4 T-72 tanks, 2 D-20 howitzers, and several military trucks full of ammunition were destroyed and wrecked.

Currently, combat operations are underway. The operational situation is under the control of our troops," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

November 7

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy's another military convoy was destroyed

[23:44] 07.11.2020

The Azerbaijan Army units destroyed another military convoy of the 4th motorized rifle regiment of the 37th rifle division of the Armenian armed forces, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

"A large number of enemy servicemen were destroyed as a result of the shelling of a military convoy consisting of 3 KamAZs, 2 Urals and 2 IFVs moving from Aghdam to Khankandi. In addition, about 30 servicemen were wounded and military vehicles in the convoy burned off," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy fired at the territory of Barda district

[18:33] 07.11.2020

Armenian armed forces units have fired at Ayrija village of Barda district, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, one villager died as a result of the shelling.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: “Enemy suffered heavy losses in Aghdam direction of the front”

[18:30] 07.11.2020

“During the battles in the Aghdam direction of the front, the units of the Armenian armed forces have been severely damaged,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The enemy suffered losses and left his positions as a result of artillery strikes on the mortar battery in the defensive sector of the 4th motorized rifle regiment of the 37th rifle division stationed in this direction.

A bus with volunteers, arriving here to strengthen the regiment, had an accident. It became known that as a result of an accident, up to 30 called up reservists were injured.

As a result of the shelling of the 4th rocket division of the 62nd artillery brigade, the BM-21 “Grad” MLRS was put out of operation, there are killed and wounded among the military personnel,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Information about the shelling of the territory of Armenia is another provocation of the enemy

[17:31] 07.11.2020

The information spread by the Armenian side about the alleged shelling of the David Bek village near the Gafan city of Armenia from the territory of Gubadli district of Azerbaijan is provocative misinformation, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“Contrariwise, during the day, the units of the Armenian armed forces have been shelling the villages of Gubadli district liberated from the occupation, and the positions of the Azerbaijan Army units from the territory of Armenia.

The Azerbaijan Army undertakes adequate measures only against the enemy's firing points within the borders of our country.

We declare once again that Azerbaijan has no military target in the territory of Armenia,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated villages of Jabrayil district

[17:29]07.11.2020

The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan has released a video footage of the liberated from occupation villages of Jabrayil district.

AZERTAC

Armenian armed forces shelling Azerbaijani residential settlements

[14:28] 07.11.2020

“Armenian armed forces units are shelling villages of Tartar, Aghdam and Aghjabadi districts,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The Azerbaijan Army units are taking retaliatory actions against the enemy,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Documents on resettlement of Syrian Armenians by Armenia in Zangilan found

[12:42] 07.11.2020

During the inspection of the local office of Armenia's National Security Service in the liberated Zangilan district of Azerbaijan, some documentary materials have been found.

The analysis of the materials revealed the list of Syrian nationals and copies of their passports.

It became clear that 60 Syrian Armenians (19 families in total) mentioned on the list were relocated to Zangilan as part of Armenia's illegal resettlement policy in the occupied Azerbaijani territories.

In addition, the copies of passports issued to Baazo Hraj Sepob, born on 2 May 1964, (passport: 015-11-L021693), a Syrian national and resident of Syria's Al Hasakah, Alexandarian Hartion Avadis, born on 12 November 1969, (passport: 004-11-L128622), a Syrian national and resident of Syria's Aleppo, and Kirakos Babkin, born on 1 January 1962, (passport: AM 0709227), a Syria-born Armenian national, were also revealed.

Azerbaijan is currently taking necessary investigative measures in this regard.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Villages of Aghdam district are under enemy shelling

[11:47] 07.11.2020

Armenian armed forces units are subjecting to artillery fire Chullu and Chiragli villages of Aghdam district.

“The Azerbaijani Army is undertaking actions to suppress the enemy's firing points,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army did not shell Shusha

[11:34] 07.11.2020

The information spread by the Armenian side about the alleged shelling of Shusha by the Azerbaijan Army does not reflect reality, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

"The Azerbaijani Army did not fire on Shusha", the Ministry noted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy again fired at our residential settlements

[11:14] 07.11.2020

“Armenian armed forces units have subjected to artillery fire Shikharkh settlement, Gazyan and Husanli villages of Tartar district, as well as Yukhari Giyamaddinli village of Aghjabadi district,” Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the Azerbaijani Army is undertaking actions to suppress the enemy's firing points.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's special forces and reconnaissance units were destroyed

[09:35] 07.11.2020

"During the fighting at the front, the military personnel of the 022nd special forces military unit of the Armenian armed forces were surrounded and destroyed by our units," Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

"In order to strengthen the special forces of the enemy, who suffered heavy losses in military personnel from the beginning of combat operations to the present day, local residents and volunteers also joined them recently. Despite this, the special forces, who suffered heavy losses during the last battle, were forced to retreat from their positions.

According to the information received, the 178th independent reconnaissance battalion deployed to our occupied territories from Armenia, also lost half of its military personnel killed and wounded during the combat action," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy was forced to retreat in some areas of the front

[08:47] 07.11.2020

During the day on November 6 and night on November 7, the Armenian armed forces fired at the positions of the units of the Azerbaijan Army and our residential settlements in various directions of the front using various small arms, howitzers, and mortars, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC..

According to the ministry, the combat operations continued with varying intensity, mainly in the Aghdara, Aghdam, Khojavand directions of the front. The enemy was forced to retreat suffering losses on military personnel and military vehicles in some areas of the front.

"There are dead and wounded among the military personnel as a result of artillery shelling of the combat positions in the defensive area of the 5th mountain rifle regiment of the Armenian Armed Forces in the Aghdara direction of the front. Several military vehicles and mortars of the enemy were wrecked.

As a result of the operation conducted by the units of the Azerbaijani Army, there are casualties among the military personnel of the 1st battalion of the 6th mountain rifle regiment of the enemy. The howitzers of the 3rd battery of the D-30 artillery battalion of the enemy were also disabled.

Currently, combat operations are underway in all directions of the front," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

November 6

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Combat positions of Armenian armed forces destroyed

[19:44] 06.11.2020

“The personnel of the D-30 howitzers of the Armenian armed forces deployed to the firing points near Aghdara was destroyed by the precise strikes of our units,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated villages of Fuzuli district

[19:28] 06.11.2020

The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan has released a video footage of the liberated from occupation villages of Fuzuli district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Armenia shells villages of Tartar district

06.11.2020 [18:27]

“Units of Armenian armed forces are shelling Gazyan, Gaynag, Gapanli and Husanli villages of Tartar district,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“Our army is taking retaliatory actions to suppress the enemy's firing points,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Firing points of enemy's mortars in Goyarkh were hit

[18:05] 06.11.2020

“The personnel of the mortars deployed to the enemy's firing points in the territory of the occupied Goyarkh (former Levonarkh) village of Tartar district was destroyed by the precise strike of our units,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense: “Enemy`s military units located in Aghdara have been paralyzed”

[17:24] 06.11.2020

“There are serious shortcomings in the supply of the 10th mountain rifle division and the 5th mountain rifle regiment of the 1st Combined Arms Army of the Armenian armed forces in Aghdara. Thus, the units lack food, military property, ammunition, and fuel,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“During the battles in the Aghdara direction of the front, the enemy who suffered heavy losses on military personnel and combat vehicles is unable to compensate for these losses.

In addition, communication between the military units and the command has been cut off, and there have been problems in the control of the units,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Mosque in Gubadli as sign of insult was transformed into pigsty by Armenia

[17:11] 06.11.2020

“XVIII century Mosque in liberated Mamar village of Azerbaijan. The Mosque was completely destroyed. Along with vandalism XVIII Century religious and cultural monument as sign of insult was transformed into pigsty by Armenia during occupation of Mamar village of Gubadli district,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyeu made a post on his Twitter account.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia attracts funds for its army by mobilizing Armenian diaspora operating under guise of NGOs and charity organizations abroad

[15:39] 06.11.2020

“In order to compensate the huge losses on the battlefield, Armenia attracts funds (We are our borders – All for Artsakh” donation campaign, Armenia Fund, Armenian General Benevolent Union, Armenian Canadian Medical Association of Ontario, Fund for Armenian Relief, Tufenkian Foundation, Armenian Relief Society), for its army by mobilizing the Armenian diaspora operating under the guise of NGOs and charity organizations abroad,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev told journalists.

Hikmat Hajiyev said: “The funds raised through NGOs and charity organizations run by the Armenian diaspora are directed to finance the Armenian army serving in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, thus contribute to carrying out further attacks by Armenia on the Azerbaijani civilian population. The social media and network posts made by Armenians living abroad prove this.

It is not for the first time that Armenian diaspora abroad uses the funds obtained through NGOs and charity organizations for the illegal activity and increasing the aggression in the occupied lands of Azerbaijan, as well as purchasing weapons and ammunition for the occupant army. The Armenian diaspora has carried out active work in this regard and deceived taxpayer of the relevant foreign states over the past 30 years. The illegal funds had been transferred to the so-called regime established in Azerbaijan’s occupied lands without any control mechanism, which means financing terrorism.

According to the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, as well as provisions of the UN Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 2178 (2014), 2195 (2014) and 2347 (2017), activities of non-profit organizations in the abovementioned areas are assessed as the financing of terrorism and the states must take preventive measures to avoid such cases. In this regard, Azerbaijan calls on the UN member states to prevent the use of their territories for financing Armenian terrorism directed against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country.”

AZERTAC

MES firefighters conduct first firefighting operation in territories liberated from occupation

[15:28] 06.11.2020

On November 5, household waste burnt in the open area near the administrative building in the city of Fuzuli liberated from occupation, Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Emergency Situations told AZERTAC.

The fire was quickly extinguished by the relevant forces of the State Fire Protection Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and prevented from spreading to the administrative building. As a result of the fire, household garbage burnt in 50 square meters territory.

This is the first firefighting operation carried out by the MES forces in the territories liberated from occupation.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense: “Enemy fled leaving their positions in Gubadli direction of the front”

[13:56] 06.11.2020

“During the battles in the Gubadli-Lachin direction of the front, the enemy that could not withstand the strikes of the Azerbaijan Army fled, leaving their positions,” the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“As is known, the units of the 556th and 522nd motorized rifle regiments, delivered from Armenia and located in the defense zone, did not occupy the frontier assigned to them.

At the same time, the military personnel were unprepared, inexperienced, and undisciplined, as well as neglected orders and tasks,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy ammunition depot exploded

[13:32] 06.11.2020

An explosion of ammunition loaded on trucks from an ammunition depot near Khankandi caused a large fire. The fire quickly spread to the depot, resulting in a powerful explosion, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the ammunition depot used to provide the artillery and other units of the 10th mountain rifle division and the 5th mountain rifle regiment in Aghdara with weapons and ammunition.

AZERTAC

Armenian Ministry of Defense tries to divert attention from its war crimes

[13:18] 06.11.2020

“The information of the Armenian media about the alleged shelling of Khankandi by the Azerbaijan Army is a purposefully spread misinformation,” the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“By disseminating such information, the Armenian Ministry of Defense is trying to divert attention from its war crimes,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: As result of Armenian provocations, 3,064 houses, 100 residential buildings and 504 civilian facilities damaged

[13:11] 06.11.2020

The Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan has revealed the statistics on crimes committed against civilians as a result of Armenian provocations from September 27 till November 6.

As a result of the shelling of Azerbaijan's residential settlements with heavy artillery and missile attacks by the Armenian armed forces, 92 civilians were killed and 404 people were injured.

Moreover, 3,064 houses, 100 residential buildings and 504 civilian facilities were damaged as a result of Armenia's military aggression.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Ombudsperson appeals to international organizations on eco-terrorism of Armenia in occupied Azerbaijani territories

[12:02] 06.11.2020

Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of Azerbaijan Sabina Aliyeva has made an appeal to international organizations concerning the eco-terrorism of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and its intentional fires aimed at destruction of forests of Shusha region.

AZERTAC presents the appeal.

On 5 November 2001, November 6 was declared as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/56/4.

Unfortunately, it should be said that ecological terror does not bypass Azerbaijan either. As a result of the continued around thirty-year military aggression of Armenia, the nature, biological diversity, water reservoirs of Azerbaijan, as well as the environment of the areas under the occupation have been seriously affected, which consequently, caused to destruction and severe damage of the environment.

As a result of military operations and use of internationally prohibited weapons by Armenian armed forces, not merely the natural environment has been exposed to physical and chemical pollution, but various species of rare plants and animals, flora and fauna biodiversity have been destroyed. Chemical pollution of fresh water sources resulted in violation of self-regulation process in rivers and lakes, as a result of which water ponds become more hazardous and dead zone.

Not surprisingly yet in 2006 the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/285 on “The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan” has also called for assessment of and counteraction to short and long-term environmental degradation of the region.

In 2016 Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted Resolution No.2085 titled “Inhabitants of frontier regions of Azerbaijan are deliberately deprived of water”, demanding the immediate withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from the concerned region and allowing access by independent engineers and hydrologists to carry out a detailed survey on the spot.

Within this period of time, natural resources in the occupied areas of Azerbaijan have been plundered, 163 mineral resources deposits, including gold, mercury, copper, lead, zinc, coal and others, also forest cover, rare trees have been subjected to illegal exploitation by Armenia.

Starting from September 27, 2020, Armenian army continues its crimes against peace and humanity targeting the densely populated civilian settlements, social cultural and strategic objects of Azerbaijan by using heavy artillery special missile systems and banned weapons.

In response to another provocation and the continued occupation by Armenia, since 27 September 2020, Azerbaijani military successfully continued its counter-offensive operations to restore its territorial integrity in conformity with international law and universally recognized state borders as per Article 51 of the UN Charter and four relevant UNSC Resolutions (1993).

Targeting areas far from the frontline and the civilians who are not direct part of active hostilities and killing of many peaceful citizens, including children and women and even, shelling of historical, cultural and religious monuments, cemeteries with ballistic missiles and artillery are only one part of the crimes committed by Armenian armed forces.

The position of the Republic of Azerbaijan is based on the Article 51 of the UN Charter, four relevant UNSC Resolutions (1993) and the norms of international humanitarian law.

Due to continuing nearly 30-year eco-terrorism committed by Armenia in the occupied areas of Azerbaijan, at present, a rare forest cover is being destroyed through deliberately firing the wild forests of Shusha with the use of toxic and difficult to extinguish substances.

The destruction of a unique ecosystem with a total area of more than 8,000 hectares, consisting of valuable and perennial dense forests of oak, juniper, beech, hornbeam, pine, ash, and walnut, is a hardest blow to endemic biodiversity. Hence, this means serious violations of the international treaties in relation to the protection of the environment, including the UN Convention on the prohibition of military or any other hostile use of environmental modification techniques, to which Armenia is also a party. According to experts' opinion, forest fires caused by white phosphorus bombs cannot be extinguished and putting out such fires naturally is not also possible, and so, such fires last long. This is environmental terrorism.

Taking into consideration all the above-mentioned facts, on November 6-the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, we call on international organizations, including all stakeholders acting for ecology and environmental protection to take all feasible measures in order to stop and to prevent the environmental terrorism committed and currently being continued by Armenia and to establish international legal responsibility of the aggressor state to prevent its recurrence.

The appeal is sent to the UN Secretary-General, UN Security Council, UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Office of High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Human Rights Council, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Economic and Social Council, United Nations Development Programme, European Union, Council of Europe, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, International and European Ombudsman Institutions, Asian Ombudsman Association, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Ombudsman Association of its member states, Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, European Network of Ombudspersons for Children, International Peace Bureau, different ombudsmen and national human rights institutions, embassies of the Republic of Azerbaijan in foreign countries and the foreign embassies in Azerbaijan, the Azerbaijani Diasporas and also to international environmental organizations.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Consul General in Los Angeles and Azerbaijani community condemn hate crime against Turkish restaurant

[11:07] 06.11.2020

In the evening hours of November 4, 2020, Turkish restaurant "Cafe Istanbul" in the City of Beverly Hills of Los Angeles County was vandalized by Armenian radicals.

According to Beverly Hills Police Department (BHDP), "six to eight men between 20 and 30 years old entered the restaurant, made pro-Armenia statements to the employees, destroyed property inside the establishment and attacked employees both inside and in an alley outside." BHDP is investigating it as a hate crime.

On November 5, sharing solidarity with Consul General Can Oguz of Turkey and the Turkish community, Azerbaijan's Consul General Nasimi Aghayev and members of Azerbaijani community attended an event at Cafe Istanbul.

In his remarks, Consul General Aghayev called this unspeakable violence a hate crime targeting the restaurant and its owners only because of their Turkish background. He said that just a few months ago an outrageous hate crime was committed against the members of Azerbaijani community by Armenian radicals in Los Angeles. Aghayev called on city, county and state leaders to condemn these ethnically motivated hate crimes against Azerbaijani and Turkish community members, ensure the safety of the communities and identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

The solidarity event, which was also attended by leaders of the Pakistani-American community, was covered by FOX and ABC TV networks and other local media outlets.

Video of the crime captured by security cameras: <https://youtu.be/oCYL0EwT46k>

AZERTAC

**Hikmat Hajiyev: We strongly condemn threats and attacks of Armenian lobby
against journalists and freedom of expression**

[10:39] 06.11.2020

“Now journalist of Italian La Repubblica Pietro Del Re is under abusive attack of Armenian lobby. It was also the case with TF1 and New York Times journalists who were physically threatened by Armenian lobby. We strongly condemn such attacks against free media, freedom of expression,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his Twitter account.

“We call Reporters Without Borders and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media to condemn and deplore physical, verbal threats, and abusive personal attacks against professional journalists, media who covered objective realities of Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Freedom of expression must be respected,” Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy is firing at villages of Tartar

[10:24] 06.11.2020

Starting from 08:00 on November 6, the Armenian armed forces are firing at Tartar city, as well as Gazyan and Husanli villages of the district, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“The units of the Azerbaijani Army are taking retaliatory measures to suppress the enemy's firing points.

During the night, Tapgaragoyunlu village of Goranboy district was also shelled by the enemy,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Armenia violated ceasefire on the state border

[08:55] 06.11.2020

Units of Armenian armed forces fired at the positions of the units of the Azerbaijan Army located on the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border using mortars and small arms, Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

"Starting from the night of November 5 to November 6 until 05:00 in the morning, the positions of our military units located in Tovuz, Gadabay, and Dashkasan districts of Azerbaijan were intermittently fired by the enemy from the direction of Berd, Chambarak, and Vardenis regions of Armenia," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on front on November 6

[08:50] 06.11.2020

During the day on November 5 and night on November 6, the Armenian armed forces fired at the positions of the units of the Azerbaijan Army and our residential settlements in various directions of the front with various small arms, howitzers, and mortars, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the combat operations continued with varying intensity, mainly in the Aghdara, Aghdam, Khojavand, and Gubadli directions of the front. "The enemy was forced to retreat suffering casualties on personnel and military vehicles in some areas of the front.

Currently, combat operations are underway. The operational situation is under the control of our troops,"the ministry said.

AZERTAC

November 5

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Battery of enemy's 41st artillery regiment was destroyed

[23:23] 05.11.2020

During the battles in the Aghdam direction of the front, the units of the Azerbaijan Army fired at the batteries of the 41st artillery regiment of the Armenian armed forces, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

"As a result, there are dead and injured among the military personnel.

Enemy's large quantities of ammunition were blown up and the artillery pieces were completely destroyed," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Foreign Ministry: Armenian state propaganda, acting in its traditional way, is actively making up and circulating fake news

[19:39] 05.11.2020

“Armenian state propaganda, acting in its traditional way, is actively making up and circulating the fake news with a view to misrepresenting the situation around the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The key mission of this smear campaign is to deceive the international community and to undermine the just position of Azerbaijan, which is based on the norms and principles of international law, and the relevant numerous decisions taken by international organizations, including the UN Security Council,” said Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“We reiterate that in a blatant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law during almost 30 years, Armenia commits armed aggression against Azerbaijan and occupies 20 percent of internationally recognized territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan accompanied by the ethnic cleansing of close to 1 million Azerbaijanis from their homes, misappropriation of private and public property in the occupied territories, the pillage of historical and cultural heritage of Azerbaijan in these territories, illegal exploitation, looting and plundering of natural resources and economic potential of the seized lands, illegal settlement of ethnic Armenians into these areas and illegal infrastructure changes.

Having exploited the political settlement process, as well as Azerbaijan’s commitment to this process for almost 30 years, Armenia took consistent steps to consolidate the results of the occupation of territories of Azerbaijan aiming at their annexation.

Being against the political settlement which rejects the status-quo based on illegal use of force, and having undertaken a chain of provocative statements and actions undermining this process, Armenia finally resorted to large-scale aggression against Azerbaijan on September 27, 2020 by shelling the military positions of Azerbaijan and densely populated residential areas along the entire frontline. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan were compelled to launch a counter-offensive operation.

In this regard, we restate the following:

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan act on the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan within the limits of self-defense to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and ensure the safety and security of its citizens;

The counter-offensive operation of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan continues to be conducted exclusively within the limits of international humanitarian law and all the obligations under international humanitarian law are strictly followed in close cooperation with the International Committee of Red Cross;

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan do not fight against the civilians, including the citizens of Azerbaijan of Armenian origin, and do not target civilians and civilian infrastructure in the occupied territories;

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan do not possess and consequently do not use any prohibited weapon or ammunition.

We underline that Armenia has occupied the territories of Azerbaijan and rejecting to withdraw from these territories in violation of demands of the international community, first and foremost, the four resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council in 1993 (822, 853, 874 and 884) resorted to the brutal tactic of terror by deliberately targeting large civilian settlements of Azerbaijan, including those located far away from the frontline, such as Ganja, Barda and Tartar with heavy artillery and missiles, including ballistic and cluster munitions with a view to compensating the heavy defeat it faces on the battlefield from the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan. As a result, 92 civilians, among them 10 children and 27 women were killed, 404 civilians, including children, women and the elderly were seriously wounded. Civilian infrastructure, including medical and educational facilities, critical public infrastructure and private property were inflicted serious damage. Three consequent announcements of humanitarian ceasefire did not stop Armenia from committing terrorist attacks on civilians.

The facts testifying these reckless attacks of Armenia on civilians and civilian infrastructure amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity have been presented to the international community, including through the representatives of diplomatic corps accredited in Azerbaijan and international institutions and structures, such as the International Committee of Red Cross, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International as well as foreign mass media representatives.

We recall that according to public statements of high-level Armenian officials, since the outbreak of hostilities the majority of Armenians residing in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan have already left these territories for Armenia. The Azerbaijani side repeatedly appealed to those remaining in the area to stay away from military installations and refrain from taking a part in the military hostilities, since this would undermine their status as civilians and turn them into combatants. Furthermore, worth to mention that Armenia widely uses mercenaries and foreign terrorist fighters in its military operations against the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan, which have been extensively documented, including by different international media resources.

Armenia in an open attempt to cover-up its above-mentioned wrongdoings constituting war crimes and crimes against humanity brazenly accuses Azerbaijan of the same with a view to diverting the attention of the international community, and to that end carries out a massive campaign of fake news. Professional analysis of video and photo materials presented by Armenia to substantiate its claims proves that all these are nothing more than pre-fabricated falsifications.

The Azerbaijani side once again resolutely rejects these groundless accusations of Armenia and renews its appeals to the international community to be vigilant against Armenia's deliberate actions to cover-up its crimes through a smear campaign against Azerbaijan.

The position of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict has always been consistent and based on international law and related resolutions of the UN Security Council. Azerbaijan has always been stating its readiness for negotiations for their implementation within the OSCE Minsk Group format," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy military convoy was ambushed and destroyed near Aghdara

[19:32] 05.11.2020

As a result of a special operation carried out by the units of the Azerbaijani Army in Aghdara direction of the front, a military convoy belonging to the Armenian armed forces was ambushed and destroyed, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, one commander vehicle, one communication vehicle, two KamAz trucks full of personnel and ammunition, and three Ural trucks with towed howitzers were completely destroyed on the Aghdara-Papravand route.

AZERTAC

Criminal case launched against leader of “Zouaves Paris” group used as mercenary in Azerbaijan`s occupied territories

[19:26] 04.11.2020

“The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan continues to take urgent measures to once again expose at the international level the aggressive nature of the Republic of Armenia, which pursues terrorism at the state level and turned it into one of the main tools of its aggressive policy,” the Prosecutor General’s Office told AZERTAC.

“Following up these measures, Marc de Cacqueray-Valmenier, a citizen of the French Republic, the leader of the French extremist group “Zouaves Paris” (ZVP), a major instigator of violence in Paris, calling himself a fascist on social media and using the symbols of the “SS” fascist organization and others committed criminal acts in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan conducted an investigation into the case. On the basis of materials collected on these crimes, as well as the information found in the mass media and social media an investigation was conducted by the Investigation Department of the Prosecutor General's Office.

It was also established that in October 2020, members of criminal associations mentioned in the investigation arriving in Armenia with the organization and support of the relevant government agencies of Armenia and entering into criminal relations with other persons in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan entered Khankandi city and other occupied settlements, illegally crossing the internationally recognized state border of the Republic of Azerbaijan without established documents and outside the checkpoints of the state border, i.e. through the territory of Armenia. They were used as mercenaries by the Armenian political-military leadership against the civilians of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the armed forces engaged in anti-terrorist operations.

In addition, members of the organization with special cruelty and in common dangerous ways, with the intention of national hostility committed numerous crimes against civilians not participating in military operations in different regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan by opening fire with the use of ammunition and military equipment. Explosions, fires or other acts jeopardizing public order were committed. It was revealed that they were involved in terrorist activities against the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan by threatening to commit acts for the above purposes.

Upon the fact, criminal proceeding was launched by Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan under Article 100.2 (planning, preparation, implementation or conducting aggressive war), Article 120.2.1 (deliberate murder committed by a criminal organization), Article 318.2 (illegal crossing the state border of the Republic of Azerbaijan) and other articles of the Criminal Code. The investigation was entrusted to the Investigation Department of the Prosecutor General's Office.

Currently a legal assistance request by the Prosecutor General's Office to the relevant government agencies of France in connection with the criminal case is prepared.

As reported earlier, Vladimir Vartanov, a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, and others by involving citizens of other countries of different nationalities living outside the Republic of Armenia, created armed association "VoMa" ("Voxj Mnalu Arvest" - The Art of Survival)

consisting of such persons, which is not provided by the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Holding trainings for members of the association for the purpose of terrorism, they committed terrorist acts in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan as part of that armed association. With regard to these facts Vladimir Vartanov was charged under the relevant articles of the Criminal Code in a criminal case initiated by the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Under a court decision he was declared internationally wanted in absentia.

Intensive investigative measures in both criminal cases are underway,” the Prosecutor General’s Office said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army destroys Armenian military infrastructure in Tonashen

[18:38] 05.11.2020

“As a result of the operation carried out by the units of the Azerbaijan Army in the Tartar direction of the front, the enemy's military infrastructure was seriously damaged,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The headquarters of the 7th mountain rifle regiment of the 10th mountain rifle division of the Armenian armed forces in the village of Tonashen, barracks, vehicles loaded with ammunition and other military infrastructure were destroyed by artillery strikes,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

IEPF submits report on aggression of Armenian military units against Azerbaijan

[18:30] 05.11.2020

The International Eurasia Press Fund (IEPF) has submitted a report on the crimes committed by the Armenian occupying forces against Azerbaijan.

The report is dedicated to the results of the escalation of the Armenian military forces on the frontline in Karabakh in September and October. The report was prepared by IEPF observation mission members IEPF President Umud Mirzayev, Vice President Ramil Azizov, IEPF representative in US and International Relations expert Peter Tase, IEPF Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva, UN Human Rights Committee, and Professor of Law Osman Al Hajj.

The report reflects the assessments of the Armenian military units on the consequences of the aggression of the Armenian military forces against Azerbaijani civilians, strategic facilities and social infrastructure. The report deals with war crimes committed as a result of the shelling of towns and villages far from the line of contact by the Armenian military during the military operations that began on September 27. The report is a different approach of the IEPF observation mission in terms of identifying the actions of Armenian military units during the Second Karabakh War, which contradict the norms of international law. Thus, during the preparation of the report, it has been referred to the opinions of war victims and war veterans, their families, civil society organizations, military conscripts, as well as international organizations, media representatives, various studies and visual observations. The report provides a detailed analysis of the legal assessment of war crimes committed as a result of the targeting of Armenian military units in Ganja, Barda, Mingachevir, Tartar, Agdam, Fuzuli, Aghjabadi, Goranboy. The report accurately reflects the results of the illegal transportation of weapons by Armenian forces, the participation of mercenaries in military operations, the use of illegal weapons and ammunition against civilians in violation of international conventions, and for the destruction of civilian objects, the shelling of major industrial cities in Azerbaijan.

The report is the result of independent observations and research by a civil society organization that has been affected by the war for many years and operates in areas close to the line of contact, implementing social humanitarian programmes. The report has been sent to international organizations, including UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet Jeria, OSCE, Council of Europe, Chair of the Board of the Crisis Action Dr. Anna Neistat and the Group's Advocacy and Campaign Manager Eleanor Kennedy, UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan Ghulam Isaczai and others. The report is expected to be widely disseminated among UN agencies and members of the Council of Europe.

AZERTAC

Albanian-Udi Christian religious community of Azerbaijan appeals to World Council of Churches

[18:26] 05.11.2020

The Albanian-Udi Christian religious community of Azerbaijan made an appeal to the World Council of Churches on the fact that the Gregorianization of the Albanian temples has become a state policy of Armenia for the last hundred years.

Signed by Chairman of the Albanian-Udi Christian religious community of Azerbaijan Robert Mobili, the appeal reads:

“We, the successors of the Albanian (Caucasian) Independent Apostolic Church, the Azerbaijani Albanian-Udi religious community, support all the activities carried out in Azerbaijan to restore the territorial integrity established by international law, and we express our close participation in this process. At the same time, we declare that the liberation of our Armenian-occupied cities and villages by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, increases our confidence that the territorial integrity of our country will be fully ensured as soon as possible.

The Albanian Church, as the first apostolic church in the Caucasus, has a long history and has left indelible marks on the religious and cultural life of not only Azerbaijan, but the entire Caucasus. The antiquity of the Albanian Church is not only confirmed historical facts, but also confirms the existence of ancient Albanian temples that have preserved to the present day.

Unfortunately, after various pressures and influences, the Albanian Apostolic Church was abolished in 1836, and the Armenian-Gregorian Church tried to take possession of part of its material and spiritual heritage. As a result, a large part of the historical Albanian temples in Azerbaijan, especially in Karabakh, were Gregorianized, along with our historical monuments, archival materials and documents were falsified. The Gregorianization of the Albanian heritage, including Albanian temples dating back hundreds of years or even thousands of years, has become a state policy of Armenia for the last hundred years. As a result, not a single Albanian temple has been preserved in present-day Armenia or the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Armenia either Gregorianized the architecture of the Albanian temples or destroyed the temples that could not be changed the architecture.

After the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence and the formation of a full basis for freedom of conscience in the country there is a historic opportunity to restore the status of the Albanian Apostolic Church and eliminate the injustice we face.

At the initiative of Udi intellectuals, Albanian Udi Christian Community was established and state-registered in 2003. Community registration is the first step in reviving the Albanian Apostolic Autocephalous Church. With the support of the Government of Azerbaijan, the church of the Elysee Temple, located in the village of Kish, Sheki region and considered the "mother of churches" in the Caucasus, was restored. In 2006, Albanian Church "Chotari" was officially opened in the Nij settlement of the Gabala region, that the only place where Udis live compactly and considered their historic Homeland.

Of course, the revival of the Albanian-Udi Christian community and the restoration of Albanian monuments are important not only for Azerbaijan, but also for the whole Christian world

in terms of eliminating historical injustice and maintaining the atmosphere of tolerance in our country.

Therefore, as the spiritual heirs of the Udi Albanian Apostolic Church, we worship like today in the Albanian churches in Gabala and Oguz, and look forward to the days when we will worship in the occupied Albanian churches, including Aghoghlan in Lachin, Ganjasar in Kalbajar, Holy Elysee in Aghdara and dozens of other temples. We believe that the Azerbaijani state will soon liberate all its occupied territories and it will create conditions for members of the Albanian-Udi community to worship in Albanian temples in the liberated cities and villages. It will create conditions for members of the Albanian-Udi community to worship in Albanian temples in those cities and villages.

At the same time, the tolerance of the Azerbaijani people, the care and support of the Azerbaijani state for the representatives of all religions gives grounds to say that the members of Armenian-Gregorian Church will be treated humanely. Armenian Church of the St. Gregory that located in the center of Baku, preserved and restored by the Azerbaijani government, is the clear example of this respect.

At the same time, in spite of influence and pressure of the Armenian Gregorian Church, misappropriation and falsification of the Albanian heritage for centuries, we declare our readiness to cooperate with the Armenian Gregorian Church and live together in the liberated territories for peace and humanity.”

AZERTAC

President: They are cowards, they can fight only against peaceful civilians and when they see our strength and our unity they run away

[18:15] 05.11.2020

“If Armenia wanted to recognize the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh, they would have recognized long time ago. Why didn’t they recognize it before? Because, they clearly understand that by this very irrational step, negotiations will stop absolutely. So, if they do it, there will be nothing to talk about. And then, no peaceful initiative, no basic principles, no future settlement, nothing will be on the table. So, I think that they understand it,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he was interviewed by the Spanish EFE news agency.

“They always wanted to use it as a kind of an instrument in order to frighten us, saying that if Azerbaijan does that we will recognize. I tell them many times during this days of war and I tell now, Armenian prime minister, recognize Nagorno-Karabakh today. Do it. Show your courage. Show that your words mean something. Recognize Nagorno-Karabakh today. Again, and you will see that they will not do it. Because they are cowards. They can fight only against peaceful civilians and when they see our strength and our unity they run away,” the head of state said.

AZERTAC

Albanian-Udi Christian religious community issues statement expressing support for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity

[17:53] 05.11.2020

The Azerbaijani Albanian-Udi Christian religious community has made a statement expressing its support for all the activities carried out in Azerbaijan to restore the territorial integrity established by international law, and its close participation in this process.

Signed by Chairman of the Albanian-Udi Christian religious community of Azerbaijan Robert Mobili, the statement reads:

“We, the successors of the Albanian (Caucasian) Independent Apostolic Church, the Azerbaijani Albanian-Udi religious community, support all the activities carried out in Azerbaijan to restore the territorial integrity established by international law, and we express our close participation in this process. At the same time, we declare that the liberation of our Armenian-occupied cities and villages by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, including Udi youth, is heartening for us and increases our confidence that the territorial integrity of our country will be fully ensured as soon as possible.

The Albanian Church, as the first apostolic church in the Caucasus, has a long history and has left indelible marks on the religious and cultural life of not only Azerbaijan, but the entire Caucasus. Unfortunately, after various pressures and influences the Albanian Apostolic Church was abolished in 1836, and the Armenian-Gregorian Church tried to take possession of part of its material and spiritual heritage. As a result, a large part of the historical Albanian temples in Azerbaijan, especially in Karabakh, were Gregorianized, along with our historical monuments, archival materials and documents were falsified or destroyed. The Gregorianization of the Albanian heritage, including Albanian temples dating back hundreds of years or even thousands of years, has become a state policy of Armenia for the last hundred years. As a result, not a single Albanian temple has been preserved in present-day Armenia or the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Armenia either Gregorianized the architecture of the Albanian temples or destroyed the temples that could not be changed.

After the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence and the formation of a full basis for freedom of conscience in our country, a historic opportunity arose to restore the status of the Albanian Apostolic Church and eliminate the injustice we face. Therefore, as the spiritual heirs of the Udi Albanian Apostolic Church, we worship in the Albanian churches in Gabala and Oguz today, and we wait impatiently for the day when we will be able to worship in the Albanian churches in the occupied territories, including Aghoghlan in Lachin, Ganjasar in Kalbajar, Holy Elysee in Aghdara and dozens of other temples. We believe that the Azerbaijani state, which treats all religions, including the Armenian-Gregorian Church, humanely, will soon liberate all occupied territories, create conditions for members of the Albanian-Udi community to worship in Albanian temples in those cities and villages, and thus eliminate historical injustice.

At the same time, in spite of influence and pressure of the Armenian Gregorian Church, misappropriation and falsification of the Albanian heritage for centuries, we declare our readiness to cooperate with the Armenian Gregorian Church and live together in the liberated territories for peace and humanity.”

**Hikmat Hajiyev comments on Reporters Without Borders' statement about 80
journalists who could not leave Khankandi safely**

[17:42] 05.11.2020

“Regarding the statement of the Reporters Without Borders that 80 local and foreign journalists could not leave Khankandi safely, we state that it is Armenia which has blocked the road between Khankandi and Armenia through the Lachin corridor. Yesterday, the Armenian side announced that it had closed the road,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev told journalists.

Hikmat Hajiyev said: “Actually, there are two roads from Khankandi to Armenia. One passes through the occupied Kalbajar district of Azerbaijan leading to the Vardenis region of Armenia. The other one is through the Lachin corridor. As of today, both roads are under the control of the Armenian armed forces.”

AZERTAC

Military vehicles left by Armenian armed forces on battlefield

[17:00] 05.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defence presents a video footage of the military vehicles left by the Armenian armed forces on the battlefield while fleeing and seized by the Azerbaijani Army as a war trophy.

AZERTAC

US VICE News channel highlights fearlessness of Azerbaijani civilians subjected to missiles attacks

[16:52] 05.11.2020

A correspondent of the US-based VICE News channel Hind Hassan, in her Instagram post, highlighted the fearlessness of Azerbaijani civilians who have been subjected to missiles attacks in Ganja and Tartar cities.

“What struck me about covering the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan was just how much continued support there is for the war despite the death and destruction it's caused. We watched people bury their children and in their next breath exclaim that they did not want a ceasefire. They say they have tried diplomacy for 27 years to no avail and that the 700,000+ who were displaced from Karabakh - which surrounds Nagorno-Karabakh and was also under the control of Armenia - must be allowed to return,” she said.

The journalist also shared a photo of Timur Khaligov holding his 10 months old baby girl Narin's clothes near the site of the attack that killed her in Ganja, Azerbaijan on the 17th of October. She also posted photos of houses destroyed, as well as relatives of those killed as a result of missile strikes on Ganja and Tartar cities of Azerbaijan.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Tartar and Aghdam districts come under artillery fire

[16:03] 05.11.2020

“Starting from 14:40 on November 5, the units of Armenian armed forces are shelling the city of Tartar, Sahlaabad village of Tartar district, as well as Hajituralli and Afatli villages of Aghdam district,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“Units of Azerbaijan Army are taking retaliatory actions against enemy's firing points,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Today we are in an active phase of de-occupation of other districts which have been under occupation

[14:55] 05.11.2020

“Situation on the frontline is showing the dominance of Azerbaijani army. We liberate one village in one city after another. During this time on the battlefield, Azerbaijan liberated large part of its territory which was under occupation for almost thirty years, and successful offensive operation of the Azerbaijani army continues,” President Ilham Aliyev said in his interview with the Spanish EFE news agency.

The head of state said: “This once again shows that we are a strong country, and we are fighting on our own soil. We restore the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan, territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. By the way, we implement the United Nations Security Council resolutions, which demanded withdrawal of Armenian troops from our territories but were not implemented by Armenia for almost thirty years.”

“Actually 4 of the 5 occupied districts have already been liberated, either completely or partially. Today we are in an active phase of de-occupation of other districts which have been under occupation. And as I said, we implement the UN Security Council resolutions, and by the way we implement part of the basic principles. Because the basic principles for settlement which have been proposed by the OSCE Minsk Group actually demanded the liberation of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, Armenia was not willing to do it voluntarily. Therefore, we had to force them to do it,” President Ilham Aliyev emphasized.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: As result of Armenian aggression, 2971 houses, 100 residential buildings and 502 civilian facilities damaged

[14:23] 05.11.2020

The Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan has revealed the statistics on crimes committed against civilians as a result of Armenian aggression from September 27 till November 5.

As a result of heavy artillery and missile attacks to Azerbaijan's residential settlements, 92 civilians were killed and 404 people were injured.

Moreover, 2,971 houses, 100 residential buildings and 502 civilian facilities were damaged as a result of Armenia's military aggression.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Spanish EFE news agency

[14:05] 05.11.2020

On November 4, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by the Spanish EFE news agency.

AZERTAC presents the interview.

-Good morning, Mr. President. Thank you very much for taking the time to answer our questions in your busy time.

-Thank you for this opportunity.

-You are now entering the 6th week of the war in Nagorno-Karabakh. What is at this point the situation on the frontline?

-Situation on the frontline is showing the dominance of Azerbaijani army. We liberate one village in one city after another. And during this time on the battlefield Azerbaijan liberated large part of its territory which was under occupation for almost thirty years, and successful offensive operation of the Azerbaijani army continues. And this once again shows that we are a strong country, and we are fighting on our own soil. We restore the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan, territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. By the way, we implement the United Nations Security Council resolutions, which demanded withdrawal of Armenian troops from our territories but were not implemented by Armenia for almost thirty years.

-You want to recover the seven occupied districts-5+2. How much of those lands have you already recovered?

-Actually 4 of the 5 occupied districts have already been liberated, either completely or partially. Today we are in an active phase of de-occupation of other districts which have been under occupation. And as I said, we implement the UN Security Council resolutions, and by the way we implement part of the basic principles. Because the basic principles for settlement which have been proposed by the OSCE Minsk Group actually demanded the liberation of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, Armenia was not willing to do it voluntarily. Therefore, we had to force them to do it.

-Both sides have agreed already to three humanitarian ceasefire. But it helped not even a few minutes. Why wasn't it possible to stop the war and sit down to talks?

-I think one of the reasons why these ceasefires didn't work, was the attempt of Armenia to regain back the territories which have been already liberated by us. In other words, they wanted to occupy them again. Therefore, they tried to use the ceasefire, which as you correctly mentioned was announced on humanitarian grounds, in order to mobilize their resources and launch a new attack. And when they failed to do it, they launched a ballistic missile attack from the territory of Armenia on the second largest city of Azerbaijan, Ganja. They did it twice. But first time on the 10th of October right after the ceasefire was announced. And that caused the killings of almost 10 civilians and tens have been wounded. So, they brutally violated the first ceasefire. The second

ceasefire also was violated by them in about five minutes after the announced time. And the third ceasefire they violated by attacking the peaceful city of Barda, where 21 civilians were killed and 70 wounded. So, all three times it was Armenian deliberate, aggressive attack on us, and we had to respond, we had to defend ourselves.

-You said that you want a concrete calendar for the withdrawal of Armenian troops. Armenia said they are willing to compromise and not to surrender or capitulate those territories. Are you willing to compromise too and what compromise it looks like?

-First of all, our position have been already many times declared during this almost forty days. On many occasions, I said that our task is to restore the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, return one million Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons to their homelands, to the territories where they lived for centuries. And after that, to provide peaceful co-existence between Azerbaijani and Armenian community in that area. Our position is based on the common sense, on humanitarian grounds and is supported by international community. So, it is very clear, Armenia, when they talk about compromise they do not say anything concrete. They talk only about self-determination. But self-determination is not a compromise on their side. They should be more accurate in their position because it is very ambiguous now. Therefore, we demanded the time-table for withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories. And we demanded it from the very first day of the clashes. So, if Armenia listened to us, and behaved in a reasonable way, today we wouldn't have had the situation which we are now facing. The war would have stopped maybe a month ago. Therefore, compromise from Armenian side should be very precise. And the time-table for withdrawal from part of Aghdam district which is still under occupation and from Kalbajar and Lachin should be presented to us. And Armenian prime minister should personally declare that. Not only do they give us the time-table, but they also do not say that they will liberate those territories. During all this time, since 27 September, never Armenian military-political leadership said anything about liberation of territories. In this case, they actually show disrespect to Minsk Group co-chairs, who elaborated these principles providing return of seven territories and they actually lead to more escalation. So, we expect from Armenian prime minister to say openly, publicly that they will withdraw from Kalbajar, Lachin and the remaining part of Aghdam.

-And if not, there is only the military option for you.

-Nothing is left, there is no other option. We don't want to continue military operations. I said many times and can repeat today, if Armenian prime minister, personally him, the person who is responsible for this bloodshed makes such a statement, we are ready to stop immediately. I am a person who keeps his words, and we will do it. But he doesn't say. He wants to win time, he wants to have the ceasefire in order to get some more military assistance. He wants to use this ceasefire in order to launch new attacks on Azerbaijan, and to regain back the territories which we liberated. That's what he is after.

-Are you willing to sit down at this point with Mr. Pashinyan or is there no point in it?

-No. No point in that at all. I had many meetings with him during the last two years. But all of them were absolutely useless and senseless. Except the first meetings where he promised me that if Azerbaijan gives him a time after the so-called revolution, he will make his homework, he will strengthen his position politically in Armenia. Then, he will be willing to work constructively in order to implement the basic principles. That was what he told me in the early months of his

leadership in Armenia. But after a year, he said completely different things. He said that there will be no centimeter of land to be returned to Azerbaijan. He said “Karabakh is Armenia”. He said that Azerbaijan has to negotiate with the so-called “authorities of this quasi entity Nagorno-Karabakh”. So, he did everything to destroy negotiation process. Therefore, at this point, I don’t see any sense meeting with him. Our foreign ministers met recently in Geneva. And I think, this is the proper format now for the communications.

-You said that almost during thirty years the Minsk Group did nothing, or didn’t reach any to recover the occupied territories. Now you what do you expect from US, Russia and France?

-Yes, you are right, I said that Minsk Group did not deliver any result. But at the same time, I said that I cannot completely ignore their activity and only criticize them. Because the basic principles which are on the table now, it is the principles which were elaborated with the assistance of the Minsk Group. So, they worked, they tried. But they did not use all their tools which they have in order to press Armenia to liberate the territories. Each of these countries unilaterally has enough leverages on Armenia, whether it’s military support, political support, economic support, diaspora support et cetera. But they did not use these instruments in their hands. They did not insist on implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions which they themselves adopted as permanent members of the UN Security Council. Therefore, the fact that there was no result, of course, demonstrates their unwillingness rather than they could not. If they could not, then who can? Can you find more powerful countries in the world? The three permanent members of the Security Council cannot influence small, impoverished, dependent Armenia? They just didn’t want. They wanted the situation to be stable, this is true. They wanted a peaceful scenario. But when they saw that for almost thirty years there is no peaceful scenario, and the new Armenian government actually destroys the process by statements and actions, I think they should have acted.

And I called many times, talking with their leaders, talking with their high-ranking officials, ‘insert pressure on Armenia, put sanctions’. If you don’t want to put sanctions, at least pronounce it. Announce it that the sanctions will be imposed, otherwise there will be no other mechanism to influence this aggressor. So, today, I think they realized that what they were saying many years, that ‘there is no military solution to the conflict’ was wrong. And we changed that reality. There is a military solution. But today, what we are talking about let’s just close that page of military solution and move to the political solutions. So, military-political solution must prevail. We are ready to stop today if Armenian prime minister says what I already demanded from him and peace process should be based now on implementation of the rest part of the basic principles which partly have been already implemented. We need a precise time-table for Kalbajar, Lachin and part of Aghdam to be liberated. And then, I think the peace will come to the region.

-I now want to ask you about the statements of Amnesty International that both sides actually have used cluster bombs and now you and also Yerevan is saying that both sides use phosphorous weapons against the civilians. Do you use weapons internationally forbidden?

-We do not use forbidden weapons. We have enough ammunition in order to restore our territorial integrity, first. Second, we do not attack civilians, we do not attack cities in Nagorno-Karabakh after 10th of October. Before, yes, we admit it. But that was because most of the military units and infrastructure of Armenian army was concentrated in the so-called capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, Khankandi. So we had to. We had to hit those important military objects in order to provide security for us and to make our operation more efficient. But after the humanitarian

ceasefire was announced, and many times we announced that, we never hit any city or any village, where people lived. What Armenian did on the contrary, they launched ballistic missiles from Armenian territory to Ganja, and it is proved. Though Armenian prime minister said it was not them, but it is ridiculous. Because ballistic missile launch is being monitored by the satellites. Everybody knows from where it was launched and what was the goal of that missile. It was deliberately hitting the civilian compounds in Ganja, two times. They hit Barda two times with very destructive “Smerch” missiles. 21 persons were killed and 70 wounded only by one attack. There have been many attacks. They attacked a funeral ceremony in Tartar. That is absolutely beyond any norms of human behavior. When people were burying the person who died they hit the cemetery and four people were killed. And the cluster bombs which they used have been verified by international media and NGOs. I am sure that the first who reported about that were international media who visited them. And Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch just didn’t have any other option rather than to acknowledge that. But the question is, why they didn’t come in the first place to Azerbaijan. Why were they working only on Armenian side? Only after international media, Western media showed those cluster bombs which Armenian’s use, then these two NGOs confirmed that. It is good that they did. But frankly speaking I cannot imagine how they could not confirm it, because when it’s obvious.

-Russia, Mr. Lavrov said yesterday there are nearly 2000 mercenaries battling or combatting in Nagorno-Karabakh. What do you say regarding this?

-I answered many times to this groundless accusations, and I frankly speaking, regret that high-ranking officials of countries which supposed to be neutral, which supposed to be acting within their mandate which was given to them by OSCE, use this unverified, groundless so-called information and rumors, first. Second, we don’t have any mercenaries. Many times I said about that, we don’t need them. We have an army of 100 thousand fighters. We can recruit several times more, if we announce total mobilization which we don’t do unlike what Armenia did. There is no evidence of any foreign fighters fighting on our side. No evidence during this time since more than one month. Not a single document, not a single proof was given to us, only statements. But then why they don’t see what is happening on Armenian side? How many mercenaries are fighting on Armenian side? Why neither Russia, nor France which tries to accuse us, why didn’t say anything about that? We have a list of people already eliminated with foreign passports. American, French, Canadian, Lebanese, from Iraq, from countries of the post-Soviet area. Tens of them coming from Georgia. Yes, they are native Armenians, but it doesn’t make any difference. If they are citizens of other country, they are considered to be acting there illegally. And so far, nothing was said about that. Though, we have proofs. We have passports in our hands. We have evidence, video. Nothing is said about that. So, this is a selective approach which cannot be accepted by us. It is not in line with the mandate of mediators. I said many times, mediators must be neutral. If they take sides, it’s up to them, but then they have to step down from mediation. Every country can have good or bad relations with any country. We understand there is special feelings towards Armenians due to some reasons from some countries. But in national capacity, we don’t mind. But if you are mediator, please, be neutral. And stay away from accusations. If we start to accuse, those who accuse us about mercenaries, about what they do in different parts of the world, it will be a long story, very long story. We don’t do it. Therefore, we expect the same from our partners.

-What do you say to those who state that Turkey is not only giving you political help, but also a military one?

-I would say that this is another provocation, another false news. There is no any military support from Turkey, apart from the fact that we are buying modern military equipment from Turkey. This is true. And this is a sophisticated, modern equipment that I think every army in the world would have envied about. And Turkey's military industrial complex really demonstrates miracles. And this equipment helps us a lot on the battlefield. But we buy it. We sign contracts. Everything is transparent. Everything is legal. We buy weapons from other countries. Why nobody talks about how many weapons we bought from Russia? Only Turkey. Because Turkey is now in the center of attack from unfortunately, different European politicians. There are attempts to demonize Turkey. There are attempts to blackmail Turkey, to press it. This is absolutely unacceptable. We buy, main of our weapons from Russia. We buy weapons from other countries. Only Turkey is here. So, this is first. Second, those who always keep saying that Turkey provides military support to us, why don't they say that Russia provides military support to Armenia? A mediator, Minsk Group co-chair. We have proofs in our hands. We delivered this information to Russian officials. How much weapons were delivered to Armenia during this forty days? Why nobody talks about that? Let's talk about that. Let's be fair. Therefore, first, this is wrong. Second, we buy Turkish military equipment and we will continue to do it. And third, there should be no double standards about that. And those, by the way, who tell that Azerbaijan is militarily supported by Turkey, I think should refrain from these absurd accusations.

-Turkey obviously has interests in the region as has also Iran and Russia. Armenia has asked Russia for a possibility to guarantee its security. Do you fear an internationalization of the war?

-That is what Armenia wanted to do from the very beginning. And we were always against. I said many times to all the countries, 'stay away from this conflict'. It is our business, it's our battle for territorial integrity. And there should be no attempts to internationalize the conflict. But Armenia did everything to do it. And the letter which Armenian prime minister sent to Russian president, not only demonstrates that they already admit their defeat, that we beat them on the battlefield, it also shows that they want to internationalize the conflict. They want to drag Russia into a direct participation on the ground, which is absolutely unacceptable. As far as I know, it was rejected by Russia and Russian foreign minister issued a statement about that. That maybe I'm not precisely correct in my words, but the sense was that the fight is taking place on the territory of Azerbaijan. If Azerbaijan attacks, or if any country attacks Armenia, then Russia will have their obligations. But the battle is going on our soil. So, this attempts I think are absolutely useless. Russian position was articulated by the foreign minister. Iranian position was also articulated. Probably you heard about Iranian plan for the settlement, which provides territorial integrity of countries. And recently, the Iranian religious leader made a statement that Armenia should liberate internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan. So, this is a reaction of two neighbors. Position of Turkey is well-known. It always stands for international law and UN Security Council resolutions. Georgia, on many occasions before, also supported Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. This is a position of our neighbors. So, Armenia is in isolation. So, they want to internationalize the conflict. They want to exploit some fake news and some fake news from the history, in order to get support. But the best way for Armenia to act now is to admit their defeat, admit our victory and make a commitment that they will liberate the remaining part of the territories.

-If they recognize the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh what would your reaction be?

-You know, if they wanted to recognize, they would have recognized long time ago. Why didn't they recognize it before? Because, they clearly understand that by this very irrational step, negotiations will stop. Absolutely. So, if they do it, there will be nothing to talk about. And then, no peaceful initiative, no basic principles, no future settlement, nothing will be on the table. So, I think that they understand it. They always wanted to use it as a kind of an instrument in order to frighten us, saying that if Azerbaijan does that we will recognize. I tell them many times during this days of war and I tell now, Armenian prime minister, recognize Nagorno-Karabakh today. Do it. Show your courage. Show that your words mean something. Recognize Nagorno-Karabakh today. Again, and you will see that they will not do it. Because they are cowards. They can fight only against peaceful civilians and when they see our strength and our unity they run away.

-Will you be willing to accept an autonomy of the region?

-This should be part of the future discussions, on the basic principles. Because the first part of the basic principles demanded the withdrawal of occupied territories. Five plus two in timetable, then, there were other elements of the basic principles, like security, peacekeeping operations, status of Nagorno-Karabakh and we always were very open to discuss it. We offered them many times different ways, but they rejected. We offered them autonomy inside Azerbaijan. We offered them cultural autonomy, we said that there are good examples in the world, in Europe, in Scandinavia this Aland Islands, in Italy this South Tyrol district, in many other. But they rejected everything. They demanded independence only. And they wanted us to recognize this independence. By doing that they actually knowing that we will never do it, they were doing everything to freeze the conflict. So, I don't know, we need to first to end this hot stage of the conflict, come back to negotiation table. Armenia should make these commitments which I already said. And then we can talk about what will be happening in the future. I cannot say anything about that now.

-Thank you very much, Mr. President. I really appreciate your time.

-Thank you very much for your questions, for your interest in Azerbaijan.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army does not fire at residential settlements and civilian infrastructure

[11:40] 05.11.2020

The information spread by the Armenian side about the alleged renewed shelling of Khojavand and Shusha by the Azerbaijani Army is an absolute lie, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

"We declare once again that the Azerbaijani Army does not shell residential settlements and civilian infrastructure," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy fired at our residential settlements

[10:19] 05.11.2020

Until the morning of November 5, the residential settlements of Goranboy and Tartar districts were fired on by the units of Armenian armed forces, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, at 07.50 in the morning, 4 shells were fired by the enemy at Giyamaddinli village of Aghjabadi district.

AZERTAC

Armenia violates ceasefire on state border

[08:35] 05.11.2020

The units of Armenian armed forces fired at the positions of the units of Azerbaijan Army located at the two countries' state border using mortars and small arms, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, starting from the evening hours on November 4 to 04:50 on November 5, the positions of Azerbaijani military units located in Tovuz, Gadabay and Dashkasan districts of Azerbaijan were fired intermittently by the enemy from the direction of Berd, Chambarak and Vardenis regions of Armenia.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The latest situation on the front on November 5

[08:31] 05.11.2020

During the day on November 4 and night on November 5, the Armenian armed forces fired at the positions of the units of Azerbaijan Army in different directions of the front and our residential settlements with various small arms, howitzers and mortars, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

"The combat operations continued with varying intensity, mainly in the, Aghdara and Khojavand directions of the front. The enemy was forced to retreat with casualties on personnel and military vehicles in some areas of the front.

At present, our troops are monitoring the operational situation," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

November 4

Azerbaijan prevents Armenia's attempt to commit sabotage in Zangilan

[22:15] 04.11.2020

On November 4, Armenian troops' attempt to commit sabotage against Azerbaijani Army units in the territory of Zangilan district of the two countries' state border was firmly suppressed, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

"Armenia's reconnaissance-sabotage group, which suffered heavy losses, was forced to retreat," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan's UAVs do not fly over Armenian territory

[22:04] 04.11.2020

The information about the alleged downing of Azerbaijan's two unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) by Armenian Air Defense units is false, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

The ministry noted that Azerbaijan's UAVs do not fly over the Armenian territory.

AZERTAC

Jeyhun Bayramov: These actions of Armenia, which clearly represent a war crime, should be firmly condemned by international community

[20:19] 04.11.2020

Azerbaijan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov has attended the 130th session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Addressing the event, FM Jeyhun Bayramov congratulated the Government of Greece for the successful completion of its Presidency of the Committee of Ministers and extend full support to the incoming German Presidency.

"In January 2021, Azerbaijan will celebrate 20th anniversary of its accession to the Council of Europe. During past years, the membership to the Organisation has contributed to strengthening the respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law in my country and we are ready to continue this important work," the minister said.

"While joining the Council of Europe, Azerbaijan and Armenia undertook a joint commitment on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which resulted in illegal occupation of about 20 percent of the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan and forced displacement of around one million Azerbaijani citizens. Over the last 28 years, the mediation efforts under the OSCE Minsk Group did not yield any tangible result, due to the policy of aggression and occupation of successive governments in Armenia. I should remind that in its 2015 judgment in the case "Chiragov and others against Armenia", the European Court of Human Rights recognized the effective control of Armenia over the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Even after this judgment, Armenia continued to reject its responsibility, without facing any consequences," the FM noted.

"Following a series of highly provocative actions, including the statement "Karabakh is Armenia", as well as the declaration of the doctrine "new war for new territories", Armenia's political-military leadership launched a new military aggression against Azerbaijan on 27 September. Since the first day of hostilities, Armenia has been heavily shelling the densely populated areas deep inside Azerbaijan, causing 91 deaths, including 12 children and more than 400 wounded among civilians. I have to stress particularly 2 ballistic missile attacks on the second largest city of Azerbaijan - Ganja at nighttime and 2 other inhuman and treacherous attacks on another city – Barda killing many civilians. These actions of Armenia, which clearly represent a war crime, should be firmly condemned by the international community, including the Council of Europe."

"Counteracting against the Armenian aggression within its right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter, Azerbaijan remains committed to its obligations under the international humanitarian law. Azerbaijan simply seeks the implementation of the 4 UN Security Council resolutions adopted in 1993 which demand the immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The resolutions 1416 (2005) and 1614 (2008) adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe urged the parties to comply with these UN Security Council Resolutions and call for the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

This is the shortest path to the peaceful coexistence of Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, as well as lasting peace between the two member states of the Council of Europe and prosperity in the wider region," FM Bayramov concluded.

AZERTAC

Mevlut Cavusoglu: Everyone should speak up for Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity without any ifs or buts

[18:58] 04.11.2020

“Everyone should speak up for Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity without any ifs or buts. Condemning all forms of terrorism and expecting same empathy,” said Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu as he addressed the 130th meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated 7 more villages of Jabrayil, Zangilan and Gubadli districts

[17:52] 04.11.2020

“The victorious Azerbaijani Army has liberated Mirak, Kavdar villages of Jabrayil district, Mashadiismayilli, Shafibayli villages of Zangilan district, Basharat, Garakishilar and Garajalli villages of Gubadli district from occupation.

Long live Azerbaijani Army! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a post on his Twitter account.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s prosecutor general: Our military were not even able to put flag on anything in Fuzuli

[15:46] 04.11.2020

Azerbaijan`s Prosecutor General Kamran Aliyev told Reuters in an interview that advancing Azerbaijani troops had found an empty city in Fuzuli, a large town in Soviet times.

“Our military were not even able to put a flag on anything there, because there were no buildings,” he said.

“In Zangilan, they had found only a school for the children of military servicemen.”

Kamran Aliyev said he was considering opening a criminal investigation into what he said had been the destruction of many of the 700 historical buildings and monuments in the region.

AZERTAC

‘Armenia’s Foreign Ministry prepares ground for indiscriminate attacks against Azerbaijani civilians’

[14:34] 04.11.2020

“By such bellicose statement and based on fabricated narrative MFA Armenia prepares ground for indiscriminate attacks against Azerbaijani civilians,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his Twitter account.

“Armenia as a state sponsoring terrorism demonstrated its true face by firing Smerch and SCUD ballistic missiles to Ganja, Barda etc,” Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's UAZ vehicle was destroyed in Aghdara direction of the front

[14:30] 04.11.2020

A large number of enemy forces and military equipment were destroyed by the fire strike inflicted on the units of the 5th mountain rifle regiment of the Armenian armed forces, engaged in the battles in Aghdara direction of the front, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, Captain Ando Grigoryan, an officer of the military unit, was also among the personnel killed as a result of the destruction of a UAZ military vehicle.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense: “The Armenian side is lying again”

[14:16] 04.11.2020

“The information spread by the Armenian side about allegedly destroyed three tanks of the Azerbaijan Army in the southern sector of the front is completely false,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The Azerbaijan Army has a tactical, fire, and territorial superiority over the enemy in the Khojavand direction of the front. The enemy is forced to spread such groundless news in the media since hostile forces are morally and psychologically depressed,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia is paving ground for new war crimes against Azerbaijani civilians

[14:06] 04.11.2020

“Armenian armed forces are shelling with heavy artillery villages of occupied Aghdam region of Azerbaijan,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his Twitter account.

“It was obvious in the statement of MFA Armenia that they were paving ground for new war crimes against Azerbaijani civilians,” Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Anti-aircraft gun was disabled

[12:55] 04.11.2020

“The Azerbaijani Army Units continue to destroy enemy military vehicles. On November 3 in the afternoon, one M-55 anti-aircraft gun of the Armenian armed forces that was placed in one of the high grounds in the Khojavand direction of the front was destroyed by precise fire,” the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“It should be noted that the 20-mm 3-gun anti-aircraft weapon, manufactured in 1955 and mounted on a light armored multi-purpose personnel carrier, is designed to hit targets flying at low altitudes and to destroy his forces,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

**President Ilham Aliyev: Our task was to restore territorial integrity of Azerbaijan,
and we are coming closer to this task**

[11:51] 04.11.2020

“Our task was to restore territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and we are coming closer to this task. We have been waiting for restoration of the territorial integrity for almost 30 years,” President Ilham Aliyev said in an interview with Italian La Repubblica newspaper.

“During all this time Azerbaijan was strictly committed to negotiation process. But unfortunately, it did not result in any tangible outcome. Plus, Armenian leadership during last couple of years was always provoking us by the statements, and by actions, including military provocations. So the last one took place on the 27th of September. We had to respond and our response was very sensitive to Armenia. So, when we talk about the victory we did not put in front of us such a target. We wanted to resolve it at the negotiation table. But we were always ready to do it on the battlefield what we are doing,” the head of state said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry: We highly appreciate Iranian Supreme Leader's statement on Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

[11:49] 04.11.2020

“We highly appreciate the statement made by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and the support given to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan,” says a statement by Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry.

“All the territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia must be liberated and all these territories must be returned to Azerbaijan”, the Supreme Leader said, reiterating the strong support of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Azerbaijan's just position based on international law”.

We highly value the efforts of the friendly Iranian state to resolve the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, including the visit of the Special Envoy of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Deputy Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araqchi to the region and the initiative on the settlement of the conflict as soon as possible.

We believe that the relations between our countries, built on historical roots, will continue to develop successfully and will serve to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the region,” the statement says.

AZERTAC

**Assistant to Azerbaijani president: Armenia continues to use white phosphorus
projectiles against civilians in Tartar district**

[11:02] 04.11.2020

“Armenia continues to use white phosphorus projectiles against civilians in Tartar district of Azerbaijan,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his Twitter account.

“Unexploded phosphorus ordnance was neutralized by ANAMA,” Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Armenia violates ceasefire on the state border

[10:53] 04.11.2020

The Armenian armed forces fired again at the positions of the Azerbaijan Army on the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border using mortars and small arms, Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“On November 4, from 01:08 to 08:10, the positions of our military units located in Tovuz and Aghstafa districts of Azerbaijan were periodically fired by the enemy from the direction of the Berd region of Armenia,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: The territory of Tartar and Aghjabadi districts are under enemy shelling

[10:44] 04.11.2020

On November 4, starting from 08:05, the Armenian armed forces units periodically fire at the Gusanli and Gazyan villages of Tartar district, as well as Hajilar, Garakhanli and Boyat villages of Aghjabadi district, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“The Azerbaijan Army units are taking adequate resolute actions,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Italian La Repubblica newspaper

[10:36] 04.11.2020

On November 2, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by the Italian La Repubblica newspaper.

AZERTAC presents the interview.

-Mr. President, are you already tasting the flavor of the victory?

-Our task was to restore territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and we are coming closer to this task. We have been waiting for restoration of the territorial integrity for almost 30 years. As you know, during all this time Azerbaijan was strictly committed to negotiation process. But unfortunately, it did not result in any tangible outcome. Plus, Armenian leadership during last couple of years was always provoking us by the statements, and by actions, including military provocations. So the last one took place on the 27th of September. We had to respond and our response was very sensitive to Armenia. So, when we talk about the victory we did not put in front of us such a target. We wanted to resolve it at the negotiation table. But we were always ready to do it on the battlefield what we are doing.

-Putin is not willing to intervene. So, you can act without obstacles.

-Actually, I on many occasions commented the situation that co-chairs of the Minsk Group, 3 countries which are at the same time permanent members of the Security Council of United Nations, adopted resolutions back in 1993 which demanded immediate and complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from the Azerbaijani territories. Therefore, these countries themselves created the legal base for the settlement. But Armenia did not implement these resolutions. Another point, which I was referring to is that mediators must be neutral, no matter how they feel about situation. How close their relations are with us, or with Armenia, but if they are not neutral they cannot be mediators. Therefore, the neutrality now which we more or less see on the ground I think is the only way how the things can happen. Therefore, it was not a kind of a green light for us. We responded to Armenian attack on the 27th of September without any 100% understanding who will do what. We just did what we thought was right to defend our country, to defend our people, and to restore justice.

-How useful is the Ankara support to your action?

-It is very useful. This support came from the very beginning, from the early hours of the clashes which started on the 27th of September. President of Turkey made a very clear statement that Turkey stands side by side with Azerbaijan. That was a very important sign of political and moral support, and I many times referred to the fact that this is only political and moral support, but it was sufficient. Because such a strong country as Turkey when openly declares its position on this issue, it also sends the signal to the whole world, that Azerbaijan is doing the right thing. Azerbaijan is restoring its territorial integrity, Azerbaijan is fighting on its territory. We are not aggressors, we are not attacking other countries. Therefore, this political support which started in the early hours of the clashes and continues up to now is very important for the conflict resolution.

-What can you say about the jihadists' presence that president Macron, Russian foreign minister denounced that they are fighting against Armenia with your army. Is it true?

-On many occasions I already during this time, more than one month, referred to this issue and said that this is not true. This is not correct information. I don't know why this information was circulated, and still is circulated. First, we haven't been provided with any evidence, any proof about that. All were words, and those words were articulated in the early days of the conflict. And you referred to President Macron's statement about that. That was only in the first days of the conflict. Since that time, we didn't hear these kind of statements. So this is first. No proofs no evidence. Second, no need. Many times I said we have an army of a 100 thousand fighters, a regular army. We can mobilize several times more if we announce the total mobilization. We have modern weapons. We have a sophisticated technology. And we have a very high moral spirit. Therefore, there is no need for that. But unfortunately, what happens on the other side is being ignored. We already have enough evidences about foreigners fighting on Armenian side. They say they are native Armenians but first, it does not make any difference, because if foreign citizen is fighting against one country against another, it is a mercenary. Then, we do not have a 100% evidence that all of them are Armenians. We know that there are others. We know that PKK is there, we know that some terrorists from the Middle East joined the so-called "army of Nagorno-Karabakh". Therefore, unfortunately, this issue is absolutely out of picture. So, it creates an impression of a deliberate political attack on Azerbaijan. Plus, why Armenians are also exploiting this false statement, because for them probably it is very painful to admit that we beat them on the battlefield. For 30 years, they have been pretending that they have an unbeatable army. For 30 years they were telling that they on their own occupied our territories. Though, we know that it was wrong. So, we proved them who is who. We proved that their so-called "unbeatable army" is a legend, is a mythology. And for them to admit it is very painful. But they have already admitted their defeat. Prime minister Pashinyan sent a letter to President Putin asking for a military help. This is an admitting of their military defeat and our victory.

-What will be the difficulty for you to manage a possible victory, in the territory which populated by 98% of Armenian people?

-This territory was populated with maybe higher now. It was higher. Because all Azerbaijanis have been expelled. They committed ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis. It's a statistics, soviet statistics, not our statistics. How many people of different nationalities lived in Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous district in the end of 1970s? Almost 25% of the population there were Azerbaijanis. 40 thousand people. Shusha was 98% percent inhabited by Azerbaijanis. Today, there is no one. In Khankandi, there have been many Azerbaijanis. In Hadrut district, in other districts. Khojaly, which they committed a genocide, was 100% Azerbaijanis. So, they have been all ethnically cleansed, killed, tortured and expelled. And unfortunately, no one, no one accused Armenia of that. We did not see any sanctions on Armenia. We did not see any serious information supporting us. So, that was done and they created reality on the ground. This is the first thing. Second thing, 200 years ago, there were no Armenians at all there. Because I many times referred to the treaties which Karabakh khan signed with Russian empire. That Kurakchay treaty of 1805, nothing is said about ethnic Armenians there.

Ethnic Armenians were brought to that region from eastern Anatolia and Persia, by Tsarist Russia in order to change religious and ethnic composition of the region. So, this is historical part. Now coming to your question. I many times said that all those who live in Nagorno-Karabakh will

continue to live there in peace and dignity. Armenians are our citizens. There are thousands of Armenians who live in different parts of Azerbaijan, primarily in Baku, and those Armenians who live in Nagorno-Karabakh can be sure that their security will be provided, their financial situation will be much better. And they will live much better life than today under this suppression of the junta regime in Nagorno-Karabakh.

-Three ceasefires as already were broken. The peace talks seem not to get any result. Who is to blame for?

-Armenia. Look at their chronology. First, ceasefire was agreed in Moscow. In less than 24 hours they attacked Ganja with ballistic missiles from the territory of Armenia. It is proven. Russia, France and United States and many other countries can detect the launch of ballistic missiles. So, they know, it was launched from Armenia, and Pashinyan was lying when he said that it was not them. So, that was in less than 24 hours. They attacked at night, in a very mean way. They attacked deliberately the residential settlement. And as a result of two attacks almost 30 people, innocent people, including children were killed. The second ceasefire was violated by them after five minutes of the announcement of that. And the third ceasefire they violated attacking Barda. So, it was not us. What were we supposed to do? Sit and wait when they are killing us? Of course, we respond and will continue to do it. They needed ceasefire in order to continue their aggression, in order to try to regain and occupy again the territories which we have liberated. And also they wanted to create a chaos, panic in Azerbaijan by attacking civilians but they miscalculated the spirit of Azerbaijani people. Yes, we suffer from these mean attacks. We have 91 civilians so far killed, and more than 400 wounded. But this did not break our will, on the contrary, it makes us even stronger.

-What would you answer to premier Pashinyan that I met 3 weeks ago? He said that you're here for a new genocide in Nagorno-Karabakh.

-Absolutely false. All their history is false. There is no signs of that. You know, as I said, there are thousands of Armenians living in Azerbaijan. There are no Azerbaijanis living in Armenia or in Nagorno-Karabakh. 99% of Armenian population are ethnic Armenians. Can you find any other country in our region where such a full domination of one nationality? It is a mono-ethnic republic. Why? Because either they expel everybody, or other nationalities cannot live there. Azerbaijan is a multi-ethnic, multi-confessional country. Therefore, talking about the so-called genocide is absolutely unacceptable and this is another fake which they want to present as they always do. They always want to present themselves as the people who always suffering, always crying always needing help. And today look, he calls President Putin 5 times a day. He calls President Macron maybe less, but still. He calls everyone. He calls European leaders. He asks for recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh not understanding that there is a unified position of European Union on territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Therefore, he tries to use every fake method in order to get some support. Therefore, it is absolutely wrong. And as I said, and I am responsible for what I am saying, those Armenians who live in Nagorno-Karabakh can be sure that their security will be provided.

-With Italy you have a special partnership, you are our first provider of oil and gas. Are you afraid that if the war get bloodier and bloodier that partnership could be affected or not?

-I don't think so. First, I think that the sooner the war stops the better. And we made such a suggestion. And our proposal was very constructive. I said many times during this more than one month, I can repeat once again. We are ready to stop today. If Armenian prime minister makes a commitment that they will liberate the remaining part of the territories. He has not made this commitment so far. When asked about compromises, he always talks about a self-determination. But self-determination is not the compromise they have to do. Their compromise must be liberation of all occupied territories with respect to the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, and the basic principles. Because basic principles say that five regions and then two. So, five are already done by us unilaterally. Therefore, he must say that he will pull back the troops from remaining part of Aghdam and Kalbajar and Lachin districts. But he doesn't make this statement. So it shows that he doesn't want the war to stop. We are ready. This is first. Second, I don't think that it will create any complications with respect to our relations with our partners. With Italy we have a special relations. We have signed a document which is called a Strategic Partnership document. And just before the pandemic I paid an official visit to Italy which was very successful and with very big plans I returned back home. I am sure we will implement those plans though pandemic interfered a little bit. But it is mainly non-related to energy sector. On energy track, we did I think all what we planned today. I think Italy for us is a major trading partner, because of oil supplies. And also soon we will celebrate the inauguration of TAP. Thus, Southern Gas Corridor will be completed. Plus, many Italian companies work in Azerbaijan successfully for many years. We are planning to invite more Italian companies as contractors. By the way, they have completed such important projects as petrochemicals here and together with President Mattarella we have been at the opening ceremony. Therefore, I am sure that this conflict will influence our relations neither with Italy nor with any other country. So, I am sure about that.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Unlike the enemy, the Azerbaijani Army does not target civilians and civilian facilities

[09:33] 04.11.2020

“Unlike the enemy, the Azerbaijani Army does not target civilians and civilian facilities. It carries out an operation to force the occupier to peace,” said Assistant to the Azerbaijani President and Head of the Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev. He said Armenia was spreading false information about the attack on civilian facilities in Khankendi and other settlements.

"We are not at war with civilians, we only hit legitimate military targets."

“Armenian servicemen held captive in Azerbaijan do not face any physical and psychological pressure. We are committed to our international obligations in this regard. This is the main difference between Azerbaijan and Armenia. As an example of such humanitarian policy, the bodies of 30 Armenian servicemen who were in Azerbaijan have been handed over to Armenia some time ago," Hikmat Hajiyev said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on front

[08:23] 04.11.2020

During the day on November 3 and night on November 4, the Armenian armed forces fired at the positions of the units of Azerbaijan Army in different directions of the front and our residential settlements with various small arms, howitzers and mortars, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the combat operations continued with varying intensity, mainly in the Tartar, Aghdam, Khojavand, Zangilan and Gubadli direction of the front. The enemy was forced to retreat with casualties on personnel and military vehicles in some areas of the front.

"During the day and at nighttime, a large number of enemy forces, 2 T-72 tanks, 3 D-30 howitzer-guns, 1 "Zastava M-55" anti-aircraft gun, 1 tactical UAV, 3 military trucks were destroyed and wrecked.

At present, our troops are monitoring the operational situation," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Commander of motorized rifle regiment was killed

[01:04] 04.11.2020

During the battles in Khojavand direction of the front, a large number of servicemen were killed as a result of the shelling of underground shelters in the positions of the 3rd motorized rifle regiment of the 37th rifle division of the Armenian armed forces, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, as a result of measures taken by the Azerbaijani Army in this direction, commander of the motorized rifle regiment, colonel Gor Ishkhanyan was also killed.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Enemy guns destroyed in Khojavand direction of front

[00:47] 04.11.2020

On November 3, in the afternoon, three guns of the Armenian armed forces were destroyed in the Khojavand direction of the front, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

November 3

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy tanks were destroyed in the battles near Khojavand

[23:44] 03.11.2020

During the battles in the Khojavand direction of the front on November 3, units of the Azerbaijani Army forced enemy's tank units to retreat from the battlefield, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, several enemy tanks with combat crews were destroyed by the precise fire strikes of the Azerbaijani army units.

Citing the ministry, AZERTAC presents video footage showing the moments of the destruction of enemy tanks.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army does not open fire at civilians and civilian infrastructure, Defense Ministry

[20:14] 03.11.2020

“Armenia is currently in a situation where it no longer knows what it will do and what lies and slanders it will spread. The enemy continues to spread false information that the military aircraft of Azerbaijan allegedly fired at civilians in Shusha and Khankandi,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“We reiterate that the Azerbaijan Army does not open fire at civilians and civilian infrastructure,” the Defense Ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense: “Armenian side tries to persuade domestic audience of fairy tales based on new scenarios”

[19:30] 03.11.2020

“As always, the Armenian side is trying to hide its failures and calm down the dissatisfied Armenian population with its tales based on false, exaggerated scenarios. Thus, this time the enemy spread another false information about the alleged shelling of the Azerbaijan Army's "subversive group" and retreat with losses in the northern direction of the front,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“This information spread by the enemy is also complete disinformation and another fantasy of the enemy,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Appeal sent to secretariats of conventions to inform world community of crimes committed by Armenian separatists

[17:57] 03.11.2020

Aggressive Armenia has been committing large-scale acts of ecological terror, causing serious damage to natural monuments, biodiversity, forest areas, underground and surface natural resources in the territories of Azerbaijan, which are under occupation for 30 years.

Deputy Head of the Service for Biodiversity Conservation Arzu Samadova stated that recently, the invader Armenian state has begun to re-encroach on civilian population, ecological environment, natural resources, world-important biological diversity and rich forest areas outside the war zone.

“As a result of the regular artillery fire on the districts outside the front line by the Armenian Armed Forces in gross violation of the norms of international humanitarian law, several missile shells were dropped on specially protected and internationally recognized natural areas, including the Aghgol and Goygol national parks, which caused large-scale fires. As a continuation of the Armenia's ecological terror, the precious forests of Shusha were subjected to fire with the use of toxic and prohibited white phosphorus, which cannot be extinguished.”

Arzu Samadova noted that as a result of these acts of terror committed intentionally by the aggressive Armenia, serious ecological disturbances occurred in the region, the natural vegetation, the top layer of the land, which takes thousands of years to be formed were completely burned, the rare plant and animal species included in the “Red Book” of Azerbaijan and the IUCN Red List, the number of which has critically decreased were destroyed, the natural habitats were destroyed, the ecological balance was disturbed and the environmental components were seriously damaged.

“These grave crimes committed by Armenia against the nature are a gross violation of the requirements of the international convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar and Bern conventions available in the field of environment.

The Service for Biodiversity Conservation appealed to the secretariats of the conventions in order to put an end to the regular acts of ecological terrorism carried out by the invader Armenian state in the territory of Azerbaijan and to inform the world community of the crimes committed by Armenian separatists.”

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani president: Armenia is hiding the truths from its public

[17:51] 03.11.2020

“Armenia is hiding the truths from its public,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev told a briefing held today.

The presidential assistant noted that Armenia continues to deceive its public, hiding its defeats and truths.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense: “Enemy`s independent armored tank battalion commander was killed”

[17:47] 03.11.2020

“Several enemy tanks were destroyed in the defensive zone of the 10th mountain rifle division of the Armenian armed Forces in the Aghdara direction of the front,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“As a result of measures taken by our units, the commander of the 77th independent armored tank battalion, lieutenant colonel Nelson Akopjanyan, was killed,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Prosecutor General's Office launches criminal case against those who established terrorist organizations in occupied territories

[17:12] 03.11.2020

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan, together with relevant government agencies, continues to take necessary measures to once again expose the aggressive nature of the Republic of Armenia at the international level.

Following up these measures, it was established that Vladimir Vartanov, a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, and others by involving citizens of other countries of different nationalities living outside the Republic of Armenia, created armed association "VoMa" ("Voxj Mnalu Arvest" - The Art of Survival) consisting of such persons, which is not provided by the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Holding trainings for members of the association for the purpose of terrorism, they committed terrorist acts in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan as part of that armed association. On the basis of materials received from the State Security Service (SSS) on these and other criminal acts, an investigation was conducted by the Investigation Department of the Prosecutor General's Office.

The investigation found that, in 2014, Vladimir Vartanov and others established a militarized organization called "VoMa" in the territory of the Republic of Armenia to commit terrorist acts against the Republic of Azerbaijan and its citizens. Using Internet resources, they recruited citizens of foreign countries of Armenian descent, as well as members of Asala, PKK and other terrorist organizations to join "VoMa". They organized their participation in military exercises and united as a criminal association within the "Mountain Rifle Reserve Battalion" ("VoMA Battalion").

It was also established that the above persons entered Khankandi city and other occupied settlements, illegally crossing the internationally recognized state border of the Republic of Azerbaijan without established documents and outside the checkpoints of the state border, i.e. through the territory of Armenia. In order to support the illegal so-called regime of the "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic", they were used as mercenaries by the Armenian political-military leadership against the civilians of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the armed forces engaged in anti-terrorist operations.

In addition, members of the organization with special cruelty and in common dangerous ways, with the intention of national hostility and terrorism committed numerous crimes against civilians not participating in military operations in different regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan by opening fire with the use of ammunition and military equipment. Explosions, fires or other acts jeopardizing public order were committed. It was revealed that they were involved in terrorist activities against the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan by threatening to commit acts for the above purposes.

With regard to the above-mentioned facts, criminal proceedings were launched by Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan under Article 100.2 (planning, preparation, implementation or conducting aggressive war), Article 120.2.1 (deliberate murder committed by a criminal organization), Article 279.3 (establishment of armed associations not provided by law), Article 318.2 (illegal crossing the state border of the Republic of Azerbaijan) and other articles of the Criminal Code. The investigation was entrusted to the Investigation Department of the Prosecutor General's Office.

Given that the involvement of mercenaries and terrorists in the occupying army of the Republic of Armenia, which supports terrorism at the state level and turned terrorism into one of the main tools of its aggressive policy, is contrary to international law, the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan urges international organizations to take all necessary measures and to impose sanctions against the occupier country within the international law.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Azerbaijani Army prevents provocations and attacks of the enemy

[17:06] 03.11.2020

“Under the leadership of President, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, our Armed Forces continue operations aimed at the liberation of our lands and restoration of the territorial integrity of our country. Today, the Armenian armed forces have committed provocations in various directions of the front. The Azerbaijani Army continues to prevent these provocations and attacks of the enemy,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev said at a briefing held today.

The presidential assistant noted that Azerbaijan's just cause is supported at the international level. “Thanks to the successful diplomatic activity of the Azerbaijani government pursued under President Ilham Aliyev’s leadership, the world community supports our country’s territorial integrity,” Hikmat Hajiyev added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense: “Armenian regiment commander in Khojavand direction became deserter”

[16:53] 03.11.2020

“A large number of personnel was killed and military vehicles were destroyed by the fire strike at the 2nd motorized rifle regiment of the Armenian armed forces involved in the combat operations conducted in the Khojavand direction of the front,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“It was also found out that the regiment commander became a deserter and the servicemen of the D-20 artillery division went missing,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Armenia shelling Azerbaijan's Aghdam and Aghjabadi districts

[16:15] 03.11.2020

“The Armenian armed forces are again shelling civilian infrastructure in the villages of Aghdam and Aghjabadi districts,” Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry said.

“Adequate retaliatory measures are being taken by Azerbaijani Army units,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army destroys Armenian sniper group

[16:13] 03.11.2020

“The Azerbaijan Army fired at the defense area of the 543rd regiment of the Armenian armed forces, which was brought to our occupied territory,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“As a result of fire strikes, a sniper group preparing to operate in the Gubadli direction was destroyed,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy suffered heavy losses

[16:06] 03.11.2020

On November 3, the Armenian armed forces attempted to attack the Aghdara, Aghdam, and Khojavand directions, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“As a result of firm measures taken by our units, the enemy's attack was prevented and he was forced to retreat, suffering heavy losses.

At present, our troops are monitoring the operational situation,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Next enemy ammunition depots were destroyed

[15:20] 03.11.2020

“As a result of actions taken by our units today two more ammunition depots of the Armenian armed forces located near Khankendi were destroyed,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's reconnaissance-sabotage group was destroyed in Zangilan direction

[15:00] 03.11.2020

On November 2, another provocation of the enemy was suppressed at the state border with Armenia in the direction of Azerbaijan's Zangilan district, Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“An enemy reconnaissance-sabotage group that attacked our units from the territory of Armenia and attempted to seize the favorable high grounds at the state border was neutralized.

The enemy was forced to retreat, leaving combat casualties and weapons in the area,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Ministry of Defense: Armenian side obliged to tell new lie every time to hide its losses

[14:32] 03.11.2020

“The information spread by the Armenian media about the alleged destruction of convoys belonging to Azerbaijan Special Forces in the direction of Tagavard village of Khojavand district is groundless and another fabrication of the Armenian side,” the Ministry of Defense said.

“Armenian side trying to cover up its growing losses on the battlefield, is obliged to lie every time because it is in a desperate situation,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Nigerian newspaper publishes article on Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

[14:25] 03.11.2020

Nigeria-based Vanguard Media Limited daily newspaper has published an article by founder of Friends of Azerbaijan Organization in Nigeria, Azerbaijani diplomat Billura Bayramova headlined “Armenian-backed militias destabilizing fragile Azerbaijan’s Nagorno-Karabakh region”.

“On Wednesday, several people killed, and dozens wounded in attack on eastern Azerbaijan, as clash over Nagorno-Karabakh intensified.

Azerbaijan has accused Armenia of using cluster munitions in two days of attacks, killing at least 25 people and wounding dozens in Barda, eastern Azerbaijan, near Nagorno-Karabakh,” the article says.

“According to Billura Bayramova, on September 27, 2020, major fighting broke out along the front lines of the decades-old Nagorno–Karabakh conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

She said that far from being a small skirmish, fighting is taking place along the entire front-line.

The fighting between the Azerbaijani and Armenian militaries and Armenian-backed militias in Azerbaijan’s Nagorno–Karabakh region could destabilize an already fragile region even further.

Upon the dissolution of the Soviet Union in late 1991, the newly independent countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan agreed and signed the Alma-Ata Protocols, which stated each country is committed to “recognizing and respecting each other’s territorial integrity and the inviolability of the existing borders.” This included the Azerbaijan S.S.R.’s Karabakh region remaining part of the newly established Republic of Azerbaijan.

By 1992, Armenian forces and Armenian-backed militias occupied the Nagorno–Karabakh region and all or parts of Azerbaijan’s Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Kalbajar, Lachin, Gubadli, and Zangilan districts. On this occupied territory Armenian separatists declared the so-called Republic which is a fictitious country and is not recognized by any other country in the world—even Armenia.

During 1992 and 1993, the U.N. Security Council adopted four resolutions on the Nagorno–Karabakh war. Each resolution confirmed the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan to include Nagorno–Karabakh and the seven surrounding districts, as well as calling for the withdrawal of all occupying forces from Azerbaijani territory. A cease-fire agreement was signed by all sides in 1994.

The Minsk Group was established by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) at the Budapest summit in 1994. The OSCE consists of 12 members, with France, Russia, and the United States serving as permanent co-chairs. The Minsk Group was tasked with

bringing a lasting peace to the war, but over the years had difficulty finding a framework for negotiations to which all sides could agree,” the article says.

“The death toll in a recent Armenian missile attack on Azerbaijan’s Ganja city, despite a cease-fire, rose to nine including four women on Sunday.

As many as 34 others, among them 16 women and six children, are injured, the Prosecutor General’s Office in Azerbaijan said in a statement.

The Armenian attacks continued despite a humanitarian truce agreed on Saturday for the exchange of prisoners and retrieval of bodies in Nagorno-Karabakh, an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan.

Assistant to Azerbaijani President Hikmat Hajiyev said the attacks were Armenia’s “policy of vandalism and barbarism” against Azerbaijani civilians, and “an act of genocide”. Attacking civilians with destructive missiles is a war crime, a manifestation of immoral behavior of Armenia’s political-military leadership, he tweeted.”

“The armistice came after a trilateral meeting in Moscow on Friday between the foreign ministers of Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. Between Sept. 27, when the clashes began, and October 11, as many as 41 Azerbaijani civilians have been killed and 205 injured. Some 1,165 houses, 57 residential and commercial buildings, and 146 public buildings have also been destroyed or damaged, the prosecutors said,” the article adds.

AZERTAC

Iranian Supreme Leader: Azerbaijan`s territories occupied by Armenia should be liberated

[14:12] 03.11.2020

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said that Azerbaijan`s territories occupied by Armenia should be liberated.

Khamenei also noted that it is necessary to observe internationally recognized borders of countries.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: News spread by Armenian side about Shusha is
misinformation**

[13:44] 03.11.2020

“Today, the news spread by the Armenian media about the alleged shelling of the city of Shusha with banned ammunition is misinformation,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense said.

AZERTAC

News of destruction of Azerbaijani units` mortar platoon is nonsense, Defense Ministry

[13:15] 03.11.2020

“The news spread by the Armenian media that the Armenian forces allegedly destroyed the mortar platoon of our units in the southern direction and obtained important documents is nothing but nonsense,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense said.

AZERTAC

Armenian armed forces fire on Fuzuli from “Smerch”

[13:05] 03.11.2020

“The Armenian armed forces are shelling the city of Fuzuli and the surrounding villages from the Smerch MLRS,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Influential US TV channels air Consul General Nasimi Aghayev's interview

[12:28] 03.11.2020

On November 1, Armenian lobby staged a demonstration against Azerbaijan in front of Azerbaijan's Consulate General in Los Angeles. Although in advance of the demonstration the lobby announced that they were expecting tens of thousands of people to join, only 400-500 Armenians attended the protest according to the Los Angeles Police Department.

Before the protest, the Consulate General of Azerbaijan prepared a press release and shared it with local TV and radio channels and newspapers. In the press release, the Consulate General highlighted Armenia's latest military aggression against Azerbaijan, targeting Azerbaijan's cities and civilian population, as well as Armenia's use of the widely banned cluster munitions against civilians. It was mentioned that as a result of Armenia's deliberate attacks, many Azerbaijani civilians have been killed and wounded.

Moreover, "FOX" and "NBC" TV channels included Consul General Nasimi Aghayev's video statement in their reports on the Armenian demonstration. In his comments, the Consul General talked about Armenia's repeated deadly missile attacks on Azerbaijan's civilian population in the city of Barda and mentioned the use of cluster munitions by Armenia. Consul General Aghayev also stated that "Amnesty International" confirmed Armenia's use of cluster munitions against Azerbaijani civilians.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani NGOs: We are deeply concerned about the fact that Armenian lobby has declared open war on freedom of speech, expression

[12:03] 03.11.2020

The NGOs of Azerbaijan have made an appeal to International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), International Press Institute, Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters without Borders, International Federation of Journalists, European Federation of Journalists, International News Safety Institute, International Media Support and Article 19 in connection with the pressuring of international media outlets and journalists objectively covering the military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan.

The appeal reads:

“We would like to inform you that between September 27 – October 31, 2020, 91 civilians were killed and 404 were injured as a result of Armenia's ballistic and prohibited cluster missile attacks on Azerbaijani cities and regions far from the combat zone. Such war crimes committed by Armenia have been widely covered by the world media.

However, the Armenian diaspora threatens and puts serious pressure on media outlets, journalists and public activists who cover the truth about the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, disseminate objective information, and even demonstrate a neutral position and do not meet the interests of Armenia and the Armenian diaspora. The Armenian lobby is threatening with death, pressurising and insulting journalists who take an objective and neutral position on the conflict, trying to suppress free speech.

One such example is about the report by Ms. Liseron Boudoul, a journalist of the French TF1 channel. Thus, during her visit to Azerbaijan, Ms. Boudoul witnessed Armenia's artillery and missile fire on our civilians in Ganja, Barda, Tartar and other densely populated areas, preparing an objective report on this.

Following the report, members of the Armenian lobby in France launched a total attack and pressure on Ms. Liseron Boudoul and TF1, threatening to kill the journalist. As a result, TF1 was forced to stop broadcasting the report and delete it from the system.

Ms. Carlotta Gall, a correspondent for the New York Times in Istanbul, was similarly subjected to moral and political terror by Armenians. Thus, the newspaper's editorial office and the journalist faced serious pressure and threats from the Armenians for covering the massacre of the civilian population of Azerbaijan with a ballistic missile by Armenia.

One of the most concerning and surprising facts is the growing number of open threats by the Armenian lobby to the balanced report on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and lack of adequate reaction against the backdrop of the characterization of the caricature of the prophet of one of the world's three heavenly religions by the French magazine “Charlie Hebdo” as a freedom of speech.

We are deeply concerned about the fact that the Armenian lobby has declared open war on freedom of speech, expression, and the principles of objectivity, impartiality of and unbiased journalism.

We believe that the attempts of the Armenian lobby to silence the independent media around the world should concern you, first of all, as international media institutions, and you should openly protest against this illegality.

As NGOs working on protection of the rights of journalists and the media in Azerbaijan, we call on you to protest against such incidents and to prevent the Armenian lobby's attempts to silence free speech.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy is pushed out of its positions

[11:25] 03.11.2020

The information by the Armenian side that the southern part of the front of the Azerbaijani Army units were retreated to the original positions, does not fully reflect to the truth, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“The Azerbaijani Army has full tactical and firing superiority over the Armenian army in all directions of the front. The enemy is purposefully and methodically pushed out of their positions,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy's tactical UAV was destroyed

[11:10] 03.11.2020

On November 3 at 09:50, Azerbaijan Air Defense Units destroyed an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) of the Armenian armed forces attempted to carry out a flight over the front, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia has wide practice of usage of phosphorus munitions

[10:48] 03.11.2020

“Armenia has wide practice of usage of phosphorus munitions,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his Twitter account.

“In 2016, during the four-day April escalation, Armenia fired phosphorus projectiles to Askipara village of Tartar district. We invited OSCE representatives, military attaches and with their participation unexploded ordnance was neutralized,” Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Release of the Press Service of the President

[10:44] 03.11.2020

On November 2, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev had a phone conversation with President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin.

During the conversation, they discussed the issues relating to the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and ways to resolve it, as well as the situation in the war zone.

AZERTAC

Armenia again violates ceasefire on state border

[10:29] 03.11.2020

Armenian armed forces fired at the positions of the Azerbaijan Army on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border using mortars and small arms, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“On November 3, from 00:25 am to 04:45 am, the positions of our military units located in Tovuz, Gadabay and Dashkasan districts of Azerbaijan were fired by the enemy from the territories of Berd, Chambarak and Vardenis regions of Armenia,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on frontline

[08:23] 03.11.2020

During the day on November 2 and night on November 3, the Armenian armed forces fired at the positions of the units of Azerbaijan Army in different directions of the front and our residential settlements using various small arms, howitzers and mortars, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the combat operations continued mainly in the direction of Aghdara, Khojavand, Zangilan and Gubadli. The enemy was forced to retreat with casualties in personnel and military vehicles in some areas of the front.

"During the day and nighttime, a large number of enemy troops, 4 BM-21 "Grad" MLRS, 1 KUB air defense missile system, 9 different types of howitzers and 2 trucks loaded with ammunition were destroyed and wrecked.

At present, our troops are monitoring the operational situation," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

November 2

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's "KUB" air defense missile system was destroyed

[23:11] 02.11.2020

"On November 2, at about 6.00 pm, the enemy's "KUB" air defense missile system located in Chardagli village of Tartar district (the former Magavuz village of Aghdara district) was destroyed by precise fire," Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army destroys Armenian military personnel

[19:53] 02.11.2020

“The enemy's military personnel at the point of permanent deployment, trenches, and firing positions was destroyed by precise strikes,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defence told AZERTAC.

“At the same time, the enemy's headquarter also came under fire in the Gırmızı Bazar direction,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy again fires at Gubadli from the territory of Armenia

[19:23] 02.11.2020

“Starting from noon on November 2, the Armenian armed forces are shelling Gubadli and the villages of the district,” Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“At present, the territory of the Gubadli district is being intensively shelled from the direction of David Bek village of the Gafan region of Armenia,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army does not fire at civilians

[18:37] 02.11.2020

“Today, the Armenian media has repeatedly spread false information about the alleged shelling of our occupied settlements by the Azerbaijani Army using various weapons,” the Ministry of Defence told AZERTAC.

“Once again, we officially state that the Azerbaijan Army does not fire at the civilians and non-military infrastructure,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Ministry of Defense: “Armenia's report on alleged shooting down of Azerbaijan's fighter jet is misinformation”

[18:19] 02.11.2020

“The news about the "shooting down" of Azerbaijan's another fighter jet by the Armenian armed forces is misinformation. As it may sound ridiculous, if we believe the information of the Armenian side and count the number of planes "shot down" since the beginning of hostilities, not a single aircraft should have remained in the airbases of the Azerbaijan Air Force,” the Ministry of Defence told AZERTAC.

“We declare that all combat aircraft of the Azerbaijan Air Force have not flown today, they are in full force and combat operational,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: "Information that the enemy has supposedly improved its positions in some areas of the front is misinformation"

[18:14] 02.11.2020

“The information spread today by the officials of the Armenian Ministry of Defense about the alleged improvement of their positions in some areas during the fierce battles in various directions of the front and the "destruction" of a group of Azerbaijani servicemen is an absolute lie,” the Ministry of Defense said.

“Similar information is aimed at partially eliminating the fear, anxiety, and discouragement among the Armenian military personnel, as well as the chaos and anarchy in general,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev received Secretary General of Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States, President of Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, Chairman of Uzbek Chamber of Commerce and Industry and President of Kyrgyz Chamber of Commerce and Industry

[16:53] 02.11.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has received Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States Baghdad Amreyev, President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey Mustafa Rifat, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan Adham Ikramov and President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyzstan Marat Sharshekeev.

AZERTAC reports that the head of state made a speech at the meeting.

Speech of President Ilham Aliyev

- Welcome! The Baku meeting of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States is a very significant event. Given that Azerbaijan is currently waging a patriotic war, this meeting is of particular importance. We take this as a sign of support and solidarity, so thank you for that. This is an extraordinary meeting, and its main purpose is to provide moral support to our country.

Since the first days of the war, we have felt the support of Turkey and other fraternal and friendly countries. As you know, the President of the Republic of Turkey, my dear brother provided us with first support and made very important statements. He said that Azerbaijan was not alone and that Turkey was with Azerbaijan. After that, the heads of state and government of other friendly and brotherly countries – the heads of state and government of Pakistan, Afghanistan and other countries – supported us. I am glad that the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States has supported us and made a very important statement. This is a manifestation of unity and solidarity among Turkic speaking countries. At the same time, I can say that Azerbaijan has received great support on a global scale. The Non-Aligned Movement is the second biggest international organization after the United Nations, uniting 120 countries. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation has also supported us. This, of course, shows once again that ours is a cause of truth, we are restoring our territorial integrity, waging war on our own territory. At the same time, it is a sign of the attitude of the countries of these organizations to Azerbaijan.

The war has been going on for more than a month. We are teaching the occupiers a lesson and driving them out of our lands. Many settlements have already been liberated. Every week, dozens of new settlements – cities and villages – are liberated from the occupiers, and the victorious Azerbaijani Army continues its successful operation.

The situation in the occupied territories is deplorable. All our historical and religious sites have been destroyed and desecrated. Armenians kept pigs in a mosque in the occupied territories in Zangilan district, and these videos are available on the Internet. This has angered the entire Muslim world. This shows again that the Armenian state hates the entire Muslim world, otherwise such base actions would not have taken place. Of course, the whole Muslim world can see yet again what kind of savage enemy we are facing. Armenia, which cannot confront us on the battlefield, fires at our cities and villages every day. According to the information I was given this morning, more than 200 shells were fired at our cities and villages from 6 am – it is five minutes to 9 now. During this month, 91 civilians have been killed, 10 of them are children, 404 civilians have been injured and more than 2,000 houses have been destroyed. Armenia uses banned weapons to kill as many people as possible. Our revenge takes place on the battlefield. I have said this many times. I have said that we will take revenge on the battlefield. We are driving the enemy away and will drive them away to the end. At the same time, Armenia was given three chances. Despite the successful operation of our army, we respected the proposals of international mediators and agreed on a ceasefire three times. On all three occasions, Armenia grossly violated it – the first time by bombing Ganja with ballistic missiles. The second time, 4-5 minutes after the ceasefire and the third time by firing a “Smerch” missile on Barda, killing 21 people and injuring 70. As a result of two ballistic missiles fired at Ganja, about 30 people were killed. This is the ugly face of Armenian fascism. Not only are we liberating our lands from the enemy, we are breaking the back of Armenian fascism, which poses a great threat to the region, and we will continue to do so. No-one can stand in front of us and no-one can reverse us from this path.

At the same time, I have said many times, and this is my position, that if Armenia ceases fire today, for example, and demonstrates a constructive position at the negotiating table, we are ready to stop too if it makes a concrete commitment to withdraw troops from our lands. We believe that a military solution to the conflict must move on to a political plane, and we are ready for that. I do hope that Armenia's bitter defeat will force them to think very seriously and make this decision.

But we are seeing exactly the opposite. The Armenian prime minister has sent a letter to the Russian President asking for military assistance. This is completely unacceptable. There is no basis for that. We are crushing and driving the enemy out of our lands. We have not invaded Armenia. This is first. Second, Russia is a co-chair of the Minsk Group and, like all co-chairs, it must be neutral, as required by the mandate of a co-chair given to it by the OSCE. Pashinyan's sending this letter is, in fact, a confession. He admits that Armenia has lost. I think that this acknowledgement must be seriously analyzed in Armenian society and the Armenian leadership must be put under serious pressure to stop this war, the occupiers to leave our lands and ensure peace in the region.

Thank you again for this wonderful initiative, and welcome again. I am confident that your event will be successful. Thank you!

Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States **Baghdad Amreyev** said:

- Thank you, Mr. President. This time we have come to Baku to convey the voice of brotherly Azerbaijan to the whole world. On this occasion, thank you very much for receiving me and the chairmen of other chambers of the Turkic world.

From the first days of Armenia's attacks on Azerbaijan, we, as the Turkic Council and the Turkic world, have stood by brotherly Azerbaijan. We made the necessary statements. I went to Ganja. We also expressed our tough position at the meeting with the media there. In this Patriotic War, we stand by Azerbaijan. I expressed my opinion on the legal right of the Turkic world and the Turkic Council to take back the occupied lands of Azerbaijan without any preconditions. We say that the conflict must be resolved only on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan recognized by the international community.

Mr. President, I pray to God to repose the souls of all our Azerbaijani martyrs who died for the liberation of the occupied territories.

At today's event - the meeting of the heads of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Turkic-Speaking countries, we will once again express our solidarity. We will once again declare our support for Azerbaijan. We held a meeting of the Turkic Council and the Ministers of Health of the Turkic world with the participation of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul yesterday. At this event, we once again expressed our full and comprehensive support for brotherly Azerbaijan.

As you know, the presidents of the Turkic Council member-states instructed us at the summit in Baku last year. Now we are preparing a strategy of the Turkic Council for 2021 and the goals of the Turkic world for 2040. I do hope that these documents will be adopted by you at the next summit. The Turkic Council is always with you, Mr. President. We are all Azerbaijan.

President Ilham Aliyev: Thank you, thank you very much!

President of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey **Mustafa Rifat** said:

- Mr. President, thank you very much for receiving us. It is a great pleasure for us to meet with you in Baku again. The main purpose of our visit as the Turkic Chambers of Commerce and Industry is to participate in an extraordinary meeting of the heads of member countries of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkic-Speaking countries. The chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan and the president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kyrgyzstan are also here. At the same time, the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kazakhstan will participate in a video format, as he is attending a board meeting today.

We are here today to express our solidarity with you. Exactly a year ago, we were with you at the summit. At that time, we had a very useful meeting with 1,200 businessmen from the Turkic world. You also invited us to the summit. At the same time, the leaders of eight non-governmental organizations representing trade unions, civil servant unions and trade confederations, which unite 50 million people from Turkey, came here with me.

We are here to demonstrate our support for our Azerbaijani brothers as leaders of the Turkic business community, which represents 50 million people.

President Ilham Aliyev: Thank you!

Mustafa Rifat: We pray for our martyrs to rest in peace. We pray to God to send healing to our wounded soldiers and civilians. We congratulate the Azerbaijani Army under your leadership. You are putting an end to our 30 years of longing. May God be pleased with you and grant help. We are with you

24 hours a day whatever our duty is, what the duty of your Turkish brothers is. All you have to do is send us a message, Mr. President. Since that day, we have decorated the building of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges with the Azerbaijani flag. It has been the case since that day. It has spread over on all social media. On the day you launched the operation, we raised the Azerbaijani flag on one of the most prestigious buildings in Ankara.

If you have any other instructions for us, we will be happy. It would make us happy if we could contribute to this cause. Thank you.

President Ilham Aliyev: Thank you very much, thank you! I want to express my sincere gratitude to you again. You know that all the people of Azerbaijan are united these days. All the Azerbaijanis of the world are watching the attitude to this issue, to this war with great sensitivity. This is understandable because our lands have been under occupation for 30 years and the efforts of international mediators have not yielded fruit. We simply saw steps aimed at winning time, freezing the conflict and perpetuating the occupation. The people of Azerbaijan saw that. Therefore, the people of Azerbaijan are very sensitive to every opinion and position on this issue that has been voiced in the world over the past month. Of course, we were encouraged to see this support from brotherly countries from the first days. This gave us even greater moral strength, and we saw again that our unity is not in word but in deed. Your visit today shows this again. As you mentioned, Rifat Bey, the meeting of the Turkic Council in Baku a year ago was a very significant event. We have expressed our views on these issues – we must be together and support each other in all matters. Whenever someone is in a difficult situation, moral support must be provided, and we are seeing that. This is why I attach special importance to your meeting today. I am confident that all the people of Azerbaijan will appreciate it. Thank you again.

Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan Adham Ikramov and President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic Marat Sharshekeev reiterated their countries' solidarity with Azerbaijan these days.

AZERTAC

Armenia shells territory of Tartar and Goranboy districts

[16:39] 02.11.2020

The Armenia armed forces units are subjecting to intensive artillery fire Shikharkh settlement, Gazyan and Gapanli villages of Tartar district, as well as Yenikand village of Goranboy district.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army liberated several more villages of Jabrayil, Zangilan and Gubadli districts

[16:38] 02.11.2020

“The victorious Azerbaijani Army has liberated from occupation Chaprand, Haji Isagli, Goshabulag villages of Jabrayil district, Dara Gilatagh, Boyuk Gilatagh villages of Zangilan district, Ishigli, Muradkhanli, Milanli villages of Gubadli district.

Glory to the Azerbaijani army! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a post on his Twitter account, AZERTAC reports.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army destroys 4 "Grad" MLRS of Armenia

[16:32] 02.11.2020

“On November 2, starting from 00:30 to 02:25, the Azerbaijan Army units destroyed 4 MLRS BM-21 "Grad" of the Armenian armed forces in various directions of the front,” the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: We strongly condemn attacks and threats of Armenian lobby groups of US against New York Times

[14:12] 02.11.2020

“We strongly condemn attacks and threats of radical/chauvinistic Armenian lobby groups of US against New York Times as they did in France against TF1 crew,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his Twitter account.

“They attempt to stifle freedom of expression/free media. We may also not agree with some parts of reportage, but we respect their work,” Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Information of Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan

[12:30] 02.11.2020

As reported, on October 21, 2015 and March 30, 03.2018 criminal proceedings were instituted by the Investigation Department of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan under Articles 192.2.3 (illegal entrepreneurship) and 318.2 (illegal crossing of the state border) of the Criminal Code with regard to illegal entrepreneurial activity of foreign citizens of Armenian origin in the occupied territories of Lachin, Kalbajar districts and other occupied regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan, resulting in gross violations of ecology and subsoil use.

One of these criminal cases was related to Vejnali village, Zangilan district, which was occupied and recently liberated as a result of successful operations of the Azerbaijani National Army.

Thus, during the investigation, based on the decision of the Investigation Department of the Prosecutor General's Office, it was determined by the Ministry of Taxes of the Republic of Azerbaijan that "Base Metals" Closed Joint-Stock Company, a branch of the Vallex Group of Companies officially registered in the Swiss Confederation, earning income from non-ferrous metal deposits during 2009-2017 in Vejnali village of Zangilan district made illegal profits in total of 301 million 918 thousand manats.

Vartan Sirmakes, a financial investor in the Vallex Group, a citizen of the Swiss Confederation, and its head Valeriy Mejlumyan, as well as Arthur Mkrtumyan, CEO of Base Metals CJSC, in connection with the above-mentioned criminal facts, were charged under the above indicated articles of the Criminal Code. By the relevant court decisions they were declared internationally wanted in absentia by the investigative body.

In order to clarify the amount of damage caused to the state and citizens of Azerbaijan and to determine other circumstances relevant to the investigation necessary investigative actions, as well as an on-site inspection are carried out by the prosecution authorities at the area where the gold deposits in Vejnali village, liberated on October 30, 2020, have been exploited for many years.

Also, the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan addressed the competent authorities of the Swiss Confederation to provide international legal assistance in order to carry out the necessary investigative actions in the criminal case.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan states that within the framework of international law and based on national and international law all possible measures will be taken to impose sanctions on individuals and legal entities engaged in illegal economic and other activities in the occupied and already liberated territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Presence of foreign fighters and mercenaries in ranks of Armenia's armed forces is reaffirmed in reportage of Reuters

[12:08] 02.11.2020

“Presence of foreign fighters and mercenaries in the ranks of Armenia's armed forces is reaffirmed in the reportage of Reuters,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his Twitter account.

“We have stated on multiple occasions that Armenia involves mercenaries from Lebanon and Syria along with PKK terrorists,” Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy attempted to attack positions in Zangilan direction of the front

[11:08] 02.11.2020

During the day on November 1, units of the Armenian armed forces attempted to attack the Zangilan site of the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“The enemy fired at the positions of our units using mortars and various large-caliber weapons in order to seize a number of favorable high grounds in this direction.

The intention of the enemy to attack was detected in time by our units and as a result of the successful operation, the opposite side suffered heavy losses.

During the battle, the enemy, which lost about 30 personnel was forced to retreat to the territory of Armenia.

Due to the vigilance of our units' military personnel, the enemy's Su-25 attack aircraft, which attacked our positions from the air, was also shot down,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia violated ceasefire on the state border

[10:19] 02.11.2020

Armenian armed forces fired at the positions of our units on the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border using mortars and small arms, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“In the night of November 2, at various times, the positions of our military units located in Gazakh, Tovuz and Dashkasan districts of Azerbaijan were fired by the enemy from Noyemberyan, Berd and Vardenis regions of Armenia,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy fires at the territory of Aghdam and Aghjabadi districts

[08:25] 02.11.2020

The Armenian armed forces are shelling the villages of Aghdam and Aghjabadi districts starting from 06.00 am on November 2, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The latest situation on the front on November 2

[08:15] 02.11.2020

During the day on November 1 and night on November 2, Armenian armed forces fired at the positions of Azerbaijan Army units and our residential settlements in different directions of the front using various weapons, including artillery and missiles, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the combat operations continued mainly in the Aghdam, Khojavand, and Gubadli directions.

"Defending enemy units were forced to retreat, suffering losses in personnel and military vehicles in some directions of the front. The enemy is facing a shortage of weapons, ammunition, and food supplies. There is a lack of spare parts for auto and other military vehicles.

During the day and night, a large number of enemy forces, 4 BM-21 "Grad" MLRS, 10 different types of howitzers, 3 trucks loaded with ammunition, and 5 other auto vehicles were destroyed and wrecked in different directions of the front.

At present, our troops are monitoring the operational situation," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

November-1

Defense Ministry: Enemy's military convoy destroyed

[22:03] 01.11.2020

“During an aerial observation of the territory on October 31 at about 17:00, the movement of a military convoy was identified in the Khojavend direction of the front. Several auto vehicles and personnel of the convoy were destroyed by a directed and combined airstrike and artillery fire, ” the Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Bernama: Azerbaijan to establish temporary special administrations in territories liberated from occupation

[20:40] 01.11.2020

Malaysian news agency Bernama has posted an article highlighting the Azerbaijani President's order to establish temporary administrations in the liberated territories.

"Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has signed an Order on the establishment of temporary special administrations in the country's territories liberated from the occupation connected to Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict," the agency said.

A temporary special administration organisation will be established for each region and the Interior Ministry will appoint directors, Bernama reported citing AZERTAC.

"The Presidential order said that these organisations will carry out activities in coordination with the Ministry of Defence and State Border Service.

"They will be responsible for the security of transportation and telecommunications infrastructure facilities, energy and water supply systems, water tanks, and key facilities, including private facilities that pose a high danger to the environment," it said."

"The organisations will also be in charge of collection, inventory and protection of detected military equipment, weapons, ammunition, poisonous and explosive materials, and the protection of public order and security.

"Together with relevant institutions, the organisations will conduct activities such as demining land, preventing acts such as terrorism, espionage and sabotage, taking an inventory of land and real estate, cultural assets, mines and natural resources," the order said," according to Bernama.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Enemy's two "Grad" systems destroyed

[19:36] 01.11.2020

“Two BM-21 "Grad" MLRS, which had been firing at the positions of our units in the Zangilan region on the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border, were destroyed,” the Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Reported shooting of Azerbaijan's UAV is another misinformation of the enemy

[17:22] 01.11.2020

“Reports by the Armenian media alleging that an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) of the the Azerbaijani Army was shot down over Khankendi on November 1 are false, and it is another misinformation of the enemy,” the Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, Turkish FM's meet

[17:10] 01.11.2020

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has met with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu.

The ministers discussed the latest developments in the region in the wake of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Bayramov said Armenia continued to shell Azerbaijani civilians despite the agreements on the humanitarian ceasefire. He noted that after the Geneva meeting Armenia continued to target the humanitarian settlements of Azerbaijan in blatant breach of international humanitarian law, showing total disregard for the calls of the OSCE Minsk group co-chairs.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Another war trophy taken from the enemy in Zangilan direction

[17:02] 01.11.2020

"Weapons and ammunition were seized from enemy units, neutralized during the fighting in Zangilan region of the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border, as war trophies," Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry said in a statement.

AZERTAC

FM says Turkey proud of Azerbaijan`s victories on the battlefield

[16:04] 01.11.2020

Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlut Cavusoglu has said Turkey is proud of Azerbaijan`s victories on the battlefield. "You have shown the power of Turks to the whole world. We are very proud. Hopefully, we will return our ancient lands through these successful operations," he told President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in Baku.

He said Turkish citizens were closely following the Karabakh issue and the ongoing operations. "They always tell us "give Azerbaijan more support, do not leave it alone". There are many who say, "Send us to the front". I am sure that these words are also expressed in the letters you receive," he added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev received delegation led by Turkish Foreign Minister

[15:30] 01.11.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has received a delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Mevlut Cavusoglu.

According to AZERTAC, welcoming the visiting delegation, **President Ilham Aliyev** said:

- Welcome, dear Mevlut bey, dear guests.

I am pleased to see you. Your visit once again demonstrates Turkish-Azerbaijani solidarity. Turkey has been with us since the first days and hours of the war. As my dear brother Mr. President has said, Turkey is always with Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan is not alone. This political and moral support continues to this day. Mr. President, the Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, you as Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Defense and other high-ranking officials have repeatedly supported Azerbaijan. This makes us, the people of Azerbaijan, very happy. This shows once again that we stand by each other at all times – both on good and difficult days. This political and moral support certainly inspires us, and we continue our just cause.

As you know, the operation continues successfully. To date, many villages, towns and settlements have been liberated from the occupiers, including the cities of Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Zangilan and Gubadli. In total, about 200 settlements have been liberated from the enemy, and this process continues. I report on the liberation of new cities and villages every week and hope that we will restore our territorial integrity.

I have repeatedly stated during this period that we want this issue to be resolved at the negotiating table. However, Armenia does not allow this to happen, has grossly violated the ceasefire declared three times, including the bombing of Ganja with ballistic missiles, then the bombing of the city of Barda, as a result of which we had numerous casualties. This once again shows the inhumane behavior of Armenia and demonstrates that they are not interested in peace. They want this occupation to last forever. They want to re-occupy the settlements our army has liberated. This is the main reason why this war continues. If Armenia gives up its ugly deeds, then a ceasefire will be ensured and the issue will be resolved at the table.

But I hope that this process will not take long. We have been waiting for 30 years. We want the issue of the withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from other occupied territories to be resolved at the negotiating table as soon as possible. Otherwise, we will continue to restore our territorial integrity by any means and, as I said, we will go to the end.

As a matter of fact, Armenia has already acknowledged defeat. As you know, the prime minister of Armenia recently sent a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin. This letter is, in fact, an acknowledgement of defeat because Russia has been asked for military support although there is no legal basis for that. Azerbaijan is conducting its military operation on the territory of Azerbaijan, which is recognized by the international community. No operations are carried out on the territory of Armenia and we have no such plans. If we had had such plans, we could have done it in July this year. As you know, Armenia attacked us at the state border then and we drove Armenia out of our lands without crossing into its territory. Therefore, on the one hand, he admits

defeat as this letter shows, but on the other, he does not want to give up completely. Today, the responsibility for the continuation of the war and losses on both sides lies squarely on Pashinyan and his ugly deeds. All responsibility lies on Armenia, and if it admits its defeat and leaves our lands, the most acceptable option is to resolve the issue at the negotiating table. In short, the solution to this problem is already happening. As I said earlier, Azerbaijan is implementing UN Security Council resolutions and has implemented most of the fundamental principles. I do hope that the rest of other fundamental principles will be implemented too and the territorial integrity of our country will be restored.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Turkish people for the support Turkish citizens and our brothers have provided to us these days. They have sent me many letters, very sincere letters, and it touches all of us. At the same time, Turkish media representatives are putting their lives on the line day and night. The world sees and knows these images mostly through the Turkish media. Our brothers from Turkey were the first to come here after the cowardly bombing of Ganja and Barda. Therefore, it once again shows the Turkish-Azerbaijani unity. Every time I talk to my dear brother about this, we know that this unity is not in word but in deed, and the whole world knows it today. Welcome again!

Mevlut Cavusoglu said:

- Thank you very much for receiving us, Mr. President.

I came here on the instructions of our President. You talk to him every day, at least twice a day, but he still sends you his greetings. Our President has instructed us not to leave brotherly Azerbaijan alone in this process, go to Baku on a regular basis and act together. Our Minister of Defense, other comrades and Binali Bey will also come, our Speaker is already here.

We are proud of your victories on the battlefield. You have shown the power of Turks to the whole world. We are very proud! Hopefully, we will return our ancient lands with these successful operations.

Our citizens are closely following the Karabakh issue and these ongoing operations, and we are always told to "support Azerbaijan more, do not leave it alone". There are many who say, "Send us to the front". I am sure that these words are also expressed in the letters you receive.

President Ilham Aliyev: Yes, indeed.

Mevlut Cavusoglu: Despite all these advantages, the advantage on the battlefield, the legal advantage and the fact that we are right, Azerbaijan, under your leadership, has shown to the world that it is a strong state and nation in the ceasefire and negotiations. There are those who understand this, there are those who do not understand this and there are those who do not want to understand this.

Everyone sees what Armenia is doing and that it violates the ceasefire every time. But there are many who do not want to say that, and we are aware of that. For this reason, we will continue to defend our cause by further strengthening our solidarity.

X X X

President Ilham Aliyev expressed his condolences over the victims of the earthquake in the Turkish city of Izmir again. President Ilham Aliyev thanked President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for the greetings and asked the minister to convey his greetings to the Turkish President.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani President: In fact, Armenia admitted its defeat

[15:10] 01.11.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has said that Armenia, in fact, admitted its defeat. “The Armenian prime minister has recently addressed a letter to the Russian President Mr Putin. That letter, is, in fact, an acknowledgement of defeat because they wanted military support from Russia although there are no grounds for that,” the head of state said as he received a delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Mevlut Cavusoglu.

“Azerbaijan is carrying out its military operations in Azerbaijan`s internationally-recognized territory. Azerbaijan is not carrying out any operation in the territory of Armenia, and we do not even have such plans.”

The President said that on the one hand, Armenia admitted its defeat, as evidenced by the letter addressed to the Russian leader, while on the other, it did not want to give up completely.

The head of state noted that Armenia was completely responsible for the situation, adding that if the Armenian side admitted its defeat and withdrew from Azerbaijan`s occupied lands, the most appropriate option for solving the issue would be sitting down at the negotiation table.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Enemy's military trucks loaded with ammunition were blown up

[13:01] 01.11.2020

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said two trucks of the Armenian armed forces loaded with ammunition were blown up.

"After the destruction of the rocket-artillery weapons depot of the Armenian armed forces located in the occupied territories by our units a couple of days ago, there was a serious shortage of ammunition in enemy units."

"Therefore, the enemy tries to use all the ammunition at their disposal in the most intensive fighting.

During an aerial observation of the territory on the evening of October 31, the location of two trucks loaded with ammunition was identified. The military vehicles were immediately destroyed by accurate fire," the ministry said in a statement.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: The enemy is intensively firing at Tartar and Aghjabedi regions

[11:13] 01.11.2020

“Starting from 10:00 on November 1, the Armenian armed forces have been intensively shelling the city of Tartar, Shikharkh settlement, Gapanli, Eskipara, Sahlaabad villages of the region, as well as Yukhari Giyameddinli village of Aghjabedi region,” Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry said in a statement.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry: Respect for territorial integrity is a principled position for us

[11:03] 01.11.2020

"We recognize and respect the territorial integrity of other countries. Respect for territorial integrity is a principled position for us. At the same time, we demand other countries to respect Azerbaijan`s territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders," spokesperson for Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry Leyla Abdullayeva has told a press conference.

She said: "Armenia's purpose in spreading false information, as well as targeting Azerbaijani civilians despite the humanitarian ceasefires is clear. The Armenian side is not interested in resolving the conflict through negotiations, it is obvious. The goal of the Armenian side is to strengthen the occupation, as well as to involve other states - third parties into the conflict. The Azerbaijani side, including President Ilham Aliyev, has repeatedly brought to the international community`s attention and stated that Azerbaijan has no claims to the territories of other countries. Today, Azerbaijan is conducting self-defense measures on its sovereign territory against the Armenian armed forces, who maintains its illegal presence. The steps are being taken to ensure territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, as demanded by the UN Security Council resolutions adopted in 1993. In other words, Azerbaijani armed forces are ensuring the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions today. We would like to bring to the attention of the Armenian side, who wants to involve other countries in the conflict, that these kinds of claims will yield no results."

"Azerbaijan enjoys ties of friendship and cooperation with all its neighboring countries. We recognize and respect the territorial integrity of other countries. Respect for territorial integrity is a principled position for us. At the same time, we demand other countries to respect Azerbaijan`s territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders," Abdullayeva added.

AZERTAC

Missile strikes on civilian areas have to stop, says PACE Migration Committee Chairperson

[10:14] 01.11.2020

Chairperson of the Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons Pierre-Alain Fridez has called to stop missile strikes on civilian areas, according to the Organizations' official website.

The strike on the Azerbaijani town of Barda, reportedly killing 21, is a tragedy, said Pierre-Alain Fridez, adding that the humanitarian consequences of the conflict over the Nagorno Karabakh region are deeply worrying.

The PACE Committee chairperson noted that he had put the issue on the agenda of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, so that parliamentarians from the 47 member States of the Council of Europe can follow the situation carefully.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Armenia violated the ceasefire on the state border

[09:58] 01.11.2020

“The Armenian armed forces fired at the positions of the Azerbaijan Army Units on the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border using artillery, mortars, and small arms,” Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry said in a statement.

“On the night of November 1 at different times, the enemy shelled the positions of our army units located in Tovuz, Gadabay, and Gubadli regions of Azerbaijan from the territory of Berd, Chambarak, and Goris regions of Armenia,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Oktober-31

French extremist group's leader leaves for military operations in Nagorno-Karabakh

[00:20] 31.10.2020

Mark de Kakkere-Valmenir, the leader of the far-right Zouaves Paris group, posted on his Instagram page that he had left for Nagorno-Karabakh to fight with the Armenians, according to Liberasen.

Kakkere-Valmenir calls himself a fascist and named the right-wing extremist group "Zouaves Paris". It is a major instigator of the violence in Paris. He also said that this small group is to create fear on the streets.

Marc de Kakkere also shared a photo of himself in a military uniform with a Kalashnikov rifle with a caption "Direction is the frontline". He also expressed his desire to create a "brigade of foreign volunteers" together with the Armenians.

AZERTAC

President: The only way to stop war is for Armenia to admit its defeat and to admit our victory

[20:40] 31.10.2020

“The only way to stop war is for Armenia to stop, to admit its defeat, to admit our victory and then to liberate the territories,” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has made a post on his official Twitter account.

In other post, the head of state said: “We do not expect any third country to be involved. We do not see which country can be involved, because the countries which surround us are our partners and friends. It’s a battle between us and Armenia, and everybody should stay away from that.”

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by German ARD TV channel

[20:20] 31.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has been interviewed by German ARD TV channel.

AZERTAC presents the interview.

-On the 27th of September, the war started. What is your answer to the question ‘who shot first?’

-The answer is Armenia and we have evidences, because the first victims among civilians and military personnel were Azerbaijanis. That was a third in a row military provocation against us. The first was in July, when they launched an attack on the state border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. And we had casualties among the civilians and the military personnel. The second attempt was in August when Armenia sent a sabotage group, whose leader was detained and he gave evidence that he was sent in order to attack the civilians. And the third time on the 27th of September they launched a heavy artillery bombardment on some of the villages and cities situated close to the line of contact. We responded. So that’s how it started.

-You responded tough and harsh. Why like this, this time? Is it a pre-dominance of the Azerbaijan military, because of the drones from Israel and Turkey?

-We had these drones from Israel already for many years and by the way, some of them were used in 2016 during Armenian another provocation which launched in the liberation of the part of the occupied territories. But that clash lasted for several days because Armenia stopped. And if they stopped this time, we would have stopped also. But they did not. They wanted to make a big damage. They started to shell the cities which situated far beyond the line of contact. And we had many victims among civilians so far- 69. So we had to defend ourselves, defend our people and to respond. So our response was harsh, but they deserved it.

-As far as I understand, you gained some grounds in the south especially, but as well, I mean next to Karabakh, further in the north and how long will this war continue?

-It depends on Armenia, I said many times. We are ready to stop today. And by the way, the fact that three times we agreed for ceasefire demonstrates our will to stop military confrontation and to resolve this issue on the negotiation table by political purposes, political means. But 3 times Armenia brutally violated the ceasefire.

-But they say the same.

-But look yes, definitely they do. But look at what happened. On the 10th of October, the humanitarian ceasefire was announced. The next day they launched a ballistic missile attack on Ganja from the territory of Armenia. Probably you have seen the devastation which it caused. Ten people were killed, civilians. They said it was not them. But it is clear, because the launch of the ballistic missiles is observed by the satellite. So, the three co-chair countries of the Minsk Group definitely know who did it. The second time they did the same, they violated the ceasefire two

minutes after it was announced. And the third time yesterday when they launched a cluster bomb on the city of Tartar. Four people were killed among them one seven year old girl. So it was them. There was no evidence that we did it. What we do is opposite. I said that we will not respond them the same way. We will respond them on the battlefield. We do not attack cities, we do not attack civilians, only on the battlefield. But we have to defend ourselves. If they attack, if they want to regain the positions which they lost, we cannot just stay calm. We need to defend and the more we defend the more territories we liberate.

-But exactly the same thing they claimed as well. They say that you use cluster bombs and I mean there was even like some proves from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch that you used cluster bombs there in Karabakh. I mean, why do you use this kind of arms?

-We don't use. We defend ourselves. We invited Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch to come to Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, their coverage of the events is only from Armenian side. They did not approach us to come here, therefore, we have big doubts about their impartiality.

-But now they come. As far as I understand, Human Rights Watch, they are coming or they told me.

-They are coming, because we said "why don't you come here?" After we made a request to them. "Please, do come here", they agreed to come. But why didn't they come in the first place?

-They told me that they wanted to come. They asked for several times, but you didn't give them access.

-No, no. That is not possible. Because that was what we did. Just yesterday we said, why they don't come, let them come and go to Ganja, go to Tartar, meet the people whom Armenians attacked. And again, the ballistic missile launch is seen from the satellite. No one can say that we launched a ballistic missile on any civilian compound in Nagorno-Karabakh or in Armenia.

-Let me ask you again about this cluster munition. Because, of course, you know it's very serious subject. I had a look into the research of Human Rights Watch and the proof was quite interesting, they had pictures, and they even have names. The name of the weapon they said LAR 160 cluster bomb from Israel. Do you really want to dispute that fact?

-Yes, of course. There are no proofs about that. And I would like them to come here, and to give these proofs. At the same time, to go to Ganja, to go to Tartar, to go to Barda and see what kind of weapons Armenians are using. And be impartial...

-So, if they can find weapons here, you rely on their research.

-No, they will have to, because there is no way for them to say "no". Let them say, because so far, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International was very aggressive against Azerbaijan. They never made any comment about violation of human rights in Armenia. When a journalist died in Armenian prison they were silent. When leader of main opposition party of Armenia was jailed, they were silent. When former presidents are on trial, they were silent. They don't want to see it, because they have the so-called Armenian origin people in their structures. And these

organizations are basically used in order to damage the image of Azerbaijan. But nevertheless, we invited them. Let them come. And say what they see.

-Actually, you never signed the UN Convention on cluster munition. So, why is it a problem for you? Actually you could use it.

-But did Armenia sign?

-We are talking about Azerbaijan and not Armenia.

-We are talking about the conflict. We are talking about the conflict and the fact that we sign or don't sign any kind of convention doesn't mean that we are using it or not. We have enough ammunition. We have modern weapons and we demonstrate it on the battlefield. And what we do, we liberate the territories not with bombs. We liberate the territories with our fighters which take one village after another, one city after another, raise the Azerbaijani flag. So, that's how it is done.

-Coming to this subject, I mean, wouldn't it be a goal somehow to take over those seven districts and afterwards to negotiate and maybe to come into autonomous zone of Karabakh?

-We suggested that but Armenians always rejected. The co-chairs of the Minsk Group can prove what I say. We always suggested, we always were committed to the peace plan, so-called basic principles which provided the liberation of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in phases. At the first stage five, at the second stage two. But now among those five, almost all of them have already been liberated. Therefore, Armenia was always against that. And frankly speaking, what we have seen on the battlefield after we liberated the territories. Those engineering constructions which were built there- they invested maybe hundreds of millions of dollars. They show that they were not planning to leave those territories. Because if they planned to leave the territories, they would not have invested so much. There were several lines of defense with the modern equipment, modern weapons, and modern engineering technology. Therefore, all their behavior on negotiation table was an attempt to mislead the mediators and us. They were making the negotiations endless and wanted to win time what they have managed to do for 27 years. Therefore, we committed to the basic principles. Seven districts must be returned to us. Armenians have never lived in those districts. Plus, Azerbaijanis who were expelled from Nagorno-Karabakh-there have been 40 thousand people of Azerbaijani origin in Nagorno-Karabakh before-must return there. Then, that's how the plan should be implemented.

-An autonomous region without any Azerbaijani influence?

-That was part of the discussions. But we did not come to a final agreement about that.

-But would you agree about that?

-Well, we need to discuss it now. Because now there are new realities on the ground. Always we heard...

-What kind of influence do you want to have there-in an autonomous region? I mean is this contradicting by itself?

-No. First of all, we did not agree on any autonomous region. This is first. We did not come to this agreement. When we were suggesting that, Armenians were rejecting. They were demanding independence, which we did not agree. Now the realities on the ground have changed. We heard many times that there are realities and you have to take them into account. It is okay. So, we changed the realities. **Now they will have to take it** into account, and what we suggested them during these 27 years, maybe is not valid any longer. Therefore, we need to have discussions now and, by the way, we are ready to send our foreign minister to Geneva tomorrow to start a new round of negotiations if Armenia is ready, and to discuss the future of Nagorno-Karabakh at the negotiation table. But for that Armenia should stop. They always wanted during these months to regain back the territories which we liberated and that was a main reason for their defeat.

-When we were there in this area, among us the question came up. Why actually is Karabakh so important for Azerbaijan? I mean, is there a kind of resource or is it just symbolic?

- Alsace and Lorraine, is it important for you? Bavaria, is it important for you? Or Rhine-Westphalia? It is our land, our territory, internationally recognized. It is not a matter of resources. We have main resources here in Baku. It is a matter of justice, it is a matter of national pride and it is a matter of international law. International law and the whole international community recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an integral part of Azerbaijan. And we are restoring justice and we are implementing the UN Security Council resolutions which were on paper for 27 years.

-Are you actually recognizing that the majority of the people in these region were Armenians as most historians say worldwide?

-With respect to the history, I can tell you that Armenians were transported or brought to this region after the peace agreement between the Karabakh khanate and Russian empire was signed by Ibrahim Khalil Khan and Russian general Tsitsianov in the beginning of the 19th century.

-Aren't they living there for centuries?

-No, no, no. They started to be transported to Nagorno-Karabakh after Kurakchay peace agreement and then Gulustan peace agreement, Turkmenchay peace agreement- in 1805, 1813, 1828. You can see on internet. There is no mentioning of Armenians in this agreements. Armenians then were brought by Tsarist Russia from eastern Anatolia and from Persia in order to change the ethnic and religious composition of the region.

-So, most of the historians, experts on the Caucasus region are wrong?

-Yes, of course. Because look at the documents. Historians, which historians? There are different historians and history sometimes is motivated by political preferences. But look at those documents. They are on internet and you can see. If you find any mentioning of Armenian population you will say that I am wrong. So, that's how it was. But the other thing is yes, they lived there for 200 years, and the word Karabakh is an Azerbaijani word, it is not an Armenian word. Do you know how they call the so-called capital of Nagorno-Karabakh? Stepanakert. Do you know whose honor is it called? Stepan Shaumyan. Stepan Shaumyan was an Armenian-Russian Bolshevik, head of the criminal gang here which committed a genocide against the Azerbaijanis in 1918. So, if it was an ancient Armenian territory, why is it named Karabakh? And why the capital city is named Stepanakert and not some ancient name? Because they lived there

for 200 years. In 1978, Armenians who lived there, raised a monument on the 150 years of their arrival to Nagorno-Karabakh. This is a history, but again, they have lived there for 200 years and we want them to live. I said many times, we want Azerbaijanis to go back and Armenians live there, where they lived historically for 200 years. No matter.

-Nevertheless, this people experience your military action as how they say ethnical cleansing.

-No, no, not at all. We were the subject of ethnic cleansing. When they occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and seven districts surrounding it, we had 750 thousand Azerbaijanis ethnically cleansed from 7 districts plus from Shusha which was a part of Nagorno-Karabakh. We've been subject of ethnic cleansing. We didn't do any ethnic cleansing against Armenians and we are not planning to do it now. Because I said that we will have to live together. It will not be easy but we will have to learn.

-But civilians were killed there right now, the last couples of weeks.

-Civilians were killed in Azerbaijan also-69

-There as well.

-Yes. Because it's a war. But 69 civilians killed in the territories which are far away from the conflict zone, in Ganja, more than 300 civilians have been wounded by Armenians. It's a war. It happens. Unfortunately.

-I used to live in Israel for five years. I know very well that the drones in Israel are very accurate. So, it wasn't done by a drone as far as I understand, how does that come that the church was hit in Karabakh?

-That was as I said already, probably a mistake of our artillery or the second option could be that Armenians did it themselves. In order to put a blame on us.

-Christians are shooting on their churches?

-But it was a minor damage. It was not destroyed. Have you seen the images of that? It's a minor damage. The church was not destroyed. It can be repaired within two weeks maximum. Therefore, we have a doubt that could be done by them, themselves, in order to put a blame on us. Look at the Armenian church in Baku. We preserve it. We restored it.

-Could you imagine Muslims to destroy, or to demoralize mosque by themselves to make something up like this?

-I don't know. Maybe. Maybe it may happen. Why not? Armenian church here in Baku is preserved by us. We did not destroy it. We protect it. We keep thousands of Armenian books there. But in the mosque in Zangilan which was liberated, they kept pigs there. That's the difference.

-As far as I understand, on the 1st of October, a man in Azerbaijan was put in prison because he demanded peace. I mean some human rights experts, defenders say you might

have started this war as well to unite the nation behind you to somehow to distract from the problems in the country when it comes to democracy and human rights.

-That is absolutely wrong assessment. First of all, I don't know about anyone who was arrested. If you can give me the name, if you have the name give me. Do you have the name?

-I don't have the name right now but I will find out.

-When you find out, tell me. So, we can consider this question invalid, because you don't have the name and I don't have this information. With respect to distraction of attention there is no need to distract the attention. Our political system is efficient. Before this clash, and even before the parliamentary elections which we had, I launched a kind of a new process of political cooperation. We made a public appeal to all political parties to start practical cooperation, to put an end to hostility, and to start at least talking to each other. Except two parties, all the other parties, 50 of them supported it. We started a modern new political process. We have now many opposition members in our parliament. The political process is very efficient.

-Aren't there many opposition members either in prison in Azerbaijan?

-No, no. Those who are in prison, they are in prison for the crimes they have committed. There are no one here on political charges and opposition is...

-What kind of crimes? Saying their opinion?

-No, no, different crimes as any other crimes. I don't know exactly which but it is just ordinary crimes. So, we don't have this kind of reason. Second, our economic performance during the pandemic is one of the best. Our economy declined only 3.9 percent, it is much lower than in some European countries. Poverty level in Azerbaijan is 5 percent, much lower. Unemployment level is 7 percent, much lower. We have hot currency reserves which exceed our foreign debt six times. So, I don't have internal problems, why should I launch it?

-Would you call Azerbaijan an example for democracy?

--No, no, never. Would you call your country an example for democracy?

-Somehow yes.

-But you ban opposition rallies.

-No, actually not.

-Yes, yes. Those extremists who wanted to have a rally, I forgot the name. You banned them.

-I don't know about that. I mean even during those corona times they were doing demonstrations.

-No. it was before corona times. We are not, and we do not pretend to be. But there are countries which pretend to be, but they killed protesters. Do you know how many people were killed during these yellow-vest protests? Do you know? More than ten killed.

-But we are not talking about France.

-No, no, let's talk about Europe.

-About Azerbaijan...

-No, let's talk about those who pretend to be democrats. We are not pretending. Yes, we have shortcomings.

-I will ask Mr. Macron about this.

-But those who kill protesters, who kill protestors on the street, ten of them killed. We look how in Europe you beat protesters, you beat them by forces. You bring dogs and this is considered democracy.

-How important is the country-where we came from right now-Turkey for you and especially during this military operation during this war? I mean there are Turkish soldiers here. Yesterday, we talked to some of them and they told us they are from Turkey.

-You talked to soldiers?

-Yes.

-On the battlefield?

-No, no, not on the battlefield

-But where?

-In the city of Baku.

-They are fighting here, in Baku?

-No, they are here. Nevertheless, they are here.

-There can be German soldiers here now.

-You are doing military exercises together.

-Yes, we do.

-If, a third country would get involved into this conflict, do you expect the help from Turkey?

-We do not expect any third country to be involved. We do not see which country can be involved, because the countries which surround us are our partners and friends. We know that Armenians want to involve some of them into this battle. But I am sure it will not happen. It's a battle between us and Armenia. And everybody should stay away from that. Turkish soldiers can be here, yes. Last year we had ten joint military trainings. But also, we have military trainings with

other countries. We are part of the NATO partnership peace program. Nothing strange. You saw them in Baku, you didn't see them in the battle.

-Do you feel safer with Turkish F-16s here in Azerbaijan?

-Turkish F-16s came here as a result of the military training and they stayed here because the Armenians launched an attack on us. And they are here as a sign of solidarity. They are not participating in any battle, and there are not a plan to be part of that.

-3 times ceasefires were broken. One negotiated by France, one negotiated by Russia one negotiated by the USA. Which international power could stop this war?

-I think, Armenia should stop it. International power-these 3 countries which you mentioned are co-chairs of the Minsk Group. They are leading countries of the world, members of the UN Security Council, permanent members. These countries adopted four resolutions demanding withdrawal of Armenian troops. But these countries did not do anything in order to implement these resolutions. These resolutions were on paper. That shows that this mediation was not efficient. But at the same time, we cannot think about some other countries which can be more powerful. Therefore, the only way to stop war is for Armenia to stop, to admit its defeat, to admit our victory and then to commit to liberation of the part of the territories. We will liberate them anyway. They did not believe when we started counter-attack. We said we will liberate, stop it now. They could have stopped even when we took Fuzuli back.

-Do you have the feeling that they are not very interested in this conflict?

-Whom do you mean?

-Those three countries for example?

-Well, no, I don't have this feeling, because if they were not interested, they wouldn't have been mediators. They have a mandate from the OSCE.

-But the mediation wasn't successful.

-Yes it wasn't successful. Because they did not put sanctions on Armenia. I raised it many times. Armenia should have been sanctioned like Iraq was sanctioned when Saddam Hussein occupied Kuwait, immediately. And there were serious sanctions against Iraq. If the same happened to Armenia, then they would have moved the forces back.

-So they closed their eyes?

-Yes, they closed their eyes. They, I would say, not closed their eyes, they were always saying there is no military solution. They wanted that this situation continued more or less the same way. I think they were fine with the fact that the conflict seemed to be frozen. They thought that it may be frozen forever, and they only tried to think about some confidence-building measures, some monitors, so that there's no outbreak. But they did not implement their mandate, in accordance with the OSCE decision and they should have forced Armenia. I think each of these countries unilaterally can send such a message to Armenia that it should listen to it, but they did not.

-Are you listening to them?

-I am listening to every partner. But it depends what I do after I listen. But I am listening.

-Two days ago, I heard you in the radio asking the question where has Armenia the money from to do this war? What is the answer?

-No answer. I've been asking this question for a month. We made a preliminary calculations.

-I mean, somebody asking this question continuously somehow has an answer in mind.

-Well, if I had an answer I would not have asked. If I am still asking, it means that I did not get an answer. We made a preliminary calculation about minimum, by the way, I did not disclose all of what we have destroyed. That will come. 2.7 billion dollars, cost of the ammunition which we destroyed and which we took as a trophy. Where the money comes from? Armenia is a poor country, its budget is less than 2 billion dollars. Its foreign debt is 8 billion dollars.

-They are supported by Russia.

-That's your opinion.

-This is official. This is no secret. Somebody else?

-Maybe, I don't know. So, I am asking but nobody is responding. So I will continue to ask.

-Your Excellency, Mr. President, thank you very much for the interview.

-Thank you.

AZERTAC

Armenian sabotage-reconnaissance group destroyed

[19:45] 31.10.2020

“The movement of the enemy’s military vehicles with personnel in the direction of our positions was observed at noon on October 31,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“It became known that the sabotage-reconnaissance group consisting of the Armenian special forces attempted to get closer to the defensive line of our troops in order to commit a provocation.

The auto vehicle was destroyed by the first fire strike on the enemy, and the scattered sabotage-reconnaissance group has begun to flee. It was also observed that the members of the group got into the second vehicle “Kamaz” to leave the area. And this car, filled with armed servicemen, was also immediately destroyed by a direct and precise hit,” the ministry said.

The Ministry of Defense presents a video footage reflecting these moments.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani President: We are implementing UN Security Council resolutions which were on paper for 27 years

[18:52] 31.10.2020

“The Minsk Group co-chair countries are permanent members of the UN Security Council. These countries adopted four resolutions demanding withdrawal of Armenian troops. But these countries did not do anything in order to implement these resolutions.

We are implementing the UN Security Council resolutions which were on paper for 27 years,” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has made a post on his official Twitter account.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: We changed the realities. Now Armenians will have to take it into account

[18:38] 31.10.2020

“We changed the realities. Now Armenians will have to take it into account. It is our land. It is a matter of justice, it is a matter of national pride and it is a matter of international law,” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has made a post on his Twitter account.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army destroys Armenia`s military equipment and personnel

[16:51] 31.10.2020

“On October 31, by early afternoon, military equipment and a large number of enemy personnel were destroyed as a result of the strikes inflicted by the Azerbaijan Army,” the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“3 tanks, 1 “Grad” MLRS, 1 truck full of ammunition, 3 howitzer-guns in a combat position and on a trailer, as well as a large number of personnel of the Armenian armed forces were destroyed by accurate fire strikes on the enemy,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Enemy keeps firing at our residential settlements

[16:42] 31.10.2020

“The enemy is subjecting to artillery fire the city of Tartar, Shikharkh settlement and Askipara village of Tartar district, as well as Giyamaddinli village of Aghjabadi district,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense said.

AZERTAC

Assistant to President: Armenia keeps shelling positions of Azerbaijani Army using heavy artillery, ballistic missiles and cluster bombs

[16:35] 31.10.2020

“Victorious Commander-in-Chief, President Ilham Aliyev has repeatedly stated that the Republic of Azerbaijan has no military targets in the territory of Armenia. The Azerbaijan Army restores the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders,” said Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyeu.

Hikmat Hajiyeu said: “Civilian and civilian facilities in Azerbaijan`s Ganja, Mingachevir, Tartar, Barda, Goranboy, Aghdam, Agjabadi, Naftalan, Dashkasan, Gabala, Kurdamir, Siyazan, Khizi and other cities and regions have been bombarded from the territory of Armenia and occupied territories using ballistic missiles, banned cluster missiles and heavy artillery. As a result of these missile attacks, 91 civilians, including 11 children, 27 women were killed, more than 400 people were injured. At the same time, Armenia from its territory keeps shelling the positions of the Azerbaijan Army using heavy artillery, ballistic missiles, cluster bombs and others. This is unbearable.”

AZERTAC

OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs release press statement on results of Geneva meeting

[13:56] 31.10.2020

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, Stephane Visconti of France, and Andrew Schofer of the United States of America) released the following statement:

The Co-Chairs met separately and jointly with Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan in Geneva on October 30. The Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson in Office (PRCiO) Andrzej Kasprzyk also participated in the meetings. They also held consultations with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi and ICRC President Peter Maurer.

The Co-Chairs once again called on the sides to implement, in full, their commitments, including the immediate establishment of a humanitarian ceasefire, in accordance with the October 10 Moscow Joint Statement, which the sides reaffirmed with Paris on October 17 and in Washington on October 25.

Without prejudice to the implementation of the ceasefire or other commitments, the sides agreed to take a number of steps on an urgent basis, including:

- The sides will not deliberately target civilian populations or non-military objects in accordance with international humanitarian law;

- The sides will actively engage in the implementation of the recovery and exchange of remains on the battlefield by providing the ICRC and PRCiO the necessary safety guarantees for facilitation;

- The sides will deliver to the ICRC and PRCiO, within one week, a list of currently detained prisoners of war for the purposes of providing access and eventual exchange;

- The sides will provide in writing comments and questions related to possible ceasefire verification mechanisms in accordance with item 2 of the October 10 joint statement.

The sides engaged in an open and substantive exchange of views aimed at clarifying their negotiating positions on core elements of a comprehensive solution in accordance with item 3 of the October 10 joint statement.

The Co-Chairs will continue working with the sides intensively to find a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

AZERTAC

ICRC Director General updated on latest situation on front line

[13:34] 31.10.2020

As part of his working visit to Geneva, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov has met with Director General of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Robert Mardini.

The sides hailed the long-standing cooperation between Azerbaijan and the ICRC.

FM Bayramov informed Robert Mardini about the latest situation in the region. He noted the gross violations of international humanitarian law by Armenia, the deliberate targeting of Azerbaijani cities, civilians and civilian infrastructure far from the frontline, the firing of civilians with prohibited weapons and the heavy casualties among the civilian population to date.

The sides stressed the importance of the withdrawal of the occupying forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in accordance with the requirements of the UN Security Council to ensure sustainable peace in the region.

AZERTAC

Defence Ministry: Armenia delivers phosphorus cargo to territory of Khojavand

[13:29] 31.10.2020

“Intelligence data has been received on the delivery of a large amount of phosphorus cargo to units stationed in the defensive site of the 3rd motorized rifle regiment of the 37th rifle division of the 1st combined arms army of the Armenian armed forces in the occupied Khojavand direction.

It is expected that the aim of the enemy on delivery phosphorus-containing ammunition to the specified regions is primarily their use against the Azerbaijan Army units. On the other hand, it targets to spread misinformation that the ammunition was allegedly scattered over the terrain by the Azerbaijan Army units,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense said.

“The Armenian side lays the basis for its further provocations by spreading on October 30 false and fake information about the alleged use of weapons containing white phosphorus by the Azerbaijan Army. We declare once again that the Azerbaijan Army does not have any prohibited ammunition in its armament,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: It would be more useful for Armenia's Ministry of Defense and other authorities to provide the Armenian public with accurate information on their defeats rather than to make fake scenes

[13:25] 31.10.2020

“It would be more useful for Armenia's Ministry of Defense and other authorities to provide the Armenian public with accurate information on their defeats rather than to make fake scenes,” said Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev as he commented on a video footage, highlighting a testimony of Syrian “fighter” allegedly involved in military operations on the side of Azerbaijani Army detained by Armenian militaries, which was released by several Armenian information resources on October 30.

The presidential assistant said: “As President Ilham Aliyev has repeatedly stated in interviews with various foreign media, the purpose of these claims of Armenia, which has been trying to keep the territories of our country under the occupation for many years, is directed to cast a shadow on Azerbaijani Armed Forces’ successful military operations for the liberation of our lands and to undermine the international reputation of our country which stands at the forefront of the fight against international terrorism.”

“The Azerbaijani authorities have irrefutable facts and operational information about the presence of foreigners and mercenaries, as well as activists of terrorist organizations brought from Syria who are involved in hostilities in Armenian military units,” he added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Information on alleged shelling of Shusha by Azerbaijani Army is another lie of enemy

[12:32] 31.10.2020

The information spread by Armenian media on the alleged shelling of Khankandi district by the Azerbaijani Army with rockets is another lie of Armenia and aimed at aggravating the situation, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the Azerbaijani army units only shell the firing points of the Armenian armed forces.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia's reports on alleged shelling of Khankandi by Azerbaijani Army is false

[11:29] 31.10.2020

The information spread by Armenian media on the alleged shelling of Khankandi district by the Azerbaijani Army with rockets and alleged material damage to the civilian population is false and aimed at aggravating the situation, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the Azerbaijani army's units only shell the firing points of the Armenian armed forces.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM's meeting with OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs and Armenian FM ended

[10:58] 31.10.2020

A meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov with the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs and Armenian Foreign Minister in Geneva has ended.

During the meeting, Minister Jeyhun Bayramov presented Azerbaijan's position on the settlement of the conflict based on the norms and principles of international law, as well as UN Security Council resolutions and decisions and documents of international organizations.

Highlighting the humanitarian measures, Jeyhun Bayramov emphasized the constructive approach of Azerbaijan. In this regard, he noted that Azerbaijan unilaterally handed over the bodies, as well as an elderly Armenian woman to the Armenian side. The minister said that Azerbaijan put forward this proposal long ago.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov also described Armenia's deliberate shelling of civilians and residential settlements in gross violation of international humanitarian law as unacceptable.

AZERTAC

Giyamaddinli village of Aghjabadi district comes under fire

[09:57] 31.10.2020

The Armenian armed forces have shelled the Giyamaddinli village of Aghjabadi district, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, there are no damage and casualties.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy shells Tartar, Aghdam, and Aghjabadi districts from artillery

[09:51] 31.10.2020

On October 31, at 06:00, the armed forces of Armenia subjected Tartar, Aghdam, and Aghjabadi districts to artillery fire, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army opens retaliation fire at Armenia's firing points

[09:41] 31.10.2020

The information spread by the Armenian media with reference to a representative of the Ministry of Defense of this country about the alleged conduct by the Azerbaijan Army combat operations in the direction of the David-Bek village near the city of Gafan of Armenia is not true, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense said.

"The units of the Azerbaijan Army opened retaliation fire at the firing points of the Armenian armed forces, which shelled the territory of Gubadli from artillery from the indicated direction.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army does not have banned weapons and ammunition in its armament

[09:32] 31.10.2020

The statements by Armenia about the alleged use of phosphorus munitions by the Azerbaijani Army are groundless, Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry told AZERTAC.

"We officially declare that there are no weapons and ammunition prohibited by international law in the armament of the Azerbaijani Army. Armenia aims to cover up its war crimes committed against the peaceful population of Azerbaijan by spreading such groundless information", the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Oktober-30

Enemy's another "Osa" anti-aircraft missile system destroyed

[22:45] 30.10.2020

On October 30, at about 20:25, our units destroyed the "Osa" anti-aircraft missile system of the Armenian armed forces in the Aghdam direction of the front, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM meets with OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs in Geneva

[21:50] 30.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov has met with the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs in Geneva.

Pointing out Azerbaijan's position, FM Bayramov drew the co-chairs' attention to Armenia's destructive actions, its targeting civilians and settlements, using banned weapons against peaceful population and committing war crimes.

A meeting among the the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs, and Azerbaijani and Armenian FMs then started. The meeting is currently underway.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani army inflicts precise strikes on the enemy

[21:09] 30.10.2020

The Azerbaijani Army units have destroyed the enemy's forces and combat equipment by precise strikes, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Ombudsperson addresses letter of protest to UNICEF Executive Director

[20:12] 30.10.2020

The UNICEF statement of October 28, 2020, on one month of fighting in and beyond Nagorno-Karabakh was based on double standards by hiding the truth about the children killed.

The Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan Sabina Aliyeva made a resolute protest against deliberately failing to mention the number, surnames and the settlements of Azerbaijan where those children were killed and addressed a letter to the Executive Director of the UNICEF Henrietta H. Fore in this regard, the Ombudsman office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

The Ombudsman noted that those children were killed as a result of missile attack by Armenia from its territory on the civilian settlements of Azerbaijan far beyond the conflict zone. “Not indicating these facts in the Statement lets us come to a conclusion that the UNICEF didn't draft the statement impartially. We consider that the UNICEF should not link the child casualties with the battle zone.

Up to date 90 persons, including 11 children, have been killed in Azerbaijan as a result of Armenian armed forces' intensive firing of the civilian settlements located on and far beyond the frontline in blatant violation of the international law norms. The number of the wounded is 395 and 48 of them are children.

It means turning a blind eye to the acts of terrorism against civilian population by Armenia and paving a way for Armenia's blatant violation of the norms and principles of international law, including Geneva Conventions and the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.”

In the letter, the Ombudsperson also referred to four interim Reports, seven Statements and two Appeals where she had urged the international community to call on Armenia to stop shelling the civilian settlements and follow the norms and principles of international law.

Based on the above-mentioned the Ombudsman had called the UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia to react to the human loss as well child casualties caused by Armenian military aggression against Azerbaijan and suggested to conduct a joint fact-finding mission, but the UNICEF has not yet conducted any on-site monitoring.

“Taking into account the above-noted, the Ombudsperson Sabina Aliyeva protests against the UNICEF Statement dated October 28, 2020, on one month of fighting in and beyond Nagorno-Karabakh and urges the UNICEF to take a clear position to prevent the war crimes of Armenia and to ensure the best interests of children standing by justice,” the letter says.

AZERTAC

Video footage from liberated Khudafarin village of Jabrayil district

[19:32] 30.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has released a video footage from Khudafarin village of Jabrayil district liberated from occupation.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

AZERTAC appeals to international media outlets regarding Armenia's terrorist attacks on Barda city

[18:25] 30.10.2020

AZERTAC has made an appeal to the heads of agencies holding membership in international and regional news agencies on Armenia's savage terrorist attacks committed against the city of Barda.

The document addressed to the members of the News Agencies World Congress (NAWC), European Alliance of News Agencies (EANA), the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA), the Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA) highlights the grave consequences of Barda tragedy, which is a continuation of the terrorist acts committed against the Azerbaijani civilian population.

The appeal says: "The Armenian armed forces illegally deployed in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan continue firing with destructive weapons at surrounding areas, as well as civilian facilities, towns and villages located far from the front line. Targeting the district of Barda, with a population of 100,000 people, is one of such war crimes committed in recent days. On October 28, as a result of Armenia's shelling of Barda city with cluster missiles banned by international law, 21 civilians, including children, women and the elderly were killed, 70 civilians were wounded and civilian infrastructure was severely damaged. One day earlier, on October 27, in a similar attack on one of the villages of Barda district, five civilians, including a seven-year-old girl were killed, and lots of civilians were wounded.

As a result of savage attacks on Azerbaijani towns and villages since September 27, in total, 90 civilians have been killed, 392 have been wounded, 2,500 private houses, and multi-apartment residential buildings, as well as more than 420 civilian facilities have been destroyed or severely damaged so far. Of those killed, 11 were children, 27 women and 15 elderly. There are 14 infants, 36 children, 101 women and 45 elderly people among injured. So, the scope of the destructions proves that these attacks are acts of terrorism and war crimes committed by Armenia at the state level and designed to kill as many people as possible.

Although there are sufficient irrefutable facts and evidence, unfortunately, some international media outlets are still biased in their coverage of the conflict, no distinction is made between the aggressor and the sufferer from aggression. As a colleague, we are rightfully concerned about the fact that some media outlets spread news based on fake information from the Armenian side and do not express their position on the deliberate attacks on the Azerbaijani civilian population.

We call on you to be sensitive to Armenian terrorist attacks and war crimes against the Azerbaijani civilian population, and to convey the truth about the conflict that has lasted for almost 30 years to communities of your countries."

AZERTAC is a vice-president of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA), member of News Agencies World Council (NACO), European Alliance of News Agencies (EANA), and the Executive Council of the Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA).

AZERTAC

Human Rights Watch confirms use of banned cluster missiles by Armenia against Azerbaijan's Barda city

[18:16] 30.10.2020

Human Rights Watch has also verified the use of banned cluster missiles by Armenia in the current Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, following an attack on the city of Barda in Azerbaijan, said the statement released by the organization.

“Armenian forces either fired or supplied internationally banned cluster munitions and at least one other type of long-range rocket used in an attack on Barda city, 230 kilometers west of Azerbaijan’s capital, Baku on October 28, 2020. The attack reportedly killed at least 21 civilians and wounded at least another 70.

Human Rights Watch analyzed photos of cluster munition remnants taken by international and local journalists and residents at and near the attack scene. It identified two of the weapons as a Smerch cluster munition rocket and a Smerch parachute-retarded high-explosive fragmentation rocket,” the statement said.

“There’s a reason these brutal weapons are banned by an international treaty, and using them in a city center shows flagrant disregard for civilian life and international law,” said Belkis Wille, senior crisis and conflict researcher at Human Rights Watch.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan destroys two more Smerch of Armenia

[18:08] 30.10.2020

“The positions of the next two Smerch MLRS belonging to the Armenian armed forces, which fired at peaceful population and civilian infrastructure in the cities of Barda and Tartar, were determined by our units,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“On October 30, at about 12:55 and 14:18, the two Smerch MLRS were destroyed by the accurate fire of our units,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC presents a video footage of the destruction of those systems.

AZERTAC

Assistant to President: Azerbaijan to assess damage caused by Armenia

[18:03] 30.10.2020

“The damage caused to Azerbaijan by Armenia will be assessed upon the instructions of President Ilham Aliyev,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev told a briefing at the Prosecutor General’s Office.

“This process was carried out before, but then it was not carried out thoroughly. As far as the lands are liberated from occupation, the process will be conducted more precisely,” he added.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenian war crimes must be assessed on international platforms

[17:20] 30.10.2020

“The government of Azerbaijan will continue to take steps to prosecute for the war crimes committed by Armenia against our people. These crimes must be assessed on the international platforms,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev told a briefing at the Prosecutor General’s Office.

“A military tribunal must be organized to assess Armenia’s crimes. This is not revenge, this is the restoration of justice,” Hajiyev added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Russian Interfax agency

[17:13] 30.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has been interviewed by Russian Interfax agency.

AZERTAC presents the interview.

- Thank you, Mr. President, for finding the time for an interview with our agency despite your busy schedule. It was exactly one month yesterday since the counter- offensive of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces began in Nagorno- Karabakh. How would you assess this month from the point of view of the military- political settlement of the conflict?

- The Azerbaijani army has demonstrated its advantage on the battlefield. Significant parts of the occupied territories have been liberated in one month. Given that the Armenian side had been building fortifications in the occupied lands for almost 30 years, there were several lines of defense. Also, the terrain itself is more favorable for the Armenian side. It is mountainous and our servicemen had to overcome both engineering fortifications and mountainous terrain when carrying out the counterattack. Despite all these factors, significant territories in the occupied lands of our country have been liberated in one month, and this shows that the Azerbaijani army is considered one of the most combat- effective armies in the world for a reason. According to the rankings periodically published by organizations that assess the military potential of countries, the Azerbaijani army is among top 50 armies in the world. The professionalism, training, combat effectiveness and, most importantly, fighting morale have certainly contributed to our success in many respects. And, of course, the equipment available to the Azerbaijani army. We have liberated the cities of Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Zangilan, Gubadli, a part of Khojavand district. The successful mission, the successful advance of the Azerbaijani army continues. I have said several times during this month that we want the settlement of the conflict to move from a military to a political phase. But, unfortunately, the Armenian side has grossly violated the ceasefire regime for the third time, attempted to re- occupy the territories we have liberated, and is pushing for a continuation of the confrontation. Therefore, I am answering your question again: the military- political settlement is the only possible way. We would like the military phase to end and issues of further de- occupation of Azerbaijani territories to be resolved at the negotiating table.

- Mr. President, you noted that Baku is interested in completing the military phase as quickly as possible. How long do you think it can last at the present time and is Baku ready to be content with seven districts around Nagorno- Karabakh?

- I have repeatedly said in my appeals to the Azerbaijani people and in numerous interviews this month that we are ready to stop at any moment, even today. But for this to happen, the Armenian side must commit to withdrawing its troops from the rest of the occupied territories. Therefore, I cannot predict how long the military confrontation will last. It depends on the Armenian side. As I said, their constant attempts to recapture our lands have failed. I think this should already be enough for them to understand that they will not achieve anything by military means. Unfortunately, on the political plane they are demonstrating a non- constructive approach, as I said, and have grossly violated the ceasefire three times. Based on this, of course, we will continue to plan on further action. As for the occupied territories, of course, the Azerbaijanis must

return to all the occupied territories where they used to live, and this has always been my approach. Not only to the seven occupied districts outside Nagorno- Karabakh, outside the former Nagorno- Karabakh autonomous region, but also to the territories, to the lands they had lived on for centuries. First of all, these are Shusha, Khankandi and other lands that have been inhabited by Azerbaijanis for centuries. I also said that our vision for a settlement lies in the co- existence of the Armenian and Azerbaijani population of Nagorno- Karabakh. It so happened historically that the Armenian population has been living on these lands for 200 years. We all know the history of the resettlement of Armenians from Eastern Anatolia and Iran. But it so happened. They have lived there for 200 years. And we have no objection to the continued presence of the Armenian population. On the contrary, I have always said that thousands of citizens of Armenian nationality live in Azerbaijan, that Armenians and Azerbaijanis live together in neighboring countries and get along quite well. Why can't this be achieved in Nagorno- Karabakh? Our vision is this: Azerbaijanis should return to all the territories they lived in. The Armenian population should also live on this land. And in the conditions of good neighborliness, we will strive to heal the wounds of war.

- So it means that Baku will not stop until Armenian servicemen withdraw from all the occupied territories.

- We need the Armenian side in the person of its leadership to undertake a commitment to withdraw troops from the occupied territories. We haven't heard that yet. As soon as this commitment is made by the Armenian leadership and as soon as it is confirmed and approved by OSCE Minsk Group co- chairs, we are ready to stop military action immediately. And provided that the Armenian side also stops it because all three violations of the ceasefire were committed by the Armenian side. Four civilians, including a seven- year- old girl, were killed as a result of a cluster missile attack on Barda yesterday. This is not a conflict zone. So this is a flagrant violation of the ceasefire, which was agreed in Washington. Prior to that, the ceasefire agreed in Moscow was violated by the Armenian side the next day when they launched a ballistic missile from the territory of Armenia to Ganja. And as a result of this, 10 people died. As a result of the second ballistic missile attack on Ganja, even more people died. There are about 30 victims in a peaceful city. Therefore, it is not our fault that the ceasefire is not observed. Therefore, the Armenian side must undertake that they will withdraw from the occupied territories they are still holding under occupation: these include a part of Aghdam district, the entire Lachin district and most of Kalbajar district. And then we will be ready, of course, to move on to a political settlement. It will cover many aspects. In principle, we have accepted the fundamental principles, while the Armenian side has rejected them. But the Armenian prime minister's aggressive statement yesterday suggests that they say one thing to the mediators and do something completely different.

- Mr. President, you have said that Baku is mainly committed to the fundamental principles. The first point of these principles was the liberation of five districts around Nagorno- Karabakh. But at present, four out of five districts have already been liberated by the Azerbaijani army. It turns out that, at a minimum, the fundamental principles are either not relevant or need some adjustment.

- This will depend on the behavior of the Armenian side again. As you know, negotiations between the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia are to be held in Geneva tomorrow. There we will see how committed the Armenian side is to the fundamental principles. After that, we will give our assessment of how relevant they are now not, although I have repeatedly stated during this month that Azerbaijan accepts them in general, there are certain aspects that do not suit us, of course, but we accept them in general. As for the return of five districts at the first stage, of

course, this is no longer relevant because the fundamental principles determined the sequence of territories to be returned – five districts at the first stage, and Kalbajar and Lachin districts at the second. Then comes the return of Azerbaijanis to the territory of Nagorno- Karabakh, in principle, the return of all refugees to the places of their original residence. We have almost completed the first stage. Therefore, if the Armenian side expresses its adherence to the fundamental principles, we will talk about an immediate transfer of Lachin, Kalbajar and a part of Aghdam district that are still under occupation to Azerbaijan. Thus, we will somewhat facilitate the work of mediators because one of the important issues will already be implemented and we will not have to wait for a second stage. It must come right away. If we agree on a political settlement, then Armenian troops should withdraw from Kalbajar and Lachin districts and a part of Aghdam district immediately.

- You have already touched upon tomorrow's meeting of foreign ministers and outlined the overall expectations of Baku. I would like to clarify if Baku still expects the Armenian side to show constructivism and the negotiations to be more substantive, not abstract and broad?

- I think we are still hopeful. Although the aggressive conduct of the Armenian side and the fact that they are flagrantly violating international law, the Geneva Conventions, and committing war crimes does not suggest that they are going to discuss the substance of the settlement issue, of course. Attacking peaceful cities with cluster munitions is a war crime. We have 69 civilians killed and more than 300 injured as a result of Armenian shelling. This is the face of Armenian fascism. At the same time, I think that the defeat we have inflicted on Armenia on the battlefield should nevertheless be a serious signal for them that they can no longer imitate things, deceive us, deceive the co- chairs of the Minsk Group and essentially evade substantive discussions. As for the process of negotiations, there was practically none for the past year, even more than a year. This was the first time this has happened since the 1994 truce. Because since then, the negotiations have been going on with varying degree of intensity and the parties have agreed on provisions of the fundamental principles. They did not fall from the sky. These were the principles proposed by the Minsk Group, its co- chairs, and agreed by the parties. Therefore, there was a process, albeit slow, and some progress was being made. But after the new government came to power in Armenia, they gave us and, as far as I know, the mediators, promises in the first year. But in the second year, they openly demonstrated their true intention that they would not give up a single centimeter of the land. Moreover, they threatened us with a new war for new territories. In fact, these were the words of their Minister of Defense who has been completely discredited as Minister of Defense both in the eyes of his own people and in the eyes of the world community. And after such a humiliating defeat, I am surprised he hasn't resigned yet.

- What is your assessment of remarks by Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, who on the one hand uses belligerent rhetoric but on the other hand says that Armenia should prepare for painful compromises, then changes his tone again? What is behind this?

- It is hard for me to comment on this. I would probably abstain from an assessment of what is happening to the Armenian prime minister. Probably, this military defeat influenced his state, otherwise how one can explain the series of inconsistent statements and actions that are absolutely irrational and harmful, primarily for himself as the country's leader and dangerous and harmful for his country?

Many people ask why the clashes happened now and not before. Even those who have a biased approach to Azerbaijan and openly support Armenia would ask this question. Twenty- six years have passed since the 1994 truce. There were clashes, there were victims over those years, but not on such a scale. So what has happened? Nothing has changed in Azerbaijan.

I have been engaged in settlement of negotiations for 17 years, and I have gone a long way towards agreeing on the fundamental principles together with the two previous Armenian presidents. That is why it is clear to impartial observers that it is not our fault. This is the fault of the inappropriate, irrational, and dangerous conduct of the Armenian prime minister.

No former Armenian leader ever allowed insulting innuendos regarding the Azerbaijani people. None of them allowed the Nagorno- Karabakh head to be inaugurated in Shusha. None of them prided themselves on the demonstrative violation of the Geneva Convention showing the resettlement of the Lebanese Armenians to Nagorno- Karabakh, including Shusha. And so on and so forth.

So these are the results of the ill- conceived and dangerous activity of Prime Minister Pashinyan. I wouldn't comment on his statements inside the country. But what he does concerning the settlement is very dangerous for Armenia itself. Today, Armenia can clearly see this. That is why I think that the Minsk Group co- chairs should clearly raise this issue before the Armenian foreign minister, who, as I understand, is in a very difficult situation. He has to answer for the inappropriate conduct of his leader, and in fact he deserves sympathy. He will have to get himself out of this and somehow explain his series of inconsistent actions.

On the one hand, he speaks about painful concessions, on the other hand, he says that there is no diplomatic solution. First, he says that he is ready for a compromise but then he says that he will defend Karabakh until the very end. On the one hand, he says that Karabakh is Armenia, but then he says that we should negotiate with Nagorno- Karabakh. This is an absolutely mutually exclusive palette of inadequacy. So I think that many issues of these will be clarified tomorrow.

- In your latest address to the Azerbaijani people, you quite severely criticized the mediators for essentially being inactive. Does this mean that Baku will insist on changing the Minsk Group format?

- I have spoken many times about the activity of the OSCE Minsk Group over the past month. And what I said in the address to the Azerbaijani people is the absolute truth. Any format, no matter what it is called and who it involves, should acknowledge its ineffectiveness if it doesn't fulfill the set task. And the set task has not been fulfilled. Although I cannot deny that the Minsk Group made attempts to reach a settlement, because fundamental principles were elaborated with its assistance. They worked and they proposed options. There were some things we didn't agree with, there were some things that the Armenian side didn't agree with. So that was a process that had lasted until Pashinyan came to power in Armenia.

But from the point of view of effectiveness and efficiency, the Minsk Group, of course, didn't justify itself, I mean the activity of the co- chairs. Should the co- chairs be other countries, this could have been explained by their insufficient international weight, by their lack of authority to implement even the UN Security Council resolutions that they had adopted themselves. But when the Minsk Group co- chairs are three members of the UN Security Council, when three nuclear powers cannot exert pressure on Armenia, this, of course, raises a lot of questions.

As for the composition, I have already said that the Minsk Group was set up in 1992. I don't know how it was set up and what principles underlie the choice of its members. But as I said, if we formed a contact group today, its composition would, of course, have been completely different. It would include countries that have their positions in the region and that have potential and authority in the world. Of course, I think the countries that are current co- chairs could probably remain there. But this is not a question for me, because the mechanism and the procedure of forming the Minsk Group and its co- chairs is the prerogative of the OSCE.

I think that we should not cling to formalities in order to settle the conflict. The Minsk Group as such can continue working, but we should think about new cooperation mechanisms between the countries of the region in order to practically reach a political settlement. I think that Russian President Vladimir Putin probably meant the same when he spoke about this.

- In this regard, some experts propose the 2+2 formula. How acceptable is it to Baku?

- Two is Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the other two?

- Turkey and Russia.

- This would be acceptable to us, because Turkey and Russia are our neighbors and countries with which we have close mutual relations and countries with good potential for cooperation among themselves. It is enough to look at the history of the past few years. Turkey and Russia have reached a high level of mutual understanding on many issues, including the bilateral agenda and the international security agenda. We see that in Syria and in Libya, and in tackling issues of countering international terrorism, to say nothing of energy projects, economic, investment projects.

Even before this escalation, I said that we have always welcomed the rapprochement of Turkey and Russia. I believe that this is an important factor of regional security. Considering that Armenian separatism is the main threat for us, and not only for us but for the entire region, I believe that combining the efforts of Turkey and Russia would benefit the region and could accelerate the political settlement of the Nagorno- Karabakh conflict.

- Mr. President, you have repeatedly said that the mediators should apply sanctions against Armenia in order to secure a breakthrough in the settlement process. What might be at issue?

- I have been talking about it for a long time, but regrettably my calls remain unanswered. What sanctions could be applied? Sanctions that would make Armenia fulfill the UN Security Council resolutions and withdraw its troops from the occupied territories. For example, we could have a look at the sanctions that were imposed on Iraq after its occupation of Kuwait. Similar things took place from the point of view of international law. The internationally recognized territory of Kuwait was occupied by Iraq, war crimes were committed, ethnic cleansing occurred, and only the timely reaction of the international community helped stop this occupation. And that happened within a short period of time. Next, economic sanctions, an arms embargo were imposed on Iraq. Iraq became a no- fly zone. War criminals, who committed crimes against humanity, were brought to justice and sentenced.

All these sanctions should be applied to Armenia. Even if one of these sanctions had been applied, I am sure the conflict would have been resolved long ago. There has simply been no political will and desire to apply these sanctions. And more likely the position that prevailed was that as long as there is no escalation, let's leave everything as it is.

-Is it frozen?

- Frozen, of course. Although everyone understood that this cannot last forever. Everyone understood this 10 years ago. The presidents of Russia, the US and France made statements, and said clearly many times that the status quo was unacceptable.

Well, fine. We welcomed this, and I remember this was praised in our country, I commented on this. But what happened next? Then they began to depart from this thesis gradually, stopped voicing it and invented a new thesis that the status quo is unstable. And we can clearly understand that these are completely different things. So the co- chairing countries moved away even from a political attempt to exert pressure on Armenia. And it was common knowledge that the status quo was unstable. And recent events proved this.

This is why, let me repeat that again, it is not too late to apply sanctions in order to end the conflict as soon as possible. I think that co- chairing countries should seriously think about what sanctions could be applied against the aggressor in order to make them leave the occupied lands.

- Do you think that the co- chairs managed to remain entirely neutral over the month of the military phase?

- Every country, including Azerbaijan, can have its own foreign political priorities. We have closer relations with some countries and less close with others. Our relations with some countries are based on historical factors and with others on pragmatic factors. That is why we have always treated with understanding the fact that there are very well structured and active Armenian communities in the co- chairing countries, in the US, in France, and in Russia. Even when we analyzed this situation, it is very hard to tell where they have greater influence on decision-making. That is why we have always taken and are taking this factor into account.

If there were some deviations at the first stage of hostilities that made us doubt their neutrality, I think now everything is fine- tuned. My contacts with the leaders of the co- chairing countries, as well as, I am sure, international support that Azerbaijan got, resulted in the fact that we can see this neutrality now. Once again, what some people have on their mind is not our business, but, of course, the mediators must adhere to international law and neutrality, otherwise they will just forfeit the right to be mediators. A mediator must be impartial, it must leave emotions at home or leave them for the bilateral format, and as part of the settlement it must take into account the mandate that the OSCE gave it and the desire to settle the conflict in line with international law rather than in line with the wishes of Azerbaijan or Armenia.

- You have said recently said that there will be no referendum in Nagorno- Karabakh. This is the new reality. Does this mean that Azerbaijan has changed its position, made it tougher?

- I have been talking about this for 17 years, and the OSCE Minsk Group co- chairs know my position. I don't remember how many co- chairs have changed over these years, how many

diplomats have been co- chairmen, but all of them can confirm that I have always said that there will never be a referendum on the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan. Moreover, if we look at the fundamental principles, there is no such word as 'referendum' there. There is a certain wording related to the expression of will, to self- determination there.

We have always said that self- determination is an important principle of international law, but it cannot violate the territorial integrity of a country. Secondly, a country's territorial integrity cannot be changed without the consent of this country. And I naturally adhere to this position today: we will not let a second Armenian state be set up on Azerbaijan's territories. If someone is willing to create a second Armenian state, let them give a part of their territory and let them create it there.

- Armenia says that it can recognize the independence of Nagorno- Karabakh if hostilities continue. At the same time, there are calls for countries and international organizations to recognize Karabakh. How likely is this? And what could it lead to?

- What you are asking about once again proves the inconsistency and insincerity of the incumbent Armenian authorities, because while failing to recognize Nagorno- Karabakh themselves, they want other countries do that. And their regular blackmailing and threats that they will recognize Nagorno- Karabakh in case of escalation turned out to be yet another bluff. Military confrontation on Karabakh has lasted for more than a month. Why haven't they recognized Nagorno- Karabakh yet?

It is very easy to do, let them just say that they recognize it. This is the essence of their policies, when they have been always trying for many decades, but regrettably they have sometimes succeeded under the cover of other states to have other states solve their problems. This is the essence of the ideology of the present- day Armenian state. It is based on very deep historical roots, it has been this way for the whole history. If we look at the past 200 years of the history of the Caucasus, we can see how many wars started because of them, how many provocations they caused for other countries, and then going to the backstage, hiding behind someone's backs reaped the fruits of confrontation and the fruits of shedding the blood of other peoples.

We know the history of their appearance in the Caucasus well. Historically, there was no Armenian ethnicity in the region. How did they get here? This was their way, trickery, cunning attempts to use a cat's paw to take roasting chestnuts from a fire. They are doing the same now. Hence my call for them in response – recognize Nagorno- Karabakh, recognize its right today. By the way, I have spoken about it quite recently. Let them recognize Nagorno- Karabakh today, but asking other countries to do this once again proves the inappropriateness of the Armenian leadership and very low political literacy. That is why if the Armenian leadership knew at least the basics of international politics a little, it would understand that the whole world recognizes Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. It is common knowledge that we joined the UN and other international organizations as a single state encompassing Nagorno- Karabakh. The Non- Aligned Movement – 120 countries – voices unambiguous support for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. The European Union – 27 countries – our document with the EU states the support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and inviolability of Azerbaijan's borders. Altogether there are almost 150 countries. Should we add the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which, however, includes some NAM members but there are other countries that are not represented in the NAM, we get the whole international community.

Because of Armenia, its whim and caprice to recognize Nagorno- Karabakh, to spoil relations with Azerbaijan, and not just to spoil, as I said this will immediately lead to the rupture of diplomatic relations with any country that will do so, no- one will just do that. Moreover, they don't recognize it themselves. Moreover, they are aggressors in line with the reality on the Earth and in line with UN resolutions. This is why this is a very indecent attempt to pull somebody's chestnuts out of the fire.

- Russia has proposed deploying military observers in the conflict zone. Prime Minister Pashinyan in general agreed to deploying peacekeepers to the conflict zone and didn't rule out that these could be Russian peacekeepers. So is it observers or peacekeepers? What is the position of Baku?

- This issue is reflected in the fundamental principles, but we have never seriously discussed it because we simply didn't get to it. It was planned to dispatch peacekeepers to the region at the final stage of the settlement, when the aftermath of the occupation is mitigated, when refugees return to Nagorno- Karabakh, then, yes, in order to ensure that Azerbaijani and Armenian population can live side by side, disengagement forces will be needed at the first stage. But the fundamental principles don't state for how long they should be deployed and what countries they should consist of. Simply because we didn't reach it. First of all, all main provisions of the agreement must be agreed on.

As for the desire of the Armenian prime minister to see peacekeepers in the conflict zone, then firstly, this is none of his business, because when we speak about the conflict zone, we should understand that this is Azerbaijan's territory. If we speak about peacekeepers at the border of Armenia and Azerbaijan, this is another issue. But as far as I understand, it is the Azerbaijani territory that is in question now, that is why we should have the final say.

And since this topic wasn't broadly discussed, I think it is premature to speak about it. But for my part I would like to note that when we speak about it, we should firstly understand what mandate possible observers would have and where they would be deployed. One should understand that there is no contact line, so where will their posts be? Armenia breaches international law and ceasefire, shelling our cities. Just recently, Euronews aired footage that clearly shows a flying missile flying. And it was flying to our cities rather than military positions. So where they will be, what mandate, composition, numbers, arms, and functions will they have, and who will ensure their security? These questions require very thorough examination, and only afterwards will we be able to say whether we agree to it or not. That is why it is so far premature.

- In general, do military officials of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia discuss any mechanisms of ceasefire monitoring?

- No, there are no such discussions now.

- Are you ready to go to Moscow for negotiations on Karabakh with the Armenian prime minister? And on what conditions?

- I haven't received such an invitation. I have repeatedly taken part in trilateral meetings between the presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia, but there have been no such meetings since Pashinyan came to power in Armenia. These meetings were with the previous presidents of Armenia, and I have never avoided such meetings. I considered them to be very positive, because

Russia as a co- chair of the Minsk Group plays a special role in the settlement, and historically Russia has always maintained close ties with both Armenia and Azerbaijan. Russia is very actively cooperating politically and economically with Azerbaijan and Armenia these days, it is our neighbor. Therefore, it is natural that most of these meetings have been held in Russian territory, but there have been no such meetings with Pashinyan. I don't know how efficient they are going to be now with regard to the Armenian leadership. But if such a proposal is made, we have always viewed them positively and will continue to do so.

- Does this mean that you are ready to go if there is such an invitation?

- Yes, and without any preconditions as you have said. This is evident from the fact that our foreign ministers will be meeting in Geneva tomorrow also without any preconditions. Moreover, I would like to say that, when the conflict only just began, our foreign minister had plans to visit Geneva to meet with the co-chairs, and he did go there. And the Armenian foreign minister, who had planned to travel there a week before, in early October, refused to go. And when a proposal from Moscow came on a meeting between the foreign ministers to coordinate a humanitarian ceasefire, our foreign minister flew there from Geneva. In other words, we are not setting any terms, but again, I really doubt that the current Armenian authorities are capable of constructively working toward a settlement.

- Prime Minister Pashinyan has repeatedly said that Turkish troops are directly involved in hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh. It was also said that Pakistani special units are also involved. Your comment?

- These are yet more of Pashinyan's lies. I must say that there were no such things in my contacts with previous Armenian presidents. Yes, we are adversaries, we cannot have positive attitudes towards each other, but there have never been such open lies and such allegations at the negotiating table. This is all lies. There are no Turkish special units there. I have repeatedly said that, and there is no such need. He has now said that some kind of Pakistani special units are present here, and by the way I think he got a note of protest in return. This is nonsense, there is no such thing.

These are all attempts to firstly engage other countries into the conflict, make it international in order to conceal his shameful defeat, saying that allegedly it is not Azerbaijan that beats us up on the battlefield, but Turkish and Pakistani special units. He has recently made a ridiculous statement – as I was told – that the terrorists Azerbaijan had allegedly brought from Syria to Azerbaijan sneaked into Russia and staged a terrorist attack in Grozny. Just understand that this is absolute nonsense. Russian special services know for sure who staged the terrorist attack. Previously, he said that Turkey's F- 16 brought down Armenia's Su- 25. Everyone knows this is a lie. Such things are monitored by Russia and other co-chairing countries. We live in the era of technologies and nothing can be hidden.

This was simply idiocy when he said that it wasn't Armenia that had launched ballistic missiles against Ganja, because any launch of a ballistic missile is monitored. Russia, America and France are well aware that this missile was launched and what combat mission it had. The combat mission was to hit a residential neighborhood, and another residential neighborhood for the second time. We have no military bases, no military towns in Ganja. He is simply lying.

And he says it was not us, when hundreds of journalists take horrible footage of these destructions, when foreign diplomats give interviews right from the destruction site, Pashinyan says that it was not Armenia. Then who? Did we strike at Ganja ourselves? Just imagine the level of deceit and, what is more, idiocy. Any reasonable person should understand that this is impossible to hide. It is yet another lie when he speaks about Pakistani and Turkish special units. He will say tomorrow that Martians were brought there in order to liberate territories. Anything can be expected from him.

- I would still like to specify Turkey's future role in the conflict settlement...

- We see Turkey's role in the settlement as effective. Turkey is a fraternal state to us. Turkey is the only country of the world that borders on three South Caucasian countries. Turkey today has a decisive say in many discussions not only on a regional but also on a global scale. Turkey pursues an absolutely independent foreign policy, thus evoking, as far as I know, much irritation among those who have got used to ordering everyone about. That is why I think Turkey, as a secure partner and friend of Azerbaijan, which has also have very close relations with Russia, will definitely play an important role.

It is already playing this role, and the fact that the presidents of Russia and Turkey, the foreign ministers, and the defense ministers are in constant contact with each other discussing these questions proves that Turkey is already engaged, whether Armenia likes it or not. But I am certain that Armenia is forced to recognize and accept this.

- Is there a risk that the Azerbaijani- Armenian conflict will escalate into a regional confrontation involving big states?

- Frankly speaking, I cannot fully rule this out, but I must say that for our part we will take no actions that could lead to this, there will be no provocations that would make this conflict international. We don't need this, and I have said many times over the past month that we are against this, and I called on countries to show restraint and not to interfere. I am glad this is happening this way.

Although Armenia's constant attempts to make this conflict international and constant requests of the Armenian leadership for Russia to almost send its troops to fight on Armenia's side are exactly what I was talking about - to pull somebody's chestnuts out of the fire. That is why I am sure that regional countries, and these are the countries that Azerbaijan enjoys close historical, cultural, political and trustworthy relations with – Russia, Turkey, Iran, Georgia – will naturally abstain from any actions that would play into the aggressor's hands.

- Not long ago President Putin said that the death toll of the current escalation on both side is about 5,000 people. Do you have the same data?

- I said that we would publish the number of killed servicemen after the war is over. As for civilians, we are making data public. I told you about 69 people killed and more than 300 wounded.

As for the losses, I can say what losses Armenia could have according to our estimates. Just look, simple arithmetic, 256 tanks were destroyed as of yesterday, the figure is growing day to day, just multiply it by – how many crewmembers there are, three or four – this is almost 1,000. Next, over 50 infantry fighting vehicles were destroyed, it is roughly clear how many people are

there. Hundreds of artillery guns, and each of them has several people, six S-300 systems, about 40 OSA air defense systems, the TOR, KUB, KRUG systems, more than 400 trucks – and the majority of them carried personnel and ammunition when they were destroyed. If we just calculate these figures... And how many people were killed in trenches? We were in those trenches, the contact lines – the footage is on the Internet. So according to our information, 5,000 Armenian troops may have been killed, and the number of wounded during war, as a rule, is two to three times higher.

As for our losses, I have said we will make them public after the fighting is over. But I have to say that they are a lot less, and bearing in mind the nature of the combat clashes, the difficult terrain, and the fortifications that the Armenians have built for 30 years, I believe that every human life is priceless, but our losses are minimal, bearing in mind all these factors.

- Military experts believe that Azerbaijan managed to minimize its losses during the active stage of hostilities thanks to the active use of drones. What is the reason for using drones?

- Of course, the arsenal of the Azerbaijani army consists not only of drones. We have modern air defense systems made in Russia, in Israel, in Belarus; several air defense systems are crisscross, which shoot down the bulk of missiles being sent from Armenian territory. Unfortunately, we can't shoot down all of them.

Our armor is the most modern: upgraded T-72 tanks, the most modern T-90 tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, modern artillery that has a very long range. This includes Polonez rockets, LORA, Extra, Kasirga, etc. Our approach to the arming of our army was not one-sided.

But modern methods of warfare, of course, are different from those we had back in 1990s, and so unmanned aviation is an important factor of our combat capabilities, especially considering such fortified areas. That is why even the footage that we show on the Internet, just believe me that it is almost nothing compared to what is happening. This is what we can show.

They dug everything they could there. They have many kilometers of interconnected tunnels, rat holes where they get to as soon as they hear noise. There is a rat hole near every gun. That is why it would have been very hard to destroy this without modern hardware, this would result in a large number of casualties. We destroyed many Grad systems, and in this case unmanned aviation, Turkish and Israeli drones, helped us very much.

By using UAVs, we destroyed at least six S-300 air defense systems. In addition, modern UAVs conduct reconnaissance themselves, apart from independently carrying out strikes. They also coordinate artillery, which strikes afterwards. This is why it is an important factor of our success. But as I said, Azerbaijani soldiers and officers are liberating the lands, raising the flag. Because this is our heritage, and it is not by accident that the Azerbaijani army is considered as one of the most effective. I already know that this experience has been studied. In general, this experience will be useful for many countries in order to plan further military build-up.

And even for us. I recently held a meeting with the military and said that we should analyze both successes and shortcomings. And in the future, when we buy military hardware, we should be guided by experience in terms of what we need and what lies idle in storage depots.

- You spoke about Azerbaijan's civilian losses. What is the reaction of the international community to this? Does it condemn it or does everything end with calls to Baku and Yerevan to stop shelling each other?

- Yes, this is so. And this is not news for us. What kind of condemnation of Armenia has there been over these years of occupation? Has it been condemned? There has been none. Has anyone condemned Armenia for occupation? Yes, UN Security Council resolutions were adopted in 1993, yes, we then attained the adoption of UN General Assembly, the Non-Aligned Movement and even the European Parliament resolutions. Of course, they created a judicial framework, a legal framework for the settlement. But we have heard no condemnation. Even when it was clear that Armenia breached the ceasefire, not a single day elapsed after the ceasefire was agreed on in Moscow when they attacked Ganja.

And now, a day after the ceasefire was agreed on in Washington – and they begged for one, they begged for a ceasefire in Moscow and now, and what was reached thanks to the efforts of the French side – not a single day passed before they shelled Barda. And before that they fired at a funeral procession in Tartar. Four people were killed there. These are inhumane actions. This proves who we have to war against. This means there are no moral norms, no honor, dignity, and no understanding of how wars are fought.

You know, everyone, even an adversary, even an enemy, should be respected to a certain extent, because there are rules, in particular for fighting wars. There is nothing of the kind for the Armenian side. That is why we didn't pin much hope on condemnation. Fraternal Turkey backs us, Pakistan openly supports us. The Turkish president, the Pakistani prime minister have repeatedly voiced their support for us. Many countries support us. And when we say international community, almost every time the Western world is meant. But we haven't expected any sympathy from there.

- Could attacks on Azerbaijan's energy infrastructure, in particular Mingachevir and oil and gas pipelines, create certain risks for supplies of Azerbaijan's oil and gas to the global market?

- If they do what they promised, that is, the bombardment of the Sangachal terminal, or our oil and gas pipelines, this will certainly pose some risks. I think that they will be condemned in this case. As it is European consumers who need this oil and gas most of all. It is no secret that the gas pipeline from Azerbaijan to a certain extent, certainly not to a large extent, but somehow contributes and will contribute to energy security of some European countries.

As for the oil supplies, some European Union countries get 40 to 50 percent of their oil from Azerbaijan today. If something happens to these oil and gas pipelines, Armenia will face already serious international pressure. However, this does not stop them. They attempted to bomb the Baku-Novorossiysk oil pipeline. This is a pipeline that connects Azerbaijan and Russia, a country Armenia constantly demands special relations from without giving anything in return. Absolutely nothing in both the political sense and international support. It is hard to expect anything different from the Soros team.

That is why the bombardment of the electric power plant in Mingachevir is aimed at destroying Azerbaijan's energy system. This, of course, will have an effect to a certain extent, but we have already set up a branched power supply network, and new electric power plants.

This proves the predatory nature of the Armenian side. It is another thing that we have destroyed the majority of these missiles in mid-air, intercepted them, and some of them did not explode. This also speaks about their military potential. But such a threat certainly does exist, and we should respond to it adequately.

I have always said and continue saying that despite the barbaric bombardment of Barda, where a seven-year-old girl was killed and several more children were injured, I say that we are not them. We will respond on the battlefield, we will respond by liberating new lands, by raising the flag in new cities. We will bomb neither cities nor civilians.

Let me give you an absolutely recent example. It is an exchange of dead bodies and prisoners in question. Basically, this subject was first mentioned for humanitarian reasons in Moscow on 10 October. We contacted the Red Cross to say, 'Let's organize a swap.' Moreover, I will give you further detail. I have ordered to maximally preserve the bodies of Armenian servicemen – in refrigerators or cold places. We all understand what happens to human bodies...

- They are decaying...

- Yes, absolutely right. And the Armenian side refuses to take them every time. It says every time, let's do it where battles are under way. So, you understand, to put the lives of civilians in jeopardy. We say no. We have a state border. Let's do it in Tovuz district, in Gazakh district. Let's do it there. So yesterday, I decided to unilaterally hand over the bulk of the bodies of the killed Armenian servicemen. Plus, we have two civilians. These are elderly people who we are also handing over. And so we tried to do it yesterday. We sent cars with the bodies toward the border. We involved the office of the OSCE and the Red Cross. But the Armenian side doesn't accept them. You see, it doesn't take the dead! What are we talking about? How can this even be commented on? What norms of human moral does this fit into? That is why we will transfer the bodies in any case. Currently, we are looking at transferring their civilians and killed people via Georgia.

But if they refuse to accept them, I just don't know what to do. This is who we are fighting with, you see. Everyone should understand this. These are all their false and whining assurances. Their cries, their moans, these are just crocodile tears. We know this well. That is why the Russian public shouldn't be deceived by these lies and slander. Yes, it is clear that they got incorporated deep into Russia's agencies. But that is not all. They are also there in France and America. They are in the media, they sometimes create a public background. But people should understand who we are fighting against and understand that we are right. We are fighting on our own land, and they are dying on our land.

- You have repeatedly said that the military phase of the conflict will end sooner or later. If Karabakh and seven districts are returned, how could this affect the pace of Azerbaijan's economic development?

- It is hard to say. You know, there are different assessments. Of course, the return of large territories under our control is a big potential for growth and development, primarily in agriculture and tourism spheres. Because the Karabakh region is one of the most beautiful and bountiful regions of our country. It is rich in natural resources – gold, zinc, lead. By the way, Armenia illegally produces gold in Kalbajar together with some foreign companies. But we, of course, will hold all of them to account through relevant legal procedures.

That is why prospects of this region will be very important for the sustainable development of Azerbaijan and for ensuring food security, primarily. But one should understand that this will entail enormous financial expenditures at the initial stage.

- Restoration...

- Yes, of course. The footage that we demonstrate show that there is no house left there. When we liberated Fuzuli, we were unable to find a single building intact - just imagine. In the whole city. And tens of thousands people lived there. No building. I was called, and I said raise the flag on a flagpole. Do you understand? This is what they did. And look at the ruins of Aghdam, Jabrayil district. Everything is in ruins. It looked as if barbarians were there, not people. They took everything away, roofs, windows, toilets, sinks. They are just thieves. That is why we will face enormous expenditures. Infrastructure, roads, communications, housing, administrative buildings. Let me put it this way, at the first stage from the point of view of the gross domestic product this will probably have a positive impact on the construction industry, employment, and everything related to the production of construction materials. But from the point of view of expenditures, these will run to many billions.

We will calculate the damage. I have already ordered, given instructions to set up temporary command offices in liberated territories. I issued this order just a few days ago. We will take stock of everything that is left there, we will assess the damage inflicted there. Naturally, later, at the stage when our people will return there, we will employ relevant legal procedures and hold the aggressor accountable.

So I think in the long run, I think, in five or ten years this will add a good impetus to the non-oil industries, while this will be very costly in the short run. But there are no material dimensions that would stop us from restoring Karabakh and make it one of the most beautiful and comfortable place for living on earth.

- And my last question. What is your vision of the geopolitical development of the situation and alignment of forces in the region after the Karabakh conflict is settled?

- I believe the situation will certainly be different from what it used to be before the conflict. We have changed the geopolitical lie of the land in the region in many respects. It has already been changed, and a lot of stereotypes have become outdated - for instance, such a stereotype as confrontation between Russia and NATO. Now look: Russia and Turkey, a NATO member, have far more sincere and trusting relations than Turkey, a NATO member, has with some other country. It didn't use to be this way. This is a new reality. That is why this very structured stereotypic geopolitical thinking is being consigned to history. I think this is a positive factor. So we have to proceed from the reality. And politicians shape the reality by their actions. I think our region today sees a very positive format of cooperation between leading policy-makers, who determine the region's agenda and are focused on cooperation.

After all, we can talk about active cooperation between Turkey, Iran, Russia, and Azerbaijan in both trilateral and bilateral formats these days. I think one day we will start working in a quadrilateral format as well. This would be natural from the historical, economic, transport and geopolitical standpoints, and what is most important, from the standpoint of strengthening security in this region.

That is why Armenia should not remain foreign matter on the body of the Caucasus. It was the last to come here, and the Armenian state was created artificially on the lands that it never owned. I have said many times that the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic gave Yerevan to Armenia. This is a historical fact. On 29 May 1918, a day after the foundation of the republic was announced, Yerevan was given to Armenia. When this issue was being discussed, members of the legislative body from Yerevan were against it, but their opinion was ignored. So this is how Yerevan was given away, as simply as that. But, as they say, what is to be, will be.

Armenia shouldn't be a foreign body. It must end the occupation and normalize relations with Azerbaijan and Turkey. This would only benefit them, believe me, this would only benefit them. All communications would be opened, and they would become part of energy and transport integration projects, they would become part of the common security system. After all, look, Turkey is buying S-400 systems from Russia. This is an absolutely new security system. This is not just the purchase of an air defense system, but this is a step toward a new security system and mutual confidence. This can't be accomplished without mutual confidence. We bought S-300 from Russia a long time ago, this is also a factor of mutual confidence, you see.

Therefore, this arrangement in the region benefits all. Armenia should come to understand that it is being marginalized, and nobody will fight for it. And what's next? If it continues confrontation with us, if it keeps making territorial claims on Turkey, well, it should understand, how can it oppose us? But we don't want this opposition. We want peace, despite all the pain and tragedies that they have inflicted on our people. Therefore, I believe that geopolitical realities should be developing positively. At least as far as we are concerned, we will be doing all we can to make this happen.

- Thank you for your detailed answers.

-Thank you

AZERTAC

Ministry of Ecology: Armenia commits environmental terror against Azerbaijan

[16:57] 30.10.2020

Armenia is committing a real environmental terror against Azerbaijan, press secretary of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources Irada Ibrahimova told AZERTAC.

"The invasive Armenia, which continues crimes against humanity and kills civilians, also destroys natural monuments, flora, and fauna, which are valuable not only for the region but also for the ecological balance of the planet," Ibrahimova said.

According to her, Armenia, which has been committing environmental terror in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan for many years, is now, grossly violating the requirements of international conventions on the inviolability of the ecological environment and ignoring the normative acts of the relevant UN environmental organizations, is targeting specially protected natural areas located outside of the combat zone.

"The Armenian Armed Forces are intensely shelling the Aghjabadi and Goygol districts of Azerbaijan, located behind the front line, and several rockets fell on the territory of the Aghgol and Goygol national parks. As a result of this terrorist attack, wildfires broke out and serious damage was caused to the flora and fauna and natural landscape in Goygol national park, which is the only natural area in the South Caucasus, characterized by a unique landscape with natural lakes, and in Aghgol National Park, which was included in the list of the Ramsar Convention 'On Wetlands'.

Ibrahimova stressed that the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources condemns these cruel and inhuman acts of Armenia against the civilian population and the environment of Azerbaijan, and calls on international human rights defenders to take urgent steps to inform the international community about the crimes of the Armenian side.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated 9 villages of Jabrayil, Zangilan and Gubadli districts

[15:32] 30.10.2020

“The victorious Azerbaijani Army has liberated Khudaverdili, Gurbantapa, Shahvaladli, Khubyarli villages of Jabrayil district, Aladin, Vejnali villages of Zangilan district, Kavdadig, Mamar and Mollali villages of Gubadli district from the occupation.

Long live Azerbaijani Army! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

AZERTAC

Armenia`s rocket-artillery depot destroyed

[14:42] 30.10.2020

“Armenian media has spread another false information about the alleged destruction of an ammunition depot belonging to the Azerbaijan Army. However, the enemy once again exposed its fraudulence by adding a recorded video of the depot from a close distance,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“In fact, on the night of October 29, the rocket-artillery depot of the Armenian armed forces newly built in the occupied territory was destroyed by our units,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

**Temporary special administrations to be established in Azerbaijan`s territories
liberated from occupation**

[14:15] 30.10.2020

President Ilham Aliyev has signed an Order on the establishment of temporary special administrations in Azerbaijan`s territories liberated from the occupation.

A temporary special administration organization will be established for each region and the Interior Ministry will appoint directors, according to the Order.

Organizations will carry out activities in coordination with the Ministry of Defense and State Border Service. They will be responsible for the security of transportation and telecommunications infrastructure facilities, energy and water supply systems, water tanks, and key facilities, including private facilities that pose a high danger to the environment.

They will also be in charge of collection, inventory and protection of detected military equipment, weapons, ammunition, poisonous and explosive materials, and the protection of public order and security.

Together with relevant institutions, the organizations will conduct activities such as demining land, preventing acts such as terrorism, espionage and sabotage, taking an inventory of land and real estate, cultural assets, mines and natural resources.

AZERTAC

Defence Ministry: Alleged shooting of Azerbaijan's UAV is misinformation

[13:49] 30.10.2020

“The information spread by the Armenian side about the alleged shooting of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) belonging to the Azerbaijani Army on the front line is false and misinformation,” the Defence Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Ministry of Defense: Azerbaijan`s residential settlements come under fire since morning

[12:58] 30.10.2020

“The territory of Goranboy, Tartar, Aghdam and Aghjabadi districts have come under artillery fire since 07:35 on October 30,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“Adequate measures are being taken by our Army,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM on working visit to Geneva

[12:55] 30.10.2020

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov is on a working visit to Geneva, Switzerland

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Gubadli district is under artillery fire emanating from territory of Armenia

[12:32] 30.10.2020

“At present, the armed forces of Armenia are subjecting to artillery fire the territory of Gubadli district from the direction of Goris district of Armenia,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“Azerbaijan Army units will take adequate retaliatory actions,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Armenia commits next ecological terrorism acts against Azerbaijan

[11:48] 30.10.2020

Armenian armed forces continue shelling Azerbaijani densely populated residential territories, civilian facilities, including private and apartment buildings, and households using heavy artillery installations and rockets, as well as committing ecological terror in gross violation of the humanitarian ceasefire.

Thus, the forest area which caught fire yesterday due to the heavy artillery strikes by Armenian armed forces in the territory of Goygol district that is far away from combat zone has come under shell strikes early this morning again and as a result fire broke out.

Also, fire has broken out in the forest area due to the shelling from the heavy artillery installations by the aggressor in the territory of Goranboy district. The relevant forces of the State Fire Protection Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations have been involved for firefighting and urgent measures are being taken in this direction. Additional information will be provided.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations operates in an enhanced mode at the moment. The ministry asks to immediately call the “112” hotline of the Ministry in case of any emergency.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Another high-ranking Armenian serviceman, who committed a war crime was killed

[10:58] 30.10.2020

The Azerbaijani Army continues to take measures against the enemy, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The enemy's attempts to attack in several directions of the front during the day on October 29 were resolutely prevented. The enemy was forced to retreat, suffering heavy losses in combat vehicles and personnel.

Due to the retaliatory actions, another high-ranking Armenian serviceman who committed a war crime was killed. Thus, the deputy commander of the 1st combined arms army, colonel Victor Arustamyan was killed as a result of firing at a convoy of vehicles in the defensive line of the 18th motorized rifle division of the Armenian armed forces,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The "Smerch" which shelled Barda was destroyed

[10:28] 30.10.2020

The firing position of the "Smerch" MLRS belonging to the Armenian Armed Forces, which fired at the peaceful population and civilian infrastructure in the city of Barda, was determined by our units, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“On October 29, at about 15:18, the enemy's "Smerch" MLRS was destroyed by the accurate fire of our units,” the ministry said.

The ministry presents a video footage of destruction of the MLRS.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on front

[10:20] 30.10.2020

“During the day on October 29 and night on October 30, the Armenian armed forces fired at the positions of the units of Azerbaijan Army and our residential settlements in different directions of the front with various weapons, including artillery and missiles,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the combat operations continued mainly in the direction of Aghdara, Khojavand and Gubadli. Attempts by the enemy to attack were strongly suppressed.

“As a result of retaliatory actions against the Armenian armed forces in various directions of the front, some of the enemy's personnel were killed and wounded.

During the day and at night yesterday, a large number of enemy forces, 2 Su-25 attack aircraft, 3 T-72 tanks, 1 IFV, 2 "Smerch" and 1 BM-21 "Grad" MLRS, 10 different types of howitzers, 2 "Gvozdika" self-propelled howitzers, 1 "Osa" anti-aircraft missile system, 1 -P-18 radar station, 4 auto vehicles were destroyed and wrecked.

At present, our troops are monitoring the operational situation,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Chairman of Caucasus Muslims Office: Armenian Apostolic Church blesses death, murder of women and children, rather than human life

[09:08] 30.10.2020

Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims Office SheikhuIslam Allahshukur Pashazade has issued a statement condemning the Armenian Apostolic Church clerics` actions against the core principles of Christianity and the peaceful calls of the Bible.

The statement says: "Since July 2020, Armenia's aggressive regime, resorting to new military provocations, has continued to fire - using missiles and heavy artillery - at our residential settlements and civilians in Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region and surrounding areas, as well as along the state border with Armenia.

Following the constant shelling, starting from September 27, of tens of Azerbaijani cities and settlements, including Ganja, Azerbaijan's second-largest city located far from the combat zone, our ancient city of Barda came under missile attacks by Armenia on October 28. As a result of the missile attack on the city of Barda, 21 civilians were killed and more than 70 people were injured. In total, more than 90 civilians have been killed, 392 have been wounded, 2,406 houses, 92 multi-apartment apartment residential buildings and 423 civilian facilities have been destroyed so far. The killing of innocent children in Ganja and Barda cannot leave anyone indifferent. However, the international community has not yet expressed a unanimous stand on this act of terrorism committed by Armenia at the state level. Throughout history, Armenia has carried out many bloody crimes. Armenians have committed crimes incompatible with humanity, such as genocide, occupation, extremism, terrorism and violence.

Non-implementation of UN resolutions, separatism, attempts to establish a so-called state, disruption of negotiations on a peaceful solution to the conflict, non-compliance with agreements and commitments are the activities inherent in the current Armenian regime. And this is leading to the collapse of the Armenian statehood. Genocide, xenophobia, Islamophobia, monoethnicity, ethnic cleansing, creation and financing of terrorist organizations in order to secure historical territorial claims, and the use of religion for their own aggressive intentions are the characteristics of Armenian extremists.

The policy of destruction of cultural heritage, cemeteries, temples and religious monuments of different faiths in our occupied territories, insulting mosques, falsification of history and change of its origins, appropriation and Gregorianization - all these are manifestations of Armenian vandalism.

Another peculiarity of the Armenian regime is the spread of false, defamatory and provocative information. For example, they slander Azerbaijan, although it is them who use mercenary terrorists. They claim that "Karabakh is Armenia", and try to appropriate ancient toponyms in Azerbaijani lands by giving them Armenian names. Another example – they try to draw the global attention claiming they were subjected to genocide, although it is them who committed genocides in Khojaly, Ganja and Barda. They justify and immortalize the perpetrators of the fascist era, which exposes Armenia's modern political line. It is regrettable that the Armenian Church blesses Armenia`s policy of aggression and war crimes. The Armenian Apostolic Church blesses death, the murder of children, women and civilians, rather than human life which is the most sacred value. And it is beyond logic. A call to live and give life is enshrined in all major

religious books, in the Bible, and in Prophet Jesus` sermons. Such behavior of the Armenian Apostolic clergy, which contradicts the core principles of Christianity and the peace-loving calls of the Bible, is an insult to the religion they belong to. Instead of praying for peace, they inspire – holding a cross in one hand and a weapon in the other in the trenches – their soldiers to occupy Azerbaijani lands. And this questions the true nature of these religious leaders. By encouraging their people to violence, rather than peace, and by persuading them to fight to death, the Armenian state and the Armenian Church are dragging the nation into catastrophe.

I urge heads of world states and international organizations, as well as religious leaders to make a proper judgment about the nature and potential consequences of the Armenian Apostolic Church leader`s calls on world Armenians. If the religious center of Armenia, a mono-ethnic country, promotes fascism, terrorism, occupation, annexation, national and religious hatred, it is a very dangerous trend and a threat not only to the region but also to global peace, peaceful coexistence of religions and civilizations.

Realizing that it is helpless in the face of resoluteness and persistence our country is showing in the liberation of the internationally recognized territories, and that defeat is inevitable, the Armenian side uses the church factor as a last resort, as it strives to present the conflict as a Christian-Muslim confrontation and gain support of the Christian world. The dangers posed by this factor have been discussed and unambiguously condemned as unacceptable during my meetings with the world`s leading religious leaders, including Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia Ilia II, as well as during meetings held through the World Council of Churches which also involved Armenian religious leaders. This factor runs absolutely contrary to the peace-loving nature of religions.

We once again declare that the ongoing armed clashes are taking place in the Azerbaijani territory. In our just cause we are not against any religion or nation, we have not carried out aggression against any country, and the Armenians living in Karabakh are our own citizens.

We do believe that under the leadership of the head of state His Excellency Mr Ilham Aliyev our victorious army will win a victory and the blood of our martyrs will be avenged. We do want peace to be established and count on the world community`s support for our intentions to ensure peace and tranquility in our Motherland Azerbaijan!"

AZERTAC

October 29

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy forces and equipment were destroyed

29.10.2020 [22:32]

The enemy forces and equipment have been destroyed, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Constitutional Court of Azerbaijan appeals to Constitutional Justice Institutions of all countries on Armenia's terrorist acts in Barda

[20:48] 29.10.2020

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan has made an appeal to the Constitutional Justice Institutions of all countries concerning the acts of terrorism committed by the military and political leadership of Armenia on October 27, 28 against the civilian population in the city of Barda of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The appeal reads: "Armenian armed forces continue the gross violation of the humanitarian ceasefire by using heavy artillery and missiles, shell the densely populated Azerbaijani settlements, civilian objects, including a number of private residential houses and multi-apartment buildings and households that caused the destructions and wildfires.

Thus, on October 27, the armed forces of Armenia continued committing war crimes by using the cluster bombs prohibited by international law and shelled the city of Barda from different directions with heavy artillery. As a result 4 civilians were killed and 13 were injured.

On October 28, 21 civilians were killed and about 70 were injured in the city of Barda as a result of new missile attacks launched by Armenia.

As a result of the terrorist attacks committed on October 27 and 28, the minors and women were among the killed and injured. Serious damage was inflicted upon the civilian infrastructure.

The brutal killing of civilians as a result of a two day of consecutive missile attacks on the city of Barda, which is located approximately 40 km far from the war zone, once is yet another manifestation of Armenian fascism.

In total, since September 27, the Armenian armed forces have killed 90 civilians and have injured 392 in various cities of Azerbaijan.

These terrorist acts against civilian population once again demonstrates that the military and political leadership of Armenia violates the international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and does not abandon its aggressive policy, thereby grossly violating other international human rights instruments, and continues to commit the crimes against peace and humanity.

We call upon the constitutional justice institutions of all countries to condemn the brutal aggression policy of the Armenian government, which uses the prohibited weapons and violates the international law, for the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed against the civilian population of Azerbaijan."

AZERTAC

TURKPA Secretary General condemns attacks on Azerbaijani cities

[20:27] 29.10.2020

Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries (TURKPA) Altynbek Mamaiusupov strongly condemns ongoing inhuman actions committed by the Armenian armed forces against civilians in the Azerbaijani cities of Barda and Tartar.

Secretary General emphasized that this can be assessed as an action against humanity and gross violation of all existing norms of international humanitarian law. In this regard, TURKPA reaffirms its commitment to the principles of international law and strongly supports the earliest settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Secretary General extended his deepest condolences to the people of Azerbaijan over the loss of lives and wished the injured a fast recovery.

AZERTAC

France-based COJEP International issues a report on civilian casualties caused by Armenian attacks on densely populated areas of Azerbaijan

[20:00] 29.10.2020

France-based COJEP International organization has published a report “On the civilian casualties and destructions caused by attacks of Armenia on densely populated areas of Azerbaijan between 27 September – 28 October 2020”.

The report features an introduction highlighting the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. “The Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict is one of the longest-standing protracted conflicts in the region, which has been going on for nearly 3 decades. As a result of this, the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and 7 adjacent districts of Azerbaijan, namely Lachin, Kalbajar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadli and Zangilan, were occupied by Armenia. The conflict affected the lives of over a million of Azerbaijanis who lived in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and 7 adjacent districts of Azerbaijan, causing a number of social, economic and humanitarian problems. The above-mentioned 7 districts are not a part of the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The total area of Nagorno-Karabakh region is 4400 km², while the total area of 7 districts is almost 3 times larger (11.000 km²). More than 90% of the total number of IDPs (which is more than 1 million) represent those 7 districts. It should also be mentioned that the number of Azerbaijani people forced to leave the Nagorno-Karabakh region is now 86 thousand people,” the report says.

“The UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 of 1993 define the frameworks of the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict on the basis of norms and principles of international law,” it mentions.

“On September 27, the armed forces of Armenia launched a largescale provocation along the entire frontline. The armed forces of Armenia are intensively firing on the settlements, historical and cultural buildings, as well as the objects of strategic importance in the frontline an the densely populated areas situated far from the conflict zone using heavy artillery, aircraft, special missile systems and prohibited weapons.

The Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict adopted by the UN General Assembly on 14 December 1974, stresses that attacks and bombings on the civilian population, inflicting incalculable suffering, especially on women and children, who are the most vulnerable members of the population, shall be prohibited, and such acts shall be condemned. All States shall abide fully by their obligations under the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949, as well as other instruments of international law relative to respect for human rights in armed conflicts, which offer important guarantees for the protection of women and children,” the document says.

The full text of the report is available at the following link:

<http://cojep.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/COJEP-Int.-Report-Azerbaidjan-Armenia-2020-oct..pdf>.

AZERTAC

Fire broken out in forest area due to Armenian artillery strikes put out

[19:39]29.10.2020

“Armenian armed forces continue shelling Azerbaijani dense residential territories, civilian facilities, including private and apartment buildings, and households using heavy artillery installations and rockets, as well as committing ecological terror in a gross violation of the humanitarian ceasefire,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Emergency Situations told AZERTAC.

“As reported, fire broke out in the forest area as a result of heavy artillery strikes by the Armenian armed forces on the territory of Goygol district that is far away from the combat zone. Despite the difficult mountainous terrain of the area, thanks to the efforts of the relevant forces of the State Fire Protection Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations involved for firefighting, the fire was prevented from spreading to a wider area and dense forest being extinguished in a short time,” the ministry said.

Note that the Ministry of Emergency Situations operates in an enhanced mode at the moment. Please, immediately call the “112” hotline of the Ministry in case of any emergency.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Goranboy, Tartar and Barda districts come under artillery fire

[18:33] 29.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces shell the territories of Goranboy, Tartar and Barda districts in a gross violation of the humanitarian ceasefire,” the Defence Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

**Ministry of Emergency Situations: Armenia commits another ecological terror
against Azerbaijan**

[18:13] 29.10.2020

“Armenian armed forces continue shelling Azerbaijani dense residential territories, civilian facilities, including private and apartment buildings, and households using heavy artillery installations and rockets, as well as committing ecological terror in a gross violation of the humanitarian ceasefire,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Emergency Situations told AZERTAC.

“Thus, the territory of Goygol district that is far away from the combat zone came under the heavy artillery strikes of the Armenian armed forces. As the result, fire has broken out in the forest area. The relevant forces of the State Fire Protection Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations have been involved in the area for firefighting. Currently urgent measures are underway for preventing fire from spreading to wider area and for its extinguishing. Additional information will be provided,” the ministry said.

Note that the Ministry of Emergency Situations operates in an enhanced mode at the moment. Please, immediately call the “112” hotline of the Ministry in case of any emergency.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: As result of Armenian fire, resident of Goranboy district killed

[17:40] 29.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces continue to commit criminal acts against our civilian population in flagrant infringement of the requirements of the announced humanitarian truce,” the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan said.

“Starting from the morning of October 29th, Goranboy district was launched intensive missile and heavy artillery attacks by the hostile armed units from different directions.

Today at around 5 pm, shell falling on a private house in Tapgaragoyunlu village, Goranboy district resulted in killing Ziyadova Flora Garash, born in 1967. The house was severely damaged.

All possible investigative measures are underway.”

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan to take all possible measures to appeal to international organizations in order to once again expose aggressive nature of Armenia in international arena

[17:00] 29.10.2020

“As a result of Armenia's aggressive policy against the Republic of Azerbaijan, along with houses, educational, industrial and agricultural facilities in the occupied territories, hundreds of cultural institutions, including 927 libraries with 4.6 million books, 808 palaces of culture, clubs and cultural centers, 85 music and art schools, 22 museums and museum branches with more than 100,000 artifacts, 4 art galleries, 4 theaters, 2 concert halls, 8 culture and recreation parks, more than 700 historical and cultural monuments, as well as Khudafarin bridges with 11 and 15 meter high arcs in Jabrayil district, Ganjasar and Khudavand temples in Kalbajar district, mausoleum in Khachin Turbatli village of Aghdam district, Azikh cave, one of the world's most ancient settlements in Fuzuli district, Shusha State Historical-Architectural Reserve have fallen victims to Armenian vandalism,” the Prosecutor General’s Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“More than 100,000 valuable and rare exhibits of world importance discovered during archeological excavations were destroyed and looted in Khojaly district, Uzerliktepe village in Aghdam district, Garakopek mounds in Fuzuli district and other historical and cultural monuments, which were used to support military operations without military necessity. Moreover, samples of historical culture belonging to the Azerbaijani people discovered during illegal archeological excavations to perpetuate the occupation and convince the international community of the historical existence of Armenians in the occupied territories were looted and illegally transported to the Republic of Armenia.

Items and documents of special historical, scientific, literary and cultural value, illegally exported to the Republic of Armenia and looted, movable and immovable property belonging to the Republic of Azerbaijan, its citizens, individuals and legal entities of billions manats worth were deliberately destroyed by incineration, explosion and other common dangerous methods. In addition, the looting of underground and surface resources belonging to the Azerbaijani state in the occupied territories extensive, long-lasting and serious damage has been intentionally caused to the environment.

With regard to the above-mentioned facts based on the materials collected criminal proceedings have been instituted by the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan under Articles 116.0.2 (violation of international humanitarian law during an armed conflict), 116.0.8-1 (intentional militarization of cultural property without military necessity, including cultural property under enhanced protection, or the use of cultural property under enhanced protection or areas adjacent to it to support military operations), 183.2.1 (looting of items of special value), 186.3 (intentional destruction or damage to property), 193-1 (legalization of criminally obtained funds or other property), 206.4 (smuggling) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The investigation was entrusted to the Investigation Department of the Prosecutor General's Office.

Prosecutors are inspecting the scene in the liberated areas and carrying out other investigative actions necessary to determine the damage inflicted.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan will take all possible measures to appeal to international organizations in order to once again expose the aggressive nature of Armenia in the international arena, and to bring the perpetrators to justice and impose sanctions in accordance with the requirements of international and national law,” the Prosecutor General’s Office said.

AZERTAC

Armenian government orchestrates another “genocide” of Armenians

[16:46] 29.10.2020

The Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has entered the history of the twentieth century as one of the most tragic conflicts, the consequences of which have seriously affected the fate of millions of people. In the twenty first century the conflict has been accentuated as one of the most protracted conflicts because of Armenia’s unconstructive policy. For the last 5-6 years the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has been at the focus of attention with sporadic shootings. August 2014, April 2016, July 2020 have been more conspicuous months with regard to the confrontation between the parties. While Azerbaijan tried to respond to the provocations of Armenia, the international organizations simply observed the processes with making only formal statements. Armenian government’s violent actions have always been left with impunity. That is the primary reason why Armenia did not stop its aggression against Azerbaijan. The escalation in Nagorno-Karabakh in early morning on September 27, 2020, brought the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict once again to the focus of the international community. Azerbaijan’s resolute counter-offensive operations against Armenia reverberated around the globe. Thus, Azerbaijan Armed Forces smashed the first echelon of Armenian Army and broke down the so-called “impregnable defense line”. Armenian government did not expect it, therefore, Azerbaijan’s successful combat operations shattered their reputation among Armenian community. It is inevitable that, Armenia will not be able to withstand Azerbaijan’s further advance in the battlefield. Having lost the control of formerly occupied lands in the north and south, they desperately need time and resources, which in turn make them knock on the doors of other powers for brokering ceasefire. The humanitarian ceasefire agreement after 10 hours of talks in Moscow sponsored by Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov on October 10, prompted Armenia to conduct operations in order to restore their control over the lost positions. The deal, in fact, stipulates that, the ceasefire should pave the way for talks on settling the conflict. However, Armenian government with its dilettante behavior derailed the deal after the city of Ganja was brutally attacked by Armenian missiles on October 11. According to the US political scientist, Professor at the University of Marquette (Wisconsin) Peter Tase, the bombing of Ganja is equal to Hitler’s bombing of 1939 during the Siege of Warsaw. Warning the European Union countries, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, European Council and the US Department of State about direct ramifications and geopolitical consequences of Yerevan’s autocratic leadership and acts of terrorism, Professor Peter Tase states: “All of these cruel actions and provocations led by Armenia are an ever-stronger reason for the Republic of Azerbaijan to liberate every inch of its sovereign territory that has been under Armenian occupation for over three decades”. However, some leaders of Western countries, which need the support of Armenian lobby for their domestic reputation or are contingent upon them displayed unconstructive approaches and double standards, blaming Turkey for the situation on the ground. That is what Armenia wants: to persuade the world that, Turkey is involved in the conflict and this is the primary reason of their fiasco in the battlefield. The countries, which are at cross purposes with Turkey on different issues “believe” in this narration. However, the reality is a far cry from what Armenian government tries to convey to the world community. First of all, Azerbaijani Army conducts operations within its internationally recognized territories. Today, the principled and consistent position of the Azerbaijani political and military leadership on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is leading to a completely new situation in the region. Thus, a new reality has emerged in connection with the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This time, it is Azerbaijan which lays down conditions and Armenia lost all its chances to stipulate anything in further negotiations. We may deduce it from President Ilham Aliyev’s interviews to different

well-known TV programs. As President Ilham Aliyev stated unequivocally: “Nagorno-Karabakh is our ancient and historical land, and we will definitely return to these lands. We will restore all destroyed historical sites and houses. We will give the streets Azerbaijani names and return the renamed villages their real names. We will definitely do that because the truth is on our side. We do not lay claim to the lands of other countries, but we will not give our lands to anyone either”.

If Nikol Pashinyan had been conducting hawkish policy until the war broke out on September 27, now he is clutching at straws with the purpose of saving his authority. First, he implored Russian President to broker a ceasefire. Of course, this plea was made solely for winning some time. He was not sincere and needed time for recuperation. It did not work. Currently he exerts himself in order to attract Armenians living abroad to be physically present in Nagorno-Karabakh and fight against Azerbaijani Army. Why physically? Because, it is clear-cut that, Armenian lobby donates huge amount of money to Armenian armed forces. Today Armenian army is unimaginably devastated and even enormous donation cannot save them. Therefore, the physical presence of volunteers in the battlefield is of utmost importance for Armenia. Another reason of involving foreign volunteers to Nagorno-Karabakh is to draw the attention of ethnic Armenians abroad. Thus, Pashinyan wants to create an image of another “genocide” committed against “poor” Armenians. If he is not successful in creating this perception, it will be the end of his tenure as a prime minister. At the same time, Armenians at large will attribute the loss of Nagorno-Karabakh to Pashinyan’s impetuous policy. Now, there are two options available for Pashinyan: 1) to come to the negotiation table as a loser of the war; 2) to insist on fighting until Azerbaijani Army sweep aside remaining Armenian forces. Both options are not desirable for Armenian government. Anyway, Pashinyan would prefer the second option by involving volunteers, so-called “compatriots” from foreign countries, meanwhile soliciting for ceasefire. Therefore, all Armenians, who live abroad are strongly recommended not to fall into the trap of Pashinyan and be manipulated as the tools of another “genocide” Armenian government is orchestrating.

Major Khayal Isgandarov

Expert on national security

War College of the Armed Forces, Republic of Azerbaijan

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Territory of Tartar district, where diplomatic representatives were also present, came under fire

[15:30] 29.10.2020

“On October 29 at 13:50, during the visit of state officials to Tartar together with the heads of the diplomatic corps in Azerbaijan, ambassadors, military attaches and officials of international organizations in the country, the Armenian armed forces, which once again grossly violated the humanitarian ceasefire regime, deliberately fired at that direction,” the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“We strongly condemn this step of Armenia and consider it as an act of aggression against the international community,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Enemy forces subjecting to fire peaceful population in Barda city destroyed on battlefield

[15:21] 29.10.2020

The enemy forces, which subjected to fire the peaceful population in Barda city, have been destroyed on the battlefield, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan shoots down two Su-25 attack aircraft of Armenia

[15:04] 29.10.2020

“On October 29, at about 13:18 and 13:20, the two Su-25 attack aircraft of the Armenian armed forces that attempted to inflict airstrikes on the positions of the Azerbaijan Army in the Gubadli direction of the front were shot down by Azerbaijan Air Defense units,” the Ministry of Defense said.

AZERTAC

Armenia fires at territory of Barda and Goranboy districts

[13:17] 29.10.2020

“The territory of Barda and Goranboy districts came under fire by the Armenian armed forces,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army eliminates high-ranking military officers of Armenia

[13:06] 29.10.2020

Armenian troops' attempt to launch attacks in several directions was resolutely suppressed several times yesterday, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defence said.

Armenian troops were forced to retreat suffering heavy losses of manpower and military equipment.

As a result of the retaliatory actions taken by the Azerbaijani Army, the deputy commander of the Armenia's 1st combined arms army, Colonel Artur Sargsyan, and the chief of communications of the 18th motorized rifle division, Major Aram Gazaryan were eliminated.

Moreover, Lieutenant Colonel B. Aserian, officer of the artillery unit of the 1st combined arms army, Hunan Ayrumyan, commander of the 2nd motorized rifle regiment were wounded, and Roman Tunyan, deputy commander of the 3rd battalion of the 5th mountain rifle regiment, went missing.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyeu: We consider Charlie Hebdo’s targeting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan unacceptable and strongly condemn it

[13:01] 29.10.2020

“Provocative acts of Charlie Hebdo magazine on Islamic religion, the Prophet of Islam is an insult to the sacred feelings of all Muslims all over the world, and is a blow to the efforts of intercultural and interreligious dialogue that our modern world desperately needs,” said Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyeu.

Hikmat Hajiyeu said: “It is not the first time that Charlie Hebdo commits acts of hostility against religious beliefs. With its Islamophobic activity the magazine, in fact, abuses freedom of speech, press and promotes hatred, religious discrimination and violence.

“We consider Charlie Hebdo magazine’s targeting President of the brotherly Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan unacceptable and strongly condemn it,” the presidential assistant noted.

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: As a result of Armenia's deadly shelling of Barda city IFRC volunteer was killed

[11:51] 29.10.2020

“Farther and local team member, volunteer of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) was killed as a result of Armenia's deadly shelling of Barda city of Azerbaijan with cluster rockets while delivering humanitarian support in the city, Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of ammunition and armored vehicles left by enemy on battlefield

[11:27] 29.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has released video footages of ammunition, armored and auto vehicles left by the enemy on the battlefield while fleeing.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the video footages.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Armenia shells the territory of Goranboy and Tartar districts

[11:09] 29.10.2020

On October 29 at about 09:25 the Armenian armed forces subjected to artillery fire the territory of Goranboy and Tartar districts, Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of liberated Giyasli and Sariyatag villages of Gubadli district

[10:36] 29.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has released video footages of the liberated from occupation Giyasli and Sariyatag villages of Gubadli district.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the video footages.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The combat operations continued mainly in the Khojavand, Fuzuli, and Gubadli directions of the front

[09:13] 29.10.2020

During the day on October 28 and night on October 29, the Armenian armed forces fired at the positions of the units of the Azerbaijan Army and our residential settlements in different directions of the front with various weapons, including artillery and missiles, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

According to the Ministry, the combat operations continued mainly in the Khojavand, Fuzuli, and Gubadli directions of the front. The enemy's attempts to attack were resolutely prevented."

"As a result of retaliatory measures against the Armenian armed forces in various directions of the front, there are killed and wounded among the enemy's personnel.

During the day and at nighttime, a large number of enemy forces, 2 T-72 tanks, 2 BM-21 "Grad" MLRS, 14 different types of howitzers, several strongholds, and 6 auto vehicles in different directions of the front were destroyed and wrecked.

At present, our troops are monitoring the operational situation," the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: As a result of Armenia's deadly shelling of Barda city IFRC volunteer was killed

[11:51] 29.10.2020

“Farther and local team member, volunteer of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) was killed as a result of Armenia's deadly shelling of Barda city of Azerbaijan with cluster rockets while delivering humanitarian support in the city, Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of ammunition and armored vehicles left by enemy on battlefield

[11:27] 29.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has released video footages of ammunition, armored and auto vehicles left by the enemy on the battlefield while fleeing.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the video footages.

AZERTAC

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AZERTAC

Oktober 28

Azerbaijani FM holds phone talks with OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs

[20:13] 28.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has held telephone conversations with the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs Igor Popov of Russia, Andrew Schofer of the US and Stephane Visconti of France.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov informed the co-chairs on the latest gross violation of the humanitarian ceasefire by the armed forces of Armenia. He stressed the deliberate targeting of the peaceful Azerbaijani population in the city of Barda on October 27-28. The minister noted that the armed forces of Armenia treacherously attack innocent civilians, including children and women in the cities located far away from the conflict zone. FM Bayramov also informed the co-chairs on the serious casualties among the civilians as a result of yet another war crime committed by Armenia.

FM Jeyhun Bayramov called the co-chairs to condemn these inhuman acts against Azerbaijani civilians.

The OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs expressed their concern over the civilian casualties. They underlined the importance of de-escalation in the region and the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan Army units destroy enemy's personnel by accurate fire

[20:07] 28.10.2020

“The enemy's personnel who subjected to fire our civilian infrastructure and the peaceful population was destroyed by an accurate fire of the Azerbaijan Army units,” the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva: Such barbaric attacks show that atrocities of Armenians have no limits

[20:00] 28.10.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has made an Instagram post on another missile attack by the Armenian armed forces on Barda.

AZERTAC presents the post:

“On this day, the armed forces of Armenia have made another attack inhuman by its cruelty against civilians of the Azerbaijani city of Barda.

In the aftermath of this strike, 21 persons are killed while 70 people have got serious injuries. The number of victims, unfortunately, continues its rise.

Such barbaric attacks show that the atrocities of Armenians have no limits.

Furthermore, each attack on civilian population of Azerbaijan proves the total moral degradation of insane military and political leadership of Armenia.

The aim of these attacks is clear: to frighten the Azerbaijani people and force our Army to give a retaliatory blow into the territory of Armenia to make possible the engagement of third parties into the conflict.

Hence, our enemy must know that nothing will oblige us to reverse from this right pathway. Each strike does nothing but makes us stronger and convinces us about the necessity of completion of the Sacred Mission of liberation of the occupied territories from Armenian aggressors.

I express my deep condolences to the families of the dead and wish the soonest recovery of the injured.

In these days when the Azerbaijani Army is pressing the enemy on battlefield, we should keep up our unity and be strongly united around our President.

Only being united into a staunch fist, we will obtain the triumphant justice because Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

May Almighty Lord bless our Motherland and the Azerbaijani people!”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM, US Deputy Secretary of State hold phone talk

[19:43] 28.10.2020

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has had a telephone conversation with US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun.

During the telephone conversation, Minister Jeyhun Bayramov stressed that in a gross violation of the agreed ceasefire for the third time, as well as the international humanitarian law, Armenia deliberately targeted the peaceful Azerbaijani population in the city of Barda. He noted that innocent civilians, including children and women of the cities situated far away from the conflict zone, have been repeatedly attacked by the armed forces of Armenia after the Washington meeting and on the eve of intended Geneva talks. FM Bayramov also informed Stephen Biegun on the casualties among the civilians as a result of a treacherous Armenian missile attack.

US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun expressed serious concern over the civilian casualties and noted the inadmissibility of attacks against civilians. He stressed the importance for the parties to take appropriate steps to reduce the tensions and reach a political solution to the conflict.

AZERTAC

Ministry of Defense: Azerbaijani Army destroys the enemy that subjected to fire our cities and regions

[19:26] 28.10.2020

“Units of the Azerbaijan Army destroyed the enemy forces and equipment that shelled our cities and regions, which is a gross violation of the humanitarian ceasefire regime,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry releases statement on Armenia missile attack on Barda

[19:15] 28.10.2020

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan has released a statement on a missile attack by the Armenian armed forces on the city of Barda.

The statement reads: “On 28 October, the armed forces of Armenia hit the city of Barda of Azerbaijan with a "Smerch" multiple rocket launcher system causing serious civilian casualties. As a result of the treacherous missile attack on the city of Barda 21 civilians, including children were killed and more than 70 people seriously injured.

Targeting yet another time the residential area in the city situated far away from the conflict zone, which has no signs of military targets exposes once again the terrorist nature of Armenia.

The deliberate killing of a peaceful population in the city of Barda by the armed forces of Armenia constitutes an act of genocide, a war crime, and a crime against humanity.

It is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law by Armenia and the leadership of Armenia, including the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the country bear full responsibility for this crime.

By attacking the Azerbaijani residential areas and civilians during the formally declared humanitarian ceasefire and on the eve of the Geneva meeting of the Foreign Ministers of both states with the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs, Armenia obviously aims to undermine the negotiations, increase the tensions and involve the third states to the conflict.

Remaining silent about the barbaric acts of Armenia and impunity for these crimes against the Azerbaijani peaceful population equals inciting perpetrators for further atrocities. The international community should take necessary steps to stop Armenia from violating international law, purposefully killing the civilians, and demand to withdraw its armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan will do its utmost that those responsible for these inhuman acts do not escape justice and are held accountable.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani MPs to monitor presidential elections in Moldova

[17:41] 28.10.2020

A group of Azerbaijani MPs will pay a visit to Chisinau to observe the presidential elections to take place in Moldova on November 1.

The deputies will familiarize themselves with the conditions created in different polling stations.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: The blood of Barda residents will not remain unavenged and the aggressors will be given a decent rebuff on the battlefield

[17:19] 28.10.2020

"I pray to God to rest the souls of those killed as a result of Armenian armed forces' missile attacks on Barda, offer my condolences to their families, and wish the injured recovery. The blood of Barda residents will not remain unavenged and the aggressors will be given a decent rebuff on the battlefield," President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has made a post on his official Twitter account, AZERTAC reports.

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: We invite Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International to conduct on site assessment of such crimes of Armenia

[17:17] 28.10.2020

“As a result of act of genocide by Armenia against Barda city of Azerbaijan the number of deaths has reached 20 and wounded more than 40,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyeu made a post on his official Twitter account.

“All are innocent civilians. Cluster Smerch missiles have been used. We invite Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International to conduct on site assessment of such crimes of Armenia,” Hikmat Hajiyeu tweeted.

AZERTAC

Death toll from Armenia's missile attack on Barda reaches 21

[17:14] 28.10.2020

“On October 28, at around 1 pm, the hostile armed forces using cluster bombs prohibited by international law launched attacks at densely populated areas of Barda district, where trade facilities are located,” the Prosecutor General’s Office of Azerbaijan said.

“As a result of the attacks, 21 civilians were killed and nearly 70 civilians were wounded. Civil infrastructure facilities and vehicles were extensively damaged.

Meanwhile, a civilian injured as a result of Armenia’s shelling of Garayusifli village of Barda district on October 27 today died at the hospital.

Given the current situation all possible investigative measures are underway to clarify the list of casualties,” the Prosecutor General’s Office added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated 13 villages of Zangilan, Fuzuli, Jabrayil and Gubadli districts

[16:55] 28.10.2020

“The victorious Azerbaijani Army has liberated Birinji Aghali, Ikinji Aghali, Uchunju Aghali, Zarnali villages of Zangilan district, Mandili village of Fuzuli district, Gazanzami, Khanaghabulag, Chullu, Gushchular, Garaaghaj villages of Jabrayil district, Giyasli, Abilja and Gilijan villages of Gubadli district from occupation.

Long live Azerbaijani Army! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

AZERTAC

**Armenia fires on territory of Tartar district from BM-21 “Grad” MLRS and
howitzers**

[16:42] 28.10.2020

“The units of Armenian armed forces fired on the territory of Tartar district from BM-21 “Grad” MLRS and howitzers,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Ministry of Emergency Situations: Armenia continues shelling civilian facilities with heavy artillery and missiles

[16:34] 28.10.2020

“Armenian armed forces continue causing destructions and fires in civilian infrastructure, hitting Azerbaijani dense residential territories, civilian facilities, including private and apartment buildings, and households using heavy artillery installations and rockets, in a gross violation of the humanitarian ceasefire,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Emergency Situations told AZERTAC.

“Today, as a result of missile strikes by the Armenian armed forces, several civilian facilities were destroyed and cars became unusable in the city of Barda. The relevant forces of the Ministry of Emergency Situations were involved in the area. According to preliminary reports, 19 people were killed and around 60 were injured due to strikes by the adversary. Search and rescue operation is underway currently. Additional information will be provided,” the ministry said.

Note that the Ministry of Emergency Situations operates in an enhanced mode at the moment. Please, immediately call the “112” hotline of the Ministry in case of any emergency.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Enemy again fires at territory of Tartar district

[16:28] 28.10.2020

“On October 28 at 15:30, units of the Armenian armed forces again fired at the territory of Tartar district,” Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Death toll from Armenia's missile attack on Barda rises to 19

[16:12] 28.10.2020

“On October 28, at around 1 pm, the hostile armed forces using cluster bombs prohibited by international law launched attacks at densely populated areas of Barda district, where trade facilities are located,” the Prosecutor General’s Office of Azerbaijan said.

“As a result of the attacks, 19 civilians were killed and over 60 civilians were wounded. Civil infrastructure facilities and vehicles were extensively damaged.

Given the current situation all possible investigative measures are underway to clarify the list of casualties,” the Prosecutor General’s Office added.

AZERTAC

Speaker Mustafa Sentop: “Turkey will continue to stand by Azerbaijan”

[16:06] 28.10.2020

Turkey will continue to stand by Azerbaijan in its legitimate homeland defense, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Mustafa Sentop said on Wednesday.

“Turkey, as it was before, will continue to stand by Azerbaijan in its legitimate cause according to historical realities and international laws,” Mustafa Sentop noted.

Sentop said that relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan are based on the "two states, one nation" principle.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Armenian side tries to divert attention from its war crimes by spreading misinformation

[15:53] 28.10.2020

“The Armenian media's report on the alleged shelling of a maternity hospital in Khankandi by the Azerbaijan Army is deliberate misinformation,” the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“By spreading this information, Armenia is trying to divert the attention from the recent war crimes it committed in the city of Barda, which resulted in numerous casualties,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Armenian Armed Forces shell Tartar and Goranboy districts

[15:48] 28.10.2020

“On October 28, starting from 14.40, the Armenian armed forces, grossly violating the humanitarian ceasefire, are shelling the territory of Goranboy and Tartar districts,” Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Special Envoy of Iranian President informed of Armenia`s military provocations against Azerbaijan

[15:36] 28.10.2020

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has met with Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Special Envoy of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Seyyed Abbas Araghchi.

The sides emphasized the existing high-level cooperation between Azerbaijan and Iran and expressed their confidence in further development of these relations.

During the meeting, the two discussed the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, its consequences and recent escalation in the region.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov informed the Special Envoy of the President of Iran on the latest escalation in the region, military provocations by the leadership of Armenia, irresponsible statements and actions by the Armenian Prime Minister aimed at increasing tensions in the region and undermining the negotiated settlement of the conflict. The FM noted that the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan launched counter-offensive measures within its right of self-defense and to protect civilian population of Azerbaijan.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov especially highlighted the gross violation of international humanitarian law by Armenia and deliberate targeting of peaceful Azerbaijani population. He noted that innocent civilians, including children and women of the cities situated far away from the conflict zone like Ganja, Mingachevir, Barda and other cities have been treacherously attacked by the armed forces of Armenia.

The minister underlined that as it was numerously stated by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan the ultimate goal of the country is the withdrawal of foreign armed forces from the sovereign lands of Azerbaijan and to restore territorial integrity of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders.

Special Envoy Seyyed Abbas Araghchi reaffirmed the official position of Iran on the peaceful settlement of the conflict based on the norms and principles of international law and within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. The Iranian Special Envoy expressed his condolences on the loss of civilian lives.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov thanked Seyyed Abbas Araghchi on the support of Iran for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

The sides also exchanged views on other issues of mutual interest.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: Death toll from Armenia's missile attack on Barda rises to 14

[15:01] 28.10.2020

“On October 28, at around 13:00 Armenian armed forces fired on densely populated area of Barda district, where trade facilities are located,” the Prosecutor General’s Office of Azerbaijan said.

“Armenia launched the attack by using cluster bombs, which are prohibited by the international law. Fourteen civilians were killed and more than 40 people were injured as a result of the missile attack. Civilian infrastructure and transport vehicles in the city were severely damaged.

Currently, the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan is taking all necessary investigative measures.”

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Such deliberate war crimes of Armenia are deplorable

[14:49] 28.10.2020

“Armenia used again Smerch missiles against Barda,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

“Casualties among civilians are reported. Such deliberate war crimes of Armenia are deplorable,” Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Armenia must end its military occupation and war crimes

[14:41] 28.10.2020

“Following missile attacks on Tartar, armed forces of Armenia firing rockets to Barda,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

“No lessons learned from yesterday's killing of civilians with cluster weapons. Armenia must end its military occupation and war crimes,” Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Armenian Army fires rockets at Barda city

[14:22] 28.10.2020

“Armenian armed forces, grossly violating the humanitarian ceasefire regime, have fired on the city of Barda from the "Smerch" MLRS,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“There are killed and injured people, civilian infrastructure was damaged,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Ministry of Defense : Azerbaijani Army never targets civilians

[14:10] 28.10.2020

“The information spread by the Armenian side about the alleged shelling of Shusha and Khankandi by the Azerbaijan Army is false. We once again state that the Azerbaijan Army never fires at civilians,” the Ministry of Defense said.

“Azerbaijan adheres to the humanitarian ceasefire regime,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Lev Tolstoy's daughter about Armenians' vandalism

[14:03] 28.10.2020

The Azerbaijan State Translation Centre (AzSTC) has produced a documentary archival material "Lev Tolstoy's daughter about the Armenians' vandalism" based on Alexandra Tolstaya's memories, a daughter of the notable Russian writer Lev Tolstoy who was a living witness to the genocide procreated by Armenian vandals in 1915 in Van city, Turkey.

AzSTC intends to distribute the video footage with subtitles in English, Russian, Turkish, Persian, Arabic, Georgian, French, Ukrainian, Spanish and German languages among accredited foreign embassies and consulates to the Republic of Azerbaijan, relevant media bodies, global internet and social networks.

Alexandra Tolstaya (1884-1979), the youngest daughter of the great Russian writer Leo Tolstoy, is the founder of the famous Yasnaya Polyana Museum and the Tolstoy Foundation, as well as the author of books on art and journalism.

In 1915, Alexandra Tolstaya was sent to the Turkish city of Van by the Red Cross as a representative of the Russian Empire, where she witnessed the atrocities committed by Armenian militants against the Turks, and she wrote what she had seen in her diary.

AZERTAC presents these notes with reference to the State Translation Centre.

"... Wholly trashed Van city... Before our arrival, in this city there were terrible battles between Armenians and Turks.

The Turks laid siege to the mountain fortress occupied by the Armenians. The Armenians fought for the fortress like savages. Women made shells night and day and threw them at the Turks. They could not stand this situation for a long time, they ran out of food, they ran out of weapons and ammunition. If our Cossacks did not come to their aid just in time, the Armenians would undoubtedly surrender. There were bloody battles on both sides, and there were many casualties. The bodies of the dead were thrown into the lake ...

When the Turkish soldiers left Van, about 1000 people were captured, because they could not leave the city..."

"... The Armenians set fire to the Turkish districts of the city; as the buildings made of clay were hardly flammable, they were burnt separately..."

"... I was instructed on what I will do here ...

Two large school buildings. There are neither beds nor chairs in completely empty large rooms. Dirty, lifeless bodies covered with rags on the floor. They are Turks ... men, women, old and young people, children...

Babies' groans, sobs, delusions ... Some have suspicious spots on their faces.

What is it? Leprosy?

Dirty, weak hands are reaching out to us ... Women shout crying, begging us for help: 'Madam, Madam!'...

My eyes stuck to a woman, whose arms were strangely falling to her sides, as if she were dead. His slow moan was barely audible...

In response to my puzzled looks, Mr. Yarrow explained to me the situation:

- Her arms were pulled off.

- Who did it? Why did they do it?

- During clashes with the Armenians...

- Did the Armenians do it? Why did they torture such an ordinary woman? - I asked in surprise. But I have read in the newspapers that it was the Turks who committed atrocities here and massacred the Armenians. I do not understand anything...

- The massacre took place on both sides. Of course, in a military confrontation it can't be otherwise. The enmity between Turks and Armenians has lasted for centuries. But here in Van we witnessed the atrocities of the Armenians that tarnished the good name of humanity. Armenians cut off women's breasts, pull their arms, hands off, break their legs ... I saw with my own eyes these inhuman atrocities, innocent victims ..."

AZERTAC

The Jerusalem Post: Living in Azerbaijan as a Jew versus being Jewish in Armenia

[13:19] 28.10.2020

The Jerusalem Post has published an article headlined “Living in Azerbaijan as a Jew versus being Jewish in Armenia”.

Written by Roman Gurevich, the article reads: “On October 8, Ashkenazi Jews living in Azerbaijan gathered to pray for the victory of Azerbaijan’s army in the war for Nagorno-Karabakh. I think all Jewish communities of Azerbaijan – Mountain Jews and Georgian Jews – should join this prayer. Azerbaijan’s Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shneur Segal said, “We love our homeland Azerbaijan. We pray for the victory and for liberation of the lands occupied by the aggressor.”

My family has lived in Baku since the beginning of the last century. How did the Baku Jews live? Why do they remember their city so warmly? Because the Jews there were never outcasts.

You will find “Jewish” memorial plaques and monuments in Baku. They are dedicated to the genius physicist Lev Landau; to the leader of the Soviet atomic program, three-star Gen. Boris Vannikov; and to other famous scientists. There is a beautiful monument in Baku dedicated to a tank commander, the National Hero of Azerbaijan Albert Agarov, who died in 1992 in a battle in Karabakh. A street where this monument is located and a school where Albert studied are also named after him. At Agarov’s funeral, at the request of the family, both a rabbi and a mullah read prayers. I have named only a few tributes to Jewish citizens of Baku. There are many more.

It is a well-known fact that there was virtually no antisemitism in Azerbaijan. We grew up together, respecting each other, our different religions and traditions.

It is important to note that Azerbaijan is a loyal strategic partner of Israel. We get energy products that are vital for Israel’s development from Azerbaijan. We have established cooperation in different fields, and thanks to the assistance of Azerbaijan, the Mossad has been able to carry out many operations against Israel’s enemies.

Let’s get back to Baku 30 years ago. There was a special Armenian branch of the Union of Writers of Azerbaijan for authors who wrote in Armenian. The Armenian writers in Baku had their own literary magazine in the Armenian language. There was a large Government-backed Armenian newspaper in Baku. There was a higher education department with classes in the Armenian language and there were Armenian schools in Azerbaijan. According to the USSR’s 1989 census, there were at the time 390,000 Armenians in Azerbaijan.

People don’t live where they feel they are treated unfairly. The Armenians who lived in Baku and Azerbaijan did not intend to leave and they did not intend to fight anyone.

Incitement to conflict, hatred, blood and suffering came to Azerbaijan from outside. During the years of perestroika, ideologues of “Great Armenia from sea to sea” took advantage of the weakness of the central government and the collapse of once great state, and began to implement their plan.

Hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis living in Armenia were expelled from their plundered homes. They often went to Azerbaijan barefoot, through the mountain passes, with children in their arms. In Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenians also expelled all their Azeri neighbors who had lived there for generations, declaring that this land was Armenian and that everyone else had no business being there. Thus, Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan, war and occupation began.

Moscow did not know what to do, and probably did not care to extinguish the flaring conflict. To stir up the Karabakh conflict, Soviet Army tanks were brought into Baku in "Black January." Soviet troops violently suppressed public opposition to this aggression, shooting unarmed civilians who were peacefully protesting in the streets. The acts of vandalism even included tanks crushing ambulances. Those days heralded the end to the Soviet Azerbaijan.

We live in a modern world and have to reckon with its realities. There are international laws and recognized boundaries that the international community is obliged to respect. There are people who lived peacefully on this land. Armenia attacked the neighboring independent state of Azerbaijan and occupied 20% of its territory, having seized both Karabakh and seven adjacent regions.

Who benefited from this war in 1994? Only politicians who amassed multimillion-dollar fortunes by fueling the conflict. Many of them live far from the Caucasus. And the aggression brought the Armenian people nothing but misfortune, devastation and isolation.

What is the attitude toward Jews in Armenia?

Fern Sidman of The Jewish Voice in New York wrote an article titled "Armenian antisemitism rears its ugly head again." In it she says, "In a key symptom inherent in oppressed, closed and wholly mono-ethnic societies, Armenia is cited as the least tolerant toward Jews among 18 countries in Central and Eastern Europe in data published by the Pew Research Center. Fully 32% of Armenian survey respondents said they would not even accept Jews as fellow citizens. That figure is jarring, but actually, not surprising."

According to the Index of Antisemitism of the Anti-Defamation League, Armenia is the most saturated with antisemitism among the post-Soviet countries, with anti-Jewish sentiments shared by 58% of its population.

"The typical official response to antisemitism in Armenia is to deny its existence," Sidman wrote. The Holocaust memorial in Armenia's capital of Yerevan was vandalized multiple times in 2004 and 2005, but police reportedly concluded that the monument "had just fallen on its own," and no officials publicly condemned the incidents.

More than that, American Rabbi Israel Baruk wrote about the coordinated action of the Armenian student organizations of the United States. He wrote on The Times of Israel website about campaigns in various universities in the country to boycott, and refuse to cooperate with Israel.

"Violent prejudice against Jews and deeply antisemitic action in Armenia is a long-term crisis," Baruk wrote, "despite an absolute lack of public awareness to this fact, particularly in the United States. It is practically unknown to most that Armenian antisemitism played a weighty role

in Hitler's 'Final Solution,' specifically when 20,000 Armenian Nazi collaborators lent a hand by rounding up Jews and other 'undesirables' behind the German Army."

The leaders of those collaborators were Gen. Dro and Gen. Njdeh, both of whom are hailed as national heroes in Armenia today. Moreover, in the 1930s, the Armenian-American media outlets, such as Hairenik, gave its full propaganda support to Hitler, calling Jews "poisonous elements," justifying the Holocaust and naming it a necessary "surgical operation."

In the center of Yerevan, a monument now stands to Nzhdeh, considered a national hero.

"The numbers don't lie," concludes Sidman. "Armenian antisemitism is a serious problem, and the issue must not be denied, whitewashed or ignored."

What do we see from Israel today?

On the one hand, there is Azerbaijan, where we never had any significant antisemitism; that supplies Israel's vital energy needs; that helps Israel fight its enemies in the region; and that today is fighting on its sovereign territory to drive out the invaders.

On the other hand, there is Armenia, a country that celebrates Nazi corroborators as national heroes; that has the highest level of antisemitism in Europe; that illegally seized and occupied the territory of a neighboring state; and that is shelling civilian targets to provoke a larger-scale conflict."

AZERTAC

First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva expressed condolences to relatives of those killed as a result of Armenia's missile attack on Barda

[12:30] 28.10.2020

“Today, the Armenian armed forces once again grossly violated the humanitarian ceasefire regime by subjecting to missile attack the city of Barda, located outside the combat zone. As a result of Smerch cluster missile shelling, four civilians, including a seven-year-old girl were killed. Fourteen people, including four children were seriously wounded,” says an Instagram post by First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva.

In a post on her official Instagram page, Mehriban Aliyeva said: “Killing of civilians during the armed conflict is a gross violation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the norms of international humanitarian law as a whole. How many more innocent souls must be killed by the Armenian aggressors so that the international community can stop watching these crimes in silence? I extend my deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives and wish the injured a speedy recovery. We will liberate our lands from the aggressors and put an end to these crimes.

May Almighty God bless our Motherland!”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Enemy subjected territory of Tartar district to rocket fire

[12:26] 28.10.2020

“Armenian armed forces violating the humanitarian ceasefire regime continue to fire rockets at Azerbaijani peaceful population and civilian facilities,” the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“On October 28 at 10:15, the enemy fired on the city of Tartar and the territory of Tartar district from the "Smerch" MLRS. No one was injured,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Russian Interfax agency

[12:13] 28.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has been interviewed by Russian Interfax agency.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: No Azerbaijani UAV was shot down

[11:58] 28.10.2020

Information spread by Armenia about the alleged shooting down of Azerbaijani UAV on the frontline is false, the Ministry of Defense said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Territory of Tartar district comes under artillery fire

[11:01] 28.10.2020

On October 28, at about 07.30 am, the Armenian armed forces subjected the territory of the Tartar district to artillery fire, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footage of military equipment and ammunition left by enemy in Gubadli

[10:59] 28.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has released a video footage of military equipment and ammunition left by the enemy while fleeing during the battles in the Gubadli direction.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the video footages.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia continues to violate ceasefire regime

[10:50] 28.10.2020

Armenian armed forces fired at our residential settlements and positions of our units located on the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border using small arms at different times of the night and morning on October 28, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“Thus, the territories of Tovuz, Gadabay, Dashkasan, and Gubadli districts of Azerbaijan were fired upon by the enemy from the territory of Berd, Chambarak, Vardenis, and Gorus regions of Armenia.

From 07.35 to 09.00 in the morning, the territory of the Aghjabadi district came under fire by the enemy,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on front on October 28

[10:47] 28.10.2020

During the day on October 27 and night on October 28, units of the Armenian Armed Forces, which did not comply with the humanitarian ceasefire regime, fired at the positions of the Azerbaijan Army units in various directions of the front and human settlements near the frontline using various types of weapons, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the combat operations continued mainly in the Aghdara, Khojavend, Fuzuli, Zangilan, and Gubadli direction of the front. The enemy attempts to attack were resolutely thwarted, and they retreated suffering losses.

“As a result of the retaliatory measures taken against the armed forces of Armenia, there are killed and wounded among the enemy personnel in various directions of the front. Several of their combat vehicles were destroyed. As a result of fire damage to the enemy's artillery units, howitzers along with ammunition in the firing position were destroyed.

It turned out that the significant reduction in the number of enemy vehicles created problems for the supply of food, weapons, and ammunition to the units in the forward line.

The process of sending reservists gathered from Armenia to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan continues. Despite the order to gather a staff of 2,000 people to be involved in the fighting, it was possible to assemble only 300 people. Even many military contractors and police officers refuse to go to the front.

Yesterday, during the day and at night, a large number of hostile forces, as well as 1 "OSA" anti-aircraft missile system, 3 BM-21 «Grad» MLRS, 6 D-30, 5 D-20, and 1 D-44 howitzer-guns, 2 2A36 «Giatsint-B» field guns, 1 120 mm mortar, 1 - "Konkurs" anti-tank missile and 6 - auto vehicles of the enemy were destroyed and wrecked in different directions of the front.

At present, our troops control the operational situation,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

General Polad Hashimov Park laid in Bursa

[08:29] 28.10.2020

A new park named after General of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces Polad Hashimov, who was killed as a result of provocation of the Armenian armed forces in July, has been built in Demirtas, Turkey.

In an interview with AZERTAC, Demirtas Mayor Mustafa Dundar said that the building of the park symbolizes respect and esteem for all heroes who were martyred for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, as well as Turkey`s moral support to Azerbaijan.

The mayor expressed confidence that the Azerbaijani Army, which launched a counter-offensive in response to the treacherous and ruthless attacks of Armenia on September 27, would soon restore the country's territorial integrity by liberating the occupied territories.

Sabir Shahtakhti
Special correspondent
AZERTAC

Oktober 27

Chairman of Caucasus Muslims Office: Armenian church continues its aggressive attitude and provocative activities against Azerbaijan

[23:27] 27.10.2020

Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims Office Sheikhulislam Allahshukur Pashazade has issued a statement regarding Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II's calling on the Armenian people and even children to fight to the death in the military war.

The statement says: "Since July 2020, Armenia's aggressive regime has resorted to new military provocations and targeted our residential settlements and civilians in Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh region and surrounding areas, as well as on the state border with Armenia. The failure of the OSCE in the negotiation process of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict for almost 30 years to yield practical results, the fact that four UN Security Council resolutions remain unimplemented, and the recent military aggression of Armenia have exhausted the patience of our people. And Azerbaijan, exercising its sovereign right, rose for the struggle to restore its territorial integrity and liberate its territories recognized by the international community.

The relevant agreements on a temporary humanitarian ceasefire were achieved at the meetings held in Moscow and Washington involving foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia, mediated by Russia and the United States. However, the facts have proven that Armenia does not tend to peace at all and is abusing the ceasefire to demonstrate its real aggressive nature. Immediately after these agreements, Armenia has continued to commit war crimes and acts of vandalism in a gross violation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the 1949 Geneva Conventions, and launched heavy artillery and missile strikes on the residential settlements of Azerbaijan located hundreds of kilometers from the conflict zone. As a result of these attacks as well as the shelling from Armenia's territory of Azerbaijan's cities and residential settlements, including Azerbaijan's second largest city of Ganja, 65 civilians including minors have been killed, 297 people have been wounded, 2243 houses, 90 multi-apartment residential buildings, 402 civilian facilities have been destroyed, several children have lost both parents since September 27.

Since the outbreak of the conflict, Armenia has committed acts of terrorism against civilian population and destroyed our temples, cemeteries, historical monuments, museums and libraries in the occupied territories. Unsatisfied with this, the aggressive Armenian extremists turned our mosques located in the occupied territories into barns and committed unprecedented acts of vandalism, such as keeping there animals that are forbidden in Islam. As a result of the Armenian aggression, hundreds of mosques, temples and churches, thousands of cemeteries, 706 historical monuments and museums, 927 libraries, 1107 educational institutions, 40,000 museum exhibits were destroyed and looted in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Despite all this, Azerbaijan and its people have always sought a peaceful solution to the conflict and negotiations at various levels including the religious one. The trilateral meetings held between religious leaders in Montreux, Rostov, Moscow, Tbilisi, Yerevan, Baku to find a peaceful solution to the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict were aimed at preventing it from escalating to a religious level.

It should be noted with regret that in exchange for our permanent efforts to achieve a just and peaceful solution to the conflict the opposite party, especially the Armenian church has continued its aggressive attitude and incendiary activity. Thus, Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II's latest appeal a few days ago, his calling, on behalf of the church, the people and even children to fight to the death in the military war doesn't bring him respect as a religious leader and serves the intention of presenting the conflict as a religious one, presenting it as Christian-Muslim confrontation that may lead to greater catastrophes.

The main moral duty of a cleric is to protect human life and rely on justice. Karekin II says that Azerbaijan forced them to the current war. Let me ask a question: Did Azerbaijan call you to war on its territory or did Azerbaijan set eye on your lands? The Armenian religious leader says that Karabakh can never be a part of Azerbaijan. Isn't this justification of the act of aggression and incitement of the two peoples to confrontation by a cleric? The question is how quickly did you forget tens of thousands of Armenian citizens who still live in peace in Azerbaijan today, the restored and well-preserved Armenian church and library located in the center of Baku? Contrariwise, isn't the destruction of our cultural and spiritual heritage, the absence of Azerbaijani population in Armenia and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan a clear example of your policy of ethnic cleansing and vandalism?

The Armenian church calls us an enemy, calling on international community to "get rid of this atrocity." The question is: Since when is the liberation of one's lands from invaders called savagery? Or maybe the atrocities committed against the civilian population in Azerbaijan's Khojaly, Ganja and Tartar, as Karekin II said, are written in bloody letters in the history of "the protection of the motherland and statehood"?

The whole world should know that the current military clashes are taking place in Azerbaijan. We are not against any religion or nation in defending our just cause, we have not invaded any country, and we consider the Armenians living in Karabakh not our enemies, but our citizens. United around our leader President Ilham Aliyev and once liberated our ancient occupied lands from invaders, we are determined to live together with Armenians, develop our Karabakh and turn it into a prosperous place.

We count on the support of the entire world community in our intentions to achieve peace and tranquility in our homeland of Azerbaijan!"

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Italian Rai 1 TV channel

[20:52] 27.10.2020

As reported earlier, on 26 October President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by the Italian Rai 1 TV channel.

AZERTAC presents the interview.

- Mr. President, good afternoon. Please tell us if this new truce, this new ceasefire will hold. If I am not mistaken, this is the third ceasefire.

- Everything will depend on how Armenia behaves because the first two ceasefires were disrupted by Armenia. After the first ceasefire, which was declared for humanitarian considerations, Armenia violated the ceasefire within 24 hours and barbarically launched a ballistic missile at the city of Ganja at night. As a result of the first shelling, 10 people were killed and many were wounded. Then they hit Ganja again, and also at night. There were even more victims. So we had to answer. As for the second truce, we have a chronology of Armenia's violations of the ceasefire. They violated it literally two minutes after the appointed hour of the truce. Today, at 8 o'clock, a new truce came into force. Now it is 10 o'clock in the morning in Baku. At about 3-4 minutes after the ceasefire entered into force at 8 o'clock, several shells were fired at the city of Tartar again. We are not reacting to this. We hope this was an accident, but if this continues, we will be forced to respond adequately.

- Mr. President, what actually caused the outbreak of hostilities at the end of September? Why did this happen?

- There was a series of events of political and military nature. Armenia's main goal was to disrupt the process of negotiations in every possible way. The new government of Armenia has repeatedly stated that the fundamental principles are unacceptable for it, that it is not going to return a single centimeter of the occupied territories, which contradicts the fundamental principles. The prime minister stated that we should negotiate not with Armenia but with the so-called leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is unacceptable both for us and for the OSCE Minsk Group. He also stated that 'Karabakh is Armenia, full stop', thereby completely undermining the negotiations. In the past year, there were practically no negotiations, and in order to shift the blame on us, Armenia made three sabotage attempts – in July on the border, in August when they sent a sabotage group, and in September when they shelled our cities. They probably thought that we would show restraint again, but that did not happen. We answered them in a manner that they are now regretting it.

- On what conditions will you agree to stop the hostilities then? You have repeatedly spoken about the need for a constructive approach on the part of Armenia. What should a constructive approach be like?

- A constructive approach should be that they must publicly declare, through the prime minister, that they accept the fundamental principles. The fundamental principles envisage the return of seven districts located around the Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region to Azerbaijan and the return of Azerbaijani refugees to the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, including the ancient Azerbaijani city of Shusha. These approaches are, in principle, based on four UN Security Council

resolutions, which require practically the same. But when the Armenian prime minister says that not a single centimeter of land will be given to us, when the Armenian defense minister says that Armenia will start a new war for new territories and when aggression is carried out against us, this is not a constructive approach, of course. He must say that yes, the occupied territories will be returned to Azerbaijan, that the Azerbaijanis will return to Nagorno-Karabakh, including Shusha, and then, of course, we will come to an agreement very quickly.

-Mr. President, there is one very controversial issue. Some countries, not only Armenia, but also France, have somehow accused you and Turkey of sending thousands of mercenaries, jihadists from Syria to Karabakh via Turkey. How will you respond to such accusations, and how will you respond to the accusations that speak of the presence of Turkish troops and Turkish military aircraft on the territory of Azerbaijan?

- I have already answered this question many times and I will answer it again. First, such unfounded accusations were brought against us by only two countries – France and Russia. France said that through the President, Russia through the head of the Foreign Intelligence Service. These charges were brought against us immediately after the outbreak of hostilities. Although almost a month has already passed, not a single piece of evidence, no proof was provided to us. In fact, I will say this for the first time – I asked the French side for the heads of relevant agencies to meet, discuss the issue and provide us with evidence. Nothing was presented to us. Therefore, these are all insinuations. All this is an attempt to cast a shadow on Azerbaijan. I regret that such unfounded accusations come from the co-chair countries, which are supposed to be objective. After all, we do not talk every day about how many weapons are supplied from Russia to Armenia. We do not talk about the fact that Armenia would not have lasted a day in the occupied territories without external assistance. Political support, military support, moral support – all this comes from countries that are supposed to stay neutral. Therefore, we strongly reject these insinuations. It is not necessary. We have 100,000 soldiers of the regular army. If necessary, we will announce overall mobilization, which, by the way, we have not done unlike Armenia. Therefore, this is all lies and slander. As for the participation of Turkish troops in operations, this is also a lie. There is not a single piece of evidence. The fact that Turkish F-16s are on the territory of Azerbaijan was a result of our joint military exercises on the eve of the conflict. We do not talk about how many Russian MIG-29s and Su-30s are on the territory of Armenia. We do not talk about the fact that 5,000 Russian troops are located at the base in Armenia in Gumru and, according to our data, there are periodical supplies of the Armenian armed forces from there. These are facts, in contrast to what is being said about us. Therefore, I suggest that those who want to accuse us first deal with themselves and then make such hasty conclusions based on false information.

- Mr. President, my last question more or less also concerns our country, Italy. You probably know that in Europe there are many successful examples of a peaceful settlement of territorial disputes or separatism. We have one of such examples in Italy. It is Alto Adige/Südtirol. Don't you think that Italy could help you with its experience in resolving the status of Karabakh? Moreover, Italy has very good, close and strong political and cultural relations with you and also with Armenia.

- Yes, I believe that Italy can play a very important role in the settlement of the conflict. I must say that when the Minsk Group was formed, a very long time ago, almost 30 years ago, it was the Italian representative, the Italian diplomat who was the leader of this Minsk Group. That was before the institution of co-chairs was established. After the institution of the co-chairs was created, the Minsk Group as a group of countries did not produce any results because the co-chairs

took this activity into their monopoly. We know what this has led to. For 28 years, there has been no progress, no results, only promises, only bureaucratic procedures. In essence, it seems to us today that the activities of the co-chairs were aimed at freezing the conflict, not at resolving it. As for the model that exists in Italy, we have studied it. We also studied the model of the Aland Islands and other successful autonomy experiences. Azerbaijan, unlike Armenia, is a multiethnic state. In Armenia, as you probably know, 99 percent of the population are Armenians. Therefore, this is a very positive experience of self-government which could be applied in our case. In fact, as far as I know, such proposals were made in the mid-1990s. Even groups of representatives of non-governmental organizations and political scientists have visited your country, the region you are talking about, and the Aland Islands. But Armenia has always categorically rejected this. They believed that they would be able to occupy our territories forever relying on military, political and economic support from leading countries of the world, but they made a gross miscalculation. We are proving our case on the battlefield today. We are implementing UN Security Council resolutions and are restoring international law.

- Mr. President, the very last question: at what level will we be in this conflict in one year? Or will it already be resolved by then?

- You know, I communicate with representatives of foreign media almost every day during this month, and in my addresses to the Azerbaijani people I always clearly state our position. We see the future of the Karabakh region – not only the upper part of it but also the plain because Karabakh is a large part of Azerbaijan – as a prosperous and peaceful territory where Azerbaijanis, who must return there, and the Armenians who now live there will live in peace. Our position is this. I believe that this can be achieved with mutual goodwill of the parties. After all, thousands of Armenians live in Baku and other cities of Azerbaijan today. The Azerbaijanis and Armenians have joint businesses in Russia and Georgia. There are mixed families. Therefore, I think that reconciliation is possible. The Armenian leadership should simply abandon its aggressive policy. And if this happens, with our investments and our experience of rebuilding the country, we can turn this region into one of the most prosperous regions in the world. But for this to happen, the consequences of the war must be eliminated. The occupation must be eliminated, the Azerbaijanis must return to the lands where they have lived for centuries, and live in harmony with the Armenian population. It will not be easy and it will take time. But we know how countries were reconciled after World War II, when European countries were at war – the current neighbors, and many people were killed. But this should not sit in the memory all the time and produce hatred, which is what Armenian ideologists are doing today. Goodwill must be shown. If that happens, what I am saying will happen. If not, we will return these lands anyway. And the current state of affairs on the battlefield is showing that. We will return them at any cost. Either peacefully or war, but we will return them. Therefore, I think the Armenian leadership should seriously think about it and take the right step.

- Thank you very much, Mr. President, and as they say in Italian, Bono Fortuno!

- Thank you, all the best to you too. Thank you!

- Goodbye!

- Goodbye!

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry: Barda attack is another war crime committed by Armenia

[20:22] 27.10.2020

“On October 27, as a result of the Smerch MLRS missile attack by the armed forces of Armenia on Barda district of Azerbaijan 4 civilians, including a child were killed and 13 civilians, including children and women, were seriously injured,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

“This is yet another war crime committed by Armenia in recent days in gross violation of the agreed humanitarian ceasefire for the third time through the continued efforts of international mediators and its commitments under the international humanitarian law.

The next bloody crime committed by the armed forces of Armenia on the eve of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries with the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs in Geneva is a clear demonstration that the aggressor state Armenia is not interested in a political solution to the conflict and aims to undermine negotiations by all means.

The political-military leadership of Armenia bears full responsibility for this crime against humanity against the Azerbaijani peaceful population. We call the international community to take a firm position to bring the perpetrators to justice,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Ministry of Emergency Situations: Armenia continues shelling civilian facilities in gross violation of humanitarian ceasefire

[19:52] 27.10.2020

“Armenian armed forces continue causing destructions and fires in civilian infrastructure, hitting Azerbaijani dense residential territories, civilian facilities, including private and apartment buildings, and households using heavy artillery systems and rockets in a gross violation of the humanitarian ceasefire,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Emergency Situations told AZERTAC.

“Thus, five private houses were seriously damaged in Garayusifli village of Barda district due to the heavy artillery strikes by the Armenian armed forces. The relevant forces of the Ministry of Emergency Situations were involved in the area. 13 people were injured and 4 people were killed as a result of the shelling by the adversary.

Search and rescue operation is underway currently. Additional information will be provided,” the ministry said.

Note that the Ministry of Emergency Situations operates in an enhanced mode at the moment. Please, immediately call the “112” hotline of the Ministry in case of any emergency.

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Armenia used cluster Smerch missile against civilians in Barda

[19:41] 27.10.2020

“According to ANAMA Armenia used cluster Smerch missile against civilians in Barda,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

“Use of cluster weapons against civilians is forbidden. 4 civilians, including 2 years old baby girl were killed, 13 civilians were wounded. Because of cluster bomblets number of casualties quite big,” Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: War crimes of Armenia`s political-military leadership continue

[19:00] 27.10.2020

“One little toddler is among the killed as a result of Armenia's missile attack on Barda district of Azerbaijan,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

“Baby killing policy and war crimes of Armenia's political-military leadership continue. Erupted fire is being extinguished by emergency services,” Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: As result of Armenian missile attack on Barda district 3 civilians killed

[18:46] 27.10.2020

The Armenian armed forces continue to commit criminal acts against Azerbaijani civilian population in gross violation of the requirements of the declared humanitarian ceasefire, the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“On October 27, Goranboy and Barda districts came under fire by the Armenian armed forces with intense missiles and heavy artillery from different directions.

As a result of heavy artillery shelling of Garayusifli village of Barda district by Armenian armed forces at about 16:00, Jafarova Ofeliya Majid, Ahmadova Aybaniz Ashraf and Isgandarova Aysu Rovshan, born in 2013, were killed and 7 people were wounded.

The Prosecutor General's Office takes all possible investigative measures in the current situation and work is underway to clarify the list of victims.”

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: As result of Armenia's heinous missile attack on Barda district 3 civilians killed and 10 people, kids/women seriously wounded

[18:33] 27.10.2020

“As a result of Armenia's heinous missile attack on Barda district 3 civilians were killed and 10 people, kids/women were seriously wounded,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

“War crimes of Armenia continue. Today the Ministry of Defense of Armenia made a statement that they will hit harshly. By that they meaning civilians, kids and women,” Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Goranboy, Tartar and Barda districts come under fire

[18:22] 27.10.2020

The Armenian armed forces are firing missiles at Azerbaijan's Goranboy, Tartar and Barda districts, the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Armenia ignores proposals over release of war prisoners, return of corpses

[16:24] 27.10.2020

During the meeting of Chairman of the State Commission for Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Citizens Ali Naghiyev and other officials with the head of the Azerbaijani Representation of the International Red Cross Committee (IRCC), the Azerbaijani side expressed readiness for mutual exchange of bodies of the killed servicemen between parties, even for the unilateral return of a part of bodies of the Armenian servicemen, as well as for the simultaneous release of 2 Armenian servicemen and 2 civilians retained in Azerbaijan and 2 Azerbaijani hostages held by the opposite side, the State Commission said.

Moreover, the Azerbaijani side stated it is ready for the unilateral release of the 85-year-old Armenian woman who was left in the combat region when the Armenian armed forces retreated.

However, so far, the Republic of Armenia hasn't responded to proposals of Azerbaijan regarding the release of war prisoners and the retained persons and return of bodies.

AZERTAC

Indonesia Ulama Council issues statement condemning acts of aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan

[16:16] 27.10.2020

The Indonesian Ulama Council has issued a statement condemning the acts of aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan.

Issued on behalf of Vice Chairman of Indonesia Ulama Council KH. Muhyiddin Junaidi, the statement reads: “Regarding the Armenian armed forces’ blatant violation of ceasefire and attacks starting from September 27, 2020 against the civilian population of Azerbaijan, alongside the front line, in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan we strongly fulminate the aggression. As a result there have been casualties among the civilians and military servicemen of Azerbaijan. Extensive damage has been also inflicted on many homes and other civilian infrastructure.

Having seriously monitored and objectively studied the issue from various reliable sources, we, the central board of Indonesia Ulama Council made the following statement:

We strongly urge Armenia to respect principles of the international law, the international humanitarian law as well as the relevant resolutions of the United Nation Security Council on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and insist that Armenia immediately and unconditionally withdraw all its troops from the all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

We also strongly call on both countries to end armed conflict and find the best amicable solution based on USC resolutions and other international conventions as well as regional agreements.

The unilateral occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and baseless claimed by Armenia of its territories since three decades has violated blatant human right abuses and killed so many innocent citizens. It must be resolve soon to avoid any conflict in the future and build a peaceful world order.

The regional powers should also show their united stances at securing Armenia of unconditional total troop withdrawal form Nagorno-Karabakh.

We support all actions taken by Azerbaijan, including counter-offensive measures undertaken by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the right of self-defense and in full compliance with the international humanitarian law in order to repel military aggression by Armenia and ensure the security of civilians and densely populated residential areas deep inside the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan.

Indonesia Ulama Council respect and fully support the Indonesian government’s diplomatic efforts to call on both countries to resume dialogue in the framework of the Minsk process facilitated by the Organizations for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

On behalf of the Indonesia Ulama Council and on my own behalf, I extend my deepest condolences to families and loved ones of Martyrs and the whole people of Azerbaijan. May Allah rest the souls of Martyrs in peace.”

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry, State Border Service release joint statement

[14:32] 27.10.2020

The Ministry of Defense and the State Border Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan have issued a joint statement.

The statement reads: “Adhering to the new humanitarian ceasefire regime, Azerbaijan is taking only adequate measures, exercising a restraint attitude towards the provocations committed by the enemy along the entire front.

Capitalizing on it, Armenia is deliberately aggravating the situation in various directions of the front, especially on the restored state borders, laying the groundwork for its further provocations.

The Armenian leadership must now realize and reckon that the restored state borders are not a zone of conflict, but state borders recognized by the international community, which define the full sovereign territories of Azerbaijan. The inviolability of the state border must be ensured. Any provocation in this direction is assessed as an attack on our territorial integrity.

In this regard, Azerbaijan has the right to destroy any legitimate military targets that threaten its territory, regardless of its location.”

AZERTAC

Armenians shelling Tartar city and villages of Tartar district

[13:56] 27.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces, grossly violating the new humanitarian ceasefire regime, are subjecting to artillery fire the city of Tartar and villages of Tartar district,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Information spread about shooting of border post on territory of Armenia is false and provocative

[13:37] 27.10.2020

“The information spread by Armenia about the alleged firing of Armenian territory today using UAVs and rocket-artillery systems belonging to Azerbaijan is false and provocative,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“We state that Azerbaijan fully complies with the new humanitarian ceasefire regime.

On the contrary, starting from 09:30 on October 27, the Armenian side has been intensively firing on our territories using mortars in the direction of Aghband village of Zangilan district,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry: We call on relevant international organizations to take necessary measures to stop the breach of rights of children by Armenia

[13:32] 27.10.2020

“We firmly condemn the violation of the rights of children by Armenia in blatant ignorance of international conventions and its commitments under international humanitarian law and call the related international organizations to thoroughly investigate these illegal practices and take necessary measures to stop the breach of rights of children by Armenia,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

“The recent videos widely spread on social media demonstrate that Armenia employs children as soldiers in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

It is almost three decades that hundreds of thousands of children in the Republic of Azerbaijan suffer from the ongoing aggression of Armenia and its long-lasting effects. But as we are witnessing today Armenia not only continues to violate the rights of Azerbaijani children but does not hesitate to violate the rights of Armenian children as well.

By using children in the military operations Armenia violates the protection guaranteed for children by the IV Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilians and I Additional Protocol which provides that "children shall be the object of special respect and shall be protected against any form of indecent assault".

By such actions, Armenia vigorously violates the child rights enshrined in the UN Child Rights Convention, its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, in particular Article 1 and Article 2.

While using children as combatants Armenia deprives the children of their fundamental rights, in particular the right to life and the right to protection, as children might become military targets as combatants.

Moreover, Armenia which presents itself as one of the "advocates" of the Safe Schools Declaration does not hesitate to use school buildings for military purposes, which is another demonstration of its failure to respect the protection of future generations.

We firmly condemn the violation of the rights of children by Armenia in blatant ignorance of international conventions and its commitments under international humanitarian law and call the related international organizations to thoroughly investigate these illegal practices and take necessary measures to stop the breach of rights of children by Armenia,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation

[12:59] 27.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has addressed the nation.

AZERTAC presents the interview.

Address of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev

- Dear fellow compatriots!

The second Karabakh war has been going on for about a month. This war is a patriotic war for our people. We are liberating our homeland from occupiers. During this time, the glorious Azerbaijani Army has liberated many settlements from the enemy. We are restoring historical justice on the battlefield because Nagorno-Karabakh is ancient and historical land of Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani people have lived and built on these lands for centuries. We know the history of Karabakh perfectly well. A great deal of work has been done in recent years to convey this history to the world community. In general, the world did not have much of an idea about Azerbaijan in the early 1990s. Armenian lobbying organizations operating in many countries were able to create a distorted image in the world, in international public opinion by circulating false information both about the history of the region and the history of the conflict. This is why sanctions were imposed on us even though it was our lands that were occupied, and these sanctions are still in force. In the early stages of our independence, the US Congress imposed sanctions on Azerbaijan, claiming that Azerbaijan is engaged in aggression against Armenia, and these sanctions are still in force. Can you imagine that? At that time, Azerbaijani diplomacy could not counter Armenian lies with any arguments. As a result of consistent work in recent years, we have informed the world community about the history of Karabakh, the history of the conflict, and all this work helps us today. The world already has a more objective view on this issue, a more objective vision. It is thanks to our tireless efforts that we have been able to achieve this. I am absolutely right when I say that we are restoring historical justice. I was able to prove to the whole world during the live debates at the Munich Security Conference that this is our historical land. I provided information about the Kurakchay peace treaty signed at the beginning of the 19th century. There was no information about this treaty in the world at all. Unfortunately, there was no extensive information about the Kurakchay treaty in Azerbaijan either, The Kurakchay peace agreement was signed by the Khan of Karabakh and Shusha, Ibrahimkhalil khan, on the other side a general of Tsarist Russia. This agreement is available on the Internet and everyone can see it. I am sure that after my words, a large international audience keenly following the current situation on the battlefield will go to these sites and see that there is not a word about the Armenian people in that agreement. The Armenian people were not here at that time. The Armenian people were brought to our ancestral lands after the Kurakchay, Gulustan and Turkmenchay peace treaties. They were deliberately brought and placed in Karabakh, one of the most fascinating corners of our country, and conditions were created for them. The objective of this was obvious – to change the religious composition in the new lands of the empire, to expel Muslims from their ancestral lands, drive them away and create a new reality. Unfortunately, they achieved this goal.

After that, the Armenian population was brought en masse from neighboring countries, settled in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, in the ancestral lands of the Azerbaijanis, and

demonstrating their typical character, gradually began to take possession of all our lands. After the Bolshevik revolution in the early 20th century, there was a great danger that the Bolshevik government would hand over Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia. The Caucasus Bureau has protocols dated July 1921. It is enough to look at the protocols of the Caucasus Bureau to see that there was such a threat. But I think that due to the efforts of Nariman Narimanov and others who correctly assessed the reality, they could not achieve this goal. The protocols of the Caucasus Bureau state that Nagorno-Karabakh should be kept as part of Azerbaijan. During all these years, fake Armenian scholars and patrons have been trying to prove that Stalin separated Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia and gave it to Azerbaijan. This is a lie! Open and look at the protocol of the Caucasus Bureau, which says that Nagorno-Karabakh should be kept as part of Azerbaijan! This once again confirms that this is our land. Unfortunately, after that, the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was established, and the region was given a special status. But I must also say that this was not a republic, but a region. There was a lower level of self-government. It is enough to look at the history to see that the Armenians living there had great rights and opportunities.

In Soviet times, a few years before the conflict, separatist tendencies were widespread. However, there was no reason for that. Of the nine members of the bureau, the governing body of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, eight were Armenians and one was Azerbaijani, and he was the first secretary of the Communist Party of Shusha district. The first secretary, the head of the government, the chairman of the parliament of Nagorno-Karabakh were Armenians. What did they want? Azerbaijan invested so much in that region, built a railway there in the 1970s, the Sarsang water reservoir, the Madagiz water reservoir – I have restored its name – the Sugovushan water reservoir were built. All these investments were made at the expense of the state budget of Azerbaijan. However, the Armenians were ungrateful, took advantage of the situation and of the presence of anti-Azerbaijani leadership in Moscow, and separatist tendencies emerged in the region. What did they do prior to that? The Armenians had been making preparations for that. Heydar Aliyev was the target of these preparations. They understood perfectly well that the presence of Heydar Aliyev, his great authority in the Soviet leadership ruined their plans. Therefore, unfortunately, national traitors from Armenia and other places, from Azerbaijan were sending numerous anonymous letters to Moscow and carrying out a smear campaign in order to eliminate the Heydar Aliyev factor. Less than two weeks after Heydar Aliyev had resigned from all posts, Armenian separatists rose up and demanded that Nagorno-Karabakh be separated from Azerbaijan and annexed to Armenia. This was when the troubles of our people began. An illegal special committee was set up in Nagorno-Karabakh and an ardent pro-Armenian man was appointed its head. This, in fact, laid the groundwork for the secession of Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, the then leaders of Azerbaijan simply observed all these dangerous events. They could not raise their voice, they did not have the courage, just kept their head down and did what they were told to do from Moscow. At that time, the people leading Azerbaijan did not have a gram of Azerbaijani blood. Although they were considered Azerbaijanis, they did not have a single gram of national spirit and were cosmopolitan people. They could not even speak the Azerbaijani language properly. This is the history of Nagorno-Karabakh. After that, large-scale military operations were launched against Azerbaijan and our lands were occupied.

The loss of Shusha and Lachin in May 1992 and the occupation of Kalbajar in April 1993 created a geographical link between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. There was no such connection before. The Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region had no border with the Republic of Armenia.

Those tragic events somewhat created a new reality. After that, the issue was taken over by international mediators and the Minsk Group was established in 1992. The activities of the Minsk Group are obvious. After some time, the co-chairs of the Minsk Group concentrated almost all power in their hands and virtually monopolized the issue. In fact, the Minsk Group as a group was paralyzed and the three co-chair countries began to deal with this issue. But was there a result of that? There was not! There was no result for us, but there was one for Armenia. Armenia wanted the negotiations to last forever, Armenia wanted to deceive us forever, this issue to remain in a frozen state, and our lands to stay under occupation forever. But what did the Minsk Group do? Was it able to put pressure on the occupier? No! Did it want to put pressure on it? No! I have repeatedly raised the issue with them: if you want to see a solution, impose sanctions on Armenia. All this is in your hands. You are permanent members of the UN Security Council and can resolve any issue. In particular, officials of these countries say that they agree on this issue. This is also an interesting issue. How is it possible that in all other matters – nuclear weapons, the situation in the Middle East, the situation in Asia, the situation in Europe – their interests are completely different? What other issue do their interests overlap on? None! Only in the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh. Why? Everyone understands that. This frozen state, of course, was in everyone's interests except ours – first of all, in Armenia's interests.

Armenia is conducting illegal settlement on these lands. Has anyone said a word? No! This crime, this international crime runs counter to the Geneva Conventions. Does anyone ask them why they are conducting illegal settlement? And even demonstrate it. You transfer and place Armenians from Arab countries in our cities, including Shusha. Nobody says a word. What does this mean? It means go on, bring them here and settle as many as you want, Armenianize these lands and erase the cultural heritage of Azerbaijan. That was the message. Didn't these three countries have the opportunity to show the aggressor its place? They didn't want to. This reality suited them.

Therefore, it is impossible to assess the activities of the Minsk Group otherwise. We were being pushed to accept this situation, as it were. We were being told that new realities had emerged and that we must reckon with them. We have created a new reality. Everyone has to reckon with the new reality now. But what do we see? Notice what is happening when we began to liberate our lands from the occupiers. Look at the strong pressure being put on Azerbaijan from all sides. They have started running around. What happened? For 28 years, this issue dragged on and they pretended to be addressing it. They kept coming and going, there were endless meetings and negotiations. We are fed up with these negotiations. How long can one negotiate with the enemy? In addition, the enemy becomes impudent, and they tell us, no, there is no military option and the issue must be resolved only peacefully. Who says there isn't? Isn't this a military solution now? What are we doing? We are single-handedly implementing UN Security Council resolutions although this is the responsibility of the UN Security Council. We are doing this alone. We have created a new reality. Reckon with it! But what do we see? There is a meeting here, a meeting there. What about the ceasefire? Who has violated the ceasefire? This means that all their activities are now aimed at saving Armenia, an aggressor that committed the Khojaly genocide, attacked Ganja with ballistic missiles from the territory of Armenia. This is their activity.

As far as the ceasefire is concerned, the first time the ceasefire entered into force on 10 October. My position was that this should be of a humanitarian nature, and we agreed to this in order to exchange the bodies of the dead, hostages and prisoners. However, less than a day later, Armenia flagrantly and insidiously violated the ceasefire by bombing Ganja at night. Then, on 17 October, a new ceasefire was declared. And again, Armenia violated it two minutes later. This

morning, at 8 o'clock, a new proposal came in. But when I inquired about at 9 o'clock in the morning, Armenia violated the ceasefire a few minutes later by firing on Tartar district again. However, I have instructed the Azerbaijani army again to show restraint for the time being and not to succumb to provocations. My position is known to my people. This issue must be resolved either by military or by peaceful means. I suggested: if you want a peaceful solution, well, we will stop. But we must be told immediately that Armenia is leaving our lands. A timetable should be provided – after how many days they would leave a particular district, after how many days they would leave the next district and after how many days they would leave other districts. A timetable should be provided. Has Armenia provided this timetable? It has not. This being the case, if the ceasefire continues and the issue remains frozen again, this cannot suit us. This is the first thing.

Secondly, we have accurate information that Armenia is already on its knees on the battlefield and simply wants to take advantage of the ceasefire to mobilize its resources again, wants to re-arm and pursue a new policy of aggression against us. There is such information and, unfortunately, over the past month, weapons, various types of weapons have been supplied to Armenia in large quantities. We have all the lists. Some of them have been published in our media. There is a whole list of when and what plane arrived, where it arrived, what it brought, how it was offloaded and where the cargo was sent? Then why are those interested in a ceasefire sending weapons to Armenia? After all, Armenia is already on its knees. We have already hit it on the head so that it can hardly recover. The prime minister of Armenia, who danced in a drunken state on Jidirduzu and behaved like a great commander, now falls at everyone's feet asking for help, begging for assistance, humiliating himself and humiliating his people. Just don't give them weapons and it will be over. Don't give them weapons. Who gives anything to us? Nobody! Don't give them weapons. If you want this to end, don't give them weapons. He will surely come round in a couple of days. On the one hand, there is talk of a ceasefire, but on the other, weapons are being sent to them. What is this? Are we supposed to be silent about this?

The people of Azerbaijan should know everything. For 17 years in my capacity as President, I have always told the truth to the Azerbaijani people – always. I regularly report to the people on all the issues. And I am doing that to this day. This may not be complete information because there are certain diplomatic rules. However, whatever can be said, I say to the Azerbaijani people and the whole world. If you want to save Armenia, tell it to leave our lands, get away immediately! Let this jester, who danced in Shusha, on Jidirduzu, in a drunken state declare that he is leaving. Calling world leaders five or six times a day will not solve the problem. Our position remains unchanged, we are defending the truth and justice.

I would like to touch upon another issue. The legal framework for the settlement of the conflict is quite broad. We have expanded this framework. Today, there are not only UN Security Council resolutions, but also other documents. The UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the European Parliament and other organizations. The document we have initialed with the European Union contains a special provision on the sovereignty of our country, the inviolability of our borders and territorial integrity. In other words, it is a legal framework that allows us the opportunity to teach the enemy a lesson on the battlefield, to drive them away, to remove them from our lands. But look at what is going on lately? The Minsk Group co-chairing countries have convened a meeting of the UN Security Council. They have done it once before. Apparently, the document adopted there did not satisfy them. This time, a few days ago, we heard about the appearance of a new document. We immediately took action and prevented the adoption of this document even though the three co-chair countries exerted great pressure on other members of the UN Security Council.

What was the purpose of this? The goal is very clear – to overshadow the resolutions adopted in 1993 demanding the withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from our lands, to leave them in the past so that they lose their power and significance. This was the goal. How fair is this? We saw further attempts to provide support to the occupier. What is the result? It did not pass. How? The member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement stood up like real men and did not allow this to happen, they supported us – I say thank you to them. And this happened despite the fact that they came under pressure and may have even been threatened. But they stood up like men for us just as we stand up for them. This shows that nothing will work. My dear brother, the President of the Republic of Turkey has repeatedly said that the world is bigger than five countries. And he is absolutely right. This vote proved it. They joined their forces and put forward another document that meets the interests of Armenia, but it did not work out.

Because justice prevailed. No matter how hard they tried, justice prevailed. Justice and international law are on our side. Therefore, we will continue to go our own way. If they want a ceasefire, then let them tell the occupying state to go away, to leave our lands. Otherwise, we will go to the end, all the way. And we will continue to drive the enemy away, as we have been doing. They are already running away from us and we will continue to chase them. Because we are right and we are strong.

As I have been saying for the past few years, the world is not the same any longer. The force factor comes to the fore and this was not done by us. Take a look – do large states reckon with international law today? No! Do they reckon with the UN Security Council? No! Everyone does what they want in their places, one enters there, another one enters there, the third one divides some territories. There is no semblance of international law. So why should we defend it? We are defending it anyway and are not taking steps outside the law. We are not entering the territory of Armenia, we are restoring the territories recognized by the international community. If the permanent members of the UN Security Council, the co-chairs of the Minsk Group could not do this, then let them step aside and not interfere. Unlike Armenia, we do not ask anyone for help. Let them not interfere and test the patience of the Azerbaijani people. This war will end tomorrow and we will achieve our goal. What will our relationship be like? Will the Azerbaijani people forget this injustice? They will not. Let them give this a thought. Today, Azerbaijan is not a state the interests of which can be ignored. No! The day will come when they will come here with requests and proposals, including those on cooperation. How will they look in our eyes? They have mobilized all their forces against us today. I have been putting up with this for a month, a whole month. I was silent about it, but we are fed up. This is the first thing.

Second, the mediator must be neutral. If it is not impartial, then it should give up its candidacy. If a mediator is not neutral, then it cannot be a mediator. The mediating countries should now come up with new functions for themselves. What will they do? They can no longer talk about the liberation of five districts. Where are these five districts now? Four of them are already with us. This question is already in the past, it is over. We have taken them back ourselves – Fuzuli, Zangilan, Jabrayil, Gubadli. Most of these districts are with us. We also have a part of the former Hadrut and currently Khojavand district. So let them think.

We are not against negotiations. As a result of yesterday's talks in the United States, the decision was made to hold a meeting between the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Geneva in a few days. I don't mind that, let them meet. Over the course of these 28 years, there have been so many useless meetings, so there is no difference. I do not mean to say that I regard this meeting as useless. No. We want it to make sense. And this should speed up the settlement of

the conflict. The patrons of Armenia, I appeal to you: if you want to save this fake state, tell it to get out. One word of yours is enough for it to get out – just one word. If Armenia is not provided with financial, economic, military and political support, will it be able to stand on its feet? No! I will provide the Azerbaijani people with some data on their equipment we have destroyed. Everyone can count this, go online, see the cost of this equipment and ask a question. Where does this poor and impoverished country get all this? Where does this money come from in a country that is mired in problems? We have already destroyed so much of their equipment and they are still bringing more. Never mind, let them bring it, they know better.

This is our position at this stage, and we are ready to resolve this issue by military-political means. But it must be resolved. The ceasefire has been declared, alright, let there be a ceasefire. Armenia has violated it, we are recording every violation, every single one. I have given the instruction to record every violation. This information is immediately sent to the OSCE representative and other countries interested in the ceasefire, so that they can see how many times the Armenians have violated it. We have all the data. A military-political solution should resolve the issue of restoring the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

As for the future of the Armenians who were settled on our ancestral lands 200 years ago, I have said that they are our citizens too. They must also get rid of this junta. If they cannot save themselves, we will help them. Didn't the new government of Armenia represented by Pashinyan say that those who governed Armenia are criminals? I was saying exactly the same. What happens if those who governed the country before Pashinyan for 20 years were criminals? What is this country then? It is a criminal country. The two ex-presidents also headed the junta in Karabakh and then led Armenia. A criminal case has been opened against both. They are criminals who sucked the blood of the Armenians living in Karabakh. Where did they get so much property, wealth and fortune? Where? They got it by sucking the blood of the Armenian people. So I repeat: the people living in Nagorno-Karabakh are our citizens. The Azerbaijani people are tolerant. These people are not to blame. Whoever is to blame is being brought to account, and I said that the blood of the Azerbaijani people would not remain unavenged. The criminals who committed the Khojaly genocide have already been destroyed in the battles that have lasted for a month. Justice has prevailed. Therefore, I want to reiterate my position. We will definitely return to these lands by military-political means. The military stage may end today. We will resolve the issue politically. Azerbaijanis will return to Shusha, Azerbaijanis will return to Khankandi. They will return to all other places where they used to live. Conditions will be created for the Armenian population. We must gradually learn to live together, both them and us. I see it this way, and my approach is based both on the norms of morality and on the norms of international law. Armenia wants to drive us out of there, then to carry out ethnic cleansing, to Armenianize our sites, to settle Armenians from abroad. Pashinyan, you wanted to build a road to Jabrayil? So? Where is this road? You wanted to build a parliament building in Shusha? So? It all went to hell.

I want to say again that no force can make us deviate from our path. Successes on the battlefield have created a new reality at the negotiating table.

Now I want to share some information with my dear people. I am presenting a list of the enemy's equipment and military booty we have destroyed and taken over since 27 September. So 252 tanks have been destroyed, 53 tanks have been taken as booty – in total Armenia has lost 305 tanks. But they still have more. Look how many tanks they had. Fifty infantry fighting vehicles have been destroyed, 29 have been taken as booty – a total of 79 units. Then, 251 guns of various calibers have been destroyed, 24 have been taken as booty – 275 in total. Sixty-one mortars have

been destroyed, 45 were taken as booty – 106 in total. Fifty-three anti-tank weapons have been destroyed, 82 Grad installations have been destroyed. Two units of "Hurricane" multiple launch rocket system have been destroyed. One "TOS" unit has been destroyed, four anti-aircraft missile systems "TOR", about 40 "OSA" installations, four "KUB" complexes, one "KRUG", two "S-125" have been destroyed. Six S-300 launchers, one of the most expensive launchers, have been destroyed. One detection station and one locator. The price is well known. Everyone can count this. We have destroyed two "Elbrus" and one "Tochka-U" operational-tactical missile systems. Trucks – 231 trucks have been destroyed, including 20 with ammunition, 173 trucks have been taken as booty. In total, we have deprived the enemy of 404 trucks.

Now I will ask the question again. I will keep asking this question every time. I will keep asking it until there is an answer. Where does this money come from? Let the pro-Armenian observers, mediators, political scientists tell where it comes from. We have money and everything is transparent. The people of Azerbaijan know how much money we have, the world knows, everyone knows. We are buying it with our own money. We don't depend on anyone. How did this bankrupt country buy this? Armenia's external debt is about \$8 billion. Foreign exchange reserves amount to \$1.5 billion. In fact, these are not free funds. These are bank reserves. They cannot use them. If they use it, then their so-called currency will fly somersaults. Who gave you so many weapons? Why doesn't anyone ask? During this month, I give interviews every day. They ask me what Turkish F-16s are doing in Azerbaijan. I am tired of answering. Open up satellite images, can't you see what they are doing? Go and see what F-16s are doing. Are they in the air or on the ground? Everyone knows that they are on the ground. They arrived for exercises and stayed behind when the war broke out. Our Turkish brothers left them here to give us moral support. But if we are attacked from outside, they will see these F-16s. There are only five or six planes left at the airport and they ask about it every time. I answer these questions. But ask Armenia too, ask those who give them weapons. Ask these questions – why are you giving Armenia weapons? Have they been paid for? Do the citizens of the countries producing these weapons know how much of their goods was lost in a matter of one month? Do they know how much weaponry we have destroyed? No journalist asks me this question. Isn't this interesting? It is interesting. Never mind. We are already accustomed to the fact that for all these years, slander, lies and fabrications against Azerbaijan have shown no sign of abating. Both foreign media and the Azerbaijani people see that I am answering all these questions and answering them properly. And I do not stoop to their level. Never! I answer them properly and they are silenced. They cannot answer. I say – go look in the mirror. Did you come here to blame us? They don't ask questions, they act like a prosecutor, accuse us. Who are you? I respect journalists a lot. Therefore, they take advantage of that. I speak to them in a calm manner. But they should know that I can talk to them in any form. This is a reality. This reality is against us. But we have changed this reality. These new lists show again that we have changed this reality.

Now, it is with great satisfaction and pride that I will bring to the attention of my people the list the Azerbaijani people are looking forward to. So I am informing my dear people of the list of settlements liberated yesterday. The following villages have been liberated in Zangilan district: First Alibayli, Second Alibayli, Raband, Yenikand. Liberated villages of Jabrayil district: Govshudlu, Sofulu, Dagh Mashanli, Kurdlar, Hovuslu, Chalabilar. The settlements of Gubadli district liberated yesterday: Padar, Afandilar, Yusifbayli, Chaytumas, Khanlig, Sariyatag, Mollaburkhan and the city of Gubadli!

I already shared this good news with the Azerbaijani people yesterday. I want to convey this joyful news to the entire Azerbaijani people again. It is a great honor for me to bring joyful news

to the residents of Zangilan, Jabrayil and Gubadli districts who lived in these villages. True, there is nothing left of these villages. But never mind, we will restore them. Both the Azerbaijani people and the state have enough strength to do that. If only our lands were free. If only our flag was raised in all the liberated lands. We are liberating these lands at the cost of the life and blood of our soldiers and officers. We have asserted ourselves both on the battlefield and on the political plane, we have asserted ourselves in the world. We have asserted the Azerbaijani people as a proud people, as a brave people, as an invincible people. No pressure can affect us. No threat can turn us off our path because we are on a fair path, we are united like a fist. This unity is eternal and will be eternal!

Dear compatriots, I promised you on the first days of the war that we would drive the enemy away from our lands, drive them away to the end. Karabakh is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

AZERTAC

Armenia's political and military leadership doesn't want to collect bodies of soldiers fearing reaction and anger of its people

[12:23] 27.10.2020

“We declared that unilaterally ready to return bodies of Armenian soldiers via the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC),” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

“Since October 18 our appeal remains unanswered by Armenia. By this ignorance Armenia tries to hide its real military losses by Armenian people,” Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Jewish Journal publishes article on Armenian protest in Los Angeles equating Israel to Nazi Germany

[11:30] 27.10.2020

The Chairman of the Mountain Jewish Community of Baku, Milikh Yevdayev's article on Armenian protest in Los Angeles, which equated Israel to Nazi Germany, was published by Jewish Journal, one of the largest Jewish newspapers in the U.S.

In the article, the author mentions that the Armenian Youth Federation – a youth wing of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation – staged last week a protest against Israel for supporting Azerbaijan in front of the Israeli Consulate in Los Angeles, and that on one of the posters at the protest it was written: “You are not any better than the Nazi Germany”.

Highlighting the antisemitism in Armenia, Milikh Yevdayev notes: “In the Anti-Defamation League's global index of antisemitism, Armenia is ranked as the second most antisemitic country in Europe and one of the top three most antisemitic in the world outside the Middle East and North Africa”.

Moreover, Yevdayev stresses that Armenia glorifies Garegin Nzhdeh, a general of Armenian origin who collaborated with Nazi Germany during WWII, unveiling his huge statue in the center of Yerevan. He mentions that another Armenian Nazi collaborator, Drastamat Kanayan known as general Dro, is also being glorified in Armenia. The author highlights: “The same Nazi collaborator Nzdheh founded the Armenian Youth Federation that staged the aforementioned anti-Israel protest in Los Angeles!”

Furthermore, Yevdayev notes that few days ago, Armenia invited neo-Nazi members of “Alternative für Deutschland” Party (Alternative for Germany) to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

At the end of the article Milikh Yevdayev states: “Azerbaijan continues to defend its sovereign territory and civilians, with Jewish, Muslim and Christian Azerbaijani soldiers fighting to not only defend the innocent targets of Armenian shells, but to liberate the stolen territory Armenia has illegally occupied for almost 30 years, with hopes and prayers to return the nearly 800,000 forcibly displaced Azerbaijanis to the land and homes of their birth, where they have longed to return all these years”.

One of the largest Jewish organizations in the U.S., the Simon Wiesenthal Center, shared the article on its Twitter, calling this equation of Israel to Nazi Germany despicable. They also mentioned that Azerbaijan, despite being a majority-Muslim nation, protects rights of Christians and Jews, and has good relations with Israel.

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: We strongly condemn shelling of Euronews camera crew by the Armenian armed forces

[11:28] 27.10.2020

"We strongly condemn shelling of the Euronews camera crew and their vehicle, who carried out their professional journalistic activities in the liberated Talish and Sugovushan villages, by the Armenian armed forces with a kornet anti-tank missile," said Assistant to Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

"We consider this attack by Armenia as an aggression against the freedom of speech and professional journalism. Fortunately, the missile missed the target, the crew was not injured, while their car was damaged by sharpnel.

The attack on a vehicle with a sign of Euronews by anti-tank guided missile was targeted and purposeful. You can see it clearly in the reportage of the Euronews that the missile passes over the moving vehicle (<https://vimeo.com/472347741>).

Earlier, Armenian armed forces subjected to fire the Azerbaijani media representatives, as a result of which journalists were injured, vehicles of media groups were damaged," the presidential assistant said.

"The representatives of international media making reportages on military operations on the Azerbaijani side, upon return to their home countries, face verbal and physical attacks, black-mails and threats by Armenian lobby circles. In some cases, journalists, who carry out their professional activity, under pressure of the Armenian lobby have to lose their jobs. The attacks of the French Armenian lobby on the TF1 TV Channel of France and its camera crew, which prepared reportage on Azerbaijan, is an obvious example of it.

Currently, more than 70 international media representatives are working in Azerbaijan. In accordance with the operational situation, the necessary conditions are created for them to prepare reports from the front and carry out their professional activities," he added.

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President Hikmat Hajiyev interviewed by Al Jazeera TV channel

[10:18] 27.10.2020

Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has been interviewed by Al Jazeera TV channel.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on front on October 27

[08:25] 27.10.2020

During the day on October 26 and night on October 27, the Armenian armed forces, which did not comply with the new humanitarian ceasefire regime, fired at the positions of the units of the Azerbaijan Army in various directions of the front and our residential settlements near the frontline using various arms, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, combat operations continued mainly in the Khojavand, Fuzuli, and Gubadli directions of the front. Attempts to attack were thwarted and the enemy was driven back suffering losses.

"As a result of the actions taken by the Azerbaijan Army, the forward command post of the 18th motorized rifle division of the Armenian armed forces was destroyed. Colonel Sergei Shakaryan, the chief of staff of the division was among the dead.

A large number of enemy forces, as well as 1 T-72 tank, 4 D-30 and 3 D-20 howitzer-guns, 1 "OSA-AKM" anti-aircraft missile system, 1 - BM-21 "Grad" MLRS, 1 radar station, and 6 auto vehicles were destroyed and wrecked in different directions of the front.

At present, our troops are monitoring the operational situation," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of liberated Gubadli city

[00:10] 27.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense has released video footages of the liberated from occupation Gubadli city.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the video footages.

AZERTAC

October 26

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of liberated Khanlig village of Gubadli district

[22:58] 26.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has released video footages of the Khanlig village of Gubadli district liberated from occupation.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the video footages

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated Padar village of Gubadli district

[20:00] 26.10.2020

The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan has released a video footage of the liberated from occupation Padar village of Gubadli district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Since 08.00 a.m up to now more than 200 artillery projectiles fired on Azerbaijani cities

[19:42] 26.10.2020

“Armenian armed forces are shelling the city of Tartar with artillery and missiles in gross breach of the humanitarian ceasefire. Since 08.00 a.m up to now more than 200 artillery projectiles fired on Azerbaijani cities,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

“Armenia's consent to humanitarian ceasefire just hypocrisy,” Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Armenia fires on Tartar from Smerch MLRS

[19:12] 26.10.2020

“On October 26 at 18:15, the enemy shelled the city of Tartar from the Smerch MLRS,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Tartar city and villages of Tartar district are under fire

[18:39] 26.10.2020

“The city of Tartar and villages of Tartar district are being fired again by the Armenian armed forces in gross violation of the new humanitarian ceasefire regime,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army does not shoot at civilians

[17:06] 26.10.2020

“The information disseminated by Armenia about the alleged shelling of Chanagchi village of Khojaly district (formerly Avetaranots of Askeran region) by the Azerbaijan Army is groundless and false,” the Ministry of Defense said.

“Our troops are observing the new humanitarian ceasefire regime along the entire front,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Release of the Press Service of the President

[16:50] 26.10.2020

Commander-in-Chief, President Ilham Aliyev has congratulated commanders of the joint military corps Yashar Hasanov and Zaur Guliyev who distinguished themselves in the liberation of the city of Gubadli and several villages of Gubadli district from occupiers.

The head of state wished them new successes in the battles for the Motherland. President Ilham Aliyev instructed them to convey his congratulations and gratitude to the entire military personnel.

**President: Less than two weeks after Heydar Aliyev resigned from all posts,
Armenian separatism flared up in Nagorno-Karabakh**

[16:49] 26.10.2020

"In Soviet times, a few years before the conflict, separatist tendencies were widespread. However, there was no reason for that. Of the nine members of the bureau, the governing body of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, eight were Armenians and one was Azerbaijani. Armenians held all key positions in Nagorno-Karabakh. What did they want? Azerbaijan invested so much in that region, built a railway there in the 1970s, the Sarsang water reservoir, the Madagiz water reservoir – I have restored its name–the Sugovushan water reservoir were built. All these investments were made at the expense of the state budget of Azerbaijan," President Ilham Aliyev said in his address to the nation on 26 October, AZERTAC reports.

Expanding on this issue, the President said that the Armenians were ungrateful, took advantage of the situation and of the presence of anti-Azerbaijani leadership in Moscow. Separatist tendencies emerged in the region.

The President added that the Armenians had been making preparations for that earlier. "Heydar Aliyev was the target of these preparations. They understood perfectly well that the presence of Heydar Aliyev, his great authority in the Soviet leadership ruined their plans. Therefore, unfortunately, national traitors from Armenia and other places, from Azerbaijan were sending numerous anonymous letters to Moscow and carrying out a smear campaign in order to eliminate the Heydar Aliyev factor. Less than two weeks after Heydar Aliyev had resigned from all posts, Armenian separatists rose up and demanded that Nagorno-Karabakh be separated from Azerbaijan and annexed to Armenia."

The President noted that this was when the troubles of Azerbaijani people began. "An illegal special committee was set up in Nagorno-Karabakh and an ardent pro-Armenian man was appointed its head. This, in fact, laid the groundwork for the secession of Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, the then leaders of Azerbaijan simply observed all these dangerous events. They could not raise their voice, they did not have the courage, just kept their head down and did what they were told to do from Moscow. At that time, the people leading Azerbaijan did not have a gram of Azerbaijani blood. Although they were considered Azerbaijanis, they did not have a single gram of national spirit and were cosmopolitan people. They could not even speak the Azerbaijani language properly. This is the history of Nagorno-Karabakh. After that large-scale military operations were launched against Azerbaijan and our lands were occupied," President Ilham Aliyev added.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Tartar city comes under fire

[16:47] 26.10.2020

On October 26 at 15:30, the Armenian armed forces violated the new humanitarian ceasefire regime and subjected to fire the city of Tartar using gun-howitzers, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Aghjabadi district came under fire again

[15:35] 26.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces, continuing to violate the new humanitarian ceasefire regime, again fired on the territory of Aghjabadi district,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

In his address to nation, President Ilham Aliyev spoke about how he proved to world that Karabakh is Azerbaijan's historical land

[14:37] 26.10.2020

"I am absolutely right when I say that we are restoring historical justice. I was able to prove to the whole world during the live debates at the Munich Security Conference that this is our historical land. I provided information about the Kurakchay peace treaty signed at the beginning of the 19th century. There was no information about this treatment in the world at all," President Ilham Aliyev said in his address to the nation on 26 October, AZERTAC reports.

Noting that there was no extensive information about the Kurakchay treatment in Azerbaijan either, the head of state said: "The Kurakchay peace treaty was signed by the Khan of Karabakh and Shusha, Ibrahimkhalil khan, on the other side a general of Tsarist Russia. This agreement is available on the Internet and everyone can see it. I am sure that after my words, a large international audience keenly following the current situation on the battlefield will go to these sites and see that there is not a word about the Armenian people in that agreement. The Armenian people were not here at that time. The Armenian people were brought to our ancestral lands after the Kurakchay, Gulustan and Turkmenchay peace treaties. They were deliberately brought and placed in Karabakh, one of the most fascinating corners of our country, and conditions were created for them."

President Ilham Aliyev noted that the purpose of this was to change the religious composition in the new lands of the empire, to expel Muslims from their ancestral lands, drive them away and create a new reality. "Unfortunately, they achieved this goal."

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: We are restoring historical justice on the battlefield

[14:10] 26.10.2020

"The second Karabakh war has been going on for about a month. This war is a patriotic war for our people. We are liberating our homeland from occupiers. During this time, the glorious Azerbaijani Army has liberated many settlements from the enemy. We are restoring historical justice on the battlefield because Nagorno-Karabakh is ancient and historical land of Azerbaijan," said President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev as he addressed the nation on 26 October, AZERTAC reports.

"The Azerbaijani people have lived and built on these lands for centuries. We know the history of Karabakh perfectly well. A great deal of work has been done in recent years to convey this history to the world community. In general, the world did not have much of an idea about Azerbaijan in the early 1990s. Armenian lobbying organizations operating in many countries were able to create a distorted image in the world, in international public opinion by circulating false information both about the history of the region and the history of the conflict. This is exactly why sanctions were imposed on us when our lands were occupied, and these sanctions are still in force," the head of state said.

President Ilham Aliyev said: "In the early stages of our independence, the US Congress imposed sanctions on Azerbaijan, claiming that Azerbaijan is engaged in aggression against Armenia, and these sanctions are still in force. Can you imagine that? At that time, Azerbaijani diplomacy could not counter Armenian lies with any arguments. As a result of consistent work in recent years, we have informed the world community about the history of Karabakh, the history of the conflict, and all this work helps us today. The world already has a more objective view on this issue, a more objective vision. It is thanks to our tireless efforts that we have been able to achieve this."

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia bears responsibility for violation of new humanitarian ceasefire

[13:42] 26.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces shelled positions of the Azerbaijani armed forces using artillery in the direction of Lachin district immediately after Armenian PM’s statement on Armenia’s complying humanitarian ceasefire regime at about 8:00 a.m. The civilian population of Tartar district and surrounding villages have been subjected to fire. Our positions in Gadabay, Tovuz and Dashkasan districts have been subjected fire from Berd, Chambarak and Vardenis districts of Armenia,” said Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

“Armenia launched ballistic missile attacks on civilians of the city of Ganja after the Moscow statement on October 10. The humanitarian ceasefire regime, agreed with the mediation of France on October 18, was also grossly violated by the Armenian side. All of these shows once again that Armenia supports humanitarian ceasefire in words, but in action hides behind the humanitarian ceasefire in order to fire on the armed forces and civilians of Azerbaijan, consolidate its forces, and capture new positions. The main goal of Armenia is to preserve and strengthen the status-quo based on the occupation,” the presidential assistant said.

“The Azerbaijani side demonstrates patience. The information on violation of the humanitarian ceasefire is collected and the OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries are informed relevantly. Armenia bears responsibility for the violation of the new humanitarian ceasefire,” he added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev announced names of villages of Zangilan, Jabrayil and Gubadli districts liberated from occupation yesterday

[13:30] 26.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has announced the names of villages of Zangilan, Jabrayil and Gubadli districts, which were liberated from the occupation yesterday, as he addressed the nation.

Zangilan district: Birinji Alibayli, Ikinji Alibayli, Raband, Yenikand

Jabrayil district: Govshudlu, Sofulu, Dagh Mashanli, Kurdlar, Hovuslu, Chalabilar

Gubadli district: Padar, Afandilar, Yusifbayli, Chaytumas, Khanlig, Sariyatag, Mollaburhan and the city of Gubadli.

AZERTAC

Armenians fire on Azerbaijan's Aghjabadi district

[12:53] 26.10.2020

“At 11.20 on October 26, the Armenian armed forces, violating the new humanitarian ceasefire regime, subjected to fire the territory of Aghjabadi district using artillery pieces,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Armenia continues to violate ceasefire regime

[12:48] 26.10.2020

“Armenian armed forces continue to violate the new humanitarian ceasefire regime,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“At present, the territories of Tovuz and Dashkasan districts of Azerbaijan are being fired by the enemy from the territories of Berd and Vardenis districts of Armenia.

At the same time, Azerbaijani residential settlements as well as the positions of the units of the Azerbaijan Army in the Fuzuli and Aghdam direction are also under the enemy fire,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Armenian PM is lying over again

[12:20] 26.10.2020

“The PM of Armenia is lying over again. Since 08.04 armed forces of Armenia started shelling Tartar region and its villages in violation of humanitarian ceasefire,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

“As reported by the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan, Armenian armed forces with artillery and mine launchers attacking our forces since 08.05,” Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva congratulated people of Azerbaijan on liberation of several villages of Zangilan, Jabrayil, Gubadli districts and the city of Gubadli

[11:39] 26.10.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has made an Instagram post on the liberation of several villages of Zangilan, Jabrayil, Gubadli districts, and the city of Gubadli from occupation.

AZERTAC presents the post:

"Several villages of Zangilan, Jabrayil, Gubadli districts and the city of Gubadli were liberated from occupation! I extend my sincere congratulations to all our people on this occasion! Each new victory is possible thanks to the courage, bravery, heroism and perseverance of our soldiers. I am very grateful to each of them! May Almighty God bless our army, our people, our Motherland and our President! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy is firing on our units

[10:22] 26.10.2020

Despite the announcement of a new humanitarian ceasefire regime, the Armenian armed forces are firing on our residential settlements and the positions of units of the Azerbaijan Army along the entire front, as well as on the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border using various types of small arms, mortars, and howitzers, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

"Since the morning hours, the enemy has fired on the territories of Tovuz, Gadabay, and Dashkasan districts of Azerbaijan from the Berd, Chambarak, and Vardenis regions of Armenia.

At the same time, the positions of our units located in the Tartar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Lachin, and Gubadli directions are also under the enemy fire," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy shells the Tartar district

[08:24] 26.10.2020

The Armenian armed forces, violating the new humanitarian ceasefire regime, subjected to fire the Tartar city and the villages of the district on October 26, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Armenian armed forces subjected to artillery fire Azerbaijan Army Units

[08:15] 26.10.2020

On October 26 at 08.05 am, the armed forces of Armenia violated the new humanitarian ceasefire regime and from the direction of the Lachin city subjected to artillery fire the units of the Azerbaijan Army located in the Safiyan village of Lachin district, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia grossly violated the new ceasefire regime

[08:10] 26.10.2020

Despite the announcement of a new humanitarian ceasefire regime since October 26 at 08:00, the Armenian armed forces again grossly violated the agreement reached, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: The Azerbaijan Army fully complies with the ceasefire regime

[08:00] 26.10.2020

Units of the Azerbaijan Army fully comply with the humanitarian ceasefire regime along the entire front that came into force on October 26 at 08:00, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army destroys military equipment and ammunition of Armenia

[00:41] 26.10.2020

"During the battles in different directions of the front conducted on October 25 in the afternoon, the units of the Azerbaijan Army inflicted precise strikes on the enemy," the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

"As a result of the strikes, the enemy's 6 D-30 and 1 D-1 howitzer-guns, 2 BMP infantry fighting vehicles, 1 auto vehicle and a large amount of ammunition were destroyed," the ministry added.

AZERTAC

OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs release statement

[00:33] 26.10.2020

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, Stephane Visconti of France, and Andrew Schofer of the United States of America) released the following statement today:

The Co-Chairs met in Washington D.C. on October 24 with Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, and also participated in a joint meeting with the Foreign Ministers and U.S. Deputy Foreign Minister Stephen Biegun. The Personal Representative of the OSCE's Chairman in Office, Andrzej Kasprzyk, also participated in the meetings.

The Co-Chairs urged the sides to take immediate steps to implement all aspects of the October 10 Moscow Joint Statement in accordance with their commitments, noting that they had reaffirmed these commitments with Paris on October 18. The Co-Chairs also reminded the sides of the October 1, 2020 joint statement of United States President Donald J. Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, as well as the October 5 joint statement of Secretary of State Secretary of State of the United States of America Michael R. Pompeo, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France Jean-Yves Le Drian, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov, calling on the sides to cease hostilities immediately and to resume substantive negotiations to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

During their intensive discussions, the Co-Chairs and Foreign Ministers discussed implementing an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, possible parameters for monitoring the ceasefire, and initiating discussion of core substantive elements of a comprehensive solution, in accordance with the October 10 Joint Statement. The Co-Chairs and Foreign Ministers agreed to meet again in Geneva on October 29 to discuss, reach agreement on, and begin implementation, in accordance with a timeline to be agreed upon, of all steps necessary to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in accordance with the basic principles accepted by the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

AZERTAC

Oktober-25

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated several villages of Zangilan, Jabrayil and Gubadli districts and the city of Gubadli

[23:34] 25.10.2020

"The Azerbaijani Army has today liberated several villages of Zangilan, Jabrayil and Gubadli districts and the city of Gubadli from occupiers.

Long live Azerbaijani Army! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!" President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

AZERTAC

Operational meeting was held under leadership of President, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev at Central Command Post of Ministry of Defense

[21:00] 25.10.2020

An operational meeting has been held under the leadership of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev at the Central Command Post of the Ministry of Defense with the participation of the leadership of the Defense Ministry and the commanders of the joint corps located in the frontline zone.

The head of state addressed the operational meeting.

Speech of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev

- The war has been going on for about a month. During this period, our country has achieved great successes on the battlefield. Good news comes from the frontline every day. During the day, I am regularly updated about the operations carried out in the war zone and give relevant instructions. Almost every hour I receive information about events in different regions. The Ministry of Defense and other agencies keep me informed. Operational meetings are held every day. In short, the situation is fully under control. During this period, a part of our occupied lands has been liberated from occupiers. More than 100 settlements – cities and villages – have been liberated from the occupiers. The Azerbaijani flag has already been hoisted in our liberated cities and villages. Video footage of these cities and villages is available to the Azerbaijani public, so everyone can see the state to which the savage enemy has brought our cities and villages. There is not a single building left there. All buildings, houses, administrative buildings, social facilities, historical and religious sites have been destroyed by the hated enemy. The occupied lands and ruins are witness to Armenian vandalism. The Armenian state is responsible for these crimes and will be held accountable for them.

I have ordered to conduct inspections in all liberated areas, to register all the destruction, to draw up acts, to register the destroyed property of our citizens. The Armenian state will definitely be held accountable for these war crimes. Once again, the whole world can see what kind of savages we are facing. Today, Azerbaijani soldiers and officers are teaching the enemy a lesson on the battlefield, are putting the enemy in its place, are driving the enemy out of our lands. We shed blood, we have martyrs – both among servicemen and civilians. Armenia cannot confront us on the battlefield and, as always, fires on our civilian settlements. As a result of this cowardly shooting, more than 60 civilians have been killed and about 300 injured. Two days ago, National Hero Shukur Hamidov died as a hero. Shukur Hamidov showed heroism in the battles of April 2016. He was awarded the honorary title of National Hero and I personally presented the National Hero star to him.

I suggest that we observe a minute's silence in memory of all our martyrs who died in the battles. May they rest in peace. I pray to God to send healing to our wounded soldiers and civilians.

These days, we have seen again that Armenia does not intend to leave our lands of its own accord. We have seen again that during these 30 years, Armenia simply wanted to gain time, to imitate the negotiations and to perpetuate the status quo. Unfortunately, the international mediators were unable or did not want to put the necessary pressure on the occupying state. Otherwise, four UN Security Council resolutions would not remain on paper. I must also note that a few days ago,

the co-chairs held a meeting of the UN Security Council. A document was put forward at the meeting that did not meet our interests and was intended to draw a line through the resolutions adopted in 1993. We strongly objected to this. This is another manifestation of injustice, another manifestation of double standards. The resolutions adopted in 1993 express a clear position on the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Resolutions adopted in 1993 demand complete, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the occupied territories. The draft document initiated the other day did not contain these provisions. In short, this step is viewed as yet another provocation against Azerbaijan. We have raised our voice, and I am glad that some of the members of the Security Council objected to this even though they were pressured by major states. However, these countries are members of the Non-Aligned Movement, which is currently chaired by Azerbaijan. Of course, their support for Azerbaijan is highly appreciated and shows that there is a high level of solidarity within the Non-Aligned Movement. In short, this political step failed and no document was adopted. I think this is another political victory for us. Just as we are winning on the battlefield, we are winning in the political arena. Just as we are driving the enemy away on the battlefield, we are also responding to the provocative steps of the enemy's supporters. Azerbaijan is not alone, our territorial integrity is recognized by the international community and we operate within the norms of international law – even though Armenia has repeatedly provoked us during this period, fired on our military positions from Armenian territory, fired on our settlements, fired two ballistic missiles at Ganja from the territory of Armenia, as a result of which innocent people were killed. Hundreds and thousands of shells are fired at our cities and villages in Tartar, Aghdam and other frontline regions every day, but the international community remains tight-lipped over this. And so do the mediators. All they are concerned about now is how to get Armenia out of this situation. There is a way to do this – Armenia must withdraw from our lands, it must get out of there. This is required by international law. But no pressure is being put on them. On the contrary, there are attempts to influence and put pressure on us. Of course, no-one can influence us, no-one can influence our resolve. I want our servicemen and citizens to know that there is a very serious struggle – both on the frontline and in the political arena. We shed blood on the battlefield, liberate our lands from occupiers at the cost of the lives of these heroes, while at the same time, we resist, show courage and defend our positions on the political stage.

A ceasefire was declared at the request of Armenia and at the suggestion of major powers twice and Armenia violated the ceasefire both times. The first time, less than a day later, they bombed Ganja. The second time they violated the ceasefire two minutes after it was announced. This being the case, Azerbaijan gave them and will continue to give them a decent rebuff, of course. We will continue to drive the enemy out of our lands, all the way.

We have one condition: the countries that are so concerned about Armenia, patronize them and create conditions for the Armenians to occupy our lands for about 30 years should put pressure on Armenia. The Armenian prime minister must declare that Armenia will withdraw from the occupied territories. We have not heard such statements. On the contrary, he talks of the self-determination of peoples and, in fact, has disrupted the process of negotiations.

The ceasefire cannot be unconditional. They will deceive us for another 27 years, for another 30 years. Delegations will be coming here for another 30 years and negotiations will be held. We are fed up and the patience of the Azerbaijani people is exhausted. Twenty-eight years ago, the Minsk Group was established. They have been deceiving us for 28 years. For 28 years, they have been promising to us, asking us to wait, saying that they will put pressure on Armenia, that they will do this and that. It was all a lie. Everyone sees it now. I have always told my people the truth. I have always said things the way they are. And I am saying that today. I must say that Armenia is

being armed. The most modern weapons are being sent to Armenia every day. We have a list of these weapons. We have all the information about the flights, when, where and from which city they departed, when they arrived in Yerevan and what they carried. During the current fighting, about 300 Armenian tanks have been either destroyed or taken as military booty. Where does all this money come from? It is a poor country with no money and no opportunities. They got it for free. Six S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems have been destroyed. Their price is known. Where does this come from? TOR, OSA anti-aircraft missile systems, unmanned aerial vehicles, aircraft which have already been destroyed by Azerbaijan. Where did Tochka-U and SCUD come from? It is given to them for free. We cannot remain silent about it. Everyone should know this. We are fighting alone, on our own!

I am saying all this, first of all, for the people of Azerbaijan to know the real situation. People should realize at what cost we are liberating our lands from occupiers. People should know that if Armenia had not received financial, military and political assistance over the course of these 27-28 years, our lands would have been liberated from the occupiers long ago, and peacefully. Notice how Armenian soldiers are fleeing the battlefield. This footage is available. Only some of these images are published in the media but this is a very extensive video. Without these weapons, without this political support, could Armenia have occupied our lands? Of course not! As I said, we are driving them away and will continue to do that. No-one can stand in front of Azerbaijan. We are right, we are fighting on our own land, we are restoring our territorial integrity, we have not crossed into the territory of Armenia and have no such plans. If we had such an idea, we would have done it a long time ago. It does not take much effort to do so.

We have succeeded on the battlefield. At the same time, these battles have shown that there are still drawbacks and shortcomings, and we are eliminating them promptly. At the same time, after these battles, after the end of the Second Karabakh War, all the successes and shortcomings of the war must be seriously analyzed. Although the Azerbaijani Army is one of the strongest armies in the world today, we must continue to use more modern methods in army building.

These battles are a great experience for us. We have seen that some of the weapons in our military arsenal are not particularly necessary in modern warfare. On the contrary, we have entered a high-tech stage and, of course, technology and professionalism contribute a lot to the success of any army. I have said this before and I want to say again that it is the soldiers and officers who are liberating our lands from the occupiers. They are raising our flag and clearing the land from invaders. Therefore, in the coming days – we will talk about that today – our military operations must be conducted in a more effective manner and without wasting time. In some cases, there have been delays. In some cases, no justification can be provided for a delay. We are analyzing all this and will continue to do so. I repeat – the Azerbaijani Army shows great courage and professionalism. We lost our lands in the early 1990s over several years, but parts of Fuzuli, Hadrut, Jabrayil, Zangilan, Kalbajar and Gubadli districts have been liberated from the occupiers in less than a month. Again, good news comes from the frontline every day. It is true that some areas need serious adjustments but, on the whole, we are reaching our goal. Every day, a combat mission is set for the next day. I approve this combat mission and it is possible to say that almost all of it is fulfilled.

I am confident that Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity. We are fighting on our own land. Justice is on our side, international law is on our side, historical justice is on our side. We must restore our territorial integrity, expel the occupiers from our lands and ensure the

sovereignty of our country. I am confident that we will achieve this. But this, of course, requires great responsibility, courage and discipline from every official.

These days, I regularly address the people of Azerbaijan, express my views and report on our successes. I want to assure the people of Azerbaijan today that we will not turn back from the right path! No force can affect our resolve. We will drive the enemy away to the very end. We will restore our territorial integrity!

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Enemy was forced to retreat, suffering losses

[20:51] 25.10.2020

"The units of the Armenian armed forces attempted to attack in the course of the battles in the Gubadli direction. Due to the resolute actions of the units of the Azerbaijan Army, the enemy lost up to 50 servicemen and was forced to retreat. As a result, four auto vehicles full of ammunition and one armored vehicle of the enemy were seized," Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

"The ministry presents a video footage of seized war trophies."

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army destroys firing points of Armenia

[18:56] 25.10.2020

"Units of the Azerbaijan Army retained its superiority during the battles in various directions of the fronts," the Ministry of Defense said.

"On October 25, in the course of successful combat operations, 2 artillery pieces, 2 MLRS BM-21 "Grad", 1 command-staff vehicle, 1 command post, 2 trucks, 1 tank, and several enemy firing points were destroyed," the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani MP: Why other regions of Azerbaijan, as well as 7 villages of Gazakh were occupied?

[18:46] 25.10.2020

Why those reputable international organizations don't address to Armenians such questions as "why other regions of Azerbaijan, as well as 7 villages of Gazakh were occupied", "why did they seize the citizens of the occupied territories, expelled them from their ancestral lands", "why did they burn alive young and elderly people, children and women without mercy", "what was the fault of these people", "why did they continue to destroy our historical and cultural monuments in these areas"....

Since the beginning of the war in Karabakh, Armenian Armed Forces have attacked all border regions of Azerbaijan. I am just wondering why those reputable international organizations don't address to Armenians such questions as "why other regions of Azerbaijan, as well as 7 villages of Gazakh were occupied", "why did they seize the citizens of the occupied territories, expelled them from their ancestral lands", "why did they burn alive young and elderly people, children and women without mercy", "what was the fault of these people", "why did they continue to destroy our historical and cultural monuments in these areas" along with other fictitious, false allegations about Karabakh.

Today, in Gazakh region where I was elected MP, 7 villages which is 11 percent of that region are under occupation. This means that 7,000 people were displaced from these villages and live as IDPs in their homeland. The property and livestock of these people were plundered, by causing them physical and moral suffering. Close relatives of these people were killed, burned alive. The historical and cultural monuments of the 5th-7th, 12th and 16th centuries were wiped off the face of the earth. Isn't it a crime? What else is needed for international organizations to react? Since 1990, the population of the villages bordering with Armenia, has been constantly bombarded by the Armenian armed forces, and innocent civilians have been shot by snipers. Those people living in border villages are constantly forced to live in fear. They are worried for their lives, for their children and loved ones. Gazakh, Tovuz, Aghstafa towns where I was elected MP are among them as well and I see with my own eyes how these people suffer from Armenian aggression. Isn't this a gross violation of human rights? Though we declare it to the whole world, unfortunately, we do not see the necessary reaction from the international organizations.

In 1971, the Aghstafachay lake with a capacity of 120,000 m³ was built and put into operation in the west of our country on the border with the Republic of Armenia, intended for both drinking water and irrigation of 70,000 hectares. I should also note that the Aghstafachay lake is fed by river water from Armenia. The results of the analysis of water samples taken at different times show that the wastewater of various industrial enterprises and factories located in Armenia is discharged into the river that feeds the Agstafachay lake. This means that the Armenian side continues to violate the requirements of international conventions by deliberately polluting drinking water basins.

For almost 30 years, there is not a single institution or organization that have not heard our voice, however, the representatives of influential human rights organizations do not hear or see these injustices. This aggressive policy of Armenia did not shake the hopes of our people, people have been waiting for 30 years with patience and hope that our lands will be liberated through peaceful negotiations. However, seeing that these expectations were not met, our people, the brave

sons of our people, rallied around our Supreme Commander-in-Chief, like a fist, took up arms and began a holy struggle for the return of the lands of our ancestors. Every day, our Supreme Commander-in-Chief makes us happy and proud with the good news of the victory of our Mighty Army along the entire front. I wish this fight a speedy and successful victory! May all our soldiers return home safe and sound, so that mothers do not shed tears. Let there be only tears of joy flowing from our eyes! May God protect our people, our Army, our Supreme Commander-in-Chief!

Ulviyya Aghayeva

Member of the Parliament of Azerbaijan

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani NGOs appeal to international organizations regarding Armenia's use of children in war

[15:52] 25.10.2020

The non-government organizations (NGOs) in Azerbaijan have addressed an appeal to the Executive Director of UNICEF, Chairman of the Board of Save the Children International organization, President of the International Bureau for Children's Rights, President of SOS Children's Villages International, Executive Director of the Child Protection Fund and the President of the Global Fund for Children regarding the use of children under the age of 15 by Armenia in military operations.

AZERTAC presents the appeal.

“We, as NGOs defending children's rights in Azerbaijan, appeal to you with great concern.

We would like to inform you that as a result of the military aggression launched by Armenia against Azerbaijan on September 27, the situation in the region has reached a very tense level and military operations have been resumed. As a result of a series of rocket attacks by the Armenian armed forces on cities and regions of Azerbaijan, 65 civilians, including 10 children, were killed and more than 300 were injured. Unfortunately, Armenia still commits war crimes.

Grossly violating the norms and principles of all international law, the military and political leadership of Armenia is now committing another crime by involving children under the age of 15 in its military operations against Azerbaijan. You can watch a video of a child involved in military operations under this link (<https://youtu.be/e12mWOJPySM>).

We would like to note, by involving children under the age of 15 in military operations the Armenian side grossly violates the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention as well as, the 38th article of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the 44th session of the UN General Assembly on November 20, 1989. The Convention calls on States Parties to seriously adhere to international humanitarian law relating to children in armed conflict, particularly, prohibits the direct participation of persons under the age of 15 in military operations and calls for all measures to be taken to that end.

However, Armenia's involvement of children in military operations clearly shows that the occupier country does not respect the principles of any international law and ignores its international obligations.

Therefore, we as the NGOs working for the protection of children's rights, appeal to you to properly assess Armenia's actions contrary to international law.”

The appeal was signed by 44 NGOs.

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Military attacks from territory of Armenia against Azerbaijan are acts of aggression as enshrined in UN Charter

[14:44] 25.10.2020

“Military attacks from the territory of Armenia against Azerbaijan along bordering Zangilan, Gubadli and Lachin regions are acts of aggression as enshrined in UN Charter,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated villages of Gubadli district

[14:30] 25.10.2020

The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan has released a video footage of the liberated from occupation villages of Gubadli district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Ministry of Defense: Armenian Army shells Azerbaijani residential settlements

[13:48] 25.10.2020

The Armenian armed forces are subjecting to fire the territory of Aghdam, Tartar and Aghjabadi districts, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army uses precision weapons against the enemy

[12:50] 25.10.2020

“The Azerbaijan Army uses precision weapons against the enemy,” the Ministry of Defense said.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: French parliamentary delegation`s visit to Armenia is one-sided and biased

[12:17] 25.10.2020

Armenian media inform about a visit of a French parliamentary delegation to Armenia and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, said Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

Hikmat Hajiyev said: “While Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan continues, and official Yerevan commits terrorist acts and mass war crimes against the Azerbaijani civilian population using ballistic missiles, the visit of the French parliamentary delegation to Armenia is one-sided and biased. It is not a secret that the majority of the visiting French parliamentarians are affiliated with Armenian lobby circles and funded by the Armenian lobby.

France is a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group. The co-chair countries must ensure neutrality and impartiality in their mediation mission. This visit overshadows France's neutrality as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group.

Amidst this sensitive period, such provocative steps rightly cause outrage among the Azerbaijani public.

This visit does not serve to reduce tensions in the region. On the contrary, it encourages Armenia to commit new war crimes against the civilian population of Azerbaijan, especially children, and continue the policy of aggression against Azerbaijan.

We recommend that at the meeting with the Armenian Prime Minister, the French parliamentary delegation remind his responsibility for the war crimes, especially for the firing of ballistic and reactive missiles on Azerbaijan`s Ganja, Tartar, Mingachevir and other cities, which resulted in the death of especially civilians.”

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by U.S. Fox News TV channel

[11:10] 25.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has been interviewed by the U.S. Fox News TV channel.

AZERTAC presents the interview.

-Good morning.

-Good morning to you

-I worked in Europe for 30 years. I have never been to your region. I apologize. We will have to correct that in the coming months.

-I hope you will have time to visit us also. Some time in the future.

-I also. It's beautiful. Well, I like Formula 1, and I like Zaha Hadid architecture, I like the movies. You have done a wonderful job modernizing your country.

-Thank you.

-I have heard many of your interviews. You eloquently explain in great detail the complex issues facing the region. I must be blunt and to the point, concise and short. So we can get more answers on. I fully understand these are very complex issues that go back hundreds of years.

-Yes, I will try to explain to the American audience what is happening, and why it happened, and what we want to see in the future.

-That's great. Well, we are very interested. By many accounts, on September 27th your forces began this latest round of war. There was a relative peace in Nagorno-Karabakh region. There was some kind of a diplomatic framework that people had an idea to resolve this crisis, but the fighting started. Why did you decided to move on now?

-It was not Azerbaijan who started the firing on 27th of September. So far, no official representative from any country actually raise this issue in front of us. It was Armenia who launched an attack on the 27th of September. And the purpose was to disrupt completely the negotiation process. They did more or less the same on July, when they attacked our forces on the state border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. They were suffering the bitter defeat. Then they sent a sabotage group on August, to penetrate through our military positions, and to attack our civilians and military personnel. So, on 27th of September they started artillery bombardment from the heavy artillery weapons. And in the first hours of the attack we had victims among civilians and military servicemen. So far, we have 63 victims among civilians and almost 300 hundred of them wounded. So, it was Armenia. We just had to defend ourselves and to respond. And our response was very adequate and as a result of that we managed to liberate important part of the occupied territories.

-But regardless of who shot the first shot, there was fighting basically right away on both sides. In that period and in the follow up you said in fact that you would want to remove all Armenian forces from this area and that would only be the answer that could resolve this crisis. And in the months leading up to this September 27th day there was much talk of war and action in Azerbaijan. You have to admit you were looking for war.

-What I was saying was in line with the United Nations Security Council resolutions. Back in 1993 Security Council resolutions adopted by United Nations clearly demanded from Armenia complete, unconditional and immediate withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, during 27 years, these resolutions were not implemented. So, when I was saying that we want Armenian troops out of internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan, I am right from legal point of view and what I say is in line with Security Council resolutions Of United Nations. **We were talking...**

-Mr president, there is legal, and there is reality on the ground. Reality on the ground in Nagorno-Karabakh and the region is that now after all the trouble that you went through back in 80s and the 90s are principally Armenian population. If you went in there you have to again remove Armenians and bring Azerbaijanis back, yet another displacement. There is a diplomatic plan on the table, to keep Nagorno-Karabakh independent, for Armenia to give back seven of the areas around it. Does diplomacy did and does diplomacy make no sense to you?

-What you said about diplomatic solution is not correct. Because there is no plan presented to us from the mediators, United States, Russia and France, to give Nagorno-Karabakh independence. Not at all. In the peaceful plan, there is a proposal...

-Autonomy.

-No, no. Not at all. In the peaceful plan, there is a proposal, there is a point that all the occupied territories surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh, the territories which have been inhabited by Azerbaijanis and more than 700 thousand Azerbaijanis were ethnically cleansed from those territories-these territories must be returned to Azerbaijan. And the reality is on the ground you are talking about is the realities as a result of aggressive separatism from Armenia and ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis. All Azerbaijanis have been expelled from Nagorno-Karabakh, there have been 40 thousand of them before the war. All Azerbaijanis have been expelled from 7 regions surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh with 700 thousand. My point is...

-Mr president, in 1994 you lost the war. Now in 2020 you want to restart the war to win the war.

-We did not lose the war, we lost the battle. That was due to objective reasons. First, there was an internal instability in Azerbaijan. Armenia took advantage of that.

-My point is that why in 2020 you want to restart the war? I mean, it has been calm for 20 years.

-And second, that was due to open external support to Armenia. We did not start the war, we just responded and we do it based on the United Nations Charter. United Nations charter provides the right of every country for self-defense. What we are doing? We are defending ourselves, and

we are liberating internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan from Armenian occupation. Nothing more than that. And with respect to Armenian people I have said many times that Armenian people who live in Nagorno-Karabakh are our citizens. We will take care of them. They will live in dignity, in peace, side by side with Azerbaijanis who will return there.

-Mr president, why are you resisting calls from the UN as you mentioned Russia, Iran the United States, the EU, NATO, why are you resisting calls for a ceasefire? And in fact, breaking to the terms to create a ceasefire. And I know today, that's what Secretary of State Pompeo will be asking for a ceasefire to exchange bodies, to exchange the wounded. Isn't this a good time for a ceasefire?

-We were ready for a ceasefire and on the 10th of October, in Moscow, our foreign minister, Armenian foreign minister and Russian foreign minister issued a joint declaration about the ceasefire. But the next day, the next day, Armenians from the territory of Armenia launched an attack on the second largest city of Azerbaijan-Ganja, situated far away from the area of clashes with ballistic missiles killing 10 civilians and wounding more than 30. Then, there was a second ballistic attack on Ganja, killing 15 people. So it was Armenia...

-But you violated ceasefire as well.

-No, we just responded, because we agreed about ceasefire two times, the first time Armenians at night, at 1 am at night, launched a ballistic missile on a sleeping city. Second time, ceasefire lasted only for two minutes and Armenia violated it. There are no evidence that Azerbaijan violated the ceasefire.

-But let me put it this way, if Secretary of State Pompeo today puts it to your foreign minister, the US really wants a ceasefire another try. Will you give it another try?

-Yes, we are ready. I said many times publicly. We are ready to agree on ceasefire today, but at the same time Armenia, its prime minister should say that they are committed to the basic principles elaborated by the United States, Russia and France. Armenian prime minister two days ago said that there is no diplomatic solution to the conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh.

-So, this has got strings attached. Is there a ceasefire with no strings attached.

-We want a ceasefire, we want our territories back. Armenia should commit that they will liberate the territories. According to the United Nations Security Council resolutions and according to the peace plan presented by US, France and Russia. But he does not say this.

-Mr president, how do you respond to charges that your military is inordinately targeting civilian areas, homes, residences, stores even a very important church has been hit by your high tech weaponry. Thousands others have been killed or injured just in the past four weeks.

-We do not attack civilians. After Armenian brutal attack, an act of terror against the city of Ganja with ballistic missiles where dozens of people have been killed, we publicly said that we will take revenge but on the battlefield. We do not attack civilians, we do not attack religious sights. What happened to the church in Shusha was either a mistake, and I already publicly commented on that, or it was done by Armenians themselves in order to put a blame on us.

-Again, Mr. president, we are seeing video scenes of the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, all the population there has to live in basements. They are hearing artillery every twenty minutes. Their city where civilians are living is wrecked. You can't call the entire city a military target.

-There have been military targets in the capital of the so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh republic" Khankandi and our attacks there were only before 9th of October. We didn't attack any civilians or cities, in the Nagorno-Karabakh after that, but they attacked. Have you seen the images of what they have done to Ganja? What they done

-Were you targeting civilians from September 27 to October 19?

-No, no, no. we were targeting military infrastructure in the so-called "capital of Nagorno Karabakh" Khankandi, because

military basis, military infrastructure is situated in the city.

-You have drones from Turkey, you have military gear from Israel, you have high-tech equipment from Russia. How can you use that and not also hit civilians?

-No, no. Our drones and these images, a lot of them are on the internet. You can look, how our drones destroy Armenian tanks and other weapons. So far, our drones destroyed more than 230 tanks. We destroyed 6 S-300 anti-air missile system. We destroyed hundreds of their armed vehicles. We do not use drones for civilians this is false information.

-Let's talk about the soldiers, the troops that are in action. From multiple sources, from France, from Russia from independent respected journalists at the New-York Times for example, they absolutely assert that Syrians, militias gathered and transported by Turkey in a hundreds are now fighting your war. Why do you have Turkish backed Syrian militias fighting your war in Azerbaijan?

-This is another fake news. I regret that Russia and France, the only countries by the way, which publicly commented on that made such an irresponsible statement. And I demanded and still demand proofs, evidences. It is more than 20 days after the war has started again. So far, not a single evidence or proof was presented to us neither by Russia nor from France.

-The evidence was in the New-York Times. I direct you to the story five days ago that says that 57 Syrian fighters killed in Azerbaijan, were brought back across the border from Turkey and buried in Syria. Their families all attest that they went to Azerbaijan, to fight alongside your army.

-Do you know do you remember how President Trump calls New-York times? Fake news. This is fake news. No evidence, no proof. Give us evidence not only New-York Times.

-I'm just curious, you have a 100 thousand soldiers. Why do you need some scrappy mercenaries?

-Yes. Exactly. We don't need them.

-That's a good question. Why?

-We don't need them. That was what I was talking about. A 100 thousand soldiers in the regular army, plus maybe couple or three times more soldiers we can recruit within couple of days plus more than equipment. We don't need any mercenaries at all. This is fake news, just in order to damage the image of our country, and in order to diminish the bravery of our soldiers on the battlefield.

-Mr president, let's get back to the timing of this. Why we are seeing military action now? Why we are seeing clashes? Critics of your government, of your presidency say that you are using this war as a smokescreen to deflect the tension from problems in your own country, social issues, economic stagnation, corruption, COVID-19. Are you using this just to overattention in a public maybe dissatisfied on a lot of different accounts towards the patriotic battle.

-No, no. This is absolutely wrong. First, our economic performance is one of the best in the world. Economic decline in Azerbaijan in the ten months is less than 4 percent. You can compare it with your own country, or with European countries. Level of unemployment in Azerbaijan is 7 percent, compare it with your own country. Level of poverty in Azerbaijan is five percent, compare it again. We don't have serious social problems. On COVID-19, Azerbaijan is considered as an example by World Health Organization. We provided support to more than 30 countries, financial support, humanitarian support. Our economy is stable. Our economy is sustainable. And there was no need as you say to launch the war in order to cover some of internal problems. It was on the other side, Armenia which is completely now in economic and social problems. They need to distract attention. It is Armenian prime minister who puts leading opposition party leader to jail. He is pursuing two former presidents.

-We know that there are some accusations of human rights abuses with your own government and suppression of freedom of speech and specifically talking about the corruption and the family rule of both your government and many of the corporate structures. So this is not to pull the attention of your public or some members of your public away from those considered misdeeds by some people.

-No, no, no. Corruption is here and we are fighting against it. We have introduced a broad economic reforms program. Many people, many governmental officials and high ranking officials have been arrested recently for charges of corruption. Corruption is everywhere and we are fighting against it. With respect to the family rule, again, I would like to refer you to your own country, where important positions were held by father and son. Just Bush family, Clinton family, husband and wife, Kennedy family, and in many other countries. So, it's nothing different from what is happening in the United States.

-They were all elected democratically and transparently.

-Yes, especially President Bush who was elected by the decision of the US Supreme Court.

-You know the American politics Mr President.

-I know yes. I am well prepared for that.

-Let's go to the United States now. What would you like to see today and in the future Secretary of State Pompeo do? There has been some criticism of Secretary Pompeo and the US that they haven't been enough engaged. I know, Russia is quite involved, Turkey in various ways involved, even Iran is offering help. What would you like? Has the US done enough would you like to see the US do more? What would you like Washington to do?

-I think that the US as one of the three co-chairs of the Minsk group has a mandate from OSCE to help parties to come to an agreement. And agreement must be based on international law it should not be based on what I want or what Armenian prime minister wants. It should be based on international law. Nagorno-Karabakh is recognized by the United States and all other countries as integral part of Azerbaijan. So what I can expect from Secretary Pompeo first? To tell prime minister Pashinyan's envoy that statements like "there is no diplomatic solution" is wrong and dangerous. Second, statements by Armenian prime minister that "Karabakh is Armenia" is dangerous and wrong and they should be reasonable. They should give us a timetable for withdrawal from the occupied territories. They should agree for peaceful coexistence between the Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. And they should stop trying to internationalize the conflict. They should stop asking Russia for direct military involvement. This is counter-productive. All the efforts of Armenian prime minister during these times is to ask Russia to send troops to fight against Azerbaijan. And this is very dangerous.

-What's your deadpoint, I mean another criticism of Secretary of State Pompeo, and he directly says, and certainly, the US and Turkey has as many areas of commonality but he says Turkey's assistance of your effort is actually causing problems, it's fueling the flames. How do you react to that?

-Turkey provides political support to Azerbaijan. It is our closest ally and friend. And we are proud and happy that we have such a great country as our partner. Every country has a right to have friends and allies. Armenia has its allies.

-Turkey has been pushing for war. Turkey says there is a military way to go.

-No, not at all. Not at all. Not a single evidence about that. Turkey only provides political support and this is enough, because when Turkey says that they stand side by side with Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijan is not alone, this is a message to all those who want to penetrate and provide their interests with respect to the conflict.

-You did offered an important line when we were speaking just a short while ago. You said in our discussions in your discussions with the Secretary of State Pompeo that there is a diplomatic solution. Do you believe there is a diplomatic solution to this crisis?

-Yes, I believe, otherwise I wouldn't have been in the negotiations for 17 years. You were trying to say that I launched the war. But if I launched the war why should I wait for 17 years? Azerbaijani army is well-prepared already for at least ten years already. Therefore, the diplomatic solution is on the table. Armenia must liberate territories surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijanis must return to those territories and then live in peace and dignity with Armenians. That's our position.

-So, you are saying diplomatic solution but with a military overlay.

-I said that I wish the military solutions stop today and we move on negotiation table. This military factor is causing a lot of damage and a lot of victims, unfortunately. Therefore, the sooner we start substantive negotiations, not imitation like Armenia wanted to do all these years but substantive negotiations, the sooner the resolution will be found. And if resolution is based on territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

-The worry of some outside of your country, outside of your region and perhaps what should be the worries of yours as well is that this contained conflict becomes a wider regional problem. You have Turkey, with a real interest, you have Russia with a real interest, you have Iran with a real interest. Are you risking your own standing as a country of stature, both economic and politically get lost in some kind of a regional maelstrom that you could have a part in starting?

-All our efforts during the conflict aimed to stop active phase as soon as possible. And we are completely against any form of internationalization of the conflict so that conflict spread over. That's what Armenia wants to do. And as I said, they asked Russia to send military personnel to the area of conflict which is absolutely counterproductive, and which is completely in violation of international law. We don't want other countries to interfere.

-Well, there are Russian bases in Armenia already.

-Exactly, in Armenia, yes.

-They are not illegal.

-Yes, it is in Armenia but not in Nagorno-Karabakh. What they are asking Russians is to send troops to Nagorno-Karabakh and we know about that. Therefore, our position is all the regional countries, and all the countries should stay away from direct involvement in the conflict. Those who want to help and those who have a mandate, OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs must persuade Armenia. I hope it will happen today in Washington, to stop aggression, to commit to ceasefire, and to make commitment that they will leave the territories. They don't do it.

-There was an expression during the Gulf War that it was all about the oil, okay? You got oil pipelines, energy pipelines, within, I don't know, 50-60 miles of the fighting. Are you concerned that your very important energy pipelines and connections could be disrupted by fighting one side or another? And in fact maybe that is helping to drive your military to conduct this war.

-Actually, we are concerned because we heard the statements from high-ranking Armenian officials that they will attack our strategic oil infrastructure, including pipelines and one of the biggest oil and gas terminal in Sangachal district of Baku. And the July clashes where Armenia attacked us, took place 15 kilometers from the gas pipeline which is supposed to provide energy security to Europe. So, it was Armenian plans to disrupt oil and gas supplies from Azerbaijan to Europe and to the world.

-So, were part of motivational what you're doing right now is to defend your economic interest against any threat like that?

-No, we are defending ourselves. You know, our oil pipeline from Baku to Mediterranean was commissioned in 2006 and it works without any disruption. Our gas pipeline from Azerbaijan to Turkey was commissioned in 2007. A big pipeline to connect Azerbaijan with European consumers is going to be opened in a couple of months probably, maybe even less. Therefore, why should we launch a war in order to protect the pipeline when the pipeline is already protected. It is Armenia which wants to disrupt the pipeline and to make economic damage to Azerbaijan.

-Are you satisfied with what President Trump and his administration has been saying about the conflict? He has been critical of Turkey. But frankly, he has been critical of both sides. He is outweighing very large Armenian diaspora in the United States. So there are political elements in this too. Do you think the United States is handling its role well?

-I think what President Trump does with respect to the conflict resolution is fully in line with international relations. We fully support his position, his personal comments on that. And we see that the position of the United States is balanced and as it should be, because United States is a mediator. President Trump's comments on criticism on Turkey, I did not see it, by the way, in the press. But his comments were constructive. The United States does not take sides as other co-chairs should also don't take sides. We understand internal politics not only in America, but also, in France and Russia. With a very large Armenian community which influences which has a lot of lobbying activity and which is now in full operation against Azerbaijan. And we understand the level of pressure which they can impose. But at the same time, very straight forward position of President Trump is highly supported here in Azerbaijan not only by me, but also our people.

-Mr president, you know politics. And I bet you know American politics too. We are ten days away from a major presidential election, in figuring out this move towards diplomacy in Washington. Do you think the idea of maybe a diplomatic success might be figuring in the minds of my Washington politicians and having said that do you find that's okay any motivation to get things going?

-Any motivation in order to put an end to the hostility is supported by us. And I think that today's meeting in Washington can have a very good result only if Armenia will commit to peaceful settlement, will stop attacking us and will make commitment that they will withdraw the troops.

-Do you think it is driven by US presidential politics this diplomatic effort today?

-Well, I don't know, I think that the American voters will make the vote based on their approach and their assumption of what is the best for America. I don't think that Karabakh conflict is something which American people are concerned about. Maybe most of them even do not know. But of course, America as a superpower has a very important say in this conflict resolution. And our position is that America as a mediator should continue to be neutral, and should try again and more and more to bring both sides closer to the common decision.

-But let me pick up on that point as we conclude this in the next two minutes. Why should the United States care? I think you probably are right. Most Americans could not find Nagorno-Karabakh on a map. But there were strategic issues you are dealing with, political, cultural, demographic. If you were talking to the United States people now, and said excuse me, I know you have got the presidential. I know you have got the world series

baseball, but you should pay attention to this too. What would you tell a typical American. Why it is important for us to care and look at this?

-I would say that Azerbaijan has always been a very true partner to the United States. We are together on the fight against international terrorism, we are together in Afghanistan and we keep our military servicemen in Afghanistan, thus, providing the cause of our peacekeeping operations. We have an important topic on our agenda of energy security. The United States has always strongly supported Azerbaijan's efforts to diversify its energy supply routes. And with a strong support of the United States we managed to complete important projects. Azerbaijan and the United States have a very strong partnership relations. And the United States considers Azerbaijan as a friend. And we are really friends. Therefore, it is in the interests of the United States that there is peace here. Azerbaijan continues its path on the route of independence, strengthening the independence. We are situated just between Europe and Asia, on the crossroads of transportation, energy. Our political importance is growing. Therefore, Azerbaijan is an important partner to the United States and the United States to Azerbaijan.

-So, stability in your country, in your region, politically, economically et cetera could be good for us as well 3000-5000 miles away.

-Yes. America is a superpower. The distance does not make any difference. And I think that the modern, secular, friendly Muslim country is also a big asset for our friends. And the United States from the very first years of independence, always supported Azerbaijan. Today I can tell you we have maybe the highest ever level of our bilateral cooperation and we hope that today's meeting in Washington will be important to persuade Armenia to stop aggression, stop occupation and then peace will come to our land.

-There is a lot of support for Armenia as you know that earlier in the interview in the United States.

-Yes.

-The support for the Christian religion there, for the church is there. For the diaspora the punishment that they incurred many years ago by Turkey. So, you know that there is a warm emotional feeling towards Armenians as well in the United States

-Yes, I know that, I said before that we understand the internal politics, and the Armenian lobby organization. But when we look at the issues related to international relations, there must be principles. Emotions, feelings, some other expression of good will is different. It can be in the family, it can be at the dinner. But in international relations, there is an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan, which is occupied by Armenia. So, the occupation must come to an end. And those Armenians who live in America, who live in France, who live in Russia, the rich people don't care about those Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. How they live in poverty.

-They will probably disagree with you on that one. But okay. Two final questions. Back to presidential politics. Former vice president Joe Biden might be the president-elect in ten days time. Have you ever had any contact with him maybe in his vice-presidential role? And how do you take a Biden administration would deal with this conflict right there in your region?

-Yes, I met with vice-president Biden four years ago in Washington at the Nuclear Summit which was organized by President Obama. I had bilateral meeting with Mr. Biden and I saw that he was deeply involved in regional issues. We discussed many issues of our bilateral relations, of course, including Nagorno-Karabakh settlement. I can tell you that Obama's administration was very active on the Nagorno-Karabakh track. Therefore, Mr. Biden and I am sure the people who support him there are well aware about that. So, I have very good memory of our meeting with him.

-Do you think he will be favorable to your position? Will he be favorable to Armenia? Well, he probably will talk against war. I mean he probably will also push for a ceasefire, push for a diplomacy. Do you think that would be an okay approach?

-I think, taking into account what we have just discussed, the Armenian lobbying organizations in America, in France and Russia, for Azerbaijan the most favorable situation will be that the leaders of these three countries stay neutral on the conflict and don't take sides. Actually, that's what their mandate dictates them. If they take sides, they cannot be mediators. And we expect from the US foreign policy team in the future also, to be neutral, and to be objective.

-Finally Mr. President, your prediction for the future. I mean your region, your country, Armenia. Such horror late 80s and early 90s. Tens of thousands of people were killed. What are we looking now? Tens of thousands of people more killed? More destructions? How do you see this going forward?

-It is difficult to predict now what will happen. It not only depends on us, because the war is not held by one country. It is not a unilateral process. But how I want to see the region I can tell you. I want the region of the Southern Caucasus to be deeply integrated. I want that the strategic relations which we have with another South Caucasian country, Georgia, can be to certain degree a model of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia once in the future. Because all wars stop and peace comes. We know how...

-You think there can be a peaceful resolution of this conflict?

-Definitely.

-Fine, a diplomatic answer.

-I am absolutely confident. But it depends on the will from Armenian side. What happened after the second World War? Germany and the United States were killing each other. Soviet Union and Germany were killing each other. Tens of millions were killed. But look now. It is not any longer in the memory. It is not provoking hostility. Why Armenians and Azerbaijanis cannot live together in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, while they live together in Georgia, in Russia, in Ukraine, in many other countries? I think that the Southern Caucasus...

-Can be peace at the same time recognizing the rights of both sides?

-Yes, exactly. It must be based on the reasonable background, within the framework of territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, with full protection of rights and concerns of Armenian population of Azerbaijan. That's I think, that is doable.

-Mr president, thank you very much for this lengthy interview and I am sure, we will inform not just me, but our American public.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani troops control operational conditions

[11:05] 25.10.2020

“During the day on October 24 and on the night of October 25, the combat operations continued with varying intensity in the Aghdara, Khojavand, Fuzuli, Hadrut, Gubadli and Lachin directions of the front. The enemy fired at our troops using small arms, tanks, mortars, and gun-howitzers,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

The ministry said: “The units of the Azerbaijan Army, continuing combat operations in the main directions in accordance with the operational plan, expanded the territories taken under control.

The Troops of the Azerbaijan Army, inflicting serious fire damage on the enemy in the territories of Khojavand, Gubadli and Lachin districts, has weakened his resistance and moved to new positions in various directions.

As a result of shelling by units of the Azerbaijan Army of units of the Armenian armed forces located in the Aghdara and Khojavand directions, the enemy suffered heavy losses in manpower. It became known that the enemy is facing a shortage of ammunition, and his artillery pieces were disabled.”

“The units of the 1st battalion of the 543rd regiment of the Armenian armed forces transferred to Gubadli retreated, suffering losses in manpower and military equipment.

As a result of the fire strike of our units, most of the reservists brought from Tsakhkadzor village of Kotayk region of Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh were destroyed.

As a result of the actions taken by the Azerbaijan Army, a large number of enemy’s military personnel, 2 tanks, 2 infantry fighting vehicles, 4 D-30 gun-howitzers, 1 2A36 « Giatsint-B» field gun, 7 auto vehicles were destroyed and disabled in various directions of the front.

Currently, battles are being continued along the entire length of the front. Our troops control the operational situation,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Oktober-24

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's combat equipment was destroyed

[23:10] 24.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has released video footages reflecting the destruction of enemy's combat equipment.

AZERTAC presents the video.

AZERTAC

Armenian leadership involves children in battles

[23:03] 24.10.2020

The problem of shortage of soldiers and officers has reached its peak in the Armenian army.

AZERTAC reports that the Armenian army, which was defeated by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, suffered heavy losses, and hundreds of servicemen fled, laying down their arms. The Armenian leadership, which could not find anyone to send to the front line, started to involve the battles children, along with elderly and women.

Video footage disseminated depicting the forced participation of minors and teenagers in the war in Armenia.

As it is seen from the footage, a teenage Armenian is taking part in the war against Azerbaijan. By doing so, the Armenian leadership is clearly violating international law, the requirements of the UN, UNICEF, the Paris Convention on the Rights of the Child.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: International organizations informed about
Armenia`s direct participation in the conflict**

[20:19] 24.10.2020

On October 24, Chief of the International Military Cooperation Department of Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense, Major General Huseyn Mahmudov gave another briefing for foreign military attachés and representatives of the international organizations accredited to the country.

During the briefing, the military attachés and representatives of the international organizations were informed about Armenian direct participation in the conflict, missile attacks to Gubadli and Lachin districts of Azerbaijan from Gorus and Gafan districts of Armenia, also deliberately continued shelling from the occupied Aghdara district to Goranboy, Naftalan and Tartar districts using multi-launch rocket systems, as well as gross violation of the humanitarian ceasefire regime.

AZERTAC

Press Council of Azerbaijan appeals to leading media outlets and international organisations on insults and threats French TV Channel TF1 received from local Armenian lobby

[20:03] 24.10.2020

The Press Council of Azerbaijan has made an appeal to leading media outlets, human rights associations and international organisations informing them about the insults and threats the French TV Channel TF1 received from the local Armenian lobby.

AZERTAC presents the appeal.

It is very important to convey to the world community the truth about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which entered the stage of active military operations on September 27, 2020. This is also of exceptional significance both in terms of increasing the awareness of the just position of the Azerbaijani people and enabling the world at large to form an objective view of the Karabakh issue in general.

Azerbaijan, with the 20 percent of its territory occupied by Armenia, has more than 1 million refugees and IDPs. They are our citizens, who were forced to leave their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh, and the seven adjacent regions. You can't imagine what it means for a person not to be able to go to the land where he was born, grew up and lived for 30 years. Our people's lives have been marred with these deprivations.

Unfortunately, the world community has been indifferent to the realities referred to above for the past 30 years. This is a sign of indifference to the fate of 1 million Azerbaijanis. In the current context of intensified military operations, a number of Western media outlets are again unfair and biased towards the realities of Karabakh. In the meantime, we also see and appreciate the hard work of those who have so far done their job diligently. This is the reason substantiating our sympathy for the French TF1 TV channel.

Ms Liseron Boudoul, an employee of the TV channel in question, did her job professionally by drawing attention to the current situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict; she has been to Ganja, Tartar and other regions where civilian people were subjected to indiscriminate missile attacks. The material, Ms Boudoul prepared, was broadcast on TF1. Unfortunately, after the channel in question broadcast her report, members of the Armenian lobby in France began to put pressure on TF1 and Liseron Boudoul. Their blatant insults and death threats reached such a level that the TV channel was forced to delete the material from its system.

As the Press Council of Azerbaijan, we are outraged by the unthinkable crackdown on freedom of speech, which is an important indicator of democracy in a country with universal traditions, such as France, and strongly condemn the fact. Please be assured that this is a firm position held by the whole Azerbaijani media.

We consider the unacceptable behavior of the Armenian lobby as a serious threat to Western values in general. This threat is also a very negative precedent for the Continent, and, if not prevented, could lead to more serious consequences. One may assume that it is possible that any objective, impartial and incisive coverage of Azerbaijan and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be met with indignation by the Armenian lobby. Just imagine such a situation for a moment; what

one would see is a terrible picture in which the freedom of speech and expression is threatened. We would like you to reflect upon what you see and ensure the implementation of preventive measures.

The pressure, to which TF1 has been subjected, is a threat to the rule of law, not only in France, but in Europe as a whole. This threat could make this type of disregard for higher values such as freedom of speech and expression, pressure on the media and journalists, and intimidation, the norm. We would like you to take this into account. We, Azerbaijani journalists, call on you, leading media outlets, human rights associations and international organisations, to protest the treatment that Liseron Boudoul received from the Armenian lobby.

We call on the French authorities to take serious control of the situation with regard to TF1. We hope by appreciating the extent of the danger, the French government will protect Liseron Boudoul. We would like TF1 to be protected by the French government in the same fashion as the satirical magazine, Charlie Hebdo, which was once under pressure for the cartoons about Prophet Muhammad. We once again call on you to be sensitive to the issue that we brought to your attention in connection with TF1, not to remain silent about open threats to freedom of speech and expression, and to take a serious position on the issue. We are confident that you will show a principled approach.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan Air Force destroys military equipment and infrastructure of Armenia

[19:32] 24.10.2020

On October 24, starting from 13:00 to 15:00, the combat aviation of the Azerbaijan Air Force destroyed 3 tanks, 2 shelters and 4 strongholds of the Armenian armed forces in the Aghdara and Aghdam directions of the front, the Ministry of Defense said.

“The Azerbaijan Air Force continues to inflict airstrikes on the enemy's military infrastructure,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy attempts to attack our units were suppressed

[19:03] 24.10.2020

At noon on October 24, units of the armed forces of Armenia attempted to attack the units of the Azerbaijan Army from the side of the Sunik-Zangilan road, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The enemy facing fierce resistance from our units was forced to retreat. There are prisoners captured from enemy forces,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Ministry of Defense: Azerbaijani soldier acts within framework of norms of international law

[18:08] 24.10.2020

“Armenia, using all means and resources, attempts to attack our country in the information environment after the Azerbaijan Army has begun a counter-offensive operation. Thereby, the enemy spreading information, videos, and photographs that do not reflect reality, is trying to form a negative opinion about Azerbaijan in the international arena,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The fake videos and photos demonstrate an alleged cruel treatment of Armenian prisoners and corpses by Azerbaijani soldiers that stepping out of the norms established by international law.

We declare that, unlike the Armenian armed forces, the Azerbaijan Army treats prisoners of war, wounded servicemen of the enemy, civilians, including corpses, in accordance with the requirements of the Geneva Conventions and the protocols attached to them, as well as shows mercy and respect.

The behavior of the Azerbaijani soldier is based on the idea of respect for human being individuals and his dignity, and, unlike the Armenian military, our servicemen distinguish peaceful population, civilian and military facilities during a combat operation,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Military Command of Azerbaijan: Civilian population living in occupied territories is advised to stay away from military facilities

[17:51] 24.10.2020

The Azerbaijan Military Command, once again addressing the civilian population living in residential settlements located close to the combat operations zone recommends staying away from military facilities and infrastructure in order to avoid injury.

“At the same time, the Azerbaijan Military Command, appealing to the soldiers and volunteers who deceived by the military-political leadership of Armenia and taken to the occupied territories of our country, offered to lay down their arms and surrender.

It should be pointed out that the command is ready to take all the necessary measures to ensure the security, food, medical care and other needs of the civilian population crossed to the Azerbaijani side.

In addition, all the rights of prisoners of war and civilians will be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law, and through international organizations, the necessary conditions will be created for persons wishing to move to third countries,” the Military Command of Azerbaijan said.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyeu: Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism and war crimes at a state level against Azerbaijani civilians, in particular against children and adolescents

[17:32] 24.10.2020

“Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism and war crimes at a state level against Azerbaijani civilians, in particular against children and adolescents, said Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyeu.

Hikmat Hajiyeu said: “According to the report of the Prosecutor General’s Office, as a result of shelling of Tartar district and its villages with Smerch missiles, Orkhan Rahbar Ismayilzade, born in 2004, was killed.

Born in 2007, citizen of the Russian Federation, Mayakov Artur Vladimirovich who was seriously injured as a result of SCUD missile fire at the residential settlements of Ganja city on October 17, died in the hospital where he was treated, despite the doctors’ efforts. Mayakov Artur Vladimirovich was visiting his aunt when the incident occurred.

“He will be buried in accordance with Orthodox Christian traditions with the support of the Ganja City Executive Authority and the Alexander Nevsky Russian Orthodox Church in Ganja. The Embassy of the Russian Federation in Azerbaijan has been informed on the issue through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.”

“The Armenian armed forces are currently continuing to shell Azerbaijani cities located on the frontline with heavy artillery and other weapons.

Unlike Armenia, Azerbaijan does not target civilians and civilian facilities. Azerbaijan takes into account the requirements of international humanitarian law, such as military necessity, legitimate military targets, and proportionality of retaliatory measures. As also noted by foreign journalists in Khankandi, the Armenian side uses tactics belonging to terrorists by placing firing points inside and near civilian facilities. We call on civilians living in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan to stay away from military facilities. As stated by the victorious Commander-in-Chief, President Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan has nothing to do with the Armenian civilians. We are ready to provide all humanitarian aid and support to civilians and servicemen who want to cross to the Azerbaijani side. Armenia’s political-military leadership bears full responsibility for the war crimes and military adventure committed against civilians,” the presidential assistant added.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Artillery units of the Azerbaijan Army continue to inflict crushing blows on the enemy

[17:11] 24.10.2020

The artillery units of the Azerbaijan Army continue to inflict crushing blows on the enemy, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC presents a video clip reflecting the artillery units' precise and crushing blows on the enemy.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani President: If Armenia doesn't stop, we will go until the end to liberate all the occupied territories

[16:45] 24.10.2020

“We are ready to stop today. I was telling that since the 10th of October, when in Moscow both sides agreed on ceasefire. And I said: “the sooner the military part of the solution of the problem is over the better,” said President Ilham Aliyev in his interview with the French Le Figaro newspaper.

“We want to move on negotiation table. But unfortunately, Armenia brutally violated ceasefire and launched an attack on Ganja. And on the 17th of October they violated ceasefire two minutes after ceasefire was efficient. Therefore, if they stop today we will stop and then, the rest will be done by diplomats. If they do not stop, we will go until the end to liberate all the occupied territories. If they stop now and behave in a constructive way, if they publicly commit to the basic principles elaborated by France, Russia and the United States which Azerbaijan is committed to, then, of course everything will stop and we will go back on negotiation table,” the head of state said.

“After Pashinyan came to power, he actually did everything in order to destroy negotiation process not only by his statements, but by his military provocations. And since he came to power for already two years or more, there is no process. Therefore, I think the political settlement is possible. But Armenian government should understand that they are not now in a position to dictate, because status quo no more exists, line of contact no more exists. We created a new reality on the ground. And they have to take that into account,” the Azerbaijani President emphasized.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan shoots down Armenian UAV

[16:37] 24.10.2020

On October 24, at about 15:25, the Azerbaijan Air Defense units destroyed an unmanned aerial vehicle of the Armenian armed forces attempted to carry out a flight in the direction of Aghdara district.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan shoots down Armenia's combat aircraft

[16:13] 24.10.2020

On October 24, in the afternoon, the Azerbaijan Air Defence units shot down a combat aircraft of the Armenian air force in the Gubadli direction of the front, the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Lachin, Gubadli districts are under rocket and artillery fire from territory of Armenia

[14:40] 24.10.2020

Armenia has resorted to another provocation to suppress the operations conducted by units of the Azerbaijan Army in Lachin and Gubadli directions, the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“At present, the enemy's missile and artillery pieces which occupied battle positions in Gorus and Gafan districts of Armenia, the places near the state border are intensively firing on the territories of Lachin and Gubadli districts.

The aim of the enemy is to provoke the Azerbaijan Army to open fire on the territory of Armenia,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: As a result of rocket fire by Armenian army on Tartar district, 16-year-old resident killed

[14:23] 24.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces continue to commit war crimes against our civilian population in gross violation of the requirements of the declared humanitarian ceasefire,” the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“Starting from the morning of 24 October, the Goranboy and Tartar districts came under intensive fire by the Armenian armed forces with missiles and heavy artillery from different directions.

Today at around 10:00, as a result of a rocket fire by the Armenian armed forces on Kabirli village of Tartar district Ismayilzade Orkhan Rahbar, born in 2004, was killed.

Besides, as a result of artillery shells falling on Tapgaragoyunlu village of Goranboy district at about 09:00 today, the houses of Yagubov Gafgaz Bahman and Shirinov Baylar Zahid were severely damaged.

Also, Mayakov Artur Vladimirovich, a citizen of the Russian Federation, born in 2007 who was injured in a rocket attack on Ganja, died today in the hospital.

All possible investigative measures are being taken by employees of the Prosecutor General's Office.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army neutralizes Armenia`s UAV

[13:45] 24.10.2020

“In the afternoon of October 23, a BZEZ unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) belonging to the Armenian armed forces was detected by our units and landed on the ground by electronic warfare assets,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Enemy shells Azerbaijani territories in Goranboy-Naftalan direction

[13:31] 24.10.2020

The Armenian Armed Forces are firing on Azerbaijani territories in the Goranboy-Naftalan direction, the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

**Armenian army shells Azerbaijani residential settlements using multiple launch
rocket systems**

[13:30] 24.10.2020

The Armenian armed forces from the Aghdara direction are subjecting the territory of Naftalan and Tartar districts to rocket fire using multiple launch rocket systems, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Gubadli district is under artillery fire from the territory of Armenia

[12:52] 24.10.2020

The enemy, who lost combat positions and was forced to retreat, subjects the territory of Gubadli district of Azerbaijan to artillery fire from the direction of the Gorus region of Armenia, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the Armenian side aims to provoke the Azerbaijani Army to retaliate.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of enemy's military equipment destroyed at night

[11:58] 24.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has released video footages of the enemy's military equipment destroyed at night.

Citing the ministry, AZERTAC presents the video footages.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Main communication lines were taken under control and important heights were liberated

[11:24] 24.10.2020

“During the day on October 23 and on the night of October 24, the combat operations continued with varying intensity in the Aghdara, Khojavand, Fuzuli, Hadrut, and Gubadli directions. The enemy fired at our defensive positions using small arms, mortars, and gun-howitzers,” Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, units of the Azerbaijan Army continued combat operations in certain directions of the front in accordance with the operational plan.

Armenian armed forces’ units, which could not resist in the Khojavand, Fuzuli, and Gubadli directions of the front, have been inflicted by the fire strike. The enemy's depots of weapons, ammunition, and fuel were disabled. In some directions, the enemy disorderly left positions and retreated. The main communication lines were taken under control, several enemy strongholds were destroyed and important high grounds were liberated.

“Currently, combat operations are being continued along the entire length of the front. Our troops control the operational situation,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev gave interview to French Le Figaro newspaper

[10:00] 24.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has given an interview to the French Le Figaro newspaper.

AZERTAC presents the interview.

-My first question would be Mr. President, why did you launch an offensive on September 27 against Nagorno-Karabakh? What are the political objectives of this military attack?

-We did not launch military attack on Nagorno-Karabakh on September 27th. It was Armenia who launched a military attack on Azerbaijan, and in the first hours of this military attack we had victims, among civilians and among our military servicemen. This was the 3rd military provocation by Armenia against Azerbaijan, within 3 months. First, they attacked us on the state border between Armenia and Azerbaijan, far away from the Karabakh region. And by unanimous opinion of international observers it was Armenia who launched an attack on us. They wanted to occupy new territories. they wanted to take control over the strategic energy infrastructure which situated several kilometres from our state border with Armenia. As you probably know, Trans Adriatic Pipeline is almost completed. And the Southern Gas Corridor project is not only a project of energy security of Azerbaijan but also of Europe. We think that one of the goals of Armenia was to take control of that pipelines and to blackmail us, and maybe European consumers. They got a serious response. We pushed them back. But unfortunately, next month, in August, they send the sabotage group, which planned to commit acts of terror against Azerbaijanis. The head of the sabotage group was detected by our military people, military servicemen, and he gives evidence. So, it is a deliberate attempt to disrupt negotiations and to attack Azerbaijan. As far as political goals of Armenia, which they pursued launching the attack, was to keep the status quo unchanged, to put the blame for this escalation on us, to disrupt negotiations completely, and to involve third countries and to internationalize the conflict. We only gave them adequate response, as a result of that we liberated and continue to liberate part of the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan.

-Azerbaijan has the mission to be a hub not only on energy pipelines but also on internet, fiberglass cables. And there is Azerbaijani company called Neqsol who want to be the connection between Europe and Central Asia, for internet. Do you think that this project is still possible or not to have directly through Azerbaijan in Internet from Europe, to Central Asia?

-We as you correctly mentioned became already the regional hub for not only for energy, but also for transportation. We are now providing important transportation network for our partners across the Caspian in the eastern part of the Caspian Sea and Europe. Our investments in infrastructure resulted in creation of a very broad international cooperation format on transportation. Of course, everything started with the energy infrastructure, oil and gas pipelines going through Azerbaijan already became very important source of energy security. And with respect to the oil pipelines we already transit oil from Central Asia, through Azerbaijan to Europe. With respect to the internet connection, we invest largely into IT sector, internet penetration in

Azerbaijan is about 80 percent. 80 percent of our population are internet users. And we have very developed private companies in this area. Therefore, the company which you mentioned as far as I know is a private company, which has its own agenda, and which invested in the region. And I think their target is to implement commercially viable project. And definitely, Azerbaijan from geographical point of view and point of view of infrastructure today is very important regional actor.

-My question now is can you describe us what is after more than one month of war? where is the front? How are the current military operations?

-It is less than one month, and during this one month as a result of a very successful counter-attack, Azerbaijan managed to liberate part of the occupied territories, cities and villages and every day we report about new cities and villages which have been operated. It was not easy, because during the 30 years of occupation Armenia built on the occupied territories very solid engineering constructions. So, it was not easy to cross the line of contact. But we did it in different directions, in the north, in the south. And this demonstrates the high level of capacity, capability of Azerbaijani Army, and we defeat Armenia on the battlefield. And they have to run away from us. So, we already restored the international border with Iran. More than 130 km of this border was under occupation. So, we did a lot on the battlefield and this continues. Armenia two times violated the ceasefire. If they didn't violate the ceasefire, first on the 10th of October brutally violated it launching a ballistic missile on the sleeping city of Ganja and second time on the 17th of October, today the clashes would have stopped and political solution would have prevailed. That's our position. If they don't stop, we will continue to liberate our lands.

-They bombed Ganja because there was a couple of Turkish F-16 fighters and one of these Turkish f-16 fighters shut down Armenian plane. That's why they said they bombed Ganja.

-This is fake news. I think that everybody now understands that was fake news by Armenia. Turkish F-16 are here because they were participating in the joint military training just before the clashes started. And they are on the ground. They are not in the air. Armenian SU-25 hit the mountain. They tried to pretend as if it was hit by the Turkish F-16. But that was in the first days of the conflict. It was in September. But they launched an attack on Ganja with ballistic missile on the 10th of October, first. Second, ballistic missile's launch was made from the territory of Armenia. And you know, big countries can monitor it clearly. They know from where it is launched and what is a task for the missile? The task was to hit civilians. They hit the area of Ganja where people live. So, that was an act of international terror, that was another reflection of the war crime policy of Armenia. These attacks on Ganja, cannot be justified. And they will be responsible for that.

-By accepting the intervention of Turkey and the arrival of Syrian fighters from Turkey, aren't you afraid of turning local conflict into a regional war?

-First of all, Turkey is not involved in the conflict at all. There is not a single evidence of Turkish involvement. From the first hours of Armenian attack on Azerbaijan Turkey, Turkish president and other high-ranking officials expressed and continue to express strong political support to Azerbaijan, support to the norms and principles of international law, support to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions which demand immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from our territories. So, this is first. Second, there

are no foreign fighters on Azerbaijani soil. This is another fake news. It was spread by some officials, in some countries. But so far, more than 20 days after the clashes started we didn't get any single evidence neither from France nor from Russia. Because the French and then Russian officials made this statement and we asked for evidence. We asked for proofs. Only words, no evidence, no proofs. And another thing is that we don't need any foreigners to fight with us. Because we have a regular army of 100 thousand people. We have modern equipment. We have motivated people who were suffering from occupation for 30 years. We did not even announce full mobilization. If we need additional people on the ground we will recruit more. Therefore, this is another attempt to present Azerbaijan as an aggressor, and also attempt by Armenia to diminish the capacity of Azerbaijani army which is beating them on the ground.

-Mr President, you said you have very modern equipment, it is true. You have all kinds of drones some coming from Turkey but also efficient kamikaze drones coming from Israel Harop. So, is the help of Israeli military equipment very important for you, and allow you to make military breakthrough?

-We buy military equipment from many countries. And our biggest supplier of military equipment is not Turkey and Israel, it is Russia. But unlike Armenia, from Russia we buy weapons, we pay for them. Armenia gets weapons from Russia free of charge. We also buy weapons from Iran, from Ukraine, from Belarus, and of course, we can afford to buy modern weapons which today help our army to restore our territorial integrity. Our territorial integrity is being restored by us. But any country in our region is buying weapons. Not many countries in the world can supply themselves 100% with military equipment. So, there is nothing strange about that. And of course, we pay for the weapons. We buy good ones and of course they help us on the ground. But liberation of territories is not by drones. Liberation of territories is by soldiers. By people who there on the ground are doing their job.

-Iran has complained that fighting during a military operation took on the border. Did you settle this dispute with Iran? Did you talk to the Iranian leaders?

-Yes, we did. And as far as I know, Iranian leaders also talk to Armenian side. Because the clashes were taking place just by the river Araz, close to the border with Iran, and by accident, some of the weapons crossed the border. But today we announced that we cleaned completely the Azerbaijani-Iranian border from Armenian occupants. Therefore, no more clashes take place there, and there will be no more inconvenience for our brothers across the river of Araz in Iran.

-What is the best possible mediator to bring out to this war? Is it Russia? Is it the best possible mediator?

-We have three mediators. They have a mandate from OSCE-Russia, France and United States. For 28 years they are trying to mediate. And trying to help parties to find the solution without any success. These three countries are at the same time members of the UN Security Council, permanent members. These three countries adopted those resolutions which I referred to, which demand withdrawal of Armenian troops. But unfortunately, they did not put enough international pressure on Armenia to liberate the occupied territories and to comply with the United Nations Security Council resolutions. Therefore, after the Armenian military attack, we had to defend ourselves, and had to restore justice by force, what we are successfully doing. And among these three mediators, each of them is important and I observe, and I see and I know that on the

issue of Nagorno-Karabakh they have very rare unanimous approach. It is probably the only issue where their interests coincide.

-What kind of land you want to take back and then be ready to stop this war Mr. President?

-We are ready to stop today. I was telling that since the 10th of October, when in Moscow both sides agreed on ceasefire. And I said: “the sooner the military part of the solution of the problem is over the better.” We want to move on negotiation table. But unfortunately, Armenia brutally violated ceasefire and launched an attack on Ganja. And on the 17th of October they violated ceasefire two minutes after ceasefire was efficient. Therefore, if they stop today we will stop and then, the rest will be done by diplomats. If they do not stop, we will go until the end to liberate all the occupied territories.

-So this is your plan. This is Azerbaijan’s plan to get out of the conflict.

-Yes. If they stop now and behave in a constructive way, if they publicly commit to the basic principles elaborated by France, Russia and the United States which Azerbaijan is committed to, then, of course everything will stop and we will go back on negotiation table. By the way, I am in this process for 17 years. I worked with two former Armenian presidents and we made not a big progress, but we made progress. We were meeting regularly. There have been regular meetings in Moscow, in Paris, in Washington. But after Mr. Pashinyan came to power, he actually did everything in order to destroy negotiation process not only by his statements, but by his military provocations. And since he came to power for already two years or more, there is no process. Therefore, I think the political settlement is possible. But Armenian government should understand that they are not now in a position to dictate, because status quo no more exists, line of contact no more exists. We created a new reality on the ground. And they have to take that into account.

-What is your vision about the future of Karabakh?

-I expressed it many times publicly. And I can tell you now. Also, I delivered certain messages through mediators, through Minsk Group co-chairs to previous Armenian government how we see the future. We see Karabakh as a prosperous, safe, secure area of Azerbaijan where people live in peace and dignity, where Azerbaijani and Armenian communities live side by side. The area which we plan to develop as we did in all other parts of Azerbaijan. I can tell you that we have very substantial economic achievements. We have very low level of poverty, it is about five percent. In Armenia it is close to 50 percent. Also very low level of unemployment. Before the pandemic it was around 5 percent, now it is seven. But in comparison with Nagorno-Karabakh which is endemic, it is day and night. So, we can provide much better life, for Armenians who live there, for Azerbaijanis who will return there. And I am sure that the two nations, two peoples will reconcile, because in the 21st century it is not possible to isolate yourself to commit ethnic cleansing and try to transform de facto situation into secession. It is not possible. No one recognized Nagorno-Karabakh so far, including Armenia itself. I am sure no one will recognize it. Therefore, the best way for the future of Karabakh, not only Nagorno-Karabakh, but all the Karabakh is a big region of Azerbaijan, is to live in peace in harmony, and to try to become good neighbors again-Armenians and Azerbaijanis. This is my plan.

- I remember that in the beginning of 1990s there was an anti-Armenian pogrom in Baku. That's why Armenians do not trust they can live, they are afraid for their lives to live in Azerbaijani territory.

-Conflict started after separatists in Nagorno-Karabakh, sponsored by nationalists in Armenia launched a secession plan to secede from Azerbaijan. And they could not do it from legal point of view at the time of the Soviet Union. So, they started pogroms in the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and in the territory of Armenia. The first victims of the war and clashes were Azerbaijanis from Nagorno-Karabakh. There have been 40 thousand Azerbaijanis who lived in Nagorno-Karabakh, primarily in Shusha and also in the capital Khankandi who were ethnically cleansed completely. Then, 250 thousand Azerbaijanis who lived in Armenia, many of them were killed and all of them were ethnically cleansed, expelled. What happened in Baku, in those time which you mentioned is a dark page of our history. But, those clashes were taking place everywhere-in Erevan, in other Armenian cities, in Nagorno-Karabakh. Therefore, this should not be a kind of a reason why people cannot reconcile. In Europe how many times France and Germany had wars? How many times you know other countries had wars? We had World War II which costed lives of 30 or 40 million people. But after twenty years, western Germany and Soviet Union became on good terms. And now nobody remembers that. This is how it should happen in the civilized world. The problem is in Armenia, they cultivate hatred. They cultivate historical hatred against Turkey, against Azerbaijan. Former president of Armenia Kocharyan publicly said that Azerbaijanis and Armenians cannot live together. But look. How they live together for instance, in Georgia? In some Georgian villages Azerbaijanis and Armenians live side by side. In Russia it is the same. In Azerbaijan we have thousands of Armenians who live in our country. Why it is not possible in Nagorno-Karabakh. I think that the wounds of the war must be healed by political wisdom, by political will. And after this active, hot phase of the conflict stops, both sides need to invest largely in order to do everything to heal these wounds.

-This is my last question. Aren't you afraid Mr. President that after a while President Erdogan of Turkey will stop his support and his policy in Caucasus to focus on Northern Cyprus?

-Turkey and Azerbaijan are brotherly countries. And our brotherhood have been tested in many circumstances. And in this particular case, Turkish President expressed publicly strong support to Azerbaijan. He said that Azerbaijan is not alone. Turkey is side by side. So, this is a very strong political support and we are very grateful for that. This is first thing. Second, what I want to say that what we are doing on the battlefield we do ourselves. Yes, with modern weapons, with modern equipment but it is Azerbaijani soldiers and officers who liberate our motherland. Our relations with Turkey have a great history but even brighter future. Turkey as a country which is the only country in the world having a border with all the three republics or countries of Southern Caucasus- Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia, has, I think, a legitimate right to be involved in this process. Because as a neighbor, as a country which can provide and provides stability, predictability for the region and as a country whose agenda is very clear they defend international law. International law says that our territories are under occupation. So, what wrong do they do? They just demand international law to be implied. Armenia doesn't want to do it. They want to keep our lands for more than thirty years under occupation by illegal settlement of Armenians from Lebanon, by military operations against Azerbaijanis, by destroying our historical and religious heritage. Turkey's role is very positive. And after the war with Armenia stops, and political settlement is enforced, I am sure the role of Turkey will be very important and very positive.

-So, you don't think that Turkey has a plan to erase Armenia in order to have a direct connection to the Turkish people of Central Asia.

-No, this is again, Armenian phobias, and Armenian provocations. In the peaceful plan which I was discussing with leaders of Armenia before Pashinyan came to power, there was a clear reference to communications. After the peace agreement is signed, all communications are opening, including communication between Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan and the mainland of Azerbaijan. And thus, Turkey and Azerbaijan and Central Asia will have a land connection. Today we don't have it. But Turkey still has connections through Azerbaijan. We built couple of years ago Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railroad. So, Turkish goods through Georgia, Azerbaijan, Caspian go to central Asia and backwards. But the road from Turkey, Nakhchivan, Armenia and Azerbaijan is shorter. So, it is not the fact that Turkey does not have this connection. And as you say, somebody thinks that they will erase Armenia to have it. They have it. We have it. We will have another one. But it is again part of the peace plan. All communications will be open. And I think that Armenian government should not try to frighten its population with Turkey. And should stop this hatred towards the Turkish and Azerbaijani people.

-How is your relationship currently with Georgia, who is another Christian nation in the Caucasus region?

-Yes, with Georgia our relations are excellent. We call each other strategic partners. Azerbaijan is the first or second largest investor in Georgia, and the first or second largest taxpayer. I am saying first or second because one year it is Turkey, another year it is Azerbaijan. And we have a trilateral format of cooperation between Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan. We had presidential summits, ministerial meetings, including defense ministers, foreign ministers, economy ministers. We have all our major transportation and energy communication going through Georgia. We have a big Azerbaijani community in Georgia close to 300 thousand people. Therefore, relations are excellent. And I think it could be a good example, like our relations with Turkey, our relations with Georgia are good examples of good neighborhood. By the way, the fact that Georgia is Christian and Azerbaijan is Muslim does not make any difference. We do not look at this region from this point of view.

-You don't take religion into account when you do projects.

-No, religion is separated from the state. According to our constitution, Azerbaijan is a secular country. We respect our religion, we respect religions of all other nationalities who live in Azerbaijan. And I think the best indicator of religious harmony in Azerbaijan would be the words of His Holiness, head of the Roman Catholic Church Pope Francis. When he was in Baku several years ago, he made a public statement highly praising Azerbaijan's role in intercultural and interreligious dialogue. All the representatives of different religions in Azerbaijan live in peace and harmony, including Armenians. In the center of Baku, there is an Armenian church which has been restored by us and protected by our government. But our mosques on the occupied territories have been destroyed. And Armenians keep pigs in our mosques. Just recent videos were on internet. In Zangilan region, after liberation of one village, it was on internet how pigs walk in our mosque. So, Azerbaijan is a tolerant and a secular country and will continue to be like that in the future.

-Thank you. It was a very good interview Mr. President.

-Thank you.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Armenia's information on alleged destruction of large number of Azerbaijani special forces, nothing but a fantasy

[02:09] 24.10.2020

The information disseminated by the Armenian side about the alleged destruction of a large number of Azerbaijani special forces is nothing but the product of restless nightmares of the representatives of the Armenian Ministry of Defense, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

"Various types of misinformation spread by Armenians vary depending on the impact of the blows they received during the battles.

The Azerbaijani troops destroyed the Armenia's line of defense by inflicting strikes on them in all directions. Today, the Azerbaijani Army has destroyed scattered groups of volunteers and military equipment of the Armenian Armed Forces in Khojavand and Fuzuli directions of the front.

Video evidence will be provided later.," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army does not shell Khankandi and Khojavand cities

[01:59] 24.10.2020

The information disseminated by the Armenian side that the Azerbaijani Army allegedly shelled the cities of Khankandi and Khojavand contradicts the truth and is false, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

"The Azerbaijani Army fully adheres to the humanitarian ceasefire," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Artillery units and a command post of the enemy
were destroyed as a result of airstrikes**

[01:50] 24.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has released video footages reflecting the destruction of artillery units and a command post of the enemy as a result of airstrikes.

Citing the ministry, AZERTAC presents the video footages.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of destruction of enemy's
volunteer groups and military equipment**

[01:10] 24.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense has released video footages reflecting the destruction of the volunteer groups and military equipment of the Armenian armed forces in Khojavand and Fuzuli directions of the front.

Citing the ministry, AZERTAC presents the video footages.

AZERTAC

October 23

Defense Ministry: The information of the Armenian side about the artillery shelling of Azerbaijan's positions by Iran is false

[23:58] 23.10.2020

The information spread by the Armenian side about the alleged artillery shelling of the positions of Azerbaijan by Iran after the entering of a kamikaze drone of the Azerbaijan Army into the airspace of Iran is false and another misinformation of the enemy, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

"The Armenian side, panicked by our taking control of the Iran-Azerbaijan state border, is spreading such false information and is trying to harm high-level relations between Azerbaijan and Iran.

Cooperation between Azerbaijan and Iran, which has deep historical roots, is successfully developing in political, economic, religious, cultural, and other spheres.

The military-political leadership of Armenia that could not receive the necessary support from the international community, and is seriously concerned about the successful development of Azerbaijani-Iranian relations, sees a way out of the situation in the dissemination of false and slanderous information," the ministry noted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM meets with US Secretary of State

[23:33] 23.10.2020

As part of his working visit to the USA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov has met with the Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

The Minister discussed the latest situation in the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and gave comprehensive information on the destructive policy of Armenia, including deliberate shelling of the Azerbaijani peaceful population, mass use of foreign mercenaries and terrorists and other issues.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov stressed that the just position of Azerbaijan is based on the related resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the relevant documents of other international organizations.

During the conversation, the sides also exchanged views on bilateral Azerbaijan-USA relations

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: UAVs of Azerbaijan do not conduct a flight over the territory of Armenia

[23:20] 23.10.2020

The information spread by the Armenian side about the alleged shooting down and falling of the UAV of Azerbaijan on the territory of Armenia is false, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

"We declare that the Azerbaijan's UAVs do not conduct a flight over the territory of Armenia," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: We have enough armored vehicles in our arsenal and they are used in accordance with operational situation

[23:12] 23.10.2020

The statements made by the official of Armenian ministry of defense about the alleged loss of a large number of armored vehicles and auto vehicles belonging to the Azerbaijan Army in the fighting indicate that he is completely incognizant of the operational conditions, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

"The information has nothing to do with reality and is misinformation designed to appease the frightened Armenian society.

It is enough to watch the videos provided by Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense to determine which side destroyed how many military vehicles and how many are left.

Our army has enough armored vehicles to strike the enemy and they are applied in accordance with the decision of the command depending on the terrain, operational situation, various tactical methods and techniques," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office reveals statistics on crimes committed against Azerbaijani civilians as a result of Armenian aggression

[19:07] 23.10.2020

Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan has revealed the statistics on crimes committed against civilians as a result of Armenian aggression from September 27 till 17:00 October 23.

According to the press service of the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan, as a result of rocket and heavy artillery attacks on October 4, 11 and 17, a total of 25 civilians were killed and 139 were injured in Ganja. Extensive damage was inflicted on the city's civil infrastructure facilities and vehicles.

7 civilians were killed and 10 were injured in Goranboy.

On September 27, 2020 at around 6 pm, as a result of shrapnel hitting the yard of a private house belonging to Gurbanov Elbrus Isa in Gashalti-Garagoyunlu village, Naftalan district, all members of his family (5 members) were killed.

16 civilians were killed and 50 were injured in Tartar.

One of the injured is a media representative.

2 civilians were killed and 12 were injured in Barda.

2 civilians were killed and 2 were injured in Beylagan.

One civilian was killed and 19 were injured in Aghjabadi.

3 civilians were killed and 17 were injured in Fuzuli.

7 civilians were killed and 40 were injured in Aghdam.

One of the injured is a media representative.

5 civilians were injured in Mingachevir.

One civilian from Dashkasan was injured.

One civilian from Jabrayil was injured.

One civilian from Khojaly was injured.

One civilian from Gabala was injured.

As a result of the Armenian aggression from September 27, 2020 to 05:00 pm on October 23, 2020, a total of 63 civilians were killed and 298 were injured.

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Military personnel and armored vehicles of enemy getting ready for redeployment destroyed

[18:39] 23.10.2020

The Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan has released a video footage reflecting the destruction of military personnel and armored vehicles of the Armenian armed forces getting ready for redeployment.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev comments on UN Security Council's discussions on Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

[18:15] 23.10.2020

After a 25-year break, the UN Security Council held discussions on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict on September 29 and October 19, said Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

Hikmat Hajiyev said: "We regret to say that despite the adoption of four UN Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 on the occupation of Azerbaijani territories in 1993, the UN Security Council held the last discussions on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict in 1995.

The UN Security Council resolutions condemn the use of force by Armenia against Azerbaijan, emphasize that Nagorno-Karabakh is an integral part of Azerbaijan and demand the unconditional and complete withdrawal of Armenian troops from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

On behalf of the president of the Security Council, a draft statement was prepared following the discussions on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict on October 19. The draft statement did not include references to the four resolutions of the UNSC. The project was developed mainly by the Russian Federation and France.

Non-permanent members of the UNSC and members of the Non-Aligned Movement Indonesia, Niger, Tunisia, Vietnam, South Africa, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Dominican Republic have twice broken the silence procedure and insisted on including references to the UNSC resolutions in the statement. Thus, these states once again demonstrated their commitment to the UN Charter, norms and principles of international law, UNSC resolutions, Bandung principles and NAM documents.

Following the persistent and principled position of the Non-Aligned Movement member states, the draft statement was officially withdrawn.

President Ilham Aliyev expresses gratitude to Indonesia, Niger, Tunisia, Vietnam, South Africa, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Dominican Republic for their fair and principled stance. The President notes that, as he stated in his speech at the 18th Summit in Baku in 2019 as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, he will continue to defend the interests of the member states, international law and justice in the UN and other international organizations.

As chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, President Ilham Aliyev calls on all the Non-Aligned Movement member states to show solidarity, unity and mutual support based on the Bandung principles."

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani MP: Armenians try to misrepresent the situation on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and mislead international community

[16:19] 23.10.2020

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Charter of Paris and it provides an excellent opportunity to highlight the achievements and shortcomings of the implementation of the Paris approach of comprehensive, cooperative, equal and indivisible security. Now I will focus on the recent events. As we all are aware, recently yet another large-scale military provocation was committed by Armenia against the positions of the Azerbaijani Army along the entire length of the front and our human settlements located in the frontline zone. Armenian armed forces are attacking densely populated civilian areas in some cities of Azerbaijan with missiles and rockets. Since 27 September, tens of Azerbaijani civilians were killed and hundreds were wounded by fire opened by the armed forces of Armenia, as well as more than 1500 houses, tens of residential buildings, and more than 250 civil facilities destroyed. Isn't it barbarism and vandalism? Unfortunately, it became like a regular standard procedure to attack the civilians with a heavy artillery for Armenian armed forces, says an article by Azerbaijani MP Ulviyya Aghayeva.

“We should not forget that as President Ilham Aliyev said, all responsibility lies on the political-military leadership of Armenia for this escalation. Unfortunately, Armenians trying their very best to misrepresent the situation on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and thus to mislead the international community. It is not in vain that Paris Charter declared 30 years ago that the era of confrontation and division in Europe has ended and a new era of democracy, peace and unity based on democratic governance, the rule of law and human rights among the participating States founded on respect and co-operation. However, threat or use of force against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of another country is contradicting those above-mentioned principles. I think that the international community should realize the obligation to apply universal norms and principles to all conflict settlement processes without any exceptions. Otherwise, this situation of impunity towards aggressors fully contradict the ongoing efforts to bring durable peace and stability to the region.”

“Once again, I reiterate that unlike Armenia, Azerbaijan is acting in accordance with the right of self-defense and preventing another potential humanitarian catastrophe and protecting its civilian population. We find such destructive approach to be completely non-constructive, as it violates the spirit of the norms and principles of international law, the UN Security Council resolutions, Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and other international documents.

Armenian government should act in solidarity with the full implementation of the principles and commitments of the OSCE enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and OSCE documents instead of taking destructive illegal steps, which does not have any prospects” the article says.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Four villages of Gubadli district were liberated

[17:33] 23.10.2020

“The victorious Azerbaijani Army has liberated Zilanli, Kurd Mahrizli, Mughanli and Alagurshag villages of Gubadli district from occupation.

Long live Azerbaijani Army! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated 2 villages of Khojavand, 5 villages of Jabrayil, 2 villages of Zangilan

[17:31] 23.10.2020

“The victorious Azerbaijani Army has liberated Dolanlar, Bunyadi villages of Khojavand district, Dagh Tumas, Nusus, Khalafli, Minbashili, Veysalli villages of Jabrayil district, Vanadli and Mirzahasanli villages of Zangilan district from occupation.

Long live Azerbaijani Army! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

AZERTAC

Release of the Press Service of the President

[15:53] 23.10.2020

On October 23, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev had a phone conversation with Nariman Hamidov, father of National Hero Shukur Hamidov who was martyred for the liberation of Gubadli.

The head of state extended his condolences over the death of Shukur Hamidov, saying that Shukur Hamidov was awarded the title of National Hero of Azerbaijan for his bravery during the April battles, and that the Azerbaijani President had personally presented the star of a hero to him. The head of state noted that this time Shukur Hamidov fought heroically in the battles for the liberation of Gubadli district and was martyred. President Ilham Aliyev emphasized that Shukur's name will be immortalized in Gubadli district, where he was born and died for its liberation.

Nariman Hamidov thanked the head of state and noted that the Azerbaijani people were closely united around him as a victorious Commander-in-Chief, expressing his confidence that they would continue to support the President of Azerbaijan.

Recalling his meeting with Nariman Hamidov, President Ilham Aliyev thanked him for raising such a heroic and loyal to the Motherland son as Shukur and asked to convey his condolences to all the loved ones of the Hamidovs family.

Prosecutor General's Office: Number of civilians wounded as result of Armenian attacks on Azerbaijan's settlements reaches 298

[13:52] 23.10.2020

“As many as 63 civilians were killed and 298 others wounded as a result of Armenian military attacks on Azerbaijan's residential settlements from September 27 up till now,” the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“Some 398 civilian facilities, 2,156 houses, and 90 multi-apartment buildings were damaged as a result of the Armenian military aggression,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

Investigations reveal illegal activities in Azerbaijan's occupied territories

[14:06] 23.10.2020

“Investigations conducted by the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the territories occupied by the Armenian armed forces have identified individuals and legal entities engaged in illegal mining in the occupied territories, as well as in exploitation of gold and other metal ore deposits, sturgeon and black caviar sales, electricity production, illegal watch sales, and banking activities,” the Prosecutor General’s Office told AZERTAC.

“We declare that the application of effective measures within the criminal law against persons engaged in illegal economic and other activities in our occupied territories are monitored on ongoing basis by the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In order to prevent such illegal actions, informative videos in French, Spanish, German, Russian, English and Arabic were prepared in connection with the cases when the economic activity of foreign citizens in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan may be considered illegal. Provisions of the criminal law on illegal economic activities were also reflected in the videos.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan will take efficient measures in accordance with international law against individuals and legal entities engaged in illegal economic and other activities in the territories occupied by the Armenian armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan,” the Prosecutor General’s Office said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan destroys Armenia's forces and equipment

[14:40] 23.10.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defence has released a video footage reflecting the destruction of forces and equipment of the Armenian armed forces. The Azerbaijani Army inflicted strikes on their positions.

AZERTAC presents the video footage

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan eliminates four Armenian UAVs

[13:15] 23.10.2020

“On October 23, starting from 03.00 to 09.00, the two UAVs of the Armenian armed forces were determined and destroyed by the Azerbaijan Air Defense units. The two other UAVs were downed to the ground by means of special equipment,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Another UAV belonging to Armenia was destroyed

[12:52] 23.10.2020

Another tactical unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) belonging to the Armenian armed forces, which attempted to fly in the direction of Aghjabadi district, was destroyed by our units on October 23 at about 12:00, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

France's Le Figaro newspaper issues article on Armenia's artillery and missiles attacks on Tartar city of Azerbaijan

[12:29] 23.10.2020

France-based Le Figaro newspaper has published an article on Armenian armed forces' artillery and missile attack on Azerbaijan's Tartar city.

"The city of Tartar, located near the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan with a population of 24,000 people, has been attacked and destroyed as a result of artillery and missile fire by the Armenian armed forces for several weeks," the article said.

The article gave detailed information on the shelling of civilians and the destruction of residential houses in the city of Tartar by the Armenians.

The newspaper has also featured an interview with Azerbaijani military expert Heydar Mirza, who said that Yerevan hopes for foreign intervention to prevent the advancement and growing superiority of the Azerbaijani Army.

Shahla Aghalarova
Special Correspondent
AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army does not shell the civilian population and infrastructure

[11:37] 23.10.2020

“The information spread by Armenia about the alleged shelling of the Aghdara, Khojavand, and Girmizi Bazar settlements in Nagorno-Karabakh by the Azerbaijani Army is groundless and false,” Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“On the contrary, on October 23 at night, and today in the morning hours, the Armenian armed forces subjected to intensive fire the territory of Tartar, Aghdam, and Aghjabadi districts.

The troops of the Azerbaijani Army complying with the humanitarian ceasefire regime, retain operational superiority along the entire length of the front,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Ambassador Bilal Hayee: Pakistan openly stands by Azerbaijan in this legitimate struggle for liberation of its territories

[11:22] 23.10.2020

“Pakistan openly stands by Azerbaijan in this legitimate struggle for liberation of its territories. We wish you all the best,” said Ambassador of Pakistan Bilal Hayee in an exclusive interview with AZERTAC.

Ambassador Hayee also mentioned that they are very closely monitoring the recent developments and appreciate the success that Azerbaijan`s forces are gaining every day; “Our leadership has spoken on this issue. Our foreign minister had a good telephone conversation with his Azerbaijani counterpart yesterday. In his congratulations on Azerbaijan`s independence day, our Prime Minister particularly mentioned the success of Azerbaijan`s forces.”

On longstanding friendship and fraternal ties between the two countries, the Ambassador said Pakistan always sided with Azerbaijan since the very beginning of the conflict on Nagorno-Karabakh: “Pakistan has played a very important role in adoption of the UN Security Council resolutions in 1993. Pakistan was a non-permanent member of the Security Council at that time. We believe that the stand that Azerbaijan has taken on these issues are very fair, very legal, very legitimate that`s why we have always sided with Azerbaijan,” he said.

The Pakistani Ambassador also pointed out economic relations, saying that: “Pakistan has the aspiration for deepening of our relationship not only in terms of this particular conflict but also in diverse areas such as economy, people-to-people contact, trade or defence. We believe that the two countries can complement each other`s strength.”

Commenting on other areas of cooperation Ambassador Hayee noted: “Pakistan has a great many things to offer to Azerbaijan. Similarly, Azerbaijan has so many things to offer to Pakistan. Azerbaijan can come and invest in Pakistan`s energy sector. Pakistan is a huge country. Azerbaijan can come and fill that gap in this field and your companies can make a big profit. Similarly, Pakistan has to offer in the defence, pharmaceutical, agricultural and other areas. These areas will bring the two countries even closer.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy refused to get engaged in battles and left its positions

[11:11] 23.10.2020

During the day on October 22 and on the night of October 23, the combat operations continued with varying intensity in Aghdara, Fuzuli-Hadrut-Jabrayil, and Gubadli directions. The enemy fired at our defensive positions using small arms, mortars, and gun-howitzers," Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, heavy strikes were inflicted on the armed forces of Armenia in Fuzuli, Jabrayil, and Gubadli directions of the front, several enemy strongholds were destroyed, important territories and high grounds were liberated as a result of the operations conducted by the Azerbaijan Army.

The main resources and military infrastructure of the enemy along the entire front were irreparably damaged. There is a shortage of military equipment, weapons, and ammunition, as well as food in the enemy units. The enemy practically lost control of the troops. Due to the lack of regular army units to defend combat positions, civilians are forcibly brought in to replace them.

"It became known that the servicemen brought from the Tavush and Sisian regions of Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh refused to get engaged in battles and left their positions.

Currently, battles are being continued along the entire length of the front," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: International organizations were updated on missile attacks on Azerbaijan's districts

[10:43] 23.10.2020

On October 22, the Chief of the International Military Cooperation Department of Ministry of Defense, Major General Huseyn Mahmudov gave another briefing for the foreign military attachés and representatives of the international organizations accredited to Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The briefing participants were informed about direct involvement of Armenia to the conflict, missile attacks from the territory of Armenia to the civilian infrastructures and peaceful population living in the districts located far away from the combat operations zone – Gabala, Kurdamir and Siyazan, as well as vivid violation of the humanitarian truce by Armenia.

The destruction and loot of the settlements, historical-architectural as well as religious sites of the liberated districts – Jabrayil and Fuzuli, and misuse of combat vehicles as a medical means in combat operations were pointed out at the meeting,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

October 22

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry: Missile attacks on Siyazan, Kurdamir and Gabala districts testify to Armenia`s attempts to expand geography of conflict zone

[18:42] 22.10.2020

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan has released a statement on the continued attacks of Armenia on the residential settlements of Azerbaijan situated far from the conflict zone.

The statement reads: “The armed forces of Armenia in a blatant violation of its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, continue deliberate shelling of the densely populated Azerbaijani residential settlements.

On October 22 in the morning, the territory of Azerbaijan was exposed to ballistic missiles fired using the operational-tactical missile complex from the territory Armenia. The armed forces of Armenia fired 3 missiles in the direction of Siyazan district, 2 missiles in the direction of Gabala district, and 1 missile in the direction of Kurdamir district, located hundreds of kilometers from the conflict zone. The target of the Armenian armed forces was the peaceful population and civilian infrastructure.

Launching missiles towards Siyazan, Kurdamir and Gabala districts of Azerbaijan situated far beyond its occupied territories, after the cities of Ganja and Mingachevir is yet another attempt by Armenia to perpetrate new heinous crimes against the Azerbaijani peaceful population.

These attacks once again testify to Armenia`s attempts to expand the geography of the conflict zone and serve only to aggravate the situation.

We strongly condemn these acts of aggression by Armenia and call on the international community to take necessary steps to force Armenia to comply with international law and its international obligations. Armenian leadership, stating that there is no diplomatic solution to the conflict and giving orders to fire the civilians and residential settlements of Azerbaijan bear full responsibility for escalation in the region, as well as the war crimes committed during the new aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan.”

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: With the liberation of Aghband settlement, taking full control over the Azerbaijani-Iranian state border was ensured

[18:42] 22.10.2020

“With the liberation of Aghband settlement, taking full control over the state border between Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran was ensured. I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan and Iran on this occasion. Long live the victorious Azerbaijani Army!” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has made a post on his official Twitter account.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated 13 villages and Aghband settlement of Zangilan district

[18:39] 22.10.2020

“The victorious Azerbaijani Army has liberated Kollugishlag, Malatkeshin, Kand Zangilan, Genlik, Valigulubayli, Garadara, Chopadara, Tatar, Tiri, Amirkhanli, Gargulu, Bartaz, Dallakli villages and Aghband settlement of Zangilan district from occupation. Long live Azerbaijani Army! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a post on his official Twitter account, AZERTAC reports.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated 3 villages of Fuzuli district, 4 villages of Jabrayil district

[18:34] 22.10.2020

“The victorious Azerbaijani Army has liberated Mollavali, Yukhari Rafadinli, Ashaghi Rafadinli villages of Fuzuli district, Sirik, Shikhlar, Mastalibayli, Darzili villages of Jabrayil district from occupation. Long live Azerbaijani Army! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Japan's Nikkei newspaper

[17:57] 22.10.2020

As reported, on October 21, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Japan's Nikkei newspaper.

AZERTAC presents the interview.

- About the Karabakh conflict. Now foreign ministers from both Azerbaijan and Armenia are to visit Washington DC on Friday. What do you expect from that meeting. Are you ready for trilateral talk with some conditions?

-Actually, as you know, the United States, Russia and France are three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group which has a mandate to facilitate, to find a solution to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Therefore, it's natural that our ministers meet in these three capitals. These kind of meetings happened before, many times. And you know that there have been a visit to Moscow and meeting in Moscow. So, it is a continuation of the discussions on the peaceful settlement of the conflict. Of course, now situation on the ground have changed. The status quo no longer exists, the line of contact does not exist either. Therefore, of course, I think that now Armenian leadership must be more reasonable, and to commit itself to liberation of the occupied territories. So, our main objective at these discussions will be to find out whether the Armenian leadership is ready to liberate our territories or not, and if ready, then when?

-Are you also invited to Moscow by President Putin?

-No.

-If invited are you ready to go?

-I have been many times invited by President Putin. And I visited Moscow many times some years even several times a year. Therefore, it is obvious, between partner countries and neighbors these high level contacts are common. And President Putin also visited Azerbaijan many times.

-If there is any progress on Friday between the ministers, is it possible to have a trilateral meeting in Moscow with Armenian prime minister also joining?

-Well, of course it is possible. Because this kind of meetings happened before. It depends on what will be the agenda if this kind of meeting is going to take place. Because with this Armenian government unfortunately, the prospects for peaceful settlement are very remote. Because very counter-productive and provocative statements and actions on behalf of Armenian leadership made actual negotiations senseless. Because the main topic on negotiation table always has been liberation of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. And when Armenian prime minister declares that "Karabakh is Armenia", when he declares that "Azerbaijan must negotiate with Nagorno-Karabakh's so-called authorities", and when he orders ballistic missile strike on a peaceful city of Ganja and daily attacks on other cities of Azerbaijan, there is not much room for negotiations. Therefore, we had to prove Armenian

government that they cannot afford any longer to make these aggressive steps without any punishment. We are punishing them on the ground. We are liberating our territories.

Every day almost I announce new cities and villages which have been liberated from Armenian occupation. Armenia is suffering very bitter defeat on the battlefield. Therefore, of course, they must be more reasonable, and definitely, the matter of liberation of the territories is happening. We wanted to achieve it through peaceful talks. But due to Armenian unconstructive position and provocative steps it was not possible. Therefore, we are now liberating our territories on the battlefield.

-Would you say the second ceasefire has already failed or ended? Would you say the battles are still going on?

-Second attempts to achieve ceasefire failed because two minutes after the time when ceasefire had to be efficient they violated the ceasefire. They again, attacked our peaceful cities, this morning from 6 am until 8 am they launched more than 100 times their shells on peaceful city of Tartar which suffered mostly and they attack our military position. They wanted to regain the territories which have already been liberated. As you know, after the first attempt of ceasefire in less than 24 hours, they attacked from the territory of Armenia with ballistic missile, second largest city of Azerbaijan – Ganja, which is a war crime. And the Armenian government will be responsible for that. So, they violate the ceasefire. I always say that ceasefire cannot be achieved unilaterally. If we are attacked, we must not only defend ourselves, but also launch a counter-attack. And I can tell you after they violated ceasefire second time, we liberated the city of Zangilan, and many villages. So, the more time passes on the battlefield, the more territories we liberate. Therefore, Armenian government should think seriously about their behavior and make a strong commitment if they want the ceasefire to be efficient. First, not to violate it, second, not to attempt to regain the territories which we already liberated, and make a commitment about liberation of occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

-The ceasefires so far had been for humanitarian purposes, including exchange of captives and bodies. So, do you think that means ceasefire, maybe there will be another one, but it will be over once exchange of captives are done?

Is there a substantial ceasefire that will hold or is it just a temporary one, if there is any?

-It was announced on humanitarian grounds, and also as you know in Moscow declaration there was a reference to substantive negotiations. And the fact that the format of negotiations is unchanged, which means that there will be no more attempts from Armenian side to try to integrate the so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh authorities” on negotiation table. This was rejected by us, and by the Minsk Group. Therefore, of course, if Armenia commits to negotiations and with a strong commitment to liberate the territories which they so far did not announce then, this ceasefire will be a long-termed. Because we want to resolve this problem peacefully. But if, they will try to use ceasefire in order to mobilize their resources, in order to get additional foreign military assistance and to launch a new attack on us, of course, this ceasefire will not last long. It depends on them.

-So, in order to get on the table of negotiations would you demand Armenia to agree to withdraw at least some of maybe the seven regions in advance, before any negotiation?

-They must make a strong commitment that they will liberate these territories. Because, this is the part of the basic principles which have been agreed between two countries with the facilitation of the Minsk Group. Basic principles say that the occupied territories must be returned to Azerbaijan and our refugees and internally displaced persons must return to all the occupied territories, including territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, and including territory of ancient Azerbaijani city of Shusha. Therefore, the Armenian government must clearly declare that they are committed to this principles, they will liberate these territories, and then of course, negotiations will start. We do not put a pre-condition now that territories must be liberated first and then negotiations started. We, at this moment demand from Armenian side, from prime minister personally, the person who is responsible for this violence and is responsible for war crimes against peaceful Azerbaijanis, we demand from him personally saying Armenia will liberate the occupied territories. After that of course, the resolution of the conflict will be transformed from the battlefield to the negotiation table.

-Would you be ready for negotiation maybe if Armenia says they are ready to withdraw or liberate five regions first?

-All the regions of Azerbaijan must be liberated. All of them. Of course we can talk about the timing and in the basic principles there were certain ideas about timing on which stage the first regions on which stage the second part of the regions. So, this can be discussed. But it is obvious that all the occupied territories must be returned.

-And this has to be announced before.

-And all Azerbaijanis must return to their ancient lands.

-What would you say to Russia's proposal of sending monitoring teams, or what about international monitors?

-International monitors, our peace-keeping forces is part of the basic principles. But it is the last part, one of the last issues, which had to be addressed and definitely both sides Azerbaijan and Armenia should agree on who will be those international observers, or peacekeepers. Therefore, we did not seriously discuss this issue in the framework of negotiations. I think that the Minsk Group co-chairs, three countries will definitely make proposal on their behalf about what composition, the number of so-called observers, when and where they are going to be deployed? Because it is also important from technical point of view. Because now it is an active phase of combat operations. Where these observers or peacekeepers will be deployed? Their life can be under risk. And what will be their mandate? Who will give the mandate to them? And it is clear that when we talk about that we talk about the territory of Azerbaijan. It is not territory of Armenia. Therefore, of course, we must have a decisive say about that. Therefore, of course, all these issues must be addressed. In principle, we are not rejecting it. But of course, we will put our conditions when time will come.

-Speaking of Minsk Group, Turkey criticizes Minsk Group as brain dead. Would you agree?

-I said recently that the Minsk Group did not produce any result for 30 years. At the same time, I said that with the facilitation of the Minsk Group, with the previous Armenian governments we managed to make progress, not a big progress but still progress. But if one group of countries

for 30 years cannot produce results, it speaks for itself. And also, the co-chairs of the Minsk Group are permanent members of the UN Security Council. And the UN security Council with participation of these countries and with the voting of these countries adopted four resolutions demanding complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from Azerbaijani territories. That's a question why these resolutions are not implemented because the Minsk Group co-chairs and permanent members are the same countries. It is an open question.

-Among the Minsk Group co-chairs, what would you say to Russia? What would you say to Russia's role as a leading mediator? How would you say has Russia been fair?

-Three co-chairs of the Minsk Group have the same rights, and the same mandate. Therefore, as far as I know among these countries they did not choose a leader. They are all equal and we look at them as mediators. If any country assumes the role of mediator, this country must be neutral. And, if it is not neutral, it cannot be a mediator. The level of neutrality is another question, which of course, will be addressed at the proper time. But, I think the Minsk group co-chairs will play their role, especially now, when Armenia is almost defeated on the battlefield in order to stop violence, and to implement mandate which was for 28 years not implemented.

-Do you want Turkey to have more say in the Caucasus affairs and be much more active in this negotiation process?

-It depends of course on the political agenda of Turkey. I cannot speak on behalf of Turkey. What I want to say is that of course, we always, strongly support Turkish active involvement in the regional issues and actually, this involvement is obvious. Turkey plays important role now not only in our region, not only in the Caucasus, but in a broader region and in the world. It is a reality, and it is a very good reality for us. Because for us Turkey is a brotherly country, our closest ally and friend. And de facto, Turkey is already involved of course, from the legal point of view also as a member of the Minsk Group. I said once in one of the interviews that Turkey could have been even a co-chair. If today, we would have been selecting the co-chairs definitely, Azerbaijan would have supported the Turkish candidacy and I am sure Turkey would have insisted on being a co-chair. In 1992, unfortunately it didn't happen. So, this is a legal part. And then, a practical part, as you know presidents of Turkey and Russia, their foreign ministers, defense ministers talked, met, discussed this issue. Therefore, if somebody says that Turkey should not be there, as Armenia says, it's none of Armenian business, Turkey is already there and must be involved, because it will bring stability. And also, Turkey I think is the only country which has a border with three Caucasian countries. No other country has a border with three of them. Then, of course, Turkey must be actively involved, Turkey is involved and we strongly support it.

-Karabakh is by international law Azerbaijan's territory. But at the same time there are many Armenian inhabitants. Can you guarantee once Azerbaijan gets back its control, Armenian inhabitants can live safely with equal rights?

-Yes, definitely. And I already many times during this active phase of the conflict made statements in this regard that those Armenians who live in Nagorno-Karabakh are our citizens and their security, their rights will be totally provided as long as the rights of all other people of Azerbaijan. And I can tell you that today, in Azerbaijan we have thousands of people of Armenian origin, unlike Armenia, where there is no Azerbaijanis and 99% of Armenia are ethnic Armenians. So, no national minority, can live and survive there. So, they expelled all the nationalities which used to live on the territory of today's Armenian Republic. The biggest community were

Azerbaijanis. In the beginning of the 20th century, the city of Yerevan was 70 percent inhabited by Azerbaijanis. They destroyed all our historical, religious monuments. They destroyed the traces of Azerbaijani culture, not only in Yerevan but also in many other regions of today's Armenia. And by the way, Azerbaijani Democratic Republic which was established on May 28, 1918, on May 29th decided unfortunately, that was a big mistake which cannot be justified, to give Yerevan to Armenia as a capital. So, they destroyed all our religious and cultural heritage, they destroyed our mosques, they destroyed our monuments, but here in the center of Baku there is an Armenian church with many Armenian books. And many Armenians, thousands of them live today in Baku and in other parts of Azerbaijan. With respect to the point that you said that many Armenians who lived there, according to our information, the real population of territory which is occupied, including former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous District is around 65 thousand people. It is not a big community. But before the war in the beginning of 1990s there have been more than 40 thousand Azerbaijanis, who lived in Nagorno-Karabakh, mainly in Shusha, but also in Khankandi, in Khojaly, the city which suffered Armenian genocide, genocide committed by Armenians, and many other cities. So, they committed ethnic cleansing against us. We never did it. And even during these clashes, we did not respond the same way. We did not attack with ballistic missiles, neither the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, nor territory of Armenia. And I said that we will take revenge but we will take revenge on the battlefield. So, Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh can be absolutely sure that their security will be provided. And after the criminal junta in Nagorno-Karabakh is thrown away, they, as Azerbaijani citizens will live better. They will live in dignity, they will live in peace, and we will provide all the social and economic advantages for them, as we do for any other people in our country.

-When you get back Nagorno-Karabakh would you respect their rights of self-determination as stated in Madrid principles. Do you agree to referendum?

No, of course not. There will be no referendum, in Nagorno-Karabakh we will never agree on that. We did not agree on that during the time of negotiations and now, when we regained big part of the territory, it is out of question. With respect to self-determination, Armenian people have already self-determined themselves. They have an independent Armenian state. Imagine what will happen if Armenians will self-determine themselves anywhere where they live. How many small Armenias will be in the world? This is a counter-productive approach. Self-determination is an important factor of international law. But it should not violate the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. There are different types of self-determination. There are different types of communities. And they could be cultural autonomy for instance. We see these examples in developed countries of Europe. Where there are certain rights of people in their municipalities, in their communities, as in any part of Azerbaijan of course, Armenians who live in Azerbaijan can have this form of communication. But never we will allow the creation of the second Armenian state on the territory of Azerbaijan. This is out of question. In other words, there will be no referendum, never.

-Reportedly, Armenia is recruiting Lebanese, Syrian Armenians. At the same time, NGO namely, Syrian observatory for human rights claims that many ethnic Turkmen fighters from Syria are now in the battlefield alongside with your forces, would you say that is true?

-No, this is not true. First, I would like to say the fact that Armenia recruited mercenaries and fighters from the Middle East is not a secret. And even Armenian prime Minister admitted it. But he said that they are native Armenians. First, nobody knows whether they are native

Armenians or not, and we have information that representatives of different nationalities are now fighting on Armenian side. And second, if the person is ethnic Armenian but citizen of other country does not mean that he is not a mercenary. Among those who have been eliminated on the battlefield, there are people with Lebanese passport, with Canadian passport. We have evidence about citizens of France, United States of Armenian origin. But citizens of these countries and citizens of some countries of former Soviet Union are fighting against us together with citizens of the countries of the Middle East. Armenia used mercenaries during the first Karabakh War. This is not a secret. Some of them have been eliminated by Azerbaijan and they erased a big monument in their honor, monuments in the honor of international terrorists. This shows that Armenia is a terrorist state. With respect to Azerbaijan, first this so-called Syrian observatory NGO is not a credible organization. We know about many fakes which they spread over with respect to the war in Syria. So, there is no credibility, trust to this politically motivated so-called NGO. First we need to check who is financing and then understand who is behind these rumors. Second, not a single evidence have been presented to us by any country. Only rumors, only unjustified statements, and I demanded proof. I said okay, now it's more than twenty days that we are in the active phase of the conflict. Where are there proofs? Give us the proofs. No proofs. Therefore, these rumors must be stopped. Azerbaijan is fighting itself. We don't need any foreign fighters. We have enough people, enough soldiers and officers in our regular army. We have ten million population. If we need additional fighters we will announce mobilization, we will recruit. So, there is no need for that and it is absolutely false information.

-So, as you said repeatedly, no jihadists and even no Turkmen?

No, there can be people of Azerbaijani origin coming from other countries. We do not exclude it. Because we have many volunteers, people who voluntarily want to defend their country. We cannot exclude that people of Azerbaijani origin from other countries come but it is not the way how it is presented that Azerbaijan invited terrorists in order to fight. This is false information.

-Are you aware of those volunteers with Azerbaijani origin?

-There can be, I said, I do not exclude. There can be. But we receive many requests, many letters from Azerbaijanis who live outside to come and to fight for their historical motherland. But our position is – we don't need it. We have enough people on the battlefield.

-Japanese companies joined oil and pipe line projects of Azerbaijan. They are investors here. Do you have concerns over the security of five pipelines? Is there any risk of postponement of the TAP pipeline which is going to be opened very soon within this year?

-No, with Tap pipeline everything is on the schedule, it is already done. It's a matter of maybe some additional weeks, not months for official opening of TAP. Everything is ready, the historical pipeline from Baku to Europe have been completed. With respect to other pipelines which we have and particular oil and gas pipelines on the territory of Azerbaijan during all these years since 2006, when Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan was commissioned, we didn't have any accident. Our pipelines on our territory are duly protected. But of course we heard threats from official Armenian representatives that they will attack our pipelines, they will attack Sangachal terminal which is an important terminal for oil and gas transportation, but this is also part of their terrorist nature. Because they openly declare that they will attack civilian infrastructure. And of course, if they do it, they will regret, because they will be punished by us, severely, and also those countries which today provide part of their energy security from Azerbaijan. What will be reaction of those

countries? Billions of dollars have been invested in these pipelines. International banks, all the leading international banks like World Bank, EBRD, Asian Development Bank, European Investment Bank and other banks invested. So, the Armenian leadership should think twice about this kind of option. And of course, as I said, Azerbaijan itself will punish them severely, and I don't think that they will even dare to do this, another war crime.

-Since it's very rare occasion for us to meet you. Let us ask, a couple of questions about the future of your country in general.

-Yes of course.

-So, Azerbaijan is the first commercial oil producer in the world.

-Yes, that is true.

-But how do you think the country would transfer to the post-oil era. Do you have any expectations from you know, how Japanese companies might be involved in that?

-Yes, of course we have agenda of diversification of our economy, and this process is successfully continuing. Even this year, though our GDP is going down not very seriously, it's less than 4% decline so far. In comparison with some other countries it's not a bad result but with respect to non-oil related industry we have a growth. That shows that our diversification program is being implemented very successfully. Industrial development, business opportunities, tourism, of course before the pandemic was rapidly growing. And innovation sector and agriculture, and of course coming back to the main topic, when we see that now Azerbaijan is liberating the territories, first we liberated very important water storage, which will provide water supply for tens of thousands of hectares of land. Armenia actually committed an ecological terror against us. They were closing the water from the river Tartar and thus hundred thousands of hectares of land were not supplied with water. They were closing in summer, when people need it and they were opening it in winter and making floods. So, the terrorist nature of Armenia is on every, every step. So, after we regained the territories back, and this is a very good soil for growing different products, for breeding cattle, of course, our agriculture will have a new boost. We already started to plan our future agricultural development with respect of the liberation of the territories. Of course, we think that investments in human capital will provide for us good opportunities for development, because oil and gas will come to an end once, though, our reserves are huge. We just started to export large quantities of natural gas, and oil production profile will be more or less stable for coming decades. But non-energy sector of course, is priority. With respect to Japanese companies, they are very active here in the area of energy, with the loans from Japanese banks we built two big power stations, in Baku. Their capacity is close to 800 megawatts. So these power stations provide important part of our consumption and our export. We, by the way, export electric energy also, and we want to see Japanese companies in the area of renewable energy, which is now one of the priorities. We already signed preliminary agreements with some investors. So, we hope that the area which is very promising and has a potential because of a lot of sun and a lot of wind, especially in Absheron peninsula. And in many other areas today Japanese companies provide equipment, machinery, technology also in agriculture. So, we are very satisfied with the level of economic cooperation between Japan and Azerbaijan.

-What about political reforms? You have criticism, I mean there are criticism from many western countries that you yourself succeeded your father and now your wife is vice president and so, are you ready to promote democracy and to open up power to oppositions?

-I think that the democratic development in the country is going in a positive direction. We have all the major freedoms in Azerbaijan. Freedom of political activity, media freedom, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, religious freedom. So, there is no restrictions on that. We have free internet, by the way, and those who tried to criticize us they should look to the substance and not spread rumors and use the so-called democratic shortcomings of Azerbaijan for political purposes, for the purposes of political pressure. Now, I introduced the new program of political reforms which was supported by absolute majority of all political parties. And that was done by the way before this clash. Now, of course, absolute majority of political parties strongly support my policy on return of the occupied territories. Only two parties are not part of this process. Only two parties are going against national interests of Azerbaijan. This is a Popular Front Party, and Musavat Party. And by the way, these two parties rejected my proposal for political dialogue. I made this proposal several months ago. I said, we need to have a political dialogue, we need to have normal, civilized relations between the government and opposition, between a leading party and other parties. And now I think 50 parties or more supported that. We are in a very active phase of the political dialogue. Only two parties, which have a direct financing from outside, which always were acting against national interests of Azerbaijan, these two parties are responsible for the loss of the territories. Because they were in power in 1992-1993, when Armenia occupied our territories-Popular Front and Musavat. And those people who are responsible for the loss of the territories today are the leaders of these parties for almost 30 years. And nobody talks about democracy, nobody talks about how they keep this position for almost 30 years. Therefore, those who want to criticize us better look at the mirror. In front of our eyes, in front of the international community eyes we see how demonstrations are brutally suppressed in the so-called democracies. How people are being killed at the rallies, wounded, injured. Every week we see it. How police is using you know dogs and horses in order to suppress protestors. You will not see it in Azerbaijan. Never. Therefore, those who criticize us better take care of their own business. With respect to what you said about me succeeding my father, yes it is true. But before I succeeded my father, I was for many years a Member of Parliament, since 1995 until 2003. I was the president of the National Olympic Committee since 1997. I was a deputy and then senior deputy of the leading political party – Yeni Azerbaijan Party. And I was a prime minister. So, my political career is known to international observers and of course, they know that it was not like they want to present. And talking about succeeding, why nobody talks about Bush family. How they succeeded each other. Why nobody talks about Clinton family. When the wife became the Secretary of State and then was a presidential candidate. And many other cases like that. Let them look at themselves before raising this issue. With respect to my wife, my wife was a Member of Parliament since 2005. She was very active on the issues related to the social and humanitarian area. She was and is the head of the biggest NGO in the Caucasus – the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. She has a strong support among Azerbaijanis, you can ask any person on the street and you will see how they love her and support her. And she was and is a deputy chairman of Yeni Azerbaijan Party. Therefore, her political career also was not a kind of sudden event. And I can tell you that she was not very happy when I suggested this position to her. I can tell you, maybe I tell that for the first time, it took me a lot of time to persuade her. And I had arguments and she didn't want. She is totally involved in social, humanitarian issues. And she wants and she helps tens of thousands of people, tens of thousands. But she does it without any PR, without advertisement, without announcement. So, she is a person our people are proud of.

-You mentioned freedom of speech and the internet. But I believe there are some restrictions on the social networking systems.

-These are temporary restrictions, these restrictions have been imposed after these clashes have started. And we made announcement to our people that this is for the issues of national security. Because, we need to protect at this time our information system from Armenian provocations. So, this is temporary. As soon as this active phase of clashes stops, all these restrictions will be lifted. But I can tell you that the level of penetration of internet is very high, and more than 80 percent of Azerbaijanis are internet users. So, it is only temporary.

-Let me close with the one final question your highness. Let's finish it with the hopeful note. Are you hopeful for a peaceful solution? And what will peace can bring Armenia and Azerbaijan also because Armenia is landlocked. Borders are closed here, borders are closed on Turkish side, their economy is on decline, what can peace bring to both countries?

-Of course, peace will change the situation in region completely. And I hope to see the time when the three countries of the Southern Caucasus will have cooperation. Now for instance, level of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Georgia is very high. We are strategic partners, and with current Georgian government we have excellent relations. We support each other and we are good neighbors and good friends. And we implemented look, how many projects together. Oil transportation, gas transportation, energy transportation, railroad connection, Baku-Tbilisi-Kars, Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan, Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum, TANAP and many others. Azerbaijan is, I think, first to second largest investor in Georgia along with Turkey. First to second largest taxpayer and by the way, in the middle of 90s the issue of construction of pipeline was discussed. There were some proposals from the West to have these pipelines through Armenia. But Armenia should have then liberate the territories and then, the pipeline could have gone from Azerbaijan to Armenia and then to Nakhchivan and to Turkey. And that was a shortest route. If you look at the map you will see how the pipeline goes. It is because to bypass Armenia. But Armenians thought that we will not be able to implement this pipeline. Therefore, they said no, and I think now they seriously regret. They became deadlocked because of occupation. They thought that we will not be able to build pipelines, they thought we will not be able to build railroads, they were always advocating for how to say functioning of the Kars-Gumru railroad which existed. But it was closed because our brotherly country Turkey closed the border because of Armenian occupation. So, now Armenia is not landlocked but they don't have border with Turkey, because of aggression against Azerbaijan, and because of territorial claims against Turkey. Maybe you don't know, but in their constitution they have territorial claims against Turkey. One must be crazy now to have claims to such a powerful country as Turkey. But that's substance of their ideology. During the time of negotiations, there have been messages sent to previous Armenian government that if they put an end to occupation, Azerbaijan can implement different social and economic projects in Nagorno-Karabakh. These messages were sent through the Minsk-group co-chairs to former Armenian president and they rejected. Today in Nagorno-Karabakh people live in poverty, you know total unemployment, poverty and destroyed infrastructure. We were ready to invest, but we said liberate the territories and we will help you. Today when we liberate the territories, ourselves, definitely will help those people those Armenians who live in Nagorno-Karabakh and of course Azerbaijanis who will return to rebuild this area. But if Armenia makes the constructive steps and liberate the territories of course, we will open all the communications. I know that, I heard about the position of the Turkish government that they will also open communications if Armenia liberates the territories. Then the situation in the southern Caucasus will completely change.

-Has Mr. Erdogan mentioned you about this intention?

-Well, maybe we did not discussed it directly. But of course, we know that this is the position that the reason why Armenian Turkish border is closed, because of the occupation. If occupation is lifted, the border will be opened it is official position of Turkish government and Armenians know that. And without normalization of relations with Turkey and with Azerbaijan Armenia has no future. Because the market is small, and is getting smaller. Population is shrinking, migration is very high. According to our information today, real population, how many people there are in Armenia, less than two million. Less than two million. It will go down. Because of no job, especially now when they are deprived of those very productive lands in the occupied territories. If you look at these images from the sky, you will see how they use our land for illegal products. They not only use our land, they use our gold mines in Kalbajar. There are foreign companies whom we will sue, if they don't stop. By the way, soon I think they will stop anyway. So, they will suffer even more problems, because they will be deprived of this important agricultural segment. They will just decline and we will develop. Our population is growing. Turkish population is 83 million, Azerbaijani population is 10 million. Armenian population is less than two million. They should think how they are going to live here in 10 years, in 20 years, in 50 years if they don't be reasonable, if they don't put end to aggression. And they cannot afford this aggression any longer, and we showed them on the battlefield who is who. All their mythology about their brave army, was a kind of fake. Their army is running, we defeat them. We beat them, and we will continue to do it, until they get out of our land.

-Thank you very much for this opportunity and it has been always a pleasure to be in Baku.

-Thank you.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani artillerymen continue to inflict precise strikes at Armenia's firing points

[17:18] 22.10.2020

“The artillery units of the Azerbaijan Army continue to inflict precise strikes at the firing points of the enemy,” the Ministry of Defense said.

AZERTAC

‘Reference to international humanitarian law in Armenian Foreign Ministry’s statement is nothing but hypocrisy’

[17:10] 22.10.2020

“The statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia trying to present the position of Armenia as “peaceful” against the backdrop of the recent statement by the prime minister of this country emphasizing that “there is no diplomatic solution to the conflict” is absolute balderdash,” said Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“It is pertinent to remind that Armenia imposed war on Azerbaijan, kept the Azerbaijani territories, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent regions under military occupation nearly for three decades and grossly violated the fundamental human rights of up to one million IDPs who have been forcefully expelled from their homes. The new aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan since September 27, 2020, has been accompanied by the blatant violation of norms and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law and Geneva Conventions.

Reference to the international humanitarian law in the statement of the MFA of Armenia, the country that bears full responsibility for the heinous crimes it has committed in the course of the war, including its recent war crimes and crimes against humanity, by deliberately shelling the Azerbaijani peaceful population and civilian infrastructures not only in the vicinity of frontline but also those situated far from the conflict zone in a gross violation of humanitarian ceasefire is nothing but hypocrisy.

Armenia must quit its attempt to mislead the international community by giving erroneous statements. The reality on the ground is clear and obvious; Armenia should give up its policy of aggression, withdraw its forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and start to be engaged in the negotiated settlement of the conflict. The sooner the leadership of Armenia realizes it, the more chances the country will have to avoid further escalation and bloodshed,” the Foreign Ministry said.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: Armenian Army targets Oghuz-Gabala-Baku water pipeline

[15:39] 22.10.2020

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia in violation of the norms and principles of international law, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as well as the requirements of the declared humanitarian ceasefire continue to subject settlements and strategic facilities to missile and heavy artillery shelling, deliberately targeting the civilian population of Azerbaijan, the Prosecutor General's Office told AZERTAC.

“Starting early in the morning of October 22th, the Armenian armed forces using massively destructive warfare methods fired Scud ballistic tactical missiles at Gabala, Kurdamir and Siyazan districts of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which are located more than 150 km away from the frontline.

As a result of rockets launched, resident of Gabala district - Amirbayov Murad Jeyhun, born in 2003, received various injuries, 5 houses in the village were severely damaged.”

“Also, the hostile forces targeted the Oghuz-Gabala-Baku water pipeline, which supplies drinking water to the Absheron Peninsula and is of special strategic importance for our country. However, as a result of neutralization by our Army's air defense forces, parts of the missile fell within the pipeline.

In this regard, all necessary investigative measures and procedural actions are currently conducted at the scene,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan starts production of “Iti qovan” UAVs

[15:10] 22.10.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defence Industry has begun the mass production of a new type of unmanned aerial vehicles “Iti qovan” ("Dog Chaser") with greater destructive power.

This historic expression stated by Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, has been inscribed on the wings of the UAVs. At present, "Iti Govan" UAVs are in the armament of the Azerbaijani Army.

The units and enterprises of the Ministry of Defence Industry, established in 2005 on the initiative of President of Azerbaijan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, provide the Azerbaijani Army with weapons and ammunition. Specialists of the ministry together with the military are testing new types of weapons and ammunition in real combat conditions.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev received Turkish Chief Ombudsman

[13:37] 22.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has received Chief Ombudsman of the Republic of Turkey Seref Malkoc.

According to AZERTAC, welcoming the guest, **President Ilham Aliyev** said:

- Hello and welcome!

Seref Malkoc: Good to see you!

President Ilham Aliyev: I am pleased to welcome you. In the current situation, your presence in Azerbaijan is of particular importance. As you know, Armenia has committed yet another act of aggression against Azerbaijan, another act of terrorism. It has committed war crimes against both our civilians and our servicemen. I know that you will go to Ganja during this visit. You will see for yourself what savage enemy we are facing. They cannot confront us on the battlefield and try to make up for this bitter defeat by shelling civilians. Two cowardly attacks on Ganja and the hitting of Ganja with ballistic missiles are war crimes. The Armenian leadership will be held accountable for this crime. This is a deliberate crime. They specifically targeted the civilian population. As you know, we have many casualties, including children, women and the elderly. This once again shows the predatory nature of Armenian fascism. This shows once again that by breaking the back of Armenian fascism, we will save our region from great troubles and great tragedies.

At the same time, all our frontline towns and villages come under fire every day. According to the information provided to me today, 190 shells hit Tartar district alone from 6 to 8 o'clock in the morning. More than 90 shells hit Aghdam district. There have been days when 2,000 shells landed in Tartar district. So they want to destroy our cities, they want to break the will of the Azerbaijani people. But they fail and become even more depraved. We take our revenge on the battlefield. We have never taken and will never take any action against civilians. Although they are firing on our ancient historical city of Ganja, we are not and will not fire on Armenian cities or the cities of Nagorno-Karabakh. Our superiority is manifested further through these moral values and shows the whole world again that Armenia poses a huge threat to the world. The criminal and fascist regime in Armenia is the biggest threat to our region, and Azerbaijan is doing its best to eliminate this threat. Good news comes from the frontline every day. We liberate new cities and villages from occupiers every day. The victorious Azerbaijani Army is fulfilling its glorious mission.

Your visit to Azerbaijan today is of great importance. As you know, brotherly Turkey has supported us from the first hours. Dear President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, my dear brother said from the first hours that Turkey stands by Azerbaijan. Other high-ranking Turkish officials have made similar statements. The Turkish people support us. The conflict is widely covered in the Turkish media. Azerbaijan's legitimate case is communicated to the world through the Turkish media. This is also very important. Unfortunately, the media of many countries unilaterally side with Armenia. This is a great injustice. This is fraud. This is a distortion of events. Attempts to portray Azerbaijan as an aggressor or occupier have no basis, of course. Therefore, the presence

of Turkish media here from the first days and their reports from the war zone serve to provide accurate information on this issue to the world.

Also, we have been proving to the international community over the years, and I think we have been able to prove that, we are right and that we have been invaded. The footage of our liberated cities and villages shows what savages we are facing. There is not a single surviving building in these cities, in these villages, in most of them. The city of Fuzuli has been completely destroyed. We could not find a safe building to raise the Azerbaijani flag there, but this ceremony was held at last. The buildings of all our villages have been destroyed, our mosques have been destroyed. The whole world saw images of a destroyed mosque in a village in Zangilan on the Internet yesterday. They kept pigs in that mosque. They have insulted our mosques. They have destroyed all our historical sites. There are only stones left of houses. All roofs, windows and belongings have been looted.

Unfortunately, they invaded our lands with foreign support in the early 1990s. In the current situation too, we see that they are receiving help from abroad. Mercenaries are sent there. A lot of weaponry is sent there. Nevertheless, we are breaking the back of this ugly regime. We continue our just cause. We have a brotherly country such as Turkey by our side. We are always together. Thank you again and welcome!

X X X

Turkish Chief Ombudsman **Seref Malkoc** said:

- Good to see you, Mr. President. Thank you very much for taking the time to receive us despite your busy schedule. Thank you!

Azerbaijani lands have been under occupation for 30 years. Despite all the negotiations, there has been no progress for 30 years. This is why the struggle you are waging today is fair, it is a struggle for law, a struggle in the field of human rights – to drive the occupiers out of your homeland. This is the most natural and legitimate right of international law, of human conscience and human morality. You do it extraordinarily well.

Your statements every evening about how many villages and cities have been liberated from occupation bring joy and happiness to people all over Turkey.

As the Ombudsman of Turkey, I also chair the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) Ombudsmen Association.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijan's legitimate case is communicated to the world through the Turkish media

[13:35] 22.10.2020

“Your visit to Azerbaijan today is of great importance. As you know, brotherly Turkey has supported us from the first hours. Dear President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, my dear brother said from the first hours that Turkey stands by Azerbaijan. Other high-ranking Turkish officials have made similar statements. The Turkish people support us,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he received Turkish Chief Ombudsman Seref Malkoc.

“The conflict is widely covered in the Turkish media. Azerbaijan's legitimate case is communicated to the world through the Turkish media. This is also very important. Unfortunately, the media of many countries unilaterally side with Armenia. This is a great injustice. This is fraud. This is a distortion of events. Attempts to portray Azerbaijan as an aggressor or occupier have no basis, of course. Therefore, the presence of Turkish media here from the first days and their reports from the war zone serve to provide accurate information on this issue to the world,” the head of state noted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan destroys another UAV of Armenia

[13:28] 22.10.2020

“On October 22, in the morning hours, the units of the Azerbaijan Army have destroyed a tactical UAV of the Armenian armed forces, which attempted to carry out a flight in the direction of Sadarak and Sharur districts of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic,” the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Armenian servicemen refuse to fight

[13:25] 22.10.2020

Servicemen of the Armenian Armed Forces, which have heavily suffered in various directions of the front in recent days, refuse to fight, Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense said.

“As servicemen of the reserve units of the 543rd Regiment refused to go to Nagorno-Karabakh, villagers were involved in the fighting. At the same time, local residents closed some roads in protest of their children's participation in the fighting,” the ministry said.

“Relatives and acquaintances call the servicemen in the defense zone north of Hadrut and in the defense area of the 5th Destroyer Regiment in Aghdara, and urge them to lay down their weapons and retreat. The units also reported a shortage of food, fuel and ammunition,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijani President: Fascist regime in Armenia is the biggest threat to our region,
to the world**

[13:22] 22.10.2020

“All our frontline towns and villages come under fire every day. According to the information provided to me today, 190 shells hit Tartar district alone from 6 to 8 o’clock in the morning. More than 90 shells hit Aghdam district. There have been days when 2,000 shells landed in Tartar district. So they want to destroy our cities, they want to break the will of the Azerbaijani people. But they fail and become even more depraved,” said President Ilham Aliyev as he received Turkish Chief Ombudsman Seref Malkoc.

“We take our revenge on the battlefield. We have never taken and will never take any action against civilians. Although they are firing on our ancient historical city of Ganja, we are not and will not fire on Armenian cities or the cities of Nagorno-Karabakh. Our superiority is manifested further through these moral values and shows the whole world again that Armenia poses a huge threat to the world. The criminal and fascist regime in Armenia is the biggest threat to our region, and Azerbaijan is doing its best to eliminate this threat. Good news comes from the frontline every day. We liberate new cities and villages from occupiers every day. The victorious Azerbaijani Army is fulfilling its glorious mission,” the head of state said.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: By breaking the back of Armenian fascism, we will save our region from great troubles and great tragedies

[13:19] 22.10.2020

In a meeting with Chief Ombudsman of Turkey Seref Malkoc, President Ilham Aliyev highlighted the terrorist attacks and war crimes Armenia committed against Azerbaijan.

“I know that you will go to Ganja during this visit. You will see for yourself what savage enemy we are facing. They cannot confront us on the battlefield and try to make up for this bitter defeat by shelling civilians,” President Ilham Aliyev said.

“Two cowardly attacks on Ganja and the hitting of Ganja with ballistic missiles are war crimes. The Armenian leadership will be held accountable for this crime. This is a deliberate crime. They specifically targeted the civilian population. As you know, we have many casualties, including children, women and the elderly. This once again shows the predatory nature of Armenian fascism. This shows once again that by breaking the back of Armenian fascism, we will save our region from great troubles and great tragedies,” the head of state emphasized.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of another seized Armenian military equipment

[13:14] 22.10.2020

The Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan has released a video footage of another seized Armenian military equipment.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani territories come under rocket fire from Armenia

[10:55] 22.10.2020

On October 22 in the morning, the territory of Azerbaijan was exposed to ballistic missiles fired using the operational-tactical missile complex from the territory of Armenia, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The enemy fired 3 missiles in the direction of Siyazan district at about 07.00, 2 missiles in the direction of Gabala district, and 1 missile in the direction of Kurdamir district at about 09.00.

The target of the Armenian armed forces was the peaceful population and civilian infrastructure.

There were no casualties as a result of the enemy's missile attack, the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy shells our positions

[10:28] 22.10.2020

On October 22 starting from 09.15, the Armenian armed forces stationed in the occupied territories fire on our positions in the Fuzuli district using rocket artillery, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The situation on front on October 22

[09:37] 22.10.2020

During the day on October 21 and on the night of October 22, the combat operations in the Aghdara-Aghdam, Fuzuli-Jabrayil, and Zangilan-Gubadli directions continued with varying intensity. The enemy fired at our defensive positions using small arms, mortars, and howitzers, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, as a result of the operation carried out by the Azerbaijan Army in the Gubadli direction, the defending units of the Armenian Armed Forces were forced to withdraw from important high grounds and a number of positions, losing personnel and military vehicles.

The D-20 battery of the 155th artillery regiment of the Armenian armed forces, located in the direction of Khojavand, has a large number of wounded personnel. It was identified that there was a lack of vehicles for their evacuation and the roads were closed.

The volunteers newly arrived at the enemy's artillery units located in the north of Hadrut settlement left the firing positions and fled.

As a result of the artillery strikes on the 5th mountain rifle regiment, located in the Aghdara direction, the enemy was exposed to heavy casualties, including death and injuries of the personnel. Commander of the 3rd battalion of the regiment Robert Hambartsumyan went missing, and the chief of staff of the battalion was killed. As a result of the annihilation of the underground shelter, there was a significant loss among the enemy's military personnel.

There were significant casualties among the military personnel as a result of the fire strike at the defense area of the 543rd regiment. The commander of the regiment was wounded, his deputy, battalion commander Araik Hovakimyan and his deputies, commanders of a mortar battery, and a company were killed. The military personnel of a company of the 1st battalion refused to engage in the battle.

"Currently, fighting continues in the entire front. Our troops control the operational situation," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

October 21

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: It is once again confirmed that Armenia's statements on negotiated settlement of the conflict are nothing but hypocrisy

[20:47] 21.10.2020

“The Armenian prime minister’s statement that “there is no diplomatic solution to the conflict” once again demonstrates that Armenia is absolutely uninterested in the settlement of the conflict through negotiations. With this statement, the Armenian leadership admits that Armenia’s purpose is to keep the occupied Azerbaijani territories under occupation. Thus, it is once again confirmed that the statement of the official Yerevan on the settlement of the conflict through negotiations is nothing but hypocrisy,” said Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

“Armenia’s prime minister acting irresponsibly and for the sake of his own political ambitions calls on all civilian authorities, civilian population for total armament and engages them into military operations. This official position of Armenia clearly proves who has violated the humanitarian ceasefire regime and contributes to further escalation of the situation in the region,” the Presidential Assistant noted.

“Indeed, it should come as no surprise that such a statement was made by a person who gave an order to constantly strike by “SCUD” ballistic missiles Azerbaijan’s Ganja city and shell residents of other cities and regions.”

The Armenian PM’s statement is preceded by a working visit of ministers of foreign affairs of the two countries to Moscow on Russia’s initiative and a meeting that will be held in Washington at the level of FMs on the US’ initiative.”

“President Ilham Aliyev has repeatedly affirmed Azerbaijan’s readiness for negotiations and diplomatic settlement of the conflict in his last interviews and statements to international media,” Hikmat Hajiyev emphasized.

“Against the background of Azerbaijan’s constructive position on the conflict settlement, the international community, especially OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries should derive a conclusion from the current statement by the Armenian leadership. The statement of the Armenian leadership shows a total disregard for the efforts made by the international community to achieve a diplomatic solution to the conflict. Azerbaijan supports the settlement of the conflict through negotiations in accordance with the existing road map based on the UN Security Council resolutions,” he added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated Minjivan settlement and 13 villages of Zangilan district

[20:44] 21.10.2020

“The glorious Azerbaijani Army has liberated Minjivan settlement and Khurama, Khumarli, Sari Babayli, Ucunju Aghali, Hajalli, Girakh Mushlan, Udgun, Turabad, Ichari Mushlan, Malikli, Jahangirbayli, Baharli villages of Zangilan district from occupation. Long live Azerbaijani Army! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a post on his official Twitter account, AZERTAC reports.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army liberated 3 villages of Fuzuli district, 5 villages of Jabrayil district

[20:35] 21.10.2020

“The glorious Azerbaijani Army has liberated Gejagozlu, Ashaghi Seyidahmadli, Zargar villages of Fuzuli district, and Balyand, Papi, Tulus, Hajili, Tinli villages of Jabrayil district from occupation. Long live Azerbaijani Army! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a post on his official Twitter account, AZERTAC reports.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Japan's Nikkei newspaper

[17:22] 21.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has been interviewed by Japan's Nikkei newspaper.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: Number of civilians killed as result of Armenian attacks on Azerbaijan's settlements reaches 63

[15:19] 21.10.2020

“As many as 63 civilians were killed and 292 others wounded as a result of Armenian military attacks on Azerbaijan's residential settlements from September 27 up till now,” the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“Some 386 civilian facilities, 1,981 houses, and 90 multi-apartment buildings were damaged as a result of the Armenian military aggression,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

AZERTAC appeals to world's leading news agencies on Armenia's bloody terrorist attacks on Ganja city

[15:15] 21.10.2020

AZERTAC has made an appeal to the heads of agencies holding membership in international and regional news agencies on Armenia's war crimes, especially terrorist attacks committed against the city of Ganja and other residential settlements which are located far from the frontline and have no military facilities.

The document addressed to the members of the News Agencies World Congress (NAWC), European Alliance of News Agencies (EANA), the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA), the Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA) calls for an objective and impartial coverage of Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan and the ongoing events in the region.

“Highlighting the grave consequences of Armenia's latest military provocation against Azerbaijan, the appeal says: “On September 27, the positions of the Azerbaijani armed forces and surrounding areas, as well as civilian facilities, towns and villages along the entire line of contact came under heavy fire from the Armenian armed forces illegally deployed in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. As a result of these attacks, 61 civilians have been killed, 291 people have been injured, more than 2,000 houses and residential buildings as well as 382 infrastructure facilities have been destroyed or severely damaged so far.”

“On October 11 and 17, Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan located far from the conflict zone, was subjected to a ballistic missile strike from the territory of Armenia. 23 civilians were killed and more than 90 people were injured in these bloody terrorist attacks carried out by Armenia at the state level. Seven of those killed and 19 of the injured were children and women. The missile strikes on the central part of Ganja destroyed multi-floor residential buildings and houses, and severely damaged civilian facilities.

The latest attack on the city of Ganja particularly differed in its scale. A "Scud" ballistic missile fired on a residential area while people were asleep at night caused greater damage, killing 14 people and injuring 54 others. Among the killed civilians there were four women and three minors, schoolchildren and a new-born baby. Two other children are still missing.

The nature and gravity of both attacks proves that this is an act of terrorism and war crime committed by Armenia at the state level. Despite these barbaric attacks, Azerbaijan targets only military facilities and aims to liberate its legitimate lands from the occupation.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has repeatedly stated that we will not do anything to the Armenian people. Like Armenia, Azerbaijan also wants peace and, unlike Armenia, Azerbaijan wants its own lands back. When the territorial integrity of our country will be restored the civilian Armenian population in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh will be given all rights and privileges equal to those of citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Unfortunately, biased coverage of Armenia's large-scale aggression against Azerbaijan continues in the international media, and it's a matter of serious concern to us. Some media outlets spread news based on fake information from the Armenian side without checking the facts, and do not express their opinion on the Armenian armed forces' targeted attacks on the Azerbaijani

civilian population and civilian facilities. What we want is that you be on the side of truth and justice, and convey the truth to communities of your countries. We call on you not to be indifferent to the terrorist acts of Armenia against the civilian population as we do believe in your agencies` commitment to the principles of journalism. I want to reaffirm AZERTAC`s readiness to respond to any queries for any information and facilitate your communication with Azerbaijani officials in this regard”.

AZERTAC is a vice-president of the Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA), member of News Agencies World Council (NAWC), European Alliance of News Agencies (EANA), and the Executive Council of the Union of OIC News Agencies (UNA).

AZERTAC

Turkic Council voices support for Azerbaijan

[15:08] 21.10.2020

Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States (Turkic Council) Baghdad Amreyev on Tuesday expressed "unconditional" support for Azerbaijan on a visit to the city of Ganja, where civilians have been targeted multiple times by Armenian missile strikes, according to Anadolu Agency.

Speaking at a press conference, Secretary General Baghdad Amreyev said the Turkic Council strongly condemned the attacks on Ganja -- Azerbaijan's second-largest city which is also located far from the front line -- and urged the international community denounce Armenia's strikes on civilians.

Underlining that the body was closely following the developments in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, Amreyev said: "Turkic-speaking countries, the Turkic world and the Turkic Council unconditionally support the right of Azerbaijan to save its occupied lands."

"This is a patriotic war for the brotherly Azerbaijani people. We stand by Azerbaijan in this war. We wish peace and victory to our friendly nation," he said.

Amreyev conveyed the Turkic Council's support for solving the conflict in a peaceful way based on Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan shoots down another Armenian UAV

[13:46] 21.10.2020

“On October 21, at about 12:00, the Azerbaijan Air Defense units destroyed another UAV of the Armenian armed forces in the Horadiz direction,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army inflicts artillery strikes day and night time

[13:28] 21.10.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defence has released a video footage reflecting inflicting artillery strikes on the Armenian armed forces at the day and night time.

AZERTAC presents the video.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM pays working visit to Moscow

[13:15] 21.10.2020

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has left for Moscow for a working visit.

During the visit, FM Bayramov will hold consultations with the Russian side.

AZERTAC

Liberated from occupation Charakan village of Jabrayil district

[11:42] 21.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense has released video footages of the liberated from occupation Charakan village of Jabrayil district.

Citing the ministry's website, AZERTAC presents the footages.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The battalion of Armenian armed forces 556th regiment was disabled

[11:24] 21.10.2020

As a result of the actions taken by the Azerbaijan Army during the combat operations in Jabrayil direction of the front, a battalion of the 556th regiment of the Armenian armed forces was forced out of action, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“Most of the battalion's military personnel, consisting of about 400 contract servicemen, were disabled. The military unit returned to the Ararat city of Armenia for re-manning.

It became known that the commander of the regiment was discharged for refusing to send remaining military personnel into the battle. Most of the servicemen were prosecuted for refusing to engage in battles,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy shells Tartar district

[10:47] 21.10.2020

Since the morning hours the Armenian armed forces are shelling the Tartar city and the territory of the district using artillery devices, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on front

[10:40] 21.10.2020

During the day on October 20 and on the night of October 21, the combat operations in the direction of Aghdara, Fuzuli-Jabrayil, and Gubadli directions of the front continued with varying intensity. The enemy fired on our defensive positions using small arms, mortars, and howitzers, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, as a result of the operations carried out by the Azerbaijani Army, the defending units of the 18th motorized rifle division of the Armenian armed forces in Jabrayil and Gubadli directions of the front were forced to withdraw, losing personnel and military vehicles.

Enemy positions were seized in the defense area of the 5th mountain rifle regiment, a large number of weapons and ammunition were taken as trophies. The regiment's chief of artillery, commander of artillery division, and commander of the 4th battalion together with the battalion's military personnel were destroyed.

There are dead and wounded among the military personnel of the enemy units in the defense areas of the 6th and 7th mountain rifle regiments. Deputy Commander of the regiment Vahan Sargsyan was among the dead.

Three artillery pieces, several mortars, and three vehicles with military personnel were destroyed in the fighting.

Troops of the Azerbaijani Army control the operational situation along the entire front.

AZERTAC

October 20

Azerbaijani army destroys Armenian armed forces units in Gubadli direction

[20:45] 20.10.2020

During the battles in Gubadli direction, the Artillery Units of the Azerbaijan Army have destroyed the units of the Armenian armed forces, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Supreme Court of Azerbaijan issues statement on Armenian army's targeting civilians

[20:36] 20.10.2020

The Supreme Court of Azerbaijan has issued a statement on the killing and injuring of civilians as a result of Armenian army's targeting peaceful population.

Signed by President of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ramiz Rzayev, the statement reads:

“In the late hours of 17 October 2020, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia once again launched a missile attack from its territory at the second largest densely populated city of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the historic city of Ganja, which is located approximately 100 kilometers away from the active military zone on the territory of Azerbaijan.

It is reported that 15 civilians, including five children, were killed, more than 57 sustained injuries of various degrees as a result of the terrorist attacks committed against the Azerbaijani civilian population. In addition to the reported civilian casualties, serious damage was inflicted upon the civilian infrastructure.

The government of Azerbaijan has declared that at all times it abides by the fundamental principle of international humanitarian law, which requires armed forces to respect the absolute ban against targeting civilians or carrying out attacks that indiscriminately harm civilians. The armed forces of Azerbaijan have affirmed their commitment not to retaliate back against the civilian population, but rather deliver major blows to the legitimate military targets of the enemy on the battlefield.

As a result of the exercise of the inherent right of self-defense in full compliance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter with a view to restoring the territorial integrity of its internationally recognized borders over the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts, the Azerbaijani armed forces have liberated a number of Azerbaijani cities and settlements in recent weeks from the Armenian occupation, including the cities of Jabrayil, Fuzuli and Zangilan.

We call upon the international community to strongly condemn the terrorist attacks against the city of Ganja and other residential settlements of Azerbaijan. Those who have perpetrated these heinous crimes against humanity, including the unprecedented massacre committed against the Azerbaijani civilian population in the town of Khojaly in February of 1992, must be immediately apprehended and brought to justice.

We stand by the efforts of the Azerbaijani government to restore its territorial integrity and to implement the explicit terms of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874, 884 of 1993, which recognize Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent districts as an integral part of Azerbaijan and demand for the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army destroys another UAV of Armenia

[20:29] 20.10.2020

On October 20, at about 19.30, Azerbaijan Air Defense Units destroyed another UAV of the Armenian armed forces over Tapgaragoyunlu village, Goranboy district, Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Armenian army shells Azerbaijan`s Tartar and Goranboy districts

[19:24] 20.10.2020

“On October 20, at about 17:00, the Armenian army fired on the territories of Goranboy and Tartar districts using rocket and artillery,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani flag planted in Zangilan city

[18:08] 20.10.2020

Thanks to the heroism of glorious Azerbaijani Army, the tricolor flag of Azerbaijan has today been hoisted in the city of Zangilan.

The Azerbaijani servicemen who are currently in Zangilan city reported to the Azerbaijani President. “Dear Mr. President, Mr. Commander-in-Chief, under your order, I report that the city of Zangilan and adjacent territories have been liberated from occupation. The Azerbaijani flag is currently flying in the city. Long live Azerbaijan! Long live the Commander-in-Chief! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” the report says.

AZERTAC

Two people killed, one wounded as result of Armenia's targeting civilians in Tartar

[17:48] 20.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces continue to commit crimes against Azerbaijani civilian population by grossly violating the requirements of the declared humanitarian ceasefire.

Starting from the morning of October 20, the Armenian armed forces fired on Tartar district from various directions by using heavy missiles and heavy artillery,” the Prosecutor General’s Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“Isagli Anar Rasul, born in 1994, and Guliyev Anar Tofiq, born in 1984, died as a result of a shell falling on a private house in Jamilli village of the district at about 15:00 today. Shabanov Murov Rasul, born in 1972 was hospitalized with various injuries and his house was severely damaged.

Prosecution authorities are conducting all necessary investigative actions in the current situation,” the Prosecutor General’s Office added.

AZERTAC

Mehriban Aliyeva congratulated Azerbaijani people on liberation of several villages of Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Khojavand, Zangilan districts and the city of Zangilan

[17:40] 20.10.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has made an Instagram post on the liberation of several villages of Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Khojavand, Zangilan districts and the city of Zangilan from occupation.

AZERTAC presents the post:

“I congratulate our people on the occasion of the liberation of a whole number of villages in Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Khojavand, Zangilan districts and the city of Zangilan from the occupation! Long live the people of Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani Army. May Almighty God bless our people, our Motherland and President! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev renames liberated Vang village of Khojavand district to Chinarli

[15:39] 20.10.2020

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has changed the name of Vang village of Khojavand district.

AZERTAC reports that in his address to the nation, the head of state said that the Vang village was given a new Azerbaijani name. "Hereinafter, the Vang village should be renamed to Chinarli village. Blessed be the name!" President Ilham Aliyev noted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM to meet with US Secretary of State and OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs in Washington

[14:46] 20.10.2020

On 23 October, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov will meet with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, as well as the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs in Washington.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Zangilan city and 6 villages of the district, 18 villages of Fuzuli, Jabrayil, and Khojavand districts liberated

[15:26] 20.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev announced the names of liberated residential settlements in his address to the nation on October 20.

AZERTAC reports that the head of state noted that the following residential settlements were liberated from occupation:

Fuzuli district: Dordchinar, Kurdlar, Yukhari Abdurrahmanli, Garghabazar, Ashaghi Veysalli, Yukhari Aybasanli villages.

Jabrayil district: Sarafsha, Hasangaydi, Fughanli, Imambaghi, Dash Veysalli, Aghtapa, Yarahmadli villages.

Khojavand district: Aghjakand, Mulkudara, Dashbashi, Gunashli (previously Norashen), Vang. I give a new Azerbaijani name to this village. Hereinafter, Vang village should be renamed to Chinarli village. Blessed be the name.

Zangilan district: Havali, Zarnali, Mammadbayli, Hakari, Sharifan, Mughanli villages and Zangilan city! Zangilan is ours! Karabakh is ours!

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation

[14:50] 20.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has addressed the nation.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Territories of Tartar and Aghdam districts are under fire

[13:53] 20.10.2020

The Armenian armed forces are shelling the territories of Tartar and Aghdam districts, Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army inflicting strikes at Armenia's firing points

[12:15] 20.10.2020

The artillery units of the Azerbaijan Army are inflicting strikes at the firing points of the Armenian armed forces, Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

War trophies seized from enemy in Jabrayil and Fuzuli directions

[11:46] 20.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has released a video footage reflecting war trophies seized from enemy in Jabrayil and Fuzuli directions.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Pakistan reaffirms its full support to Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh issue

[11:33] 20.10.2020

The Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a telephonic conversation with his Azerbaijani Counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov, and reaffirmed Pakistan's all-out support to Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, the Dispatch News Desk (DND) news agency reported.

Talking to Azerbaijan's foreign minister, Qureshi exchanged views on Pakistan-Azerbaijan bilateral relations, the ongoing tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, and other issues of mutual interest.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that Pakistan is deeply concerned over the deteriorating security situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The foreign minister said that heavy shelling by the Armenian forces on the Azerbaijani rural population is reprehensible.

The minister said that Pakistan stands by the leadership and people of Azerbaijan in this difficult time.

Qureshi said that we believe that long-term peace and normalization of relations between the two parties would depend on the complete and comprehensive implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijani territories.

The foreign minister appreciated the support extended by Azerbaijan for unarmed Kashmiris in all International forums including the OIC Contact Group.

The Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov expressed gratitude to Qureshi for Pakistan's full support in the conflict.

During the conversation, the two foreign ministers expressed satisfaction over the nature of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

They agreed to bolster bilateral cooperation in multilateral fields including trade, education, and culture.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi extended an invitation to his Azerbaijani Counterpart to visit Pakistan, which the latter accepted with pleasure.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM informs his Estonian counterpart on violation of cease-fire by Armenia

[08:41] 20.10.2020

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has had a telephone conversation with Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Reinsalu.

The ministers exchanged their views on the latest situation in the region. Minister Bayramov informed his Estonian colleague of the violation of the ceasefire by Armenia. He stressed the deliberate targeting of the civilians and civilian infrastructures by the armed forces of Armenia, including the heinous missile attacks on Ganja twice after the declaration of humanitarian truce. Minister Bayramov underlined that as a result of the latest missile strike on Ganja city 13 civilians including 3 kids were killed, 48 injured. Describing these atrocities as war crimes, the FM emphasized that Armenian leadership bears responsibility for them.

Minister Reinsalu stressed the importance of the political settlement of the conflict. Emphasizing the necessity of respecting humanitarian truce, the Estonian FM noted the role of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and stressed Estonia`s humanitarian aid contributed to the ICRC.

AZERTAC

October 19

Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia continues to commit war crimes against Azerbaijani people in gross violation of all conventions and laws

[19:33] 19.10.2020

“Armenia continues to commit war crimes against Azerbaijani people in a gross violation of all conventions and laws,” Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has told a briefing held at ADA University in Baku.

“Azerbaijan, unlike Armenia, does not target the civilian population, but only military targets. Although Azerbaijan adheres to the humanitarian truce, it is forced to respond to the Armenian provocations which are a gross violation of all conventions and laws. Because all conventions and laws provide the importance of not firing on civilians and infrastructure. However, we see that Armenia continues to commit war crimes against the Azerbaijani people in a gross violation of all these conventions and laws,” the Presidential Assistant said.

“Armenia is still targeting the civilian population of Azerbaijan. Even Armenia is trying to expand the scope of the conflict by firing on Azerbaijani civilians from its territory. We stated yesterday that we were ready to return the bodies of Armenians killed in the war, but in response, the Armenian side continued its provocations and fired on our civilians again,” he added.

AZERTAC

Speaker Mustafa Sentop: Turkey is determined to support Azerbaijan in its just struggle until the end

[18:56] 19.10.2020

“Turkey has always stood by Azerbaijan and will continue its fraternal support for the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Nagorno-Karabakh is the territory of Azerbaijan, a part of Azerbaijan. Turkey is determined to support Azerbaijan in its just struggle until the end. We have mentioned this every time, everywhere, and we are reiterating it in Baku,” Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Mustafa Sentop has told journalists in Baku.

Mustafa Sentop extended condolences over killing of Azerbaijani soldiers who died for the liberation of the occupied Azerbaijani territories and over death of civilians, wishing a speedy recovery to those injured.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, French FMs hold phone conversation

[18:53] 19.10.2020

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has had a telephone conversation with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian. The sides exchanged views on the current situation in the region.

FM Jeyhun Bayramov informed the French minister of the violation of humanitarian ceasefire by the armed forces of Armenia for the second time after the formal declaration of the truce. He noted that intensive shelling of the Azerbaijani positions and an attempt to attack in the directions of Fuzuli, Jabrayil and Hadrut districts openly shows that Armenia is ignorant of the ceasefire and aims to regain the positions in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Bayramov emphasized that violation of humanitarian ceasefire shows once again the disinclination of the Armenian Republic to its commitments under international humanitarian law.

Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian stressed the importance of implementing the humanitarian ceasefire, noting the necessity of substantial negotiations without delay under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs.

Minister Bayramov emphasized that Armenia`s leadership bears responsibility for this war crime. He added that the withdrawal of all Armenian armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in accordance with the related resolutions of the UN Security Council is necessary for ensuring peace in the region.

AZERTAC

Turkish parliament speaker: Aggressor Armenia must withdraw from Azerbaijani territories

[14:41] 19.10.2020

“Aggressor Armenia must withdraw from the territories of Azerbaijan. Negotiations carried out by the OSCE Minsk Group for 30 years have not yielded results, and this organization has failed to withdraw the Armenian armed forces from the occupied territories,” Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Mustafa Sentop told journalist in Baku.

Mustafa Sentop said that today all the Turkish people pray for the Azerbaijani Army. “I believe that the Azerbaijani Army will gain victory.”

Touching upon the Turkish-Azerbaijani relations, Mustafa Sentop noted that these ties are unique in the world.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Positions of Azerbaijan Army in Goygol are under attack

[13:47] 19.10.2020

“On October 19, starting from 12:00 units of the armed forces of Armenia stationed in the direction of the occupied Kalbajar district fire on the positions of the Azerbaijan Army in the Goygol district using 82-mm and 120-mm mortars and large-caliber weapons,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev received delegation led by Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey

[11:43] 19.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has received a delegation led by Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Mustafa Sentop.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Russian TASS news agency

[10:40] 19.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has been interviewed by the Russian TASS news agency.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: 229 projectiles were fired on 5 districts

[11:40] 19.10.2020

“18 of October - 1st day of humanitarian truce: Attacks by Armenia to only civilians and civilians objects from 00.00

-229 projectiles to 5 regions: 160 to Tartar, 63 to Aghdam, 6 to Goranboy;

-3 missile attacks: 1 to Khizi district, 2 to Poladlı village in Aghjabadi;

-one drone attack,” Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry urges social network users to refer only to official information of Ministry

[10:55] 19.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense has made an appeal to social network users.

“In recent days, some social network users have been trying to anticipate events by sharing different personal views on the direction of the operations and the current situation.

We state that such steps may violate the confidentiality regime and endanger the lives of our servicemen.

Taking it into account, we urge social network users and the media representatives not to disseminate unconfirmed information and to refer only to the official information of the Ministry of Defense,” the ministry says.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals the latest situation on front

[10:54] 19.10.2020

During the day on October 18 and on the night of October 19, combat operations continued against the enemy who attempted to resist in the Aghdara-Aghdam, Fuzuli-Hadrut-Jabrayil directions, as well as along the Araz River. The enemy fired at the defensive positions of our units using small arms, mortars, and gun-howitzers, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“As a result of the operations carried out by the Azerbaijan Army, a number of enemy troops, 2 T-72 tanks, 2 BM-21 "Grad" MLRS, 1 D-30, and 1 D-20 gun-howitzers, and 11 auto vehicles were destroyed and wrecked in different directions of the front.

Currently, our troops control the operational situation along the entire front.

At the same time, it became known that the commander of the battalion, which was carrying out a combat mission in the defensive zone of the 1st infantry regiment of the Armenian armed forces, which had lost battle positions in many directions, withdrew from their combat positions together with his military personnel. The chief of staff of the 63rd tank battalion, located in the defense area of the regiment, was killed, and the commander of the 1st battalion and his deputy Gevorg Makaryan were wounded.

Some of the personnel of the battalion in the defense area of the 5th mountain regiment were killed, while others left the battle positions and fled. Major Hayk Stepanyan, the deputy commander of the battalion was among the dead. The information has been obtained that there was a lack of food, fuel, and ammunition in the units of the regiment.

Check-points have been set up on the roads in the occupied territories to prevent reservists, volunteers, as well as the males under the age of 55 who want to flee to Armenia. During the inspection of auto vehicles in these areas, it was found out that there were attempts to withdraw a large number of weapons, military uniforms, and equipment, as well as bedding from the combat zone to Armenia,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: The Armenian armed forces grossly violated the agreed temporary humanitarian ceasefire

[08:52] 19.10.2020

"The Armenian armed forces, grossly violating the agreed temporary humanitarian ceasefire, subjected to heavy artillery fire the Azerbaijani residential settlements and battle positions after 00.02 on October 18," President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has made a post on his official Twitter account, AZERTAC reports.

"There are killed and injured as a result of this ugly deeds," the head of state tweeted.

"The Azerbaijani Army gave a decent response to the enemy and liberated several residential settlements from the occupation."

AZERTAC

Release of the Press Service of the President

[08:43] 19.10.2020

Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, President Ilham Aliyev congratulated Chief of the State Border Service (SBS), Colonel General Elchin Guliyev on raising the Azerbaijani flag over the Khudafarin bridge, liberating several residential settlements with the participation of the SBS, and instructed to convey his congratulations to all personnel.

Colonel General Elchin Guliyev reported that the State Border Service personnel will continue to decently fulfill all the tasks set by the Commander-in-Chief.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: 13 villages of Jabrayil district were liberated

[08:31] 19.10.2020

"Soltanli, Amirvarli, Mashanli, Hasanli, Alikeykhanli, Gumlag, Hajili, Goyarchinveysalli, Niyazgullar, Kechal Mammadli, Shahvalli, Haji Ismayilli, Isagli villages of Jabrayil district were liberated. Karabakh is Azerbaijan!" President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has made a post on his official Twitter account, AZERTAC reports.

AZERTAC

October 18

Azerbaijani flag raised in center of liberated Fuzuli city

[19:42] 18.10.2020

The Azerbaijani flag was raised in the center of liberated from the occupation Fuzuli city.

AZERTAC

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan congratulates Azerbaijan on Independence Day

[20:06] 18.10.2020

President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan has extended congratulations on the occasion of October 18 - Independence Day of Azerbaijan on his official Twitter account.

“I congratulate our brotherly, dear friend Azerbaijan on October 18 - the Independence Day. We will continue to support Azerbaijan in all areas and stand by our brothers in the struggle for the Motherland as we are “one nation, two states” the Turkish President tweeted.

AZERTAC

First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva: I pray for the life and health of every Azerbaijani soldier and officer

[19:36] 18.10.2020

“Today, our Army that liberates the ancient Azerbaijani lands, makes dreams of millions of Azerbaijanis come true,” says a post on an official Instagram page of First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva.

Another victory of the Azerbaijani Army! The city of Fuzuli and several villages of Fuzuli district are liberated from the occupation. During long years, many of our fellow citizens were longing for their native land! So many of our compatriots have been dreaming to see their native lands again even for one time. Today, our Army that liberates the ancient Azerbaijani lands, makes dreams of millions of Azerbaijanis come true. This is the triumphant justice! This is because those are our native lands, land of our forefathers. I pray for the life and health of every Azerbaijani soldier and officer. May Almighty God bless our Army, our People, our Motherland and the President! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!”

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Armed Forces hoisted Azerbaijani flag over the ancient Khudafarin bridge

[17:07] 18.10.2020

“Azerbaijan’s Armed Forces have raised the Azerbaijani flag over the ancient Khudafarin bridge. Long live the Azerbaijani people! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a post on his official Twitter account, AZERTAC reports.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan destroys another UAV of Armenia

[16:22] 18.10.2020

“On October 18, at 13:00, a tactical unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) of the Armenian armed forces, attempted to carry out a flight in the Horadiz direction, was immediately detected and destroyed by the Azerbaijan Air Defense units,” the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Pakistani PM expresses support for Azerbaijan on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

[16:15] 18.10.2020

Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Imran Khan has expressed support for Azerbaijan on his Twitter account.

“I extend warmest felicitations to the President of Azerbaijan and fraternal people of Azerbaijan on their Independence Day. We pay tribute to Azerbaijani forces valiantly defending their territorial integrity. Pakistan stands by Azerbaijan in its quest to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh issue as per the United Nations Security resolutions,” PM Imran Khan tweeted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani soldiers seize positions of Armenian special forces

[14:48] 18.10.2020

“Special forces, thrown into the trenches by Armenia as the last remaining force, were compelled to flee, unable to withstand the attack of the Azerbaijan soldiers,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

The video demonstrates how the Azerbaijan Army's armored vehicles and soldiers are chasing away Armenian special forces.

The last footage of the video clearly shows the Azerbaijani soldiers moving towards those positions after leaving the trenches by the enemy.

AZERTAC

Armenians fire on Azerbaijan's Aghdam district

[14:40] 18.10.2020

The Armenian armed forces are subjecting to fire the territory of Aghdam district, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan shoots down Armenian fighter jet

[14:08] 18.10.2020

“Azerbaijan shot down an Armenian fighter jet on Sunday,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

The ministry said the Su-25 aircraft was attempting to launch airstrikes on the positions of the Azerbaijan Army in the Jabrayil direction.

The jet was destroyed by the Air Defense Units of Azerbaijan at around 12:30, the ministry added.

AZERTAC

First Vice-President: May the independence of Azerbaijan be eternal!

[13:57] 18.10.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has made an Instagram post on the occasion of the State Independence Day.

AZERTAC presents the post:

“These days, the entire world community is eye witnessing the invincible will, resolve, determination, unity and solidarity of the Azerbaijani people, and their devotion to the Motherland. I am confident that these characteristics of our people will always help us to successfully cope with all the challenges ahead, as well as ensure the preservation of our independence. May the independence of Azerbaijan be eternal! May Almighty God bless our people and our Motherland!”

AZERTAC

Foreign Ministry: Azerbaijan reserves its right to take counter measures to protect its civilians and positions

[13:34] 18.10.2020

“Azerbaijan showing once again its goodwill based on the principles of humanism agreed to a humanitarian ceasefire from 18 October,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

“The armed forces of Armenia immediately after the declared ceasefire, starting from 00.02 local time fired on the city of Jabrayil, as well as the villages of Jabrayil district liberated from the occupation, located along the river Araz using mortars and artillery. From 00.05 until 03.25 am the armed forces of Armenia violating the ceasefire shelled the positions of Azerbaijan using the large-caliber weapons at the border of two states in the direction of Gadabay and Tovuz districts of Azerbaijan.

Retaining the situation tense during the night on the front ignorant to the agreed truce, the armed forces of Armenia attempted to attack in the directions of Aghdara, Fuzuli, Hadrut and Jabrayil at 07.00 am,” the ministry said.

“The gross violation of the humanitarian ceasefire by Armenia, already for the second time after its formal declaration demonstrates the continuation of the aggressive policy of Armenia against Azerbaijan and its reluctance to the negotiated settlement of the conflict. It is also an open disrespect by Armenia to the efforts of the mediators, who have been engaged in finding an accord of the sides to the humanitarian ceasefire.

Azerbaijan remains committed to the humanitarian ceasefire, however, Azerbaijan reserves its right to take counter measures to protect its civilians and positions,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Assistant to President of Azerbaijan highlights Armenia's provocations on Al Jazeera TV channel

[13:05] 18.10.2020

Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has been interviewed by Al Jazeera TV channel on Armenia's latest provocations against Azerbaijan and the missile attacks on the country's second largest city of Ganja.

AZERTAC presents the interview.

-Armenia says that its missiles don't have a range to hit Ganja. What is your response to that?

-It is completely immoral denial by Armenian political-military leadership. Armenian armed forces since October 4 have been attacking Azerbaijan's biggest cities including the Ganja city of Azerbaijan. This is not for the first time they attacked in deliberate and indiscriminate manner Azerbaijani civilians. They are using SCUD tactical ballistic missiles. The same SCUD missiles used by Saddam Hussein to kill the civilians. Ganja city over in the morning during the sleeping time of people came under the attack of SCUD missile and particularly densely residential area of Ganja city of Azerbaijan. And the sole purpose of Armenian side was to cause panic and also kill as much as civilians possible.

-But just hours earlier Azerbaijan shelled Stepanakert.

-Absolutely it is not a truth. First, the name of the city is Khankandi. Armenian side occupied it and renamed it Stepanakert. Azerbaijan is not targeting and my President also in his appeal to Azerbaijani people, reiterated that we are not fighting with civilians. That is the difference between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan only uses precision-guided ammunitions and missiles against the legitimate military targets completely different between Armenia and Azerbaijan. But this is completely contrary from Armenian side and Ganja is one of the examples of that. Within this SCUD attack they have killed 13 Azerbaijani civilians and more than 40 people have been seriously wounded. And just a week earlier they again killed 11 Azerbaijani civilians and also wounded more than 30. This is a deliberate act of vandalism and an act of terror, and it is also a war crime. And all liability lies on the political-military leadership of Armenia.

-What now for international attempts to end this conflict. I mean it can't go on like this can it?

- Exactly, there was a humanitarian truce. But where is a humanitarian truce? Armenia in a deliberate manner destroys all the humanitarian truce. Immediate aftermath of this humanitarian truce, they attacked Ganja city of Azerbaijan with SCUD missile last week. And again they continue to attack Azerbaijani civilians. But where is the humanitarian truce? How can we have a confidence in Armenian side that they will not attack and kill Azerbaijani civilians again? And also Ganja is geographically far away from the theatre of military operations. There was no military necessity to attack Ganja city and particularly its civilians. Under such circumstances where can we move? And also silence of the international community and lack of a serious condemnation, and strongest condemnation of Armenia's illegal actions and also war crimes raises Armenia's sense of impunity. Therefore we expect that international community should seriously condemn it and also urge Armenia to stop such provocations and end its military occupation. These fact on the ground once again proves that Armenia is a single source of threat to wider regional peace and security, to the lives of civilians.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Armenia violates ceasefire on state border

[11:37] 18.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces attempted to aggravate the situation on the state border with Azerbaijan,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“On October 18, from 00:05 am to 04:00 am the Armenian armed forces units stationed in Chambarak and Berd districts of Armenia using large-caliber weapons fired on the positions of the Azerbaijan Army in Gadabay and Tovuz districts respectively,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia is escalating the situation on the frontline

[10:34] 18.10.2020

Despite the announcement of a new ceasefire regime, the Armenian armed forces retained the situation tense during the night on the frontline, using mortars and artillery in different directions, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

"The enemy attempted to attack in the Aghdara, Fuzuli, Hadrut, and Jabrayil direction on October 18 at 07.00 am.

Units of the Azerbaijan Army are suppressing enemy attempts to attack," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: Aghdam resident injured as a result of Armenia's shelling residential settlements

[10:23] 18.10.2020

The Armenian armed forces continue to commit terrorist acts against Azerbaijani civilian population in a flagrant violation of the requirements of the humanitarian ceasefire announced on October 10, 2020 at 12:00.

According to Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan on October 17, 2020, at about 9 pm, intensive rocket and heavy artillery shelling of Aghdam district from different directions, resulted in a shrapnel hitting the courtyard of house belonging to Hasanov Ramil Kamal, a resident of Mahrizli village, born in 1981. As a result of explosion, he was hospitalised with various injuries. The house was extensively damaged.

"Prosecution authorities are conducting all necessary investigative actions in the current situation," the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals latest situation on frontline

[09:44] 18.10.2020

Until the announcement of a new humanitarian ceasefire regime on October 17, the operational situation on the frontline in the Aghdara and Fuzuli-Hadrut direction was relatively stable, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

"As a result of actions taken by the Azerbaijan Army yesterday, the enemy's manpower, 2 missile guiding stations of the S-300 anti-aircraft missile system, 5 T-72 tanks, 3 BM-21 "Grad" MLRS, 2 "Smerch" MLRS, 1 D-20 gun-howitzer, 1 KS-19 anti-aircraft gun, and 6 vehicles were destroyed and disabled in different directions of the front.

Our troops control the operational situation along the entire front," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia does not comply with the new ceasefire regime

[09:35] 18.10.2020

Despite the announcement of a new humanitarian ceasefire regime since 00:00 on October 18, the Armenian armed forces once again grossly violated the agreement, Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

"During the night, the enemy fired at the vicinity of Jabrayil city, as well as the villages of this region liberated from the occupation and located along the Araz River using mortars and artillery. There are no losses among the military personnel. The Azerbaijan Army units took adequate retaliatory measures.

The Troops of the Azerbaijan Army are taking relevant actions at advantageous frontiers, important high grounds, and positions along the entire front," the ministry added.

AZERTAC

October 17

European Union deplores strikes on Ganja resulting in civilian loss of life and serious injury

[23:27] 17.10.2020

The European Union deplores the strikes on the Azerbaijani city of Ganja during the night of 16-17 October resulting in civilian loss of life and serious injury, says a statement by the organization on the strikes on the city of Ganja.

"All targeting of civilians and civilian installations by either party must stop.

The ceasefire of 10 October must be fully respected without delay," the statement adds.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan, Armenia agree temporary humanitarian ceasefire

[23:20] 17.10.2020

The Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia have agreed on a temporary humanitarian ceasefire from 00:00 local time on October 18.

The decision was made on the basis of the statement of the Presidents of the French Republic, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, representing the co-chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group, dated 1 October 2020, the statement by the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group dated 5 October, and in accordance with Moscow statement dated 10 October 2020.

AZERTAC

Constitutional Court of Azerbaijan issues appeal to constitutional justice institutions of world countries

[21:16] 17.10.2020

The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan has issued an appeal to constitutional justice institutions of all countries, press service of the Constitutional Court told AZERTAC.

The appeal reads:

"With view to restore the territorial integrity of country within the framework of internationally recognized state borders, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan implement a military operation on the territory of Azerbaijan to liberate the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts of Azerbaijan from the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia.

As a result of successful actions of the Azerbaijani Army, a number of cities and settlements have been liberated in recent weeks. Military operation is conducted exclusively in accordance with the requirements of international humanitarian law.

The local population of the liberated areas is provided with all kinds of assistance, the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan treat the captured soldiers of the Ministry of Defense of Armenia in accordance with the norms of the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols.

Realizing that the armed forces of Armenia will be compelled to leave the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the military and political leadership of Armenia decided to expand the geography of conflict and launched the missile attacks on the cities of Azerbaijan, which are located 60-100 km from the war zone.

Over the past days, the civilian objects and residential buildings of such cities of Azerbaijan as Ganja, Mingachevir, Tartar, Barda, Aghjabadi and others, as well as the residential settlements have been subjected to missile strikes from the territory of Armenia.

The aggression of the Armenian side led to numerous victims among civilian population. From September 27 to October 17, 60 civilians were killed, 271 people were injured. Among the killed and injured there are women and children. Serious damage was caused to civilian infrastructure.

These facts once again manifest the terrorist and fascist policy of the military and political leadership of Armenia towards the civilian population.

International community should take measures that would determine the international legal responsibility of the government of Armenia for actions against the civilian population of Azerbaijan.

We call on the constitutional justice institutions of all countries, as well as all international organizations, to condemn the war crimes of the Government of Armenia.

Information about these crimes against humanity should be reported to international community.

The progressive international community must say a clear "NO" to the policy of fascism and nazism of the military and political leadership of Armenia."

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Armenia`s S-125 anti-aircraft missile system disabled

[20:06] 17.10.2020

“The S-125 anti-aircraft missile system of the Armenian armed forces was disabled,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“Units of the Azerbaijani Army continue to destroy military equipment of the enemy,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan destroys Armenia's BM-21 Grad multiple launch rocket system

[19:59] 17.10.2020

“During the battles in the Aghdara-Aghdam direction of the front, one BM-21 Grad multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) of the Armenian armed forces, shelling the positions of our units, was destroyed,” said Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense.

AZERTAC

**Mehriban Aliyeva: Ganja is the heart of Azerbaijan and nobody will ever subdue
staunch spirit of its residents!**

[19:43] 17.10.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has made another Instagram post on Armenia's terror act in Ganja.

AZERTAC presents the post.

“Overnight, Armenian aggressors have cowardly attacked Ganja.

The intention is as simple as disgusting – to kill peaceful residents as many as possible, sow the panic and frighten the Azerbaijani people.

However, the aggressor will never attain its dirty goals. Residents of this glorious city are way strong in their spirit!

Ganja is Nizami, Mahsati, Vazeh! And, this is not only the cultural heritage of Azerbaijan. Ganja is the ancient cradle of our Statehood.

This is enduring staunchness, courage and bravery!

This is Javadkhan. This is the city that fought to the last for the independence of the first ever Democratic Republic in the East.

Ganja is the heart of Azerbaijan. And, nobody will ever subdue staunch spirit of its residents!”

AZERTAC

Mehriban Aliyeva: Purposeful targeting of civilians is a crime against humanity

[17:45] 17.10.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has made an Instagram post on Armenia's another missile attack to Ganja.

According to AZERTAC, the post on her official Instagram page says: "How inhuman and predatory one must be to order another missile attack on residential areas of the city, where there is no military infrastructure, at night, while the residents are asleep. The treacherous attack on Ganja tonight is not only a sign of the fascist nature and unprincipled position of the Armenian government but also a manifestation of the aggressor's total helplessness in front of the Azerbaijani Army. Purposeful targeting of civilians is a crime against humanity. To turn a blind eye to this crime is to become a participant in this!

I extend my deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those killed as a result of this tragedy, and wish all the injured a speedy recovery.

May the Almighty God bless our people, our Motherland and our President! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!"

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Defense Ministry: The enemy's Tor-M2KM surface-to-air missile systems were destroyed

[18:42] 17.10.2020

During the battles in the Fuzuli-Jabrayil direction over the past two days, three Tor-M2KM surface-to-air missile systems (SAM) of the Armenian armed forces have been destroyed by a precise strike, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army destroys several more Armenia's armored vehicles

[17:41] 17.10.2020

“The Azerbaijani Armed Forces destroyed several more Armenian armored vehicles,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

**President Ilham Aliyev confers high military rank of Lieutenant General upon
Hikmat Mirzayev**

[17:13] 17.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has signed an order to confer the high military rank of Lieutenant General upon Major General Hikmat Mirzayev. Hikmat Mirzayev is the commander of the Special Forces.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's fuel and ammunition depots were destroyed by the airstrikes

[16:27] 17.10.2020

The enemy's fuel and ammunition depots were destroyed by the Azerbaijani Army's airstrikes, Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the video footages.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: Three out of 13 people killed in Armenian Army's terrorist attack to Ganja are minors, four women

[16:05] 17.10.2020

“As a result of rocket fire on civilians in the central part of Ganja on October 17, 13 people were killed, 48 people were injured,” the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“Four of the killed are women and three are minors. There are 20 women, five minors among the injured. Two children are missing,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army destroys another tactical UAV of Armenia

[15:02] 17.10.2020

“On October 17 at daytime, the units of the armed forces of Armenia, using the tactical unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), attempted to carry out a reconnaissance flight over the positions of the units of the Azerbaijan Army in the direction of Tovuz district on the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The enemy`s UAV was immediately detected and destroyed by Air Defense Units of Azerbaijan,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev addressed the nation

[13:29] 17.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has addressed the nation.
AZERTAC presents the address.

Nationwide address of President Ilham Aliyev

- Dear fellow compatriots!

Today, the fascist leadership of Armenia committed yet another war crime. The cities of Ganja and Mingachevir came under rocket fire. As a result of this cowardly shelling, our compatriots have been killed and wounded. May Allah rest all our martyrs in peace and send healing to our wounded compatriots!

This once again shows the fascist nature of the Armenian leadership. This is not the first time our cities have come under fire. Armenia fires on Tartar, Aghdam, Goranboy, Aghjabadi and other cities practically every day. As a result of this fire, our citizens have been killed and wounded, more than 2,000 houses have been destroyed or seriously damaged. However, these cowardly actions cannot break the will of the Azerbaijani people.

Armenian leadership is committing a war crime. Shooting at civilians, including firing missiles, is a war crime, and they must and will bear responsibility for this crime. We are giving their answer on the battlefield. We are avenging and will continue to avenge the deaths of our martyrs, of innocent civilians on the battlefield. We have never fought or will ever wage a war against the civilian population. We are not Armenians. We have our own way, we have our own cause, and all the Azerbaijani people are united around this cause. All the Azerbaijani people are showing solidarity and patriotism.

The victorious Azerbaijani Army is driving and will continue to drive the enemies away from our lands in the ongoing battles. I said that if they do not leave our lands of their own free will, we will chase them away like dogs and we are doing that. Every day, the victorious Azerbaijani Army liberates new strategic locations, new heights and new settlements from the occupiers. Our revenge takes place on the battlefield.

These days, from 27 September to the present, a crushing blow has been dealt to Armenia's military potential. I just want to bring some figures to the attention of our citizens. I must say that the list I will provide is incomplete. An even larger amount of enemy equipment has been destroyed and, of course, it is impossible to calculate it accurately during the battle. However, the figures I will quote show explicitly that we have gained a complete advantage on the battlefield and have almost completely destroyed the military-technical potential of Armenia. The question is where do so many weapons and so much equipment come from to Armenia? Armenia's military budget is well known. Armenia's state budget is also well known. Armenia is a bankrupt country. The country's foreign debt accounts for 60-70 percent of the country's gross domestic product. The country's foreign exchange reserves are only \$1.5 billion, which are bank reserves. That is, it is not free funds. What money are they getting these weapons and equipment with? The equipment we have destroyed and taken as booty so far is worth at least \$2 billion. But there is still more in their hands – in the occupied territories and in the territory of Armenia. The question is who is arming them. In some cases, we are criticized that we are arming ourselves, we are buying weapons and this can allegedly aggravate the situation and turn it towards an unacceptable direction. The question is what about Armenia's armament. Where do so many weapons and hardware come from to this poor country? Today, they are smuggling weapons and equipment using some smuggling schemes. And they are very dangerous and very destructive weapons. Therefore, we want answers to these questions, and I am sure we will get them.

I would like to bring to the attention of my people some of the Armenian equipment the Azerbaijani Army has destroyed in recent days. Thus, the list of the destroyed Armenian equipment includes: 234 tanks have been destroyed, 36 tanks have been taken as military booty, 49 infantry fighting vehicles have been destroyed, 24 have been taken as military booty, 16 self-propelled artillery pieces have been destroyed, 190 cannons of various calibers, two “Hurricane” systems, one TOS flame-thrower, two “Elbrus” operational tactical missile complexes, one “Tochka-U”, 35 “OSA” anti-aircraft missile systems, three “TOR” anti-aircraft missile complexes, five “KUB” and “KRUG” anti-aircraft missile complexes, nine radio-electronic combat systems, two S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems, 196 trucks have been destroyed, and 98 have been taken as booty. Anyone, any specialist can calculate the price of this equipment from open media. We must and we will find answers to these questions.

The glorious Azerbaijani Army is successfully continuing its salvation mission. In recent days, I have informed my people and announced the names of the newly liberated villages. Today, with a feeling of great satisfaction and joy, I want to convey to my dear people the names of more settlements that have been liberated. The following settlements of Fuzuli district have been liberated from the occupiers – Gochahmadli village, Chimani village, Juvarli village, Pirahmadli village, Musabayli village, Ishigli village, Dadali village and Fizuli city. The city of Fizuli has been liberated from the occupiers, Fuzuli is ours, Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

I heartily congratulate all the people of Azerbaijan on this occasion. I heartily congratulate the people of Fuzuli on this occasion. Many years of longing for native land are coming to an end. We are honorably fulfilling our mission, restoring and will restore the territorial integrity of our country. The battles for Fuzuli were very hard. Time will pass and books and papers will be written about these battles. It was a battle that required great professionalism, skill, courage and self-sacrifice. Because during these 30 years, the enemy has built such a strong fortification on the line of contact that some people thought that it was impossible to liberate the city of Fuzuli from occupation. Even the most well-known military experts were of the opinion that it would take months to capture Fuzuli and free it from occupation and whether the operation would be successful was still in question. However, the victorious Azerbaijani Army was able to cope with this glorious mission and most of the villages of Fuzuli district and the city of Fuzuli have been liberated from the enemy in a short time. When we talk about the city of Fuzuli, of course, we should all know that there is nothing left of the city, no monuments, not a single safe building. For 30 years, it was in the hands of wild beasts, in the hands of predators, in the hands of jackals. All the buildings have been demolished, our religious sites have been demolished, everything has been looted, the roofs of the houses, the windows, the belongings – everything. It was as if a wild tribe had taken over the city. The remains of the city of Fuzuli are a manifestation of Armenian fascism and a witness to Armenian fascism.

We will return to Fuzuli, we will rebuild and landscape all the villages. Life will return to those villages. Just like in the past when the Azerbaijani Army liberated 22 villages of Fuzuli district, including Horadiz settlement, under the leadership of the great leader. Look at how beautiful this place is now. Horadiz settlement has become a very prosperous and modern town. Fuzuli people live in liberated villages. I can say that about half of the population of Fuzuli has been settled in the villages liberated so far, but more villages inhabited by Fuzuli people have been liberated today. Life will return there, they will return there, they will live there, they will visit the graves of their ancestors. The call to prayer will be heard in the mosques to be restored there. We are fulfilling our glorious mission. I am confident that the glorious Azerbaijani Army will continue to drive the invaders away from our lands.

The Fuzuli operation is quite symbolic. Azerbaijan has regained its historical and ancient settlement and ensured the return of tens of thousands of people to these places. At the same time, from a strategic point of view, the splitting of several lines of defense on the line of contact with

Fuzuli gives us another strategic advantage. Because our armed forces located in the direction of Fuzuli have been fighting there these days. Of course, it is not a secret now where we were able to enter Fuzuli from. As a result of tremendous military professionalism and courage, we were able to liberate Fuzuli from the occupiers. Before that, the city of Jabrayil was liberated from the invaders. Before that, Hadrut was liberated from the occupiers. Many villages of Khojavand and Jabrayil districts, including Fuzuli district, were liberated from occupation. Only after that were we able to liberate the city of Fuzuli from the occupiers.

In the latest stage, the enemy has dropped his guns and fled. Today, I can say with full responsibility that the Fuzuli operation will be included in military books. In fact, not only Fuzuli operation but also other operations. According to the information I have today, military experts are already clearly saying that the Azerbaijani Army is an army with great combat capability and technical support.

It is a historic day today. The date of 17 October will remain forever not only in the memory of Fuzuli people but also in the history of the Azerbaijani state. Today, we, all the people of Azerbaijan, are writing the brightest page of our people and our state together. Today, we are writing this glorious history of solidarity, mutual support and unity. We are lucky to live in these moments. Unfortunately, tens of thousands of our refugees and IDPs who were looking forward to these moments did not live to see these days. But I am sure that their spirit is happy today because their native lands have been liberated from the occupiers.

Despite the fact that the cowardly, treacherous and vile enemy commits war crimes, fires on the civilian population and kills children as a result of today's shooting, I want to say again that we must not take revenge on civilians. We are taking revenge on the battlefield. The blood of our martyrs and civilians does not and will not remain unavenged. 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. Let them leave of their own accord!

He did not want to give up Fuzuli even though he understood perfectly well that he would not be able to keep it. He did not want to give up Jabrayil. Yesterday, the day before yesterday and today, successful operations were carried out in the direction of Jabrayil and strategic heights were taken. I do not want to say anything about that yet. I do not want to get ahead of the events. But the victorious Azerbaijani Army is achieving and will continue to achieve its goals, our territorial integrity is being restored and will be fully restored. No force can stop us. No force can stand against the will of the Azerbaijani people. Everyone should know this. No-one can stand in front of us. Let the predatory Armenian state vacate our lands. After that, a ceasefire will be ensured. A ceasefire was declared, but Ganja was bombed a day later. And which part of it? A residential settlement. Where did they hit today? Again, a residential area. When did they shoot? At night, so that more people die.

This is a crime against humanity. If the international community does not want to bring Armenia to justice for the crimes it has committed – just as no-one has brought them to justice for the Khojaly genocide – we will bring them to justice ourselves. We will punish them, and our punishment will be just. They deserve the most severe punishment. The military-political leadership of Armenia are criminals and we will punish these criminals.

The prime minister of Armenia who said that “Karabakh is Armenia”, what happened, why aren't you saying that “Karabakh is Armenia” now? Come to Fuzuli, where you were exploiting our land. Come to Jabrayil, come to Hadrut, come to other liberated places and say that “Karabakh is Armenia”. You are sitting there in Yerevan, making statements from there, annoying world leaders – there is no-one left you didn't phone.

Why aren't you saying that “Karabakh is Armenia”? You are afraid and you should be. But why were you so brave when you insulted the Azerbaijani people by saying that “Karabakh is

Armenia, full stop”? Who did you rely on? Didn’t you know that one day you will be held accountable for your actions? The day has come and is coming. Bringing Armenians from Lebanon and other countries to Shusha is a war crime that contradicts the Geneva Convention. They do it demonstratively, they show it on TV, they show Armenians coming to live and work in our ancient land. Let’s see now who will come to settle in Shusha. You were building a new road with Armenia from Jabrayil. Why? You have illegally occupied that region, our Araz region, in order to settle Armenians there? You wanted to make us face facts? What was the purpose of bringing Armenians from abroad and settling them there in various ways, including through deception because Armenia has a small population? The goal is to keep our historical lands under eternal occupation, to ensure eternal occupation and Armenianize our lands. Look, they gave Fuzuli an ugly name. Let this name be a curse to you. This name will go to hell. This name no longer exists. There is no Madagiz – it is Sugovushan. We will restore our other historical names. You wanted to move the parliament of your “entity” to Shusha. Go ahead and do it now! Where is the place where you conducted the “swearing-in ceremony” of the leader of that fake gang? We have destroyed it, completely destroyed it. You put forward seven conditions to us. You were speaking to us in the language of ultimatums. Let’s see what your conditions are now. What happened? You cling to people, fall at their feet begging for help in stopping Azerbaijan. Tell Azerbaijan to stop. Get out of our land and we will stop! Get the hell out of our lands! I have said this before and do not hide anything. The people of Azerbaijan know this and the international community is saying this too. I say this every day – get out and say that you will leave here tomorrow, and we will stop. We do not need to shed blood. We need lands. We will get this land by any means. Let everyone know this. The history of the last days shows this.

It is proving too costly for you, for the Armenian leadership, to insult the Azerbaijani people. Too costly. The Armenian people must finally bring the leaders of this criminal regime to justice. Rallies are already being organized in military conscription offices in Armenia. Mothers are blocking the roads and preventing their children from dying in another country. I also appealed to the Armenian people, and I am appealing to them again: Do not let your children go! What are they doing in our lands? Live in your own country. We have nothing to do with you. Go and live in your own country, do whatever you want but leave our lands. I am confident that the Armenian people will also bring the leaders of their criminal junta to justice. We are on the path of truth, we are on the path of justice. We are right, we are fighting in our own land, we are giving martyrs on our own land. Ours is a holy war!

We have shown our strength on the battlefield, both to the enemy and to the whole world. The strength we are showing on the battlefield is underpinned by the will of the Azerbaijani people, the talent of the Azerbaijani people and our success.

I want to say again that we are a lucky people. Our generation is happy to be witnessing these happy days. I consider myself a lucky person to convey this good news to my people. As the Commander-in-Chief, I lead all the work and want to assure the people of Azerbaijan that I will continue to do my best to protect the national interests of our country and our people. No threat and no pressure can affect my will. Ours is the cause of truth. We are fighting on our own land and restoring our territorial integrity.

Long live the Azerbaijani Army! Long live the people of Azerbaijan! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM informs U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs of Armenia's violating humanitarian ceasefire

[13:16] 17.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has had a telephone conversation with U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip T. Reeker.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov informed his interlocutor on the latest escalation in the region, including the violation of the humanitarian ceasefire by the armed forces of Armenia. Armenia's deliberate targeting of peaceful population and civilian infrastructures, towns and districts situated far from the frontline, rocket shelling of the second biggest city of Azerbaijan, Ganja and its' serious civilian casualties were brought to the attention of the Acting Assistant Secretary of State.

U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary Philip Reeker stressed the importance of respecting humanitarian ceasefire and restoring political dialogue.

AZERTAC

Mevlut Cavusoglu: Silence in face of savagery means complicity in murder

[13:01] 17.10.2020

Armenia continues to commit “war crimes” in Azerbaijan, killing civilians there, including children, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Twitter.

"Silence in face of savagery means complicity in murder. Those who do not claim their share of humanity will be held accountable for their crimes," Mevlut Cavusoglu said.

He also reiterated that Turkey will always stand by Azerbaijan.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan shoots down Armenia's Su-25 fighter

[12:45] 17.10.2020

A Su-25 fighter jet of the Armenian armed forces has been destroyed by a precise strike by Azerbaijan's Air Defense units, the Ministry of Defense said.

Armenia's fighter jet was shot down while attempting to strike Azerbaijan's positions in the direction of Jabrayil district on October 17 at about 11:11, the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan Prosecutor General's Office: Death toll in Ganja reaches 13

[12:36] 17.10.2020

“As a result of rocket fire on civilians in the central part of Ganja on October 17, 13 people died, more than 45 people were injured, and numerous civilian infrastructure and vehicles were seriously damaged,” the Prosecutor General’s Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“Currently, prosecutors are carrying out operational investigative measures to clarify the list of victims.

The public will be provided with additional information on the latest situation,” the Prosecutor General’s Office added.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Armenia's S-300 anti-aircraft missile system
destroyed**

[12:21] 17.10.2020

“The Azerbaijani Army has destroyed Armenia's S-300 anti-aircraft missile system,” the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan Army troops managed to move forward in various directions of front

[11:59] 17.10.2020

“During the day on October 16 and on the night of October 17, the operational situation in the Aghdara-Aghdam and Fuzuli-Hadrut-Jabrayil directions of the front remained tense,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“Our troops managed to break through the pre-set line of defense of the Armenians in different directions and to move forward, driving the enemy out of their positions, and, forcing him to flee.

The military personnel of the Azerbaijan Army, who have gained combat experience as a result of successful military operations, take advantageous frontiers, high grounds, and positions in important directions.

As a result of actions taken by the Azerbaijan Army during the day, a large number of military personnel, 7 T-72 tanks, 2 BM-21 Grad MLRS, 8 D-30, and 1 D-20 gun-howitzers, 10 units of trucks with ammunition, and 7 units of other vehicles were destroyed and disabled in different directions of the front,” the ministry said.

“According to the information received, as a result of the combat operations, the 1st battalion of the 5th mountain rifle regiment of the Armenian armed forces retreated, leaving its positions and a large number of killed and wounded behind.

Up to 300 reservists left their combat positions on the defense line of the 1st motorized rifle regiment of the armed forces of Armenia and retreated. Among the reservists, there are also many killed and wounded. The members of the special police detachment, attached to the regiment as an augmentation force, also left their combat positions and fled. There is a shortage of food and ammunition in the units of the regiment.

In enemy units, there were cases of disobedience of military personnel to officers due to a feeling of fatigue and hopelessness, as well as refusal to participate in the fighting due to fear and panic.”

“The Troops of the Azerbaijan Army retain their operational superiority, inflicting damage on the enemy with precise fire along the entire front line,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: A large number of enemy forces and military equipment were destroyed in various directions of front

[11:28] 17.10.2020

The glorious Azerbaijani Army has destroyed a large number of enemy forces and military equipment in various directions of the front, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents video footages reflecting the destruction of enemy forces and its military equipment.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: The enemy is shelling residential settlements of Azerbaijan

[09:15] 17.10.2020

Today, starting from the morning the armed forces of Armenia grossly violating the humanitarian ceasefire regime are subjecting to fire the territories of Tartar, Aghdam, Barda and Aghjabadi districts, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM: The political-military leadership of Armenia bear responsibility for giving an order on the rocket selling of the peaceful population

[08:50] 17.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement on Armenian armed forces' another missile attack on the city of Ganja. AZERTAC presents the statement.

"On the night of 17 October, 2020 the armed forces of Armenia attacked the Ganja city of Azerbaijan with ballistic missiles. This, third in a row atrocious attack on the second biggest city of Azerbaijan, since the new aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan, situated far away from the frontline caused serious civilian casualties; 12 civilians, including 2 minors killed, more than 40 people injured.

Armenia's deliberate and indiscriminate targeting of civilians, in a blatant violation of norms and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as declared humanitarian ceasefire, the purposeful killing of peaceful people constitute a war crime and a crime against humanity and the leadership of Armenia bears full responsibility for this crime.

Continuous aggression of Armenia, cruel attacks on the civilians must be stopped and the international community should not turn a blind eye to these inhuman acts by Armenia against the people of Azerbaijan.

We condemn in the strongest manner vicious attacks by Armenia against the Azerbaijani civilians and urge this aggressor state to stop its war crimes.

The political-military leadership of Armenia, using terror as the state policy, bear responsibility for giving an order on the rocket selling of the peaceful population. The Republic of Azerbaijan declares that based on the national and international law mechanisms the perpetrators of this crime will be brought to justice."

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: 35 civilians wounded, 5 killed in Ganja

[03:35] 17.10.2020

"35 civilians have been wounded and 5 civilians killed as a result of Armenia's missile attacks to Ganja. 2 kids are among the dead," Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

"Emergency work are still going on. Armenia's terror and war crimes continue," the presidential assistant tweeted.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: According to initial info more than 20 houses destroyed in Ganja

[03:10] 17.10.2020

"Innocent civilians in the second biggest city of Azerbaijan are under the indiscriminate and targeted missile attack of Armenia," Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

"Unscrupulous calls for humanitarian ceasefire should see these war crimes of Armenia. According to initial info more than 20 houses destroyed," Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Casualties among civilians are reported in Ganja

[02:25] 17.10.2020

"Casualties among civilians are reported in Ganja," Assistant to Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev made a post on his official Twitter account.

"New missile systems have been brought to Armenia. Immediately they started to attack civilians in Azerbaijani cities in treacherous and cruel manner. In Ganja casualties among civilians are reported. Manifestation of Armenia's state policy of terror," the presidential assistant tweeted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenian armed forces again shell Ganja city

[01:53] 17.10.2020

Armenian armed forces once again shelled the city of Ganja, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defence told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

October 16

Armenia continues to shell Azerbaijani residential settlements

[14:22] 16.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces grossly violating the humanitarian ceasefire regime continue to shell the territories of Goranboy, Tartar, Aghdam, Aghjabadi and Fuzuli districts,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Minister: Armenian armed forces launched a missile attack on the territory of Ordubad district

[14:05] 16.10.2020

An operational-tactical missile fired on October 15 at 10:44 by the armed forces of Armenia from the territory of the occupied Gubadli district exploded in the territory of Ordubad district of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, a peaceful population and civilian facilities were not affected.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated villages of Khojavand district

[13:39] 16.10.2020

The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan has released a video footage of the liberated from occupation villages of Khojavand district.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Situation at front remains tense

[10:55] 16.10.2020

During the day on October 15 and on the night of October 16, the operational situation in the Aghdara-Aghdam and Fuzuli-Hadrut directions of the front remained tense, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

"Yesterday, during the day, the enemy fired at the positions of our units in the liberated from the occupation Jabrayil and Hadrut directions, as well as at villages near the front-line using missiles, artillery, and mortars.

At night, the enemy attempted to press forward in several directions of the front. Our troops suppressed the enemy's activity, and it suffered heavy losses.

As a result of the actions taken by the Azerbaijan Army, the enemy's large number of forces, 2 T-72 tanks, 1 BM-21 Grad MLRS, 5 D-30 howitzer-guns, 2 ZSU-23-4 Shilka self-propelled anti-aircraft gun (SPAAG), and 8 auto vehicles with ammunition were destroyed and disabled in different directions of the front," the ministry said.

"According to the information received, cases of mass desertion among the military personnel and reservists were observed on the defensive line of the 18th motorized rifle division of the Armenian armed forces. In order to prevent this, the Armenian government established military police commandant posts on the highways of the Gorus and Turshsu settlements.

There are many killed and wounded among the military personnel who took up positions on the defensive line of the 5th mountain rifle regiment. The regiment's units are facing a shortage of food and ammunition.

There are killed and wounded as a result of the shelling of vehicle transporting volunteers to the defensive line of the 10th regiment. The retreating enemy left a large number of auto and armored vehicles in positions and fled.

An artillery battery was destroyed on the defensive line of the 9th motorized rifle regiment and the regiment's deputy commander was wounded.

Some of the mercenaries who arrived in the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh refused to join the battle.

The troops of the Azerbaijan Army retain their operational advantage along the entire front," the ministry added.

AZERTAC

British playwright David William Perry: Azerbaijan is absolutely right in this struggle

[09:33] 16.10.2020

Azerbaijan is absolutely right in this struggle. UN Security Council Resolutions demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories have not yet been implemented, said British poet, writer, playwright, actor and director David William Perry as he commented on the ongoing armed clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan caused by Armenia`s military provocation.

In his interview with Azerbaijan, he expressed his sorrow over Armenia's missile strike on Ganja, recalled his visit to the city years ago. He said such an attack on a city inhabited by civilians is unacceptable. It is very sad to see injured children and people who lost their lives, William Perry said.

President Ilham Aliyev is a very brave man and pursues a very correct policy, he added.

Aynura Taghiyeva
Special Correspondent

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: The enemy is shelling residential settlements of Azerbaijan

[09:08] 16.10.2020

Today, starting from the morning the armed forces of Armenia grossly violating the humanitarian ceasefire regime are subjecting to fire the territories of Goranboy, Tartar, Aghdam and Aghjabadi districts, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

October 15

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: “Armenia hiding itself behind humanitarian truce pursues policy of terror against civilians”

[15:15] 15.10.2020

“As a result of Armenia's deliberate attack to graveyard 3 civilians killed and 3 seriously wounded in Tartar,” Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has posted on his Twitter account.

“Armenia hiding itself behind humanitarian truce pursues the policy of terror against civilians. Azerbaijan reserves its sovereign right to protect its civilians,” Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Armenia continues to shell Azerbaijani residential settlements

[13:11] 15.10.2020

The armed forces of Armenia, violating the humanitarian ceasefire regime, continue to shell the territories of Goranboy, Tartar, Aghdam and Aghjabadi districts, Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy was forced to retreat in various directions of the front

[11:16] 15.10.2020

On the night of October from 14 to 15, the situation on the Aghdara-Aghdam and Fizuli-Hadrut-Jabrayil directions of the front remained tense as in the previous days, press service of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, at night, the units of the armed forces of Armenia attempted to attack the positions of the Azerbaijan Army in several directions of the front. As a result of the successful actions of Azerbaijani army, the enemy suffered serious losses and was forced to retreat in various directions of the front.

As a result of the actions taken by the troops of Azerbaijan Army, a large number of forces, two T-72 tanks, one Tor-M2KM Surface-to-air missile (SAM), four BM-21 Grad MLRS, one D-20, one D-30, and two D-1 gun-howitzers, as well as several UAVs and auto vehicles of the enemy were destroyed and disabled in different directions of the front.

The forces and equipment of the armed forces of Armenia temporarily located in the occupied territories were seriously destroyed and damaged. The enemy is facing a shortage of forces and running out of military equipment, weapons, and fuel.

The troops of the Azerbaijan Army, observing the humanitarian ceasefire regime, retain operational advantage along the entire front.

AZERTAC

**Los Angeles Times publishes Consul General Nasimi Aghayev's article
on Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict**

[11:01] 15.10.2020

Los Angeles Times has published an article by Azerbaijan's Consul General in Los Angeles Nasimi Aghayev on Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

In the article titled "Is Nagorno-Karabakh disputed territory?", Consul General states that "Nagorno-Karabakh is not a disputed territory. It is an integral part of Azerbaijan, recognized as such by the international community." Highlighting Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan, Nasimi Aghayev mentions that as a result of Armenia's illegal occupation of Azerbaijan's 20% sovereign territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent districts, 800,000 Azerbaijanis were forced to leave their ancestral lands.

He stresses that despite the UN Security Council resolutions condemning this occupation, and 30 year-long negotiations, Armenia continues its illegal military occupation of Azerbaijan's sovereign territory.

Consul General Aghayev says: "Since Sept. 27, Armenia's armed forces have been shelling Azerbaijani civilians. As a result, at least 41 Azerbaijani civilians, including three children, have been killed. In response, Azerbaijan is defending itself."

Talking about the settlement of the conflict, Nasimi Aghayev mentions that in order to achieve peace, Armenia should withdraw its armed forces from Azerbaijan's occupied territories, and forcibly displaced Azerbaijanis should return to their homes. "Then, the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of Nagorno-Karabakh will build a peaceful and prosperous future together" says the Consul General. He also highlights that Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict is neither an ethnic, nor a religious conflict and that Armenians and Azerbaijanis have lived peacefully in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other parts of Azerbaijan for many centuries.

Consul General Aghayev calls for the U.S. and other great powers to ensure respect for international law and convince Armenia to withdraw its armed forces from Azerbaijan's occupied territories.

AZERTAC

Video footages of liberated from occupation Jabrayil city

[00:09] 15.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense has released video footages of the liberated from occupation Jabrayil city.

AZERTAC presents the footages.

October 14

Azerbaijani, Russian FMs hold phone talk

[19:43] 14.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Sergey Lavrov has had a phone conversation on the initiative of the Azerbaijani side.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov informed his Russian counterpart of the latest tensions in the region. He noted that on October 14 around 1 am and then again around 8 am the armed forces of Armenia activated their missile systems in the area bordering the occupied Kalbajar region of Azerbaijan, and were ready to open fire on Azerbaijani territory. The armed forces of Azerbaijan destroyed these missile systems in launch pads as legitimate military targets.

Minister Bayramov emphasized that the armed forces of Azerbaijan acted within the right to self-defense and to protect its civilian population, with due account of recent missile attacks by Armenia against the civilian population and infrastructure of Azerbaijan, including the cities of Ganja and Mingachevir. Thus another potential humanitarian catastrophe was prevented and the lives of many Azerbaijani civilians were saved.

Minister Bayramov stressed that the political-military leadership of Armenia bears full responsibility for the escalation of situation.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov expressed his serious concern over the loss of civilian lives. He emphasized the importance of respecting the humanitarian ceasefire agreed upon during the Moscow meeting.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: The attack on Ganja showed again who is not interested in a ceasefire

[18:30] 14.10.2020

“As always, Turkey has openly and unequivocally supported us on this issue again. The statements of my dear brother Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the statements of other high-ranking officials were further manifestation of the position of brotherhood. Pakistan and its Prime Minister have made a very positive statement, showing great solidarity. Other countries have made similar statements,” President Ilham Aliyev said in an interview with Haber Turk TV channel, speaking about the reaction of international organizations and the international community to Armenia's attack on Ganja, AZERTAC reports.

“I can't say that it was widespread on a global scale. However, it is as clear as day. A statement is made about a ceasefire, but such a cowardly attack is organized less than a day later. This shows yet again who is not interested in a ceasefire,” President Ilham Aliyev said.

Noting that Azerbaijan's goal is to return its citizens to all occupied lands, the head of state said: “I said that the ceasefire would allow things to move from a military onto political and diplomatic levels. At the diplomatic level, this issue should be resolved around the negotiating table, Armenia should withdraw from the other occupied territories, Azerbaijani citizens should return there and peace should be established. But it seems that Armenia's plans were completely different. They believed that by using this ceasefire, they could reduce their military losses, gain time, mobilize new forces and thus continue their attacks on Azerbaijan. They were wrong. I said that if Armenia did not act positively, they would regret it, and I was right.”

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Armenia is openly violating norms and principles of international law by involving mercenaries in the battles

[18:13] 14.10.2020

“Armenia is openly violating the norms and principles of international law and international humanitarian law by involving armed mercenaries in the battles,” said Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

The Presidential Assistant mentioned that Armenian officials openly appeal to foreign nationals to take part in military operations against Azerbaijan as mercenaries under the guise of volunteers. “According to the “International Convention of UN against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries” - “the member states shall not recruit, use, finance or train mercenaries, and shall prohibit such actions,” Hajiyev said.

“The UN has a relevant working group on the use of mercenaries as a tool of violating human rights. Moreover, the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Warsaw 2005 Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, adopted in 2015, also considers the application of crime responsibility by states against those travelling abroad for the purpose of terrorism,” the Presidential Assistant emphasized.

Hikmat Hajiyev underlined that prior to the launch of the last military operations, Armenia organized recruitment of armed mercenaries, terrorists to fight in the occupied Azerbaijani territories.

“During the last battles, this process was further accelerated. Both the preliminarily obtained information and the cases encountered on the Azerbaijani lands liberated from occupation proved that the recruited fighters and terrorists who arrived from abroad are openly fighting on the side of Armenia. We have a lot of photo and video evidences in this regard. There are sufficient foreign country citizens of Armenian origin among the mercenaries. They participate in the attacks against the civilian Azerbaijani population. The fact that these persons are of Armenian origin can in no way justify their fighting in the Azerbaijani territories and doesn’t exempt them from the foreign fighter status,” Hajiyev said.

“Those persons who are fighting in our occupied territories and participating in military operations automatically become legitimate targets of the Azerbaijani Army, while the armed mercenaries who survived the battle and returned to their country will turn into a source of major threat to their societies,” the President’s Assistant added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: We must be satisfied with the timetable for Armenia's withdrawal from Karabakh

[16:17] 14.10.2020

“Given the situation, we have slightly softened our position. But this does not mean that there will be no timetable. There will be one. When? This will be established during the discussions,” President Ilham Aliyev said in an interview with Haber Turk TV channel speaking about the Moscow agreement, AZERTAC reports.

“It was indicated in the statement that the discussions would be resumed on the basis of the fundamental principles, i.e. the Madrid principles, which confirm the return of our occupied lands to Azerbaijan. At the same time, the format of negotiations remains unchanged. In particular, negotiations will be held between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The participation of any representative of the so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh republic” in these talks is not negotiable. We are satisfied with that. Our expectation was that negotiations should start immediately and the timetable should be presented to us within these negotiations. We must be satisfied with this timetable. In other words, it cannot be a long process,” the President added.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijani President highlights post-war model of Nagorno-Karabakh in his interview
with Haber Turk TV channel**

[16:06] 14.10.2020

“Our position is based on historical justice, international law and best international experience. In other words, at the first stage the Armenian armed forces must withdraw from the occupied territories. In principle, this issue has already been reaffirmed within the Minsk Group – five districts, then two districts, then Nagorno-Karabakh itself, Shusha, Khankandi – the Azerbaijanis lived in many villages there. Azerbaijani citizens must return there and discussions on the future of Nagorno-Karabakh in a new environment, in a new climate will be continued,” President Ilham Aliyev said in an interview with the Turkish Haber Turk TV channel in response to the host's question “What model do you envisage after the liberation of Karabakh?”, AZERTAC reports.

“We are getting close to peace. Therefore, there is no change in our position on the Armenians living there. Azerbaijan is a multiethnic state. Thousands of Armenians live in different parts of Azerbaijan, especially in Baku, and they are our citizens. There are many ethnicities living in our country and this increases the strength of our country. Therefore, the Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh should not be worried at all. Once we save their lives from that criminal junta, they will live better, safer, in a more secure environment and their well-being will improve,” he said.

Noting that Nagorno-Karabakh lives in abject poverty, the President of Azerbaijan said, “We will invest in it, we will implement social programs there, we will have programs to create jobs. All this will be a new stage for the Armenians living there and the Azerbaijanis who will return there.”

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: All legitimate military targets of Armenia, targeting civilian population and settlements of Azerbaijan, will be destroyed

[14:40] 14.10.2020

“The Ministry of Defense of Armenia admitted that the operational-tactical missile systems destroyed by the fire strike have been on combat duty on the territory of the occupied Kalbajar region of Azerbaijan and they were in a state of readiness for use. There were no civilian facilities and infrastructure on the territory,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“These operational-tactical missile systems were targeted at civilian facilities and infrastructure in Azerbaijan. The allegations of the Armenian Defense Ministry that the residential settlements of Azerbaijan were not shelled from the territory of Armenia are the obvious lies.

It is an indisputable fact that Ganja, Mingachevir, and other settlements of Azerbaijan came under fire from the territory of Armenia.

Azerbaijan has no military targets and interests in the territory of Armenia. On the contrary, Armenia, opening fire from its territory on the populated areas of Azerbaijan, deliberately tries to expand the geography of the conflict.

We declare that in order to ensure the safety of its civilian population and residential settlements, Azerbaijan will continue to reserve the right to neutralize legitimate military targets,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenian armed forces continue to attack Azerbaijani cities with missiles and artillery under the pretext of humanitarian truce

[13:22] 14.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces continue to attack Azerbaijani cities with missiles and artillery under the pretext of a humanitarian truce. The missile attacks against Azerbaijan are carried out from the territory of Armenia,” said Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

“Armenia is trying to expand the geography of the conflict and involve third parties in it. Azerbaijan has no military targets in Armenia,” Hajiyev said.

“October 11, a SCUD ballistic missile was also fired from the territory of Armenia into the densely populated area of Ganja, the second-largest city in Azerbaijan. This is the first case in the OSCE area that a SCUD missile which has great destructive power has been used against civilians outside the war zone. In general, this is one of the rare cases observed in recent military conflicts around the world,” the Presidential Assistant mentioned.

Hajiyev noted that Armenia’s operational-tactical ballistic missile systems were brought to readiness this morning and targeted Azerbaijan’s Ganja, Mingachevir, and other cities again. “In order to ensure protection of civilians, the operational-tactical missile systems brought into a state of readiness to deliver fire strikes were neutralized as a legitimate military target. The Armenian defense ministry itself had to admit that these rockets had been brought to combat readiness,” he said.

The Presidential Assistant noted that the city of Tartar and villages of Aghdam came under fire beginning from about 07:00 a.m. today. “One person was killed. 8 civilians were injured as a result of projectile shelling at the yard of the secondary school of Duyarli village. More than 100 projectiles were shelled. There are members of media representatives of Azerbaijan State Television and Radio Broadcasting CJSC (AZTV) among the injured,” Hikmat Hajiyev said.

“Azerbaijan is complying with the humanitarian truce. However, in the event of missile and other strikes to Azerbaijan’s military and civilian facilities, as well as peaceful civilians from Armenia’s territory, Azerbaijan reserves its right to neutralize them as legitimate military targets,” the President’s Assistant added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan writes history: Our destination is Karabakh

[13:20] 14.10.2020

President of Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani Army changed the 30-year-old status quo in 10 days

... Baby boys who came from Karabakh in diapers 30 years ago are returning there today as rescue soldiers of the victorious Army.

... A mother opens a small bag she has been keeping for 30 years, takes out a key with her trembling fingers and hands it to her sons: this is the key to our house in Karabakh, go and open our door.

... They say men don't cry. Uncle Adil, a 70-year-old IDP I know, cried twice in his life: when he left his home in Jabrayil 27 years ago and when he heard the news of the liberation of his homeland 27 years later. First were the tears of utter grief and second of boundless joy.

I recalled these moving life episodes after watching President Ilham Aliyev's yet another historic address to the nation a few days ago, his logical, convincing and heartfelt statements in interviews with Al Jazeera, Euronews, CNN International, Sky News, Al Arabiya, TRT Haber, CNN Turk, Haber Global, Rossiya-1, Russia's "Perviy Kanal" and other TV channels. I hope the reader understands and forgives my emotional recollections.

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Ever since 27 September, the first day of the news about yet another military provocation of Armenian aggressor against Azerbaijan and the rapid counter-offensive of our Army, I have been reaching for the keyboard to share the thoughts and ideas I have accumulated and describe the events I have witnessed over the years. Being able to predict possible scenarios of events based on the achievements of our army to date is the nature of our profession. But I would like to put this aside for a while and, first of all, share the feelings of joy and pride my heart is overwhelmed with.

As someone who has dedicated his entire life to journalism, I think this is probably the first time I have encountered such an unusual situation. I start typing a story on my computer but have to stop an hour or two later. Developments unfold so fast, we receive so much hot news from the frontline and telegram channels overflow with news so much that lines and even whole paragraphs become out-of-date after an hour or two and I have to start everything all over again. This is something I have probably never experienced in my 45 years as a journalist.

We are living at an extraordinary time. The people of Azerbaijan are writing a glorious history under the leadership of their President and with the help of their brave Army. Every hour and every minute of these days is a saga.

Our President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev responded to those who argued that there was no other option to resolve the conflict but through negotiations. There is another option – he said and did what he said. He showed to those who had been saying for years that the status quo was unacceptable but did nothing to change it and even stroked the occupier's head that this is how the problem should be resolved. Our victorious Army sprang into action by the order of the Commander-in-Chief and took only 10 days to change the status quo that had lasted for almost 30 years. Now there is no status quo and no line of contact. The

determination of our people and the Commander-in-Chief, the Azerbaijani Army did it on the battlefield.

From the first day of the counter-offensive, our President has bravely resisted the incessant pressure of the superpowers demanding “Stop the fire and start negotiations”, knowing exactly what needs to be done and how. This was further confirmed during the battles for Karabakh. Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev did the work of an army alone: on the battlefield and on diplomatic and political platforms. He once again showed his place to the likes of Pashinyan, who said that “Karabakh is Armenia”, danced frivolously in Shusha, thus openly insulting us. He left Pashinyan, a hypocrite, adventurer and a street man far from politics, high and dry. He made him beg for help. Let him say “Karabakh is Armenia” now. Let's see how he says that.

Pashinyan, who came to power with Soros's money, humiliated the Armenian people and brought it to his own deplorable state.

Ilham Heydar oglu rose even higher in the eyes of the world thanks to his determination, courageous and wise decisions, and with him rose the honor and dignity of our people.

We are extremely lucky to have a President who stands up to the end in defense of our national interests and is the guarantor of Karabakh's salvation. Our people believe in their President. Relying on this belief, Ilham Aliyev, who knows exactly what to do and how, gave Armenia one last chance and said, “Get out of our lands, get out, make a commitment, and return to the format of negotiations. Whatever we say will happen, and we are giving them one last chance to leave our lands peacefully, to get out of there. We will return to our lands no matter what and restore our territorial integrity.”

Recent developments have shown both the enemy and the whole world that it is impossible to play with the dignity of this honorable people, to insult it. The President of Azerbaijan, the people of Azerbaijan could not and did not forgive Pashinyan for this.

Today, the people of Azerbaijan are rallied around their leader like a fist and demonstrate unprecedented solidarity. They have risen to the battle of life and death for their homeland. At this fateful moment, 10 million hearts beat like one heart. This, in the true sense of the word, is a Patriotic War. Azerbaijani soldiers drive the enemy out their homeland at the cost of their lives. The mother, whose house was blown up by an enemy shell, the mother who has lost her son holds her head up and says: Long live the Motherland!

No sane person would want war. However, the peace-loving people of Azerbaijan were forcibly involved in this war by the Armenian leadership, international Dashnak ideological centers that would not give up the policy of aggression. We were compelled by the indifference of the world, the passing game of international organizations, the so-called mediators of the Minsk Group. For 30 years, the victim of aggression has been treated in the same manner as the aggressor itself. For 30 years, the world has been turning a blind eye to this injustice and the sufferings of one million Azerbaijanis whose motherland has been plundered. This is a war of the people who stood up saying “Enough is enough”, it is a battle for the restoration of historical justice, a right given to us by international law.

Our President has repeatedly stated from the international arena, from the UN platform that the occupation must end and the aggressor must be forced to do so. Has the Minsk Group mediating a settlement of the conflict taken a single step towards that in the 26 years of its existence? It didn't! They gathered, talked and dispersed. The four resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council 27

years ago remain on paper to this day. Someone who came to the Armenian political leadership from the street drew a line through the process of negotiations by saying “Karabakh is Armenia, full stop.”

Responding to the impudent enemy with the words “Karabakh is Azerbaijan, exclamation mark”, our President told the world: Do not interfere, we will decide our own destiny ourselves.

“Azerbaijan wants to conquer Nagorno-Karabakh”, says the French president, one of the three co-chairs of the Minsk Group which has been given a mediation mandate to resolve the conflict. It seems that Macron is either ignorant of history or dancing to the tune of the Armenian lobby in France. Our President responded to him harshly, urging him to apologize to Azerbaijan for these strange words. People like Macron are not alone. The war is not being waged in Armenia, it is being fought in Azerbaijan. By the way, the Russian President emphasized in an interview that the war is not going on in Armenia.

Against the background of these two different approaches, it is necessary to ask the windbags from third countries, who often repeat the thesis about “Azerbaijani aggression” invented by the Armenians, to start using their brains: doesn’t the talk of “Azerbaijani aggression against Karabakh” sound as nonsensical as “French aggression against Marseille” or “German attack on Bavaria”?

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After these brief reflections on the conflict, war and the world's approach to it, I would like to return to the area I am directly related to. For me, the point of reference was the view expressed by the President of Azerbaijan in an interview with CNN-Türk. The head of state spoke about the black propaganda campaign being conducted against Azerbaijan for many years and explained the reasons for it. In particular, we, the media, are a direct witness to this. We respond to incessant slander, evil and slander. We try to disseminate materials about the realities of Azerbaijan, the realities of Karabakh and Khojaly in the world media we cooperate with by all possible means.

Now, since the beginning of the recent events, a new wave of black propaganda has been launched. Circles of interest in some countries and the media are fabricating lies to tarnish the image of Azerbaijan and form a false opinion about the conflict in the media. As the President noted, we have made great strides in fighting these accusations on our own. But we also have limited opportunities. In many cases, our voice is not heard. International media outlets are more pro-Armenian and spread false information about the conflict. It is good that on such difficult days, brotherly Turkey and its media are with us, adding their voice to ours and conveying the truth about Azerbaijan’s fair cause to the world.

A number of media today are circulating Pashinyan’s speculation about the alleged involvement of Turkish F-16 fighters and Turkish servicemen in the military operation. Azerbaijan and Turkey are brotherly countries and close neighbors. Our great leader expressed this brotherhood in a few words, “One nation in two states”. It is natural and understandable that Turkey supports us on such difficult days. But it is also indisputable that we are liberating our lands ourselves. The Azerbaijani Army is capable of giving the enemy any answer.

As for Armenia, there are many who support it and transfer weapons to it. Take France, which is particularly active these days. But are Armenians and French “one nation in two states”?

Or maybe they are neighbors? Paris and Yerevan are 4,500 kilometers apart, at least a 50-hour drive away. Azerbaijan is at arm's length from Turkey.

Our closeness and the fact that our Turkish brothers say that “Azerbaijan is not alone” both irritate and frighten Armenia. The Turkish army today is one of the two strongest NATO armies. Turkey produces modern weapons. We buy weapons from Turkey and other countries – Russia, Ukraine and Israel. Occupying Armenia receives weapons free of charge. Does begging Armenia with a collapsed economy have the money to buy weapons? Emphasizing this in one of his interviews, the President said, “If expensive weapons had not been given to Armenia for free, this conflict would have been resolved long ago.”

Today, the frontline is only a conventional term. The whole of Azerbaijan is the frontline – with all of its sons and daughters, young and old. Everyone works hard for the Motherland, for our great victory. In these fateful moments, journalists are soldiers and their words are a weapon. As always, Armenia has opened a second war front against us – the information war front. Pro-Armenian media (such media exist in many places – in France, Germany, the United States, Russia, on both sides of the ocean) spread lies, slander Azerbaijan and concoct biased information. This has always been the case but their enthusiasm has acquired tremendous proportions now. Let them lie – even if the lies are spread, they don't catch on.

These days, the Azerbaijani media regardless of their political affiliation and position are showing unprecedented solidarity and providing information support for our cause. As for AZERTAC, we are doing our utmost to communicate materials about Azerbaijan's just cause in international media. Our agency is the vice-president of the Organization of Asia Pacific News Agencies (OANA), which brings together 44 agencies from 35 countries. We are actively represented in the News Agencies World Congress (NAWC). In fact, Baku hosted the forums of both major international organizations in 2016. Our partners include information giants such as Chinese Xinhua, Russian TASS, Turkey's Anadolu, South Korea's Yonhap, Japan's Kyodo and Malaysia's Bernama. Speaking of partner media, I would like to mention the English-language newspaper China Daily, which has more than 100 million readers in different parts of the world.

During the active phase of operations on the front line, these and other reputable news agencies have published and continue to publish numerous reports, photos and videos with reference to AZERTAC. In addition, our correspondents abroad publish articles in the local media in response to the lies and slander fabricated by the Armenian regime. At the same time, AZERTAC has appealed to the heads of all international and regional media organizations it is a member of, calling on them to cover Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and the events in the region objectively and impartially and to stand for justice.

X X X

Azerbaijan did not want war. That is why both our great leader Heydar Aliyev and President Ilham Aliyev have been working for 30 years to resolve the conflict through negotiations and peacefully. As a journalist who covered the historic visits of our great leader from the very beginning, I am a personal witness to that. Heydar Aliyev worked extremely hard and applied maximum effort to resolve the Karabakh conflict without bloodshed and through negotiations. Since this is the subject of a long conversation, I will only mention two examples.

Key West, 3 April 2001. With the mediation of the Minsk Group co-chairs and with the participation of Secretary of State Colin Powell, the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia held talks in a completely new format. At this meeting, our great leader made a historic statement, stating the reasons hindering a settlement of the conflict, conveying the realities of Nagorno-Karabakh and expressing his views on possible solution options. Here is a small quote: “Today, it is impossible to find another case in the world where one state would occupy the territory of another and conduct ethnic cleansing there. Unfortunately, the world community remains tight-lipped to this tragedy... Our hopes for the leaders of the OSCE Minsk Group such as Russia, the United States and France have not yielded the expected results yet”.

This harshly-worded statement of Heydar Aliyev, his resolute position and legitimate claims created a certain anxiety.

I remember the great leader going to Washington from Key West. US President George W. Bush met with Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev and Armenian President Robert Kocharyan separately. I also remember very well high-ranking US officials speaking about the success of these meetings and talks at a White House briefing. A month later, our great leader visited France.

Paris, 5 March 2001. The next round of talks between President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev and President of Armenia Robert Kocharyan took place at the Elysee Palace with the participation of French President Jacques Chirac. After more than three hours of talks, all three presidents held a joint press conference. Without going into the nitty-gritty, let me say that answering journalists' questions, the French President said that significant progress had been made in resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. “I would like to express my sincere hope that this conflict will be resolved by the end of this year”.

Indeed, the Key West and Paris talks raised great hopes. In the spring of 2001, the settlement of the conflict was very close. But something invisible turned the wheel in another direction.

Almost 20 years have passed since then. George W. Bush was replaced by Barack Obama and then by Donald Trump. Jacques Chirac was replaced by Nicolas Sarkozy, then by François Hollande and then by Emmanuel Macron. The conflict remained unresolved...

We witness the relentless efforts of President Ilham Aliyev to resolve the conflict through negotiations. At some point, a solution seemed to have been found. For example, the Madrid Principles agreed by the parties provide for a gradual return of the occupied Azerbaijani lands. We were hoping that these principles would work. However, Pashinyan came and drew a line through the negotiations that had lasted for 30 years, through the Madrid Principles which were acceptable to both sides, and said: we will not return an inch of land to Azerbaijan. This was followed by Armenia's notorious military provocations which left Azerbaijan with no other option than to take up arms.

No-one would probably argue that the developments all the people on our planet are witnessing now are truly historic. The leader of Azerbaijan, the people of Azerbaijan continue to write history – our President writes this history with his determination, wise policy and leadership, our people write this history with great unity and determination, and our soldiers write this history with their blood and weapons. It is the duty of journalists and reporters to chronicle these moments of truth.

What were the goals behind delaying the settlement of the conflict so long? They thought that the older generation would die and that the new generation replacing it would forget Karabakh or Khojaly because it had never even seen these places. Thus, things will calm down themselves. On the contrary, time has shown that they are wrong in their thinking and calculations.

Chingiz Aitmatov's novel "A Day Equal to a Century" comes to mind here. No empire, no occupier, no foreign power, no matter how inconceivable, has managed to manipulate the peoples. The new generation may have never seen Karabakh but love of the motherland is invisible. It is a memory of blood, a memory of history and it cannot be erased. The new generation that has not seen Karabakh is ready to die for it and does it. Even schoolchildren know how dear Karabakh is.

The 30-year landscape we talked about has suddenly changed (in fact, quite expectedly). In fact, the aggressor itself and those interested in keeping the status quo unchanged contributed to that. They decided to bring their "homeless poor relatives" from another country and settle them in Karabakh. It turns out that they wanted to repair the house they once forcibly took over from the rightful owner and hang a poster on the wall saying "This house is ours, full stop". After that, new war declarations were made and a new military aggression against Azerbaijan began...

Apparently, many warnings that the patience of legal landlords was not unlimited fell on deaf ears. The legal owners of the land led by their Commander-in-Chief rose to restore historical justice by saying that "This house is ours, exclamation mark!" I wonder why the aggressor's patrons are so worried about that.

In his statements and speeches, numerous interviews with local and foreign media, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev speaks openly and decisively to the UN, the OSCE, the Minsk Group and the likes of Pashinyan. He says we cannot wait another 30 years and the occupiers must leave our lands.

After Ilham Aliyev's address to the people on 27 September, tens of thousands of people filled with faith, pride and joy took to the streets of Baku with a flag in their hands and the word "Karabakh" in their mouth! There were unprecedented images in the capital! Commanded by the Commander-in-Chief, the Azerbaijani Army began to carry out its combat mission with dignity. In a short time, after 30 years, our tricolor flag began to fly in some of our lands again: in the city of Jabrayil, in the settlement of Hadrut, in Sugovushan, in the village of Talish and in other villages. As someone from Jabrayil, I also experienced personal happiness, so I am grateful to the Commander-in-Chief, our salvation Army and brave Azerbaijani soldiers!

As I said at the beginning, the babies who were carried through snowy passes and dense forests in the arms of their parents and on the shoulders of their grandparents 30 years ago are now returning to their ancestral lands in tanks. We are happy to be living witnesses of this Victory March.

X X X

War has its own laws. The army fights with the army, the soldier fights with the soldier – face to face, bravely. Whoever is strong gets the upper hand. Armenia, defeated on the battlefield, violates these laws, commits war crimes and fires on our cities and villages, fires on civilians. As a result of the enemy's treacherous attacks, many civilians, including children and women, were killed and wounded, houses, apartment buildings and facilities were destroyed.

On 11 October, before the ink on a ceasefire agreement could dry up, a ballistic missile was fired on Ganja, Azerbaijan's second largest city which has no military facilities on its territory and is located 80 kilometers from the combat zone. Ten civilians, including five women, were killed. Also, 34 people were injured, including 10 women and nine minors. The silence of the international community, especially the co-chairs of the Minsk Group, on this grave crime of Armenia is another unfortunate manifestation of the double standards and indifference to the plight of others.

These provocations and treacherous attacks of the enemy cannot and will not break the will of our people. Today, the people of Azerbaijan, who have suffered a thousand tragedies for centuries and written many glorious pages in their history, have one dream – to liberate their lands from enemy occupation.

I would like to complete my noted with the emotional words and prayer of First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva, which resonate in the hearts of every Azerbaijani: May the Almighty God help the people of Azerbaijan in its sacred struggle! May Almighty God grant every Azerbaijani the opportunity to kiss the sacred land of Karabakh!

Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

Aslan Aslanov
Chairman of the Board of AZERTAC
Vice President of OANA

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev, Turkish presidential spokesperson hold phone talk

[12:08] 14.10.2020

“As we are in regular contact, pleased to have telephone conversation with my good friend, Turkish presidential spokesperson Ibrahim Kalın,” Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has posted on his Twitter account.

“As OSCE and Minsk Group member and leading regional country we reiterated Turkey's important role in resolution process of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict,” Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Another operational-tactical missile system of Armenian armed forces destroyed by precise strike

[11:05] 14.10.2020

“On October 14, at about 08:36, it was recorded that the Armenian armed forces deployed another operational-tactical missile system with ballistic missiles in the border regions of Armenia near the occupied Kalbajar region of Azerbaijan,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“Operational-tactical missiles were targeted at Ganja, Mingachevir and other cities of Azerbaijan to inflict casualties among the peaceful population and to destroy civilian infrastructure.

In order to ensure the safety of the civilian population the missile system deployed to launch positions was disabled as a legitimate military target by an accurate preventive strike,” the Ministry of Defense said.

“Earlier, at 01:00 am, operational-tactical missile systems deployed to launch positions in the same direction were destroyed by an accurate strike

There were no civilian infrastructure or facilities at the points where the missiles were brought to a state of readiness to deliver fire strikes,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Armenians shelling Azerbaijani settlements starting from morning

[10:50] 14.10.2020

“On the night of October 13 to 14, the situation on the Aghdara-Aghdam and Fuzuli-Hadrut-Jabrayil directions of the front remained tense,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“At night, the units of the Armenian armed forces attacked the positions of the Azerbaijan Army in some directions of the front. As a result of the measures we took, they were driven back, suffering losses.

As a result of the actions taken by the Azerbaijan Army, five T-72 tanks, three BM-21 Grad MLRS, one “OSA-AKM” anti-aircraft missile system, one BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicle, one KS-19 anti-aircraft gun, two D-30 gun-howitzers, as well as several auto vehicles of the enemy were destroyed and disabled in different directions of the front,” the ministry said.

“The territory of Tartar, Aghdam, and Aghjabadi regions is being under artillery fire starting from the morning. The Azerbaijan Army is taking adequate action.

The troops of the Azerbaijan Army, observing the humanitarian ceasefire regime, retain operational advantage along the entire front,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Legitimate military targets holding civilian population of Azerbaijan at gunpoint were neutralized

[10:35] 14.10.2020

On October 14, at about 01:00, it was recorded that the Armenian side deployed several operational-tactical missile systems with ballistic missiles at the starting position in the border zone with the occupied Kalbajar district of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The missile systems deployed in this territory were targeted at the peaceful population and civilian infrastructure in Ganja, Mingachevir, and other cities of Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijan Army has taken preventive actions to ensure against the recurrence of another war crime and to suppress the missile strike similar to the one committed by Armenia in Ganja on October 11.

As a result, operational-tactical missile systems brought into a state of readiness to deliver fire strikes were neutralized as a legitimate military target.

We declare that the military-political regime of Armenia bears the entire responsibility for the aggravation of the situation,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

October 13

**First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva: I pray for the life and health of every
Azerbaijani soldier**

[23:58] 13.10.2020

First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has made a post on her official Instagram page.

According to AZERTAC, the post says:

"I pray for the life and health of every Azerbaijani soldier! May Almighty God bless them in this sacred struggle for the Motherland! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!"

AZERTAC

Incoming Dutch ambassador presents copy of her credentials to Azerbaijani FM

[20:19] 13.10.2020

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has received a copy of the credentials of the newly appointed Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the country Pauline Eizema.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov congratulated Ambassador Pauline Eizema on her appointment and expressed confidence that she would contribute to the further development of relations between the two countries.

Presenting a copy of her credentials to FM Bayramov, Pauline Eizema said that she would spare no effort to develop relations between the two countries during her diplomatic career.

The sides exchanged views on cooperation between Azerbaijan and the Netherlands. The minister noted the importance of further developing economic relations and stressed the necessity of using full potential in that regard. Continuing the practice of consultations between the ministries of foreign affairs was also underlined by Bayramov.

Minister Bayramov informed the ambassador about the aggressive policy of Armenia against Azerbaijan, military occupation of the Azerbaijani territories by Armenia and ethnic cleansing of the Azerbaijanis living in these territories. Recent provocations by Armenia, including the 12-16 July military provocation on the border of Azerbaijan and Armenia, sabotage reconnaissance group`s provocation in August in Goranboy, and the new act of aggression on the 27th of September along the front line was brought to the attention of the Dutch ambassador.

Jeyhun Bayramov informed that the armed forces of Armenia shelled the Azerbaijani positions and villages not only located in the vicinity of the frontline but also the cities situated far from the conflict zone, like Ganja, Mingachevir, Khizi and Absheron. The FM emphasized Armenia`s deliberately shelling the Azerbaijani civilians and civilian objects even after the humanitarian ceasefire was established. The other side was also informed of the killed and injured civilians as a result of the shelling.

Ambassador Pauline Eizema noted that the Netherlands is very concerned about the increased tensions in the region, especially on civilian casualties. She underlined that the Netherlands follows the position of the European Union and calls to the cessation of hostilities.

Minister Bayramov noted the importance of the implementation of the UN SC resolutions demanding the full and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry releases video footage of liberated Hadrut settlement

[18:43] 13.10.2020

The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan has released a video footage of Hadrut settlement, which was liberated from the Armenian occupation on October 9.

AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani soldier writes new history

[16:36] 13.10.2020

An Azerbaijani soldier writes a new history. The soldier in the picture is Hunar Mammadov. “With the help of his comrades Elvin Madatov and Rufat Asadullayev, he destroyed 7 tanks, 1 PDM, 1 vehicle with weapons, and 2 observation posts of the Armenian armed forces during the battles for the liberation of the Azerbaijani lands,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Armenian armed forces' actions suppressed along entire front

[14:50] 13.10.2020

The units of the armed forces of Armenia, which do not comply with the humanitarian truce, carried out regrouping and redeployment of forces and attempted to attack in small groups the positions of the Azerbaijan Army in some directions of the front, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“On the night of October 12 to 13, the overall situation on the front line in the Aghdara-Aghdam and Fuzuli-Hadrut directions remained tense.

As a result of the actions taken by the Azerbaijan Army, a large number of forces, three BM-21 Grad MLRS, one Tor-M2KM Surface-to-air missile (SAM), one ZSU-23-4 Shilka self-propelled anti-aircraft gun (SPAAG), two BMP-2 Infantry fighting vehicle, three 2A36 Giatsint-B guns, one KS-19 anti-aircraft gun, one D-20 gun-howitzer, three UAVs, as well as several auto vehicles of the enemy were destroyed and disabled in different directions of the front,” the ministry said.

“According to the information received, during the combat operations, the military personnel who took up positions in the area defense responsibility of the 5th mountain rifle regiment of the Armenian Armed Forces were defeated, the manpower of the 1st motorized rifle regiment up to one company in number was ambushed, and the moving auto vehicles were destroyed.

A convoy of vehicles of the 4th motorized rifle regiment moving in the Asgaran direction, and a group of reservists moving from the Sisian settlement of Armenia in the direction of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, were destroyed by fire strike.

The cases of mass desertion are observed in enemy units whose resistance has been broken.

The troops of the Azerbaijan Army, observing the regime of humanitarian truce, retain their operational advantage along the entire front,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Armenian military units keep territories of Goranboy, Tartar and Aghdam districts under fire

[11:13] 13.10.2020

Armenian military units rudely violating humanitarian ceasefire regime keep territories of Goranboy, Tartar and Aghdam districts under fire, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, Slovakian FMs hold phone talk

[10:34] 13.10.2020

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has had a telephone conversation with Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovak Republic Ivan Korčok.

Foreign Minister Ivan Korčok expressed serious concern over tensions in the region and emphasized the importance of restoring political dialogue.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov informed his counterpart on another large scale military provocation by Armenia along the frontline on September 27, 2020, and counter-offensive measures by the Azerbaijani Army with the aim to repel military aggression by Armenia and ensure the security of densely populated civilian residential areas deep inside the territories of Azerbaijan. FM Bayramov noted that Armenia continues deliberate shelling the Azerbaijani civilians and civilian objects even after the humanitarian ceasefire was established on October 10, 2020. Azerbaijani cities located far beyond the front lines including Naftalan, Shamkir, Mingachevir, as well as Ganja came under rocket and artillery fire by Armenia`s armed forces.

Minister Bayramov stressed the importance of eliminating the consequences of the conflict and withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, as it is demanded by the resolutions of the UN Security Council, in order to ensure sustainable peace and security in the region.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Territory of Tartar district is under fire

[10:18] 13.10.2020

Since the morning today, the Armenian armed forces are again shelling the territory of Tartar district grossly violating the humanitarian truce, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

October 12

**Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of liberated from occupation
Suleymanli village, Jabrayil district**

[19:36] 12.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense has released video footages of the liberated from Armenian occupation Suleymanli village of Jabrayil district.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the footages.

AZERTAC

**President Ilham Aliyev: The bombing of Ganja is yet another manifestation
of the ugly face of Armenian fascism**

[18:22] 12.10.2020

“The city of Ganja has been bombed. The city came under fire with “Tochka-U” missiles, as a result of which civilians were killed and injured. This is yet another manifestation of the ugly face of Armenian fascism. Armenians of the world, Armenia's supporters, their benefactors and Islamophobic circles will no longer be able to conceal this crime because everything is already obvious,” President Ilham Aliyev said in an interview with Turkish Haber Global TV channel, AZERTAC reports.

The head of state said that the press releases were issued at the scene yesterday and representatives of foreign embassies who visited the site today saw everything with their own eyes. “Once again, they saw who is causing this conflict, who pursues an aggressive policy, who commits crimes against the civilian population. The Armenian state is a state of terror, a fascist state, and this crime against humanity has shown this once again.”

AZERTAC

Colonel Vagif Dargahli exposes another nonsense from the Armenian Ministry of Defense

[17:02] 12.10.2020

“The information of the Armenian ministry of defense about the alleged downing of another Azerbaijani Su-25 attack aircraft is a blatant lie of despair,” chief of the press service of Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense Colonel Vagif Dargahli told AZERTAC.

“Combat aviation of Azerbaijan is not being used, and we completely comply with the requirements of the humanitarian truce,” Dargahli added.

AZERTAC

Foreign diplomats eyewitness Armenian atrocities committed in Ganja

[15:50] 12.10.2020

On October 12, heads of diplomatic corps, ambassadors, military attaches, and heads of representations of international organizations in Azerbaijan arrived in the city of Ganja.

AZERTAC's correspondent, dispatched to the frontline, reports that the diplomats are accompanied by Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev, Assistant to the First Vice-President Elchin Amirbayov and others.

The visit aims to acquaint the diplomats with the Armenian atrocities - crime scenes of Armenia's reckless missile attacks against innocent civilians and energy infrastructure.

The foreign diplomats were informed that the aggressor Armenian armed forces continue to subject to heavy artillery fire Azerbaijani civilians, violating the norms and principles of international law, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as well as the agreement on humanitarian ceasefire which was signed on their persistent requests following the meeting in Moscow. It was noted that on October 11, 2020, at around 2 am midnight, the Armenian troops fired rockets on Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan that is far beyond the battlefield, in rude violation of humanitarian ceasefire a result of which 9 civilians killed, 34 people including 6 kids and 16 women were injured.

The attacks on densely populated areas with "Tochka-U", "Smerch", "Scud" and other missiles is aimed at killing a large number of people. The missile attack to Ganja, the city located far from the line of contact, was launched from Vardenis region of Armenia.

The diplomats were also informed that these actions by Armenia contradict the agreement on humanitarian ceasefire reached in Moscow. Although Azerbaijan complied with the humanitarian truce, Armenia has committed acts of vandalism against the civilian population. It was emphasized that international organizations must exert political pressure on Armenia, which commits war crimes and targets civilians.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy's 3 UAVs were destroyed

[12:21] 12.10.2020

On the night of October 12, Azerbaijan Air Defense Units destroyed the enemy's 2 UAVs in the direction of Tovuz district of the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border, and today at about 10:00 – 1 UAV in the direction of the Aghdam district, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by Turkish Haber Global TV channel

[12:10] 12.10.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has been interviewed by Turkish Haber Global TV channel.

AZERTAC

October 11

**Armenian armed forces subject to intensive fire Harami lowland and Yukhari
Giyamaddinli village of Aghjabadi district**

[22:55] 11.10.2020

The military-political leadership of Armenia continues terrorist acts against our civilian population in gross violation of the requirements of the humanitarian ceasefire declared on October 10, 2020 at 12:00, as well as of the basic norms and principles of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

According to Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan, today, at about 5 pm, an area called Harami lowland and Yukhari Giyamaddinli village of Aghjabadi district were intensively bombarded by the Armenian armed forces. "Civil infrastructure facilities were severely damaged as a result of the explosion of artillery shells.

Given the current situation the prosecution authorities are taking all possible investigative measures," the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani NGOs appeal to presidents of OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries regarding Armenia's missile attack on Ganja

[22:47] 11.10.2020

The NGOs of Azerbaijan have appealed to heads of state of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries - Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, Donald Trump of the United States of America, Emmanuel Macron of France, as well as the public of the three countries regarding the killing of women and children as a result of the missile attack of Armenia on Ganja.

The appeal reads:

"Dear Presidents,

We appeal to you as NGOs defending the rights of children and women in Azerbaijan.

As known, a trilateral meeting of the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov, the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov and the Foreign Minister of Armenia Zohrab Mnatsakanyan was held in Moscow on October 9, 2020 on the initiative of Russian President Vladimir Putin to declare a humanitarian ceasefire.

After a meeting that lasted about 11 hours, an agreement was reached consisting of following 4 points:

1. To declare a ceasefire for humanitarian purposes starting from 12 p.m. on October 10 for the exchange of the prisoners of war, other people detained and bodies of those killed, with the mediation and in accordance with the criteria of the International Committee of the Red Cross;
2. Further parameters of the ceasefire will be agreed upon additionally;
3. The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, with the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, on the basis of the fundamental principles of the settlement, are launching substantive negotiations with the aim of achieving early peaceful resolution;
4. The sides reiterate the inalterability of the format of the peace process.

However, unfortunately, the Armenian side, in violation of all the provisions of the agreement signed, in accordance with its hypocritical and aggressive nature, continues to subject the frontline regions and villages, as well as the cities of Azerbaijan situated far away from the conflict zone, to heavy artillery and missile fire, grossly violating the ceasefire agreement.

The most regrettable is that on October 11, at around 4 AM, the second largest city of Azerbaijan with a population of more than 500,000 people, located 80 km from the front line, was shelled by the political-military leadership of Armenia.

As a result of this barbaric and atrocious attack of Armenia, 3 residential buildings were destroyed, more than 7 civilians were killed and more than 33 were injured. Among the dead were children and women. This crime of Armenia is another act of genocide after Khojaly committed against peaceful and innocent Azerbaijanis.

Armenia's open attack on the civilian population of Azerbaijan after the ceasefire's entering into force, as well as the killing and wounding of dozens of people is an unprecedented baseness and crime. With this criminal act, Armenia has once again proved that it has never complied with the agreements reached and the documents it signed. On the other hand, Armenia's rocket fire on Ganja also shows that the occupying country, as in previous years, still ignores your position and call of the world community, specifically the co-chairs, continuing to grossly violate all

international conventions. The only reason for this is that Armenia has so far gone unpunished and no international sanctions have been imposed on the occupying country.

We, the undersigned NGOs working for the protection of children's and women's rights, call on you and the civil society institutions of your countries to take serious steps against Armenia, which hypocritically violated the ceasefire and killed many innocent children and women, and stop the aggressor.

You, the countries responsible for resolution of the conflict, cannot remain indifferent to the fact that Armenia has committed such a gross and blatant war crime in front of the whole world. Your indifference to this aggression against Azerbaijan will be assessed as your open disrespect for human values, international obligations and international humanitarian law.

We hope that the public of the United States, the Russian Federation and France will also strongly condemn this crime against humanity committed by Armenia and demand that their countries' leaders punish Armenia."

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani NGOs appeal to heads of international organizations regarding Armenia`s missile attack on Ganja

[22:38] 11.10.2020

The NGOs of Azerbaijan have appealed to UN Secretary-General, PACE President, President of the OSCE PA, NATO Secretary-General, President of the NATO PA, President of the European Commission, President of the European Council, President of the European Parliament and heads of other international organizations regarding the killing of women and children as a result of the missile attack of Armenia on Ganja.

The appeal reads:

"As known, a trilateral meeting of the Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov, the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov and the Foreign Minister of Armenia Zohrab Mnatsakanyan was held in Moscow on October 9, 2020 on the initiative of Russian President Vladimir Putin to declare a humanitarian ceasefire.

After a meeting that lasted about 11 hours, an agreement was reached consisting of following 4 points:

1. To declare a ceasefire for humanitarian purposes starting from 12 p.m. on October 10 for the exchange of the prisoners of war, other people detained and bodies of those killed, with the mediation and in accordance with the criteria of the International Committee of the Red Cross;
2. Further parameters of the ceasefire will be agreed upon additionally;
3. The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, with the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, on the basis of the fundamental principles of the settlement, are launching substantive negotiations with the aim of achieving early peaceful resolution;
4. The sides reiterate the inalterability of the format of the peace process.

However, unfortunately, the Armenian side, in violation of all the provisions of the agreement signed, in accordance with its hypocritical and aggressive nature, continues to subject the frontline regions and villages, as well as the cities of Azerbaijan situated far away from the conflict zone, to heavy artillery and missile fire, grossly violating the ceasefire agreement.

The most regrettable is that on October 11, at around 4 AM, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, Ganja, with a population of more than 500,000 people, located 80 km from the frontline, was shelled by the order of the political-military leadership of Armenia. As a result of this barbaric and atrocious attack of Armenia, 3 residential buildings were destroyed, more than 9 civilians, including 4 women, were killed and 34 were wounded, including 16 women and 6 children. This crime of Armenia is another act of genocide after Khojaly committed against peaceful and innocent Azerbaijanis. In total, 41 civilians were killed and 205 were injured by Armenia in the last 15 days.

Armenia's open attack on the civilian population of Azerbaijan after the ceasefire's entering into force, as well as the killing and wounding of dozens of people is an unprecedented baseness and crime. In addition, Armenia's gross violation of all clauses of the Moscow Agreement signed on October 10, 2020, once again proved that the occupying country is not interested in a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the conflict, as it has been for the last 28 years.

On the other hand, Armenia's missile attack on Ganja also shows that the occupying country, as in previous years, still ignores the resolutions, statements and calls of the world community and international organizations, and continues to grossly violate all international conventions. The only reason for this is that Armenia has so far gone unpunished and no international sanctions have been imposed on the occupying country.

We, the NGOs of Azerbaijan, once again call on you to take serious steps against Armenia, which hypocritically violated the ceasefire and killed many innocent children and women, and stop the aggressor.

You, as the international organizations responsible for the protection of peace and security in the world, the protection of human rights and freedoms, the observance of the norms and principles of international law, the implementation of international conventions prohibiting the killing of civilians, cannot ignore the fact that Armenia is blatantly and grossly waging war against Armenia in front of the whole world. Your indifference to this aggression against Azerbaijan will be assessed as your open disrespect for human values, international law and international humanitarian law.

We hope that you will strongly condemn this crime against humanity committed by Armenia and take necessary measures to punish the aggressor."

AZERTAC

**In phone talk with French co-chair of OSCE Minsk Group, FM Bayramov highlights
Armenia`s missile attacks on Azerbaijani civilians**

[19:12] 11.10.2020

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has made a phone call to OSCE Minsk Group co-chair of France Stephane Visconti.

During the conversation Minister Jeyhun Bayramov said that Armenia continued to deliberately fire on Azerbaijani civilians and civilian objects even after the humanitarian ceasefire was established. He highlighted the attempted attack of the Armenian armed forces in the direction of Hadrut and Jabrayil a few hours after the establishment of the humanitarian ceasefire, the shooting by the Armenian armed forces of a sanitary medical vehicle, clearly marked with a white flag, which was collecting the bodies of Armenian soldiers, as well as the shelling of Ganja, the second largest city in Azerbaijan located far beyond the frontline with rocket fire by the Armenian armed forces.

The minister noted that the Armenian political and military leadership bore the full responsibility for the situation in the region.

The French co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group Stephane Visconti expressed regret over the situation and stressed the importance of ensuring the ceasefire. Calling on the parties to abide by the terms of the Moscow agreement, the French co-chair stated that they would make proposals for the soonest return of the parties to political dialogue.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM holds phone talk with Russian co-chair of OSCE Minsk Group

[19:08] 11.10.2020

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has made a phone call to OSCE Minsk Group co-chair of Russia Igor Popov.

During the conversation Minister Jeyhun Bayramov said that Armenia continued to deliberately fire on Azerbaijani civilians and civilian objects even after the humanitarian ceasefire was established. He highlighted the attempted attack of the Armenian armed forces in the direction of Hadrut and Jabrayil a few hours after the establishment of the humanitarian ceasefire, the shooting by the Armenian armed forces of a sanitary medical vehicle, clearly marked with a white flag, which was collecting the bodies of Armenian soldiers, as well as the shelling of Ganja, the second largest city in Azerbaijan located far beyond the frontline with rocket fire by the Armenian armed forces.

The minister noted that the Armenian political and military leadership bore the full responsibility for the situation in the region.

The Russian co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group Igor Popov expressed regret over the situation and stressed the importance of ensuring the ceasefire. He also stressed the importance of compliance with the terms of the Moscow agreement.

AZERTAC

**Elchin Amirbayov: Armenia disrespects agreement on humanitarian
ceasefire achieved in Moscow**

[18:45] 11.10.2020

"Armenia does not respect the agreement on humanitarian ceasefire achieved in Moscow," said Assistant to Azerbaijan's First Vice-President Elchin Amirbayov in his interview with French "L'Opinion" newspaper.

He said the situation remained unchanged despite the signing of the humanitarian ceasefire agreement in Moscow on Friday. "The situation continues just as it was before the Moscow meeting. Moreover, it aggravated even further on Sunday night. Ballistic missiles fired from Armenia hit Ganja, Azerbaijan's second largest city, killing 9 and wounding 34 people. They also targeted "Azerbaijan" Thermal Power Station in Mingachevir."

Elchin Amirbayov said missiles were fired into Azerbaijan's territory not from the Nagorno-Karabakh region where the separatists are grouped, but from Armenia - from Vardenis region and southeast of the Sevan lake. "This is a trap because Armenia's defense agreement with Russia does not apply to Nagorno-Karabakh. And Azerbaijan's strikes on Armenian territory in retaliation may change the course of events," he added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Armenia's military-political leadership bears responsibility for the crimes it committed

[18:02]11.10.2020

“Armenia's military-political leadership bears responsibility for the crimes it committed,” President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a post on his Twitter account.

“The Azerbaijani side will give a decent response to all this,” the head of state tweeted.

AZERTAC

Turkey, Russia discuss Armenia's ceasefire violations

[17:47] 11.10.2020

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu held on Sunday a phone conversation with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov to discuss the ongoing conflict in Upper Karabakh, an internationally recognized Azerbaijani territory occupied by Armenia, a diplomatic source said.

Mevlut Cavusoglu and Sergei Lavrov discussed Armenia's ceasefire violations, the insider said.

According to the source, Cavusoglu asked Lavrov to warn Armenia about complying with the truce, which came into effect on Saturday for the exchange of prisoners and retrieval of bodies.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: These dishonorable deeds of Armenia can never break the will of Azerbaijani people

[17:24] 11.10.2020

“Armenia's missile attack on Ganja is another manifestation of disrespect for Russian-mediated talks and Armenian fascism,” Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev made a post on his Twitter account.

“These dishonorable deeds of Armenia can never break the will of Azerbaijani people!” the head of state tweeted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: "The enemy suffered heavy losses as a result of the airstrikes"

[16:48] 11.10.2020

“The enemy suffered heavy losses as a result of the airstrikes of the Azerbaijan Air Force against the units of the 41st separate artillery regiment of the Armenian armed forces,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The enemy suffered numerous losses both in manpower and military equipment and was forced to flee from the battlefield,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Armenia's firing rockets on civilian population of Ganja city is a war crime and a gross violation of the Geneva Conventions

[16:29] 11.10.2020

“Armenia has grossly violated the ceasefire regime and fired rockets on civilian population of Ganja city,” President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a post on his Twitter account.

The head of state described this as a war crime and a gross violation of the Geneva Conventions.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army destroys another UAV of Armenia

[16:07] 11.10.2020

The Azerbaijani army destroyed another unmanned aerial vehicles of the Armenian armed forces, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defence said.

The UAV that attempted to carry out a flight in the direction of Azerbaijan's Mingachevir on October 11, around 8:00, was shot down by the country's Air Defense Units.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the footages reflecting the destruction of enemy UAV.

AZERTAC

Turkish Ministry of National Defense: “International public opinion should speak up against Armenia”

[16:03] 11.10.2020

The Turkish Ministry of National Defense said on Sunday "international public opinion should speak up against Armenia," referring to the Armenian army's attacks on civilian settlements and violation of the temporary cease-fire with Azerbaijan.

"Committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, Armenia now violates the ceasefire," the ministry said on Twitter.

"Even in a ceasefire, Armenia continues to assault civilian settlements," it added.

The Armenian attacks continued despite a humanitarian cease-fire agreed for the exchange of prisoners and retrieval of bodies in Nagorno-Karabakh, which came into force at 12 p.m. local time (0800GMT) on Saturday.

The truce came after a trilateral meeting in Moscow on Friday between the foreign ministers of Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia.

Earlier in the day, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said Armenia is "grossly" violating the cease-fire agreement by trying to mount attacks.

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: “We call on international community to strongly condemn this atrocity and act of vandalism”

[15:59] 11.10.2020

“The collected materials will be brought to the attention of relevant international organizations through both the Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We call on the international community to strongly condemn this atrocity and this act of vandalism,” Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has told a briefing held in Ganja, Azerbaijan’s second largest city, which was subjected to shelling by the Armenian armed forces late at night on Sunday.

“We call on the international community to respond adequately to these events,” Hikmat Hajiyev said.

At least nine civilians were killed and 33 others wounded as the Armenian armed forces fired missiles into Ganja, which is located far from the conflict zone, just two days after Azerbaijan and Armenia agreed to a humanitarian truce mediated by Russia.

AZERTAC

**Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia on one hand pleas for truce, on the other hand dishonorably
commits an act of terrorism against the civilians**

[15:43] 11.10.2020

“Armenia on the one hand pleas for truce, on the other hand dishonorably commits an act of terrorism against the civilians,” Assistant to Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev told a briefing in Ganja.

The presidential assistant described this step of Armenians as an act of terrorism. “They resort to such dishonorable acts to compensate for their failures on the battlefield,” he said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense: Political and military leadership of Armenia bears responsibility for aggravation of the situation in the region

[14:12] 11.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces do not adhere to the humanitarian truce and continue inflicting rocket and artillery fire at Azerbaijan’s cities and villages located away from the area of combat operations,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense said in a statement.

“On October 10 and 11, at different times, the invasive troops fired at the cities of Ganja and Mingachevir, as well as the villages of Goranboy, Tartar, Aghdam, Aghjabadi, Fuzuli and Jabrayil regions. As a result of the shelling, there are numerous casualties among the civilian population, and the civilian infrastructure has been seriously damaged,” the ministry said.

“The political and military leadership of Armenia bears the responsibility for the aggravation of the situation in the region,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Armenia's rocket fire on apartment building in Ganja is clear evidence of occupying country's policy of terrorism at state level

[13:35] 11.10.2020

The occupying Armenian armed forces, in violation of the norms and principles of international law, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, as well as the requirements of the humanitarian ceasefire agreed after its own persistent requests in Moscow, continues to deliberately target residential settlements in Azerbaijan with heavy artillery fire.

According to AZERTAC, as a result of the rocket fire of the Armenian armed forces on an apartment building in the central part of Ganja, the second largest city of the Republic of Azerbaijan located outside the frontline, ten people, including five women, were killed and 34 people, including 16 women, among them six minors, were injured. Also, more than 10 apartment buildings and over 100 different facilities were damaged. Rescue operations are currently under way to rescue civilians trapped under the rubble.

The shelling of civilians and cities by the Armenian armed forces after the humanitarian ceasefire agreement is another clear indication of the barbarism and hypocrisy of the Armenian military-political leadership's calls for a ceasefire. Armenia's deliberate firing on civilians, homes, civilian sites and medical personnel as part of its aggressive policy against Azerbaijan once again violates the fundamental norms of international law, including international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions, represents a flagrant violation of its obligations and shows that this country is far from ordinary humanism. Armenia's heavy artillery and rocket fire on civilians, apartment buildings and civilian sites is a clear confirmation of the occupying country's policy of terrorism at state level.

At the same time, the enemy is shamelessly trying to cover up its crimes in foreign media, including social networks, and is attempting to deny its illegal actions by circulating reports aimed at evading responsibility for committing them.

However, as always, the enemy's attempts to cover up its ugly deeds and terrorist crimes will not work. Photos and videos circulated by local and foreign media at the scene expose Armenian lies yet again.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia under humanitarian aid receives new Smerch missiles

[13:29] 11.10.2020

“Armenia under the humanitarian aid, delivered via civilian airlines, received new Smerch missiles,” Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has posted on his Twitter account.

“Immediately started to attack civilian population and critical energy infrastructure in Mingachevir. See the gap between civilized world and Armenia,” Hikmat Hajiyev tweeted.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Prosecutor General's Office: 9 civilians were killed as a result of missiles fired by Armenian armed forces on apartment buildings in Ganja

[13:12] 11.10.2020

On October 11 at around 2 am, 9 civilians, including 4 women, were killed as a result of missiles fired by Armenian armed forces on apartment buildings in the central part of Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, press service of Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM: Armenian armed forces continue to grossly violate the agreement on a humanitarian ceasefire

[12:54] 11.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry has issued a statement on Armenia's violating the agreement on a humanitarian ceasefire.

AZERTAC presents the statement.

“Despite the agreement reached during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia in Moscow with the mediation of the Russian Federation, to observe a humanitarian ceasefire from 12:00 pm on October 10, 2020, the Armenian armed forces continue to grossly violate the agreement.

Immediately after the establishment of a humanitarian ceasefire, the Armenian armed forces fired on Aghdam and Tartar regions of Azerbaijan. A few hours later, Armenian armed forces tried to attack in the direction of Hadrut and Jabrayil.

A medical worker was seriously injured as a result of the shooting by the Armenian armed forces of a sanitary medical vehicle, clearly marked with a white flag, collecting the bodies of Armenian soldiers in the area of Sugovshan.

On the night of October 11, Ganja, the second largest city in Azerbaijan and far beyond the frontline, came under rocket fire by the Armenian armed forces. The attack killed seven civilians and injured 39 others, including minors.

The shelling of civilians and cities by the Armenian armed forces after the humanitarian ceasefire agreement is another clear example of barbarism and shows that the ceasefire calls of the Armenian leadership are nothing but hypocrisy.

Armenia's deliberate firing on civilians, homes, civilian objects and medical personnel as part of its aggressive policy against Azerbaijan once again demonstrates the country's disregard for fundamental norms and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions, as well as shows that it is clearly violating its obligations and is far from the principles of humanism.

We strongly condemn these acts of aggression by Armenia and call on the international community to take decisive steps to force the aggressor Armenia to comply with international law and its international obligations.

The full responsibility for the situation in the region lies with the Armenian political and military leadership.”

AZERTAC

**Atlantis Armenian Airlines transports missiles and rocket systems
to Armenia on civilian aircrafts**

[12:04] 11.10.2020

"Under the humanitarian aid, corrupt air carrier Atlantis Armenian Airlines, which is also under sanctions, transports missiles and rocket systems to Armenia on civilian aircrafts," Hikmat Hajiyeu, Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of the Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration, has twitted.

"This is a blatant violation of the Chicago Convention and the rules of the International Civil Aviation Organization," he said.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Armenia spreads misinformation

[11:28] 11.10.2020

"The information spread by the Armenian side about allegedly inflicted missile strikes by the Azerbaijan Army on human settlements in the occupied territories is false and misinformation," Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry said.

"Unlike the Armenia, Azerbaijan fully complies with the requirements of the humanitarian ceasefire regime," the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Foreign Ministry: Pakistan will continue to stand by the brotherly nation of Azerbaijan

[11:14] 11.10.2020

Pakistan`s Foreign Ministry has commented on the newly-achieved humanitarian ceasefire between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

"The recently announced ceasefire between Azerbaijan and Armenia is a positive development for peace and stability. We hope that the humanitarian conditions agreed upon by the parties would be honoured," the ministry said in a statement.

"Pakistan believes that sustainable peace between the two parties would depend on the complete and comprehensive implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijani territories. In this endeavor, Pakistan will continue to stand by the brotherly nation of Azerbaijan."

AZERTAC

Ambassador to Saudi Arabia: Azerbaijan demands restoration of its territorial integrity

[10:39] 11.10.2020

Arab News has published an interview with Azerbaijan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia Shahin Abdullayev.

The ambassador said that on September 27 the armed forces of Armenia, blatantly violating the cease-fire, launched another aggression against Azerbaijan — for the third time this year — by intensively shelling the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the frontline. "This new act of aggression by Armenia is a continuation of the latest provocations, including the attempted armed attack in the direction of Tovuz region on July 12-16, the sabotage-reconnaissance group's provocation in the direction of Goranboy region, the illegal settlement policy in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, as well as the provocative statements and activities of the Armenian leadership.

The clashes are the worst since the 1990s, when some 30,000 people were killed, and are spreading beyond the Nagorno-Karabakh region. By constantly violating the cease-fire achieved in 1994, Armenia tries to consolidate the existing status quo. Azerbaijan has repeatedly stated that Armenia's continuing military aggression and the presence of its armed forces in Azerbaijani territories remain a significant threat to regional peace and security."

He said for decades the one constant has been the Armenian occupation of almost all of Azerbaijan's autonomous territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions of Azerbaijan, which together form about 20 percent of the country's total territory. Armenia conducted a policy of ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis. "The cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani people and 63 of 67 mosques in the territory of today's Armenia have been demolished and plundered. Armenia also destroyed all Azerbaijani historical and religious monuments in the occupied territories."

The ambassador also criticizes the OSCE Minsk Group, which mediates the conflict. "The mediators — the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Russia, France and the US) — are at fault. There was a formal negotiation process launched in 1992, which has produced no concrete results on the ground, in the sense that the occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and the seven surrounding regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan has not come to an end, Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs have been prevented from exercising their right of return, and so on. In other words, for nearly three decades the Minsk Group led negotiations whose objectives were clearly and unambiguously set down on paper."

"Last week Armenian armed forces launched missile attacks on the densely populated civilian areas in Ganja, Mingachevir, Barda, Beylagan and some other cities of Azerbaijan. As a result of Armenia's artillery and missile attacks, more than 30 Azerbaijani civilians were killed, more than 150 injured, and more than 500 residential buildings and civilian objects destroyed (as of Oct. 7)."

"Azerbaijan has a strong army, and reports that foreigners are fighting alongside Azerbaijani troops do not reflect the truth. On the contrary, Armenia recruits and uses mercenaries and terrorists from other countries against Azerbaijan. The Armenian government is using the conflict to divert attention from its economic problems and to influence public opinion in the country.

It should be once more stressed that peace and stability in the South Caucasus will be restored only after the liberation of all occupied Azerbaijani territories," Abdullayev said.

Ogtay Bayramov
Special Correspondent

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Another Armenian UAV destroyed

[09:59] 11.10.2020

"On October 11 at about 08.00 the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) of Armenia attempted to carry out a flight in the Mingachevir direction was destroyed by the Azerbaijan Air Defense Units," Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry said.

AZERTAC

October 10

Prosecutor General's Office: A civilian was killed as a result of Armenia's violating ceasefire

[22:29] 10.10.2020

The military-political leadership of Armenia continues terrorist acts against civilian population in gross violation of the requirements of the humanitarian ceasefire declared on October 10, 2020 at 12:00, including the basic norms and principles of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

"Heavy artillery shelling of Chamanli and Zangishali villages of Aghdam district by Armenian armed forces today at about 19:00 resulted in killing Huseynov Gunduz Taryel, born in 1974, a resident of Chamanli village.

Upon the fact a criminal case was launched by Aghdam Prosecutor's Office under Article 100.2 (conducting aggressive warfare), Article 116 (infringement of international humanitarian law during armed conflict), Article 120.2.1 (deliberate murder committed by criminal community (organization)) and other articles of the Criminal Code.

Given the present conditions the prosecution authorities are carrying out all possible investigative measures.

The public will be further updated about the outcomes."

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Army destroys Armenian heavy artillery violating ceasefire

[19:26] 10.10.2020

Azerbaijani Army has destroyed by precise strikes the Armenian heavy artillery deployed to firing points to violate the ceasefire regime, press service of the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the video footages reflecting the destruction of the enemy artillery.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Armenia grossly violates the ceasefire

[15:33] 10.10.2020

Despite the agreement to declare a ceasefire on October 10 at 12:00, the Armenian army attempted to attack in the Aghdara-Tartar and Fuzuli-Jabrayil directions. At the same time, a number of our residential settlements are under artillery fire from the armed forces of Armenia, press service of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“All enemy attempts to attack were successfully suppressed by our units. Adequate retaliatory measures are being taken against the Armenian army,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: The enemy is subjecting to intensive fire residential settlements of Azerbaijan

[14:00] 10.10.2020

The Armenian armed forces are shelling intensively the human settlements of Goranboy, Tartar, Aghdam, Aghjabadi and Fuzuli districts, press service of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the Azerbaijan Army is taking retaliatory measures against the enemy.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan Army units destroyed heavy combat armored equipment of the enemy by precise fire

[11:00] 10.10.2020

Units of the Azerbaijan Army have destroyed heavy combat armored equipment of the enemy by the precise fire, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC. The ministry's press service released video footages of destruction of enemy's armored equipment.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the footages.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: The enemy is subjecting to intensive fire Hadrut settlement from the Khojaly direction

[10:15] 10.10.2020

The enemy is subjecting to intensive fire Hadrut settlement from the Khojaly direction using multiple launch rocket systems, press service of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the Azerbaijan Army is taking adequate measures against the armed forces of Armenia.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Intense battles continued all night

[10:13] 10.10.2020

The combat operations of various intensity continued from the afternoon on October 9 until the morning of October 10 along the entire length of the front. Fire strikes were inflicted on the enemy, press service of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“As a result of the continued offensive operation by the Azerbaijan Army, during this period, a large number of enemy manpower, 13 tanks, 4 MLRS BM-21 "Grad", 6 D-20 and D-30 howitzers, 3 self-propelled artillery mounts 2S3 "Acaciya", 2 M55 "Zastava" anti-aircraft guns, 2 radar stations and electronic warfare equipment were destroyed and disabled by the precise fire,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, Russian, Armenian FMs make joint statement

[06:10] 10.10.2020

The talks among the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan have wrapped up in Moscow.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov announced a joint statement based on the results of the talks.

The statement says: "In response to the appeal of Russian President Vladimir Putin and in accordance with the agreement of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, the parties agreed to take the following steps: 1. A ceasefire is declared beginning on October 10, 2020, at 12.00 for humanitarian purposes, in order to exchange prisoners of war, other detainees and the corpses with the mediation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and in line with its criteria; 2. Specific parameters of the ceasefire will be additionally agreed; 3. The Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, through the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs, launch substantive negotiations for the soonest peaceful settlement of the conflict on the basis of the basic principles of the settlement; 4. The parties confirm the immutability of the negotiation format.

AZERTAC

October 9

Azerbaijani FM: Armenian Foreign Ministry's statement on Azerbaijani army's targeting places of religious worship and cultural monuments in Shusha is yet another false accusation and provocation

[19:39] 09.10.2020

“The statement by Armenia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs on targeting of the places of religious worship and cultural monuments in the occupied Shusha city by the armed forces of Azerbaijan is yet another false accusation and provocation of Armenia aimed at diverting the attention of the international community from its deliberate shelling the densely populated residential areas, civilian infrastructures and cultural monuments in Azerbaijan” Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan said.

“Almost for 30 years, Armenia has pursued a policy of deliberate destruction of the Azerbaijani historical and cultural monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, aimed at removing any signs heralding their Azerbaijani legacy. Recently targeting the second biggest city, as well as the center of the historical and cultural heritage of Azerbaijan, Ganja city in rocket strikes clearly demonstrated the long-standing policy of the vandalism of Armenia.

Azerbaijan is among the countries where cultural diversity is felt clearly and openly, it is among the most religiously tolerant countries in the world. Unlike Armenia, which has committed cultural genocide, destroyed and desecrated the Muslim Mosques in the occupied territories, Azerbaijan attaches great importance to preserving the traditions of tolerance and the fact that the Armenian Saint Gregory Church in downtown Baku is fully refurbished and under state protection is a vivid example to that policy.

As officially declared by the Military Command of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan, the targets of the Azerbaijani Army are the military infrastructures, fire positions and military units of the enemy. Azerbaijani armed forces undertake the counteroffensive measures on the sovereign territories of Azerbaijan in accordance with the international humanitarian law and Geneva Conventions.

We reiterate that Armenia’s attacks directed at civilians, that caused indiscriminate or disproportionate harm to civilians and civilian facilities in Azerbaijan amount to war crimes under international humanitarian law, for which Armenia bears the liability and which also incur individual criminal responsibility of the perpetrators.

There is no doubt that all historical, cultural, religious monuments of Azerbaijan destroyed as a result of Armenia’s aggression will be restored as soon as the Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding regions of Azerbaijan are liberated from the occupation,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Missile launched from Armenia in direction of Mingachevir shot down in air

[16:51] 09.10.2020

A ballistic target launched from the territory of Armenia in the direction of Mingachevir was detected by Azerbaijan's Air Defense Systems and destroyed at an altitude of more than 20 kilometers, Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Mingachevir and Aghjabadi districts come under intense shelling, Defense Ministry

[16:41] 09.10.2020

The enemy is intensively shelling the territory of Mingachevir and Aghjabadi districts, Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's "Grads" were destroyed

[16:31] 09.10.2020

As a result of the combat operations, the Azerbaijan Army units have destroyed a large number of enemy's Grad MLRS, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Group of intelligentsia, representatives of religious and national communities appeal to UN Secretary General regarding Armenia's latest provocations

[15:28] 09.10.2020

A group of intelligentsia, representatives of religious and national communities have made an appeal to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres regarding Armenia's latest military aggression against the positions of the Azerbaijani army along the line of contact, settlements far away from Nagorno-Karabakh, and its deliberately targeting the civilian population and children.

The appeal reads:

“Dear Mr. Guterres,

At first glance, it is very humanistic approach that you are very concerned about the resumption of hostilities along the line of contact in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone, condemn the use of force, and express regret over the casualties among the civilian population and call for constructive talks without delay. But every issue has a history. The Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict also has its own history, and it is impossible to make an objective decision without knowing it.

First of all, Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 of 1993 on the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict by UN Security Council, which is the main guarantor of international peace and security, explicitly demand that the Armenian armed forces withdraw from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan fully and unconditionally. These resolutions condemn the aggressive steps taken against Azerbaijan, protect non-conflicting civilians and emphasize the inadmissibility of the use of force to gain territory, while reiterating the territorial integrity, sovereignty and inviolability of Azerbaijan's internationally recognized borders. A small reminder: As you do know that in addition to the Nagorno- Karabakh region, the Armenian occupiers are occupying 7 regions of Azerbaijan that are outside Nagorno-Karabakh, and Azerbaijan is currently fighting for the liberation of its seven regions.

For this reason, in our opinion, in accordance with the above-mentioned resolutions of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the parties to the conflict should not be treated equally, and Armenia should have been demanded to immediately suspend military operations and withdraw its forces from the occupied Azerbaijani lands. In addition, Armenia has once again resorted to military aggression against the positions of the Azerbaijani army along the line of contact from September 27, and the densely populated cities of Ganja, Mingachevir, Naftalan, Barda, Agjabadi, far from Nagorno-Karabakh from October 4. It shells on Tartar, Shamkir, Khizi, Absheron regions and other settlements with large-caliber weapons and artillery. Ignoring the calls of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Armenia openly and deliberately targets violates international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions. As of October 5, as a result of artillery and rocket attacks from Armenia's territory, about 30 Azerbaijani civilians were killed, 125 were injured and more than 500 residential buildings and civilian facilities were destroyed. The Armenian armed forces launched two rocket attacks on the city of Mingachevir, where the reservoir and the main power plant are located. Ganja, the second largest city in Azerbaijan with a population of more than five hundred thousand, was shelled by cluster bombs banned by relevant international conventions.

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

For these provocative actions, we request you to urge Armenia to urgently comply with the norms and principles of international law, international humanitarian law and UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 of 1993 on the Armenian Azerbaijani conflict. Armenian invaders must leave the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Only then, peace can be established in the region. The people of Azerbaijan, together with Muslims, Orthodox, Jews, Catholics and Udi Christians, are patiently and hopefully expecting you to take such a just step.

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Azerbaijan is a historically tolerant country with multicultural values. There are multicultural organizations here, and they are constantly contributing to the establishment and development of close, warm relations between different peoples, religions and cultures. We would like to say that such a multicultural situation is unique in the whole region, and this is the key to understanding many issues from the beginning.

We hope and believe that this key will be helpful for you to open the door of the path to truth and justice.”

Kind regards,

Kamal Abdullayev,

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Baku International Multiculturalism Centre

Ravan Hasanov,

Executive Director

Baku International Multiculturalism Centre

Melikh Yevdaev

Head of Mountain Jews Community of Azerbaijan

Robert Mobili

Head of Alban Udi Community of Azerbaijan

Aleksandr Ishein

Archbishop of the Baku and Azerbaijan eparchy of the Russian Orthodox Church

Mufti Salman Musayev

Deputy Head of Caucasian Muslims Office

Zaur Orujov

Representative of parish council of Catholic community of Azerbaijan

Aleksandr Sharovski

Head of European Jews Community of Azerbaijan

Abik Charukchiev

Head of Georgian Jews Community of Azerbaijan

AZERTAC

**Armenian vandalism: Destroyed religious and historical monuments, ruined cities
and villages -PHOTOS**

[12:21] 09.10.2020

Destroyed historical monuments, mosques, cemeteries, ruined cities and villages... Traces of Armenian vandalism can be found at every step in the occupied Azerbaijani territories by the Armenian armed forces.

The photos presented by AZERTAC clearly reflect the atrocities committed by Armenians in the occupied territories.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy is shelling residential settlements

[11:15] 09.10.2020

Armenian armed forces are subjecting to fire the territories of Goranboy, Tartar and Aghdam districts, Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

The Azerbaijan Army is taking adequate measures against the armed forces of Armenia, the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani flag waving in liberated from occupation territories of Jabrayil

[10:43] 09.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defence has released a video of the Jabrayil district liberated from occupation thanks to the successful operations of the Azerbaijani Army. Now the flag of Azerbaijan is waving in the liberated territories of Jabrayil district.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the video footage.

AZERTAC

Footage released showing military equipment abandoned by retreating Armenian troops

[09:18] 09.10.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense has released footage of the armored equipment left by the Armenian troops who retreated from the battle field.

The footage was filmed in Horadiz village, Fuzuli district, liberated by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, the ministry said.

AZERTAC

October 8

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy armored vehicles were destroyed

[20:39] 08.10.2020

The military units of the Azerbaijan Army continue to destroy enemy armored vehicles, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

The ministry's press service released video footages of destruction of enemy's vehicles. Citing the Defense Ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents video footages.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: The enemy shells residential settlements of Azerbaijan

[19:05] 08.10.2020

The Armenian armed forces are shelling the villages of Goranboy, Tartar, and Aghdam districts, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

"The Azerbaijan Army military units are taking adequate measures against the enemy," the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy's military convoy was defeated

[17:51] 08.10.2020

The military equipment of the enemy, who attempted to redeploy in the daytime, was destroyed by artillery fire, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The enemy's military convoy was defeated,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footages of artillery strikes inflicted on enemy during night battles

[16:38] 08.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense has released video footages of artillery strikes inflicted during night battles on the headquarters, infrastructure, weapons and ammunition depots of the military unit of the armed forces of Armenia.

AZERTAC presents the footages.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: Seven people injured as a result of Armenia's artillery shelling of Barda city

[15:17] 08.10.2020

The military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues terrorist acts against the civilian population in gross violation of the norms and principles of international law.

According to the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan, on October 8 starting from 11 am, Armenian armed forces intensively fired rockets and artillery shells in Barda district, targeting settlements and demilitarized zones, as well as non-military clearly visible and distinguishable objects, including the civilian population.

As a result of a rocket hitting the "Gadim Barda" (Ancient Barda) restaurant in the center of Barda city, two civilians were hospitalized with various injuries. At the same time, rockets falling near the secondary school No. 5 in Barda city resulted in injuring five people, and inflicting excessive damage to the school building and numerous vehicles.

The prosecution authorities are currently carrying out all necessary investigative measures in combat conditions.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: The supply of Azerbaijan Army troops participating in battles is at a high level

[14:42] 08.10.2020

Under the instruction of the President of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev, the supply issues of military personnel participating in the counter-offensive operations are immediately resolved, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The supply of our troops is carried out in a planned manner by the relevant departments, services, and structures. The military personnel participating in the battles are continuously provided with food, military uniform, household items, and necessary properties, ammunition, but the military and combat equipment – with fuel for 24 hours a day.

There are no problems with the supply of combat operations. All tasks related to supply and equipment are carried out in a timely manner,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Armenian armed forces shell our human settlements, Defense Ministry

[13:57] 08.10.2020

The Armenian armed forces are shelling the villages of Barda and Aghjabadi districts, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

The Azerbaijan Army is taking adequate measures, the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Armenia's shelling civilians resulted in injuring two residents of Aghdam's Boyukbayli village

[12:42] 08.10.2020

The military-political leadership of aggressor Armenia continues to violate the norms and principles of international law committing terrorist acts against the civilian population.

According to the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan, on October 8, targeting settlements and demilitarized zones, as well as non-military clearly visible and distinguishable objects, including the civilian population the armed forces of the occupying country intensively fired rockets and artillery shells in Aghdam district from different directions.

On October 8 at about 8 am, a shell falling in Alibayli village resulted in injuring residents of Boyukbayli village - Jabrayilli Sadi Babir, born in 1992, and Guliyeva Huru Talish, born in 1977, passing through the village. They were hospitalized with various wounds, and numerous civil infrastructure facilities and houses in the rural area were excessively damaged.

Given the present combat conditions the prosecution authorities are conducting all possible investigative measures.

AZERTAC

Another UAV of Armenia destroyed

[11:44] 08.10.2020

On October 7 at 22:00, the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) of Armenia attempted to carry out a flight over the area of Aghstafa district on the Armenia-Azerbaijan state border, press service of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the Ministry, enemy's UAV was immediately detected and destroyed by Air Defense units of the Air Force of Azerbaijan.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy continues to shell our residential settlements

[10:55] 08.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces have been shelling the villages of Goranboy, Tartar, and Aghdam districts since the morning hours. There are killed and wounded,” Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

The Azerbaijan Army is taking adequate measures, the ministry said.

AZERTAC

October 7

Azerbaijani political parties issue statement on France's position on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

[20:49] 07.10.2020

Political parties in Azerbaijan have issued a joint statement on France's position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

"On September 30, French President Emmanuel Macron made careless, false statements in the Latvian capital of Riga about the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and what is happening on the frontline. The French President then slandered our country based on fake information and rumors, and without any proof. These statements have caused fierce outrage within the Azerbaijani community and we are fully confident that France cannot maintain its objectivity as an OSCE Minsk Group co-chair," the statement said.

"While in 1993 France was one of the countries that voted in favor of the four resolutions demanding immediate withdrawal of the Armenian troops from the occupied Azerbaijani territories, it now does not distinguish between the aggressor Armenia and Azerbaijan, which faced aggression, supporting the aggressor Armenia in a biased fashion."

"France has committed genocides in Algeria, Vietnam, Djibouti, Chad, Gabon and Tunisia.

We are firm believers that one can't have differing approaches to the international values. We would advise Mr. Macron against voicing loud statements to Azerbaijan about Nagorno-Karabakh and instead to approach the situation the way it did with the self-determination right of people in Corsica."

The parties said they believed a mediator should be unbiased and fair.

"Azerbaijan fights aggressors on its own lands. Azerbaijan's position is just. Our position is based both on international law, and historical fairness. Karabakh is Azerbaijan!"

"All political forces stand by Commander-in-chief Ilham Aliyev on Karabakh issue. The Armenian army must withdraw from Azerbaijani territories and territorial integrity of our country must be fully restored. This is a historical right of the Azerbaijani people."

"Statements made by the French President have seriously affected Azerbaijan-France relations. We do not regard France as a Minsk Group co-chair because of its support for aggressor," the political parties said.

The statement was signed by:

1. New Azerbaijan Party (YAP) – Ali Ahmadov
2. Civil Solidarity Party – Sabir Rustamkhanli
3. Ana Vatan (Motherland) Party – Fazail Aghamali
4. Great Establishment Party – Fazil Mustafa
5. Whole Azerbaijan Popular Front Party – Gudrat Huseynguliyev
6. Party of Democratic Reforms – Asim Mollazade
7. Unity Party – Tahir Karimli
8. Citizen Unity Party – Sabir Hajiyev
9. Azerbaijan Democratic Enlightenment Party – Elshan Musayev

10. National Front Party – Razi Nurullayev
11. ReAL party – Ilgar Mammadov
12. Azerbaijan Hope Party - Igbal Aghazade
13. National Revival Movement Party – Faraj Guliyev
14. Azerbaijan Democratic Party – Sardar Jalaloghlu
15. Azerbaijan People's Party - Panah Huseyn
16. Justice Party – Ilyas Ismayilov
17. Classic Popular Front Party – Mirmahmud Fattayev
18. Free Democrats Party - Sulhaddin Akbar
19. Azerbaijan Liberal Party – Avaz Temirkhan
20. Azerbaijan National Independence Party – Arzukhan Alizade
21. Aydinlar Party – Gulamhuseyn Alibayli
22. Republican Party of Azerbaijan – Subut Asadov
23. Azerbaijan Social Democratic Party – Araz Alizade
24. Azerbaijan Social Welfare Party – Asli Kazimova
25. Great Azerbaijan Party – Elshad Musayev
26. National Unity Party – Yunus Oghuz
27. AG Party – Tural Abbasli
28. Modern Musavat Party – Hafiz Hajiyev
29. Liberal Democratic Party of Azerbaijan – Fuad Aliyev
30. Compatriot Party of Azerbaijan – Mais Safarli
31. Freedom Party – Ahmad Orujov
32. Alliance Party for the Sake of Azerbaijan – Abutalib Samadov
33. Free Republican Party of Azerbaijan – Kamil Seyidov
34. People's Democratic Party – Badraddin Guliyev
35. Democratic Azerbaijan World Party – Alisahib Huseynov
36. Yeni Zaman Party – Musa Aghayev
37. Citizen and Development Party – Ali Aliyev
38. People's Democratic Party of Azerbaijan – Rafiq Turabkhan
39. Azerbaijan Communist Party – Haji Hajiyev and Rauf Gurbanov
40. National Congress Party – Ikhtiyar Shirinov
41. Independent People's Party – Aflan Ibrahimov
42. United Azerbaijan National Unity Party – Hajibaba Azimov
43. National Democratic Party of Azerbaijan – Tufan Karimov
44. Azerbaijan Evolution Party – Teyyub Aliyev
45. Unity Party – Khudadat Khudiyev
46. Future Azerbaijan Party – Aghasif Shakiroghlu
47. Azerbaijan National Movement Party - Samir Jafarov
48. Azerbaijani Fighters Party – Aghadur Muslumov
49. Gorgud Party - Firudin Karimov
50. National Democratic Party of Cognition - Osman Afandiyev

Azerbaijani flag waves in center of Jabrayil

[20:34] 07.10.2020

The Azerbaijani flag is flying in the center of Jabrayil district.
AZERTAC presents photos from Jabrayil which was liberated on October 4.

AZERTAC

Legal assistance requests sent to 35 countries regarding 166 legal entities engaged in illegal economic activities in Azerbaijan's occupied territories

[18:49] 07.10.2020

The Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan continues to monitor the application of effective criminal law measures against persons engaged in illegal economic and other activities in the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan occupied by the Armenian armed forces.

Companies engaged in illegal mining in the occupied territories, as well as in exploitation of gold and other metal ore deposits, sturgeon and black caviar sales, electricity production, illegal sale of watches, and banking activities, were identified, and a tax audit was conducted on the basis of a court decision.

According to the results of tax audits and forensic accounting, in general, 6 companies are suspicious of being engaged in illegal business activities with a large income amounting 306 million 821 thousand manats.

Necessary investigative and search operations were carried out to ensure the arrest and extradition of 12 wanted persons to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In addition, there are grounds for suspicion that a group of individuals have been in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan since 2002, looted objects of historical, scientific and cultural value and committed other illegal acts by conducting archeological excavations in the Azykh Cave. They were put on the international and interstate wanted list being involved as accused persons in a criminal case. A measure of restraint in the form of arrest was imposed against them.

International legal assistance requests were sent to 35 countries in connection with 166 legal entities engaged in illegal economic activities.

The prosecution authorities are also conducting criminal investigation against individuals who illegally visited Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding regions.

Effective measures within the framework of international law will be taken by the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan against individuals and legal entities engaged in illegal economic and other activities in the territories of Azerbaijan occupied by the Armenian armed forces.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani political parties issue statement on France's position on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

[18:02] 07.10.2020

Political parties in Azerbaijan have issued a joint statement on France's position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The following is the text of the statement:

"On September 30, French President Emmanuel Macron made careless, false statements in the Latvian capital of Riga about the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and what is happening on the frontline. The French President then slandered our country based on fake information and rumors, and without any proof. These statements have caused fierce outrage within the Azerbaijani community and we are fully confident that France cannot maintain its objectivity as an OSCE Minsk Group co-chair," the statement said.

"While in 1993 France was one of the countries that voted in favor of the four resolutions demanding immediate withdrawal of the Armenian troops from the occupied Azerbaijani territories, it now does not distinguish between the aggressor Armenia and Azerbaijan, which faced aggression, supporting the aggressor Armenia in a biased fashion."

The parties said they believed a mediator should be unbiased and fair.

"Azerbaijan fights aggressors on its own lands. Azerbaijan's position is just. Our position is based both on international law, and historical fairness. Karabakh is Azerbaijan!"

"All political forces stand by Commander-in-chief Ilham Aliyev on Karabakh issue. The Armenian army must withdraw from Azerbaijani territories and territorial integrity of our country must be fully restored. This is a historical right of the Azerbaijani people."

"Statements made by the French President have seriously affected Azerbaijan-France relations. We do not regard France as a Minsk Group co-chair because of its support for aggressor," the political parties said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan Defense Ministry: The Armenian defense ministry officials' fantasies are not ending

[17:09] 07.10.2020

“The Armenian defense ministry officials' fantasies are not ending. Armenian officials, having got themselves into a desperate situation due to the failures of the aggressor army, find consolation in the spreading of fictional and mythic information,” a statement by Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry said.

“It becomes obvious that the representative of the Armenian ministry of defense is engaged in the virtual world with the “heroic return” of the positions lost by the Armenian army day after day. In fact, the spreading of mythic information by him about the "heroic return" of any position is already a confirmation of the loss of these positions by the Armenian army. The dissemination of different and contradictory information by the so-called regime and officials of Armenia once again proves how deplorable the situation of Armenians is today,” the statement added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases footages from liberated Shaybay village, Jabrayil district

[15:19] 07.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense has released video footages of the liberated from occupation Shaybay village of Jabrayil district.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the footages.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals list of the enemy's destroyed military equipment

[13:04] 07.10.2020

During the day, the Azerbaijan Army, successfully pushing forward in the intended directions, took possession of new strongholds and carried out a cleanup of the territory from the enemy, press service of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

During the combat operations, a significant amount of manpower, military equipment and other combat assets of the enemy were destroyed.

The total enemy losses from September 27 to 05:30 am on October 7 are as follows:

- up to 250 tanks and other armored vehicles;
- up to 270 artillery pieces, multiple launch rocket systems, and mortars;
- up to 60 Air Defense means;
- 11 command-control and command-observation posts;
- 8 ammunition depots;
- up to 150 vehicles;
- 1 S-300 anti-aircraft missile system.

AZERTAC

Armenia shells residential areas in Azerbaijan's districts, Defense Ministry

[10:35] 07.10.2020

Armenian Armed Forces shell the villages in Tartar, Barda, Aghdam, Aghjabadi, Fuzuli and Jabrayil districts of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“The Azerbaijani army is carrying out counter-attacks in response to Armenia's military aggression,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Speaker Sahiba Gafarova: Azerbaijani flag will wave in all our occupied territories

[10:28] 07.10.2020

Azerbaijan`s flag will wave in all our occupied territories, said Speaker of Azerbaijan`s Milli Majlis Sahiba Gafarova at a session held today.

“Under leadership of Azerbaijani President, Supreme Commander-in-Chief, our glorious Army continues its triumphal procession. The Azerbaijani army is liberating its lands occupied by Armenia one after another. As President Ilham Aliyev said, Azerbaijan will never allow the establishment of a second state on Azerbaijani soil.”

Noting that the fate of the Azerbaijani people is being decided on the battlefield, the Speaker of the Parliament said: “Our occupied villages and cities, including Jabrayil are being liberated from occupation. Armenia, which is terrified by the victories of our glorious Army, does not accept defeat and targets the civilian population, our territories located far beyond the line of contact.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Fighting continued on frontline during night

[10:16] 07.10.2020

Battles along the entire frontline continued on the night of October 7, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“The Azerbaijani troops have conducted combat operations in various directions of the front in order to expand the achievements of the past few days. Mutual artillery firing was recorded.

As a result of artillery shelling fired on Armenians on October 6, the enemy's command observation post in the defense area of the 5th regiment was destroyed. There are many dead and injured.

The Azerbaijani troops also destroyed a tank and three cannons of Armenians.

The Armenians face serious problems with the food supply in the 1st regiment. Consequently, the personnel of the Armenian units fled the battle positions. The enemy has serious problems with the supply of ammunition and fuel in other units as well. In some directions, due to the lack of interaction, the enemy units in the defense field fired at each other. There are dead and wounded,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Parliament approves renaming of Madagiz village Sugovushan

[08:44] 07.10.2020

The Parliament of Azerbaijan has voted to approve a draft law "On renaming Madagiz village of Azerbaijan`s Tartar district Sugovushan".

The bill was approved at first reading.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: Aggressor Armenia's terror attempt to hit Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan oil pipeline prevented

[08:21] 07.10.2020

The military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law.

According to the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan, on October 6, at about 9 pm, although the Baku-Tbilisi-Jeyhan oil pipeline, the largest strategic project in the region, which plays an important role in Europe's energy security, was hit by missiles on the part of the pipeline passing through Yevlakh district, this terror attempt was prevented as a result of Azerbaijani Army's decisive measures.

"At the same time, densely populated areas and demilitarized zones, as well as at non-military highly visible and distinguishable objects, including the civilian population are subjected to intensive bombardment by the armed forces of the hostile country from different directions of Tartar district. As a result, Mammadov Hasan Asif, born in 1981, a resident of Gaynag village, was killed. Aliyev Dayanat Ganimat, born in 1989, a resident of the same village, and Hasanov Seyfulla Yagub, born in 1968, a resident of Kocharli village, were hospitalized with various injuries.

Given the present combat conditions all necessary investigative measures are being conducted by the prosecution authorities," the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

October 6

Azerbaijan's Prosecutor General addresses Secretary General of Amnesty International

[20:40] 06.10.2020

Prosecutor General of Azerbaijan Kamran Aliyev, has addressed Julie Verhaar, the Secretary General of Amnesty International.

The reason for the appeal was the distortion of a number of facts in the article "Armenia-Azerbaijan: Civilians must be protected from use of banned cluster bombs" published on Amnesty International website on October 5, 2020.

The appeal notes that since September 27, the Armenian armed forces have carried out large-scale provocations and fired on the settlements and positions of the Republic of Azerbaijan from several directions. As a result, there are dead and wounded among civilians and servicemen. The densely populated areas, civil infrastructure facilities - hospitals, medical centers, school buildings and kindergartens - are deliberately targeted, which once again demonstrates the commitment of the Armenian leadership to the policy of terrorism at the state level.

The appeal states that as a result of the Armenian terror starting from September 27, 2020, 27 civilians were killed, 141 people were wounded, numerous houses and civil infrastructure facilities were severely damaged.

Civilian settlements in various cities and regions far from the war zone have been subjected to heavy artillery shelling by the military-political leadership of Armenia, in flagrant violation of the norms and principles of international law. Thus, the second largest city of Azerbaijan with a population of more than 500,000 residents, ancient Ganja with numerous historical and cultural monuments, Mingachevir, an industrial city of strategic importance, as well as Beylagan, Barda, Aghjabadi, Goranboy and other districts were fired on with missiles and rocket launchers.

On October 4, another provocation was committed by Armenia and two medium-range missiles were fired at Khizi and Absheron districts, which are far away from the combat zone.

It was underscored that the experts have identified the use of prohibited at the international level highly destructive cluster bombs and Smerch rockets by the Armenian armed forces against all targets, including civilian and strategic facilities. Photos and videos proving this were also attached to the appeal.

Bringing the aforementioned to the attention of the Secretary General of Amnesty International it was requested to publish the information on the official website and to take an objective and unbiased position on this sensitive issue.

AZERTAC

AmCham Azerbaijan supports territorial integrity of Azerbaijan

[20:26] 06.10.2020

The American Chamber of Commerce in Azerbaijan (AmCham) is deeply concerned with the events developing in the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other areas of Azerbaijan. AmCham Azerbaijan strongly condemns all attacks on Azerbaijan, especially recent large-scale shelling of civilian population and strategic infrastructure facilities carried out from the territory of Armenia, the Chamber told AZERTAC.

“AmCham Azerbaijan unequivocally supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and calls for the resolution of the conflict within the framework of international law and in line with the UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 which demand immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all the occupying forces from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The liberation of several occupied territories in the past week from the Armenian occupation gives hope, first time in 30 years, for more than one million of Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons to return to their homes and sustainable peace and stability in the region.”

AZERTAC

**ANAMA: Armenian armed forces fired cluster ammunitions against civilians
in Goranboy district**

[20:09] 06.10.2020

Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) reports that, on October 4-5, 2020, the Armenian armed forces fired 4 cluster ammunitions against civilians in Goranboy district, utilization of which is prohibited by international conventions. “Exploded shells were scattered around the targeted territory. As a result, resident of Gizilhajili village of Goranboy district was killed.”

During the inspection exercises carried out by the ANAMA’s specialists, 144 exploded 9N235 bombs, as well as 300 unexploded M85 bombs were found.

“We would like to note that these bombs were included in the class of prohibited ammunition in 2008 in accordance with the Convention on Cluster Ammunition (CCM),” ANAMA said.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: The enemy subjected to fire the regions of Azerbaijan

[19:40] 06.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces subjected to fire Yevlakh, Goranboy and Beylagan districts of Azerbaijan,” Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Armenia creates fake ‘twitter’ account using name of Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry

[16:43] 06.10.2020

The Armenian side has created a fake ‘twitter’ account using the name of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan, press service of the ministry told AZERTAC.

“We urge citizens, social network users, and media representatives not to link to the following profile and to complain about the closure of this fake account <https://twitter.com/ModAzerbaijan> .

According to the press service, the official ‘twitter’ account of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan can be reached by the following link: <https://twitter.com/wwwmodgovaz>

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry holds special meeting

[15:33] 06.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Minister of Defense, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov has held a special service meeting.

During the meeting, the current situation in the counter-offensive operation was analyzed and instructions were given to continue the planned, purposeful, and consistent destruction of the enemy forces.

The Minister of Defense instructed the troops to take vital important and necessary activities in the liberated territories.

The Minister said that if the enemy uses Iskander operational-tactical missile systems, adequate retaliatory actions would be taken. The Minister ordered the Azerbaijan Army to plan actions to deliver strikes at the military-strategic infrastructure on enemy territory using the weapons with great destructive power.

AZERTAC

French journalists informed about Armenia`s recent military provocations

[12:54] 06.10.2020

Azerbaijan`s Ambassador to France Rahman Mustafayev has met a group of French journalists to inform about recent military provocations committed by Armenia.

The diplomat highlighted Turkey`s moral and political support to Azerbaijan in relevant issue, adding Turkey does not breach the international law.

On Azerbaijani-French relations, Mr. Mustafayev praised political and economic ties between the two countries. He expressed disappointment regarding baseless allegations by France on using mercenaries in Nagorno-Karabakh by Azerbaijan. The diplomat noted Azerbaijan has a strong army and there is no need for the external force.

Mr. Mustafayev told Azerbaijan`s Army liberates its territories from the occupation. “Although Azerbaijan attaches importance to settlement of the conflict in peace and negotiations, the oppositional side didn`t have such intentions and committed military provocations,” he added.

The Ambassador also spoke about Armenia`s provocations perpetrated in July in the direction of Azerbaijan`s Tovuz district, adding Armenia breached Azerbaijan`s internationally recognized borders and targeted main energy routes.

The Ambassador emphasized OSCE Minsk Group`s Co-chairs` activity yielded no results and talked about Azerbaijan`s important role in the region. He also highlighted Azerbaijan`s balanced policy and its tough geopolitical position.

AZERTAC

Ministry of Emergency Situations' employee injured as a result of Armenian's shelling

[12:47] 06.10.2020

Armenian armed forces continue causing destructions and fires on the civilian facilities, hitting the Azerbaijani densely populated residential areas using heavy artillery installations and missiles.

The shell strike on Aghdam district by the Armenian armed forces caused destructions in the school building, and the fire truck on duty nearby was damaged. The driver of the truck, employee of the State Fire Protection Service of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, internal service sergeant Gismat Ali Yusibov was injured of the impact of explosion. The condition of the sufferer is satisfactory at the time, the ministry told AZERTAC.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations operates in enhanced mode to immediately eliminate the damages and fires caused to various facilities, including civil facilities, and private and apartment buildings, infrastructure facilities by the enemy's artillery strikes. The ministry asks to immediately call the "112" hotline in case of any emergency.

AZERTAC

Matthew Bryza: Azerbaijan has been successful in recent days enhancing its own territory in Jabrayil and Fuzuli districts

[12:28] 06.10.2020

Azerbaijan has been successful in recent days enhancing its own territory in Jabrayil and Fuzuli districts, said former US ambassador to Azerbaijan, former co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group and senior fellow at the Atlantic Council Matthew Bryza in an exclusive interview with AZERTAC.

The former ambassador said it has recaptured and liberated significant amount of that territory based on reports he has seen, including Fuzuli city. On the course of events, Mr. Bryza noted: “I think Azerbaijan is going to continue its operations in those two districts until it feels like it is liberated, regained, enough of those districts to be politically significant and to be defensible in other words to make it difficult for Armenia to make a counter-attack and retake those Azerbaijani territories.”

On counter-operations carried out by Azerbaijan, he said the country is pursuing a relatively careful, step-by-step approach of using its superiority in electronic warfare and in numbers, in unmanned vehicles to destroy Armenian key military assets, air defence systems, S-300 system and etc. “If Azerbaijan can successfully continue and finish these operations, it will have position itself very well with the strong negotiating position; restart the talks, hopefully under the Minsk Group with the Armenian side.”

On cause of Armenia`s attack to civilians, Mr. Bryza commented: “I think Armenia is attacking these civilian targets in the rest of Azerbaijan out of sense of desperation. I think the Armenian side sees that Azerbaijan`s military offensive is increasingly successful and Armenia is unable to stop it. Armenia is trying to do two things I believe. One is to provoke Azerbaijan to respond with similar attack against civilian targets in Armenia, which I believe Prime Minister Pashinyan that thinks could bring in Collective Security Treaty Organization and Russia. Secondly, I think goal of the Armenian side is to frighten the Azerbaijani people, therefore we can resolve of Azerbaijan to continue with its military offensive to recapture Azerbaijan`s own territory in Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions.”

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases video footage of Chakhirli
village liberated from occupation**

[11:41] 06.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defence has released a video footage of the Chakhirli village, Jabrayil district liberated from the occupation.

Citing the ministry's press service, AZERTAC presents the footages.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenians are today hopeless and desperate on the battlefield

[09:00] 06.10.2020

“Armenians are today left hopeless and helpless on the battlefield,” Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has told a press-conference.

“We are all mobilized today. We all have the same the goal, which is to liberate our lands that are under occupation. Armenians are hopeless and desperate on the battlefield. We assess the situation as a military and political provocation. Armenians are trying to involve third parties into the conflict. The Azerbaijani side is well aware of this, and has informed international organizations and countries about this,” the President’s Assistant added.

AZERTAC

October 5

Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia's recent attacks against Azerbaijan indicate the terror policy that it is pursuing at state level

[21:24] 05.10.2020

“We strongly condemn Armenia’s recent attacks against Azerbaijan. Armenia’s recent attacks against Azerbaijan indicate the terror policy that it is pursuing at the state level,” said Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

“These commands are given directly by the Armenian political and military leadership. According to international law, those in Armenia’s political leadership and the leadership of the puppet regime are responsible in this situation,” the President’s Assistant said.

“There are no military objects among the places targeted by Armenians. These attacks are deliberate, and they are already using long-range missiles. These missiles have already hit the town of Khizi. This demonstrates the terrorist acts of the Armenian state. The Armenian state is taking such steps in order to hide its failures,” Hikmat Hajiyev added.

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Armenia resorts to provocations to hide its failures

[20:12] 05.10.2020

“Armenia resorts to provocations to hide its failures. Armenia aims to aggravate the situation even further by using long-range missiles,” said Assistant to the Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

He said that the trajectory of the missiles needs to be researched. “This is a clear indicator of Armenia’s despair and impotence,” he added.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Foreign military attaches and representatives of international organizations in Azerbaijan were informed about the operational situation

[19:44] 05.10.2020

The International Military Cooperation Department of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has held a briefing for foreign military attaches and representatives of the international organizations accredited to the country.

"The briefing provided an insight into the latest combat operations conducted in the occupied territories, the liberated settlements, and the damages inflicted to the enemy forces," press service of the Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC. The foreign military attaches and representatives of the international organizations were also informed of the deliberate missile and artillery attacks of the Armenian armed forces on the cities and regions of Azerbaijan, which are located far beyond the line of contact.

"They were also informed about the damage inflicted to the peaceful population and civilian facilities as a result of missile and artillery shelling by the enemy, as well as the fact-based inhuman treatment and behavior of the adversary army towards its military personnel," the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Foreign Ministry: Armenia's missile attacks on Azerbaijani cities are aimed at embroiling third countries in the conflict

[19:20] 05.10.2020

"Missile attacks on Azerbaijan's second largest city of Ganja, industrial city of Mingachevir, as well as the Khizi and Absheron regions of Azerbaijan, targeting densely populated areas and critical infrastructure from the territory of Armenia is an intentional provocation designed to enlarge the zone of hostilities and bring the third countries into the conflict," says a statement by press service of Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry.

"In the framework of its new aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan the armed forces of Armenia are deliberately targeting the civilian population and infrastructure of Azerbaijan in violation of fundamental norms and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as Armenia's relevant international obligations."

"As a result of Armenia's artillery and missile attacks, 24 Azerbaijani civilians were killed, 121 injured, more than 300 residential buildings and civilian facilities destroyed," the ministry said.

"Missile attacks on Azerbaijan's second largest city Ganja, industrial city of Mingachevir, as well as the Khizi and Absheron regions of Azerbaijan, targeting densely populated areas and critical infrastructure from the territory of Armenia is an intentional provocation designed to enlarge the zone of hostilities and bring the third countries into the conflict. Azerbaijan possesses solid facts on Armenia's shelling the Azerbaijani civilians and infrastructure from Armenia's own territory, namely from Gorus, Sisian, Vardenis, Jermuk, and Berd towns of Armenia."

"This evidence collected through involvement of local and international experts, including foreign journalists on the ground, will be presented to relevant international organizations.

We urge Armenia to obey norms and principles of international law, including its obligations under the international humanitarian law, and implement the demands of the UN Security Council resolutions for immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

We reiterate that Armenia's leadership bears full responsibility for the results of the counter-offensive measures to be taken by the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan in order to ensure security of its civilians and residential areas deep inside the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan."

AZERTAC

The London Post highlights Azerbaijani Presidential Assistant's statement condemning Armenia's shelling of residential settlements of Azerbaijan

[19:02] 05.10.2020

The London Post has published an article highlighting Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of the Department of Foreign Policy Affairs of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev's statement condemning Armenia's firing on the residential settlements of Azerbaijan.

Hikmat Hajiyev warned the Armenian side that if attacks against Azerbaijan from the Armenian territory were not stopped, adequate measures would be taken against the legitimate military targets which carry out firing.

"The armed forces of Armenia continue to fire on residential settlements of Azerbaijan using heavy artillery and other large-caliber weapons."

The Presidential Assistant noted that as a result of deliberate and targeted artillery shelling of settlements by the Armenian armed forces, 17 civilians including 2 children were killed, 51 people were injured. "Public and private properties are also damaged."

"Armenia, by its acts, shows that it is a country far from the civilized values which once again commits heinous attacks against civilians and children. Targeting or deliberately killing civilians during military operations is considered a war crime. Armenia and its political leadership bears responsibility for this," he mentioned.

"In another act of aggression against our country, the territory of Azerbaijan has today come under rocket fire from the direction of Gorus region of Armenia. This is already the second attack against Azerbaijan from the territory of Armenia. The first attack was carried out from Vardenis region of Armenia. As a result of missile strike nearly 20 houses were damaged in the newly built IDP village in Jojug Marjanli," Hikmat Hajiyev added."

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense: Armenia cannot supply its troops at the front

[18:54] 05.10.2020

“There is a shortage of food and fuel in the area of defense responsibility of the 1st motorized rifle regiment of the Armenian armed forces in Hadrut,” Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“Leaving their combat positions, the military personnel of the 3rd battalion of the regiment fled without permission. The drivers of the military unit, also leaving their military equipment and vehicles, fled from the combat zone,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense: Four "Grad" MLRS of the enemy was destroyed

[18:40] 05.10.2020

“As a result of the strikes by our troops in the Aghdara direction, the two BM-21 "Grad" multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) of the 62nd artillery regiment and two MLRS BM-21 "Grad" of the 41st artillery regiment of the Armenian Armed Forces have been destroyed,” Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Beylagan city comes under enemy's fire

[18:13] 05.10.2020

“Currently, the Armenian armed forces are shelling the city of Beylagan,” Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Employees of Azerbaijani Prosecutor General's Office transfer AZN 1,280,000 to Azerbaijani Armed Forces Assistance Fund

[16:02] 05.10.2020

Inspired by the victories on the front, officers of the Prosecutor General's Office, the Republican Military Prosecutor's Office and the subordinate district and city prosecution offices demonstrated solidarity and decided to voluntarily transfer one month's salary to the Armed Forces Assistance Fund, press service of Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“Thanks to the special care and support by President Ilham Aliyev, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the supply of the army is ensured at the highest level.

The successful military operations carried out by the national army to liberate Azerbaijani lands from occupation aroused great enthusiasm among people and further strengthened the sense of patriotism. Our citizens volunteered massively. They are ready to do anything for those on the frontline and whatever it takes to win.

Demonstrating active support to the Army, prosecutors regularly transfer part of their salaries to the Armed Forces Assistance Fund.

Inspired by the victories on the front, officers of the Prosecutor General's Office, the Republican Military Prosecutor's Office and the subordinate district and city prosecution offices demonstrated solidarity and decided to voluntarily transfer one month's salary to the Armed Forces Assistance Fund.

We owe it to our Army as a manifestation of solidarity.

Taking great pride in the firm position of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev, prosecution authorities united around the head of state on this glorious path.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Prosecutor General appeals to foreign Attorney Generals and Ministers of Justice

[15:30] 05.10.2020

Prosecutor General of Azerbaijan Kamran Aliyev has officially addressed the Attorney (Prosecutor) Generals of the United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Uruguay, Iraq, Iran, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria and Poland, as well as the Ministers of Justice of Lebanon, Greece, Syria and France.

The appeals stated that as an evidence of the state terrorist policy pursued by the leadership of the Republic of Armenia, since September 27 this year, Armenia has flagrantly violated the ceasefire. "Heavy artillery bombardment of densely populated areas, hospitals, schools and orphanages caused extensive damage to civilian infrastructure. Starting from October 4th, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, Ganja, located far from the war zone, as well as the settlements of the strategically important Beylagan and Mingachevir cities were fired on with missiles and shells, resulting in deaths and injuries.

Due to the loss of their positions as a result of counter-offensive measures by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to gather new manpower Armenia called on Armenians living abroad to take part in the armed conflict.

The mass media reported that about 1,000 ethnic Armenians had arrived to the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan or wanted to do so.

It was noted that the term "foreign terrorist fighters" (FTF) was envisaged in UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) to define persons involved in the organization and implementation of terrorist acts in other countries.

Foreign countries should take into account that such "Armenian volunteers" can become a real threat to the countries where they reside once they acquire combat skills.

Also, given the presence of a large Armenian diaspora in the countries mentioned in the appeal, and taking into account that transportation of "Armenian volunteers" is organized by representatives of this diaspora, special attention should be paid to the mass visits of the country's citizens to the Republic of Armenia. At the same time, it was requested to take measures aimed at preventing the transportation of terrorists from abroad to the Republic of Azerbaijan and to bring them to liability," the statement said.

AZERTAC

Assistant to Azerbaijani President: Missile shelling on civilian population is a sign of weakness and panic of Armenia's political-military leadership

[14:41] 05.10.2020

“Armenian armed forces subjected to missile attack the densely populated civilian areas in Ganja, Barda, Beylagan and some other cities of Azerbaijan,” Assistant to Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev posted on his Twitter account.

“Barbarism and vandalism. Sign of weakness and panic of Armenia's political-military leadership,” the Presidential Assistant tweeted.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Armenians keep firing at Azerbaijani residential settlements

[13:02] 05.10.2020

“At present, Horadiz city of Fizuli district, the villages of Aghjabadi district, Tartar city and the villages of the district, Goranboy and Goygol districts are being shelled by the Armenian armed forces,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

The ministry said that adequate measures are taken against the enemy.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry releases footages of liberated from occupation
Talish village**

[12:58] 05.10.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense has released video footages of the liberated from occupation Talish village.

AZERTAC presents the video footages, citing the Defence Ministry's press service.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Ganja city comes under fire from Armenia's Berd region

[12:51] 05.10.2020

“The city of Ganja comes under fire from the territory of Berd region of Armenia,” Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyeu: Armenia launched a missile attack in the direction of Khizi and Absheron

[12:40] 05.10.2020

“Armenia has launched missile attacks on the territory of Khizi district,” Assistant to Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyeu posted on his Twitter account.

“Two 300 km mid-range missiles were fired at Khizi and Absheron districts,” the Presidential Assistant tweeted.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: 24 civilians killed, 121 others injured as a result of enemy's targeting peaceful population

[12:24] 05.10.2020

“The military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law.

121 civilians have been hospitalized with various injuries, and 24 persons have been killed so far as a result of heavy artillery and missile shelling of Azerbaijani residential settlements. Moreover, as a result of intensive heavy artillery and missile shelling by the Armenian army, 306 houses and 56 civilian facilities were severely damaged,” press service of the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

In gross violation of the norms and principles of international law, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, the UN Security Council resolutions, Armenia is subjecting to intensive fire the Azerbaijani cities and densely populated areas that are far from the area of hostilities deliberately targeting the civilian population of Azerbaijan.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia shells our cities

[11:26] 05.10.2020

“Beylagan, Barda, and Tartar cities are under Armenian armed forces’ shelling, Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, adequate actions are being taken.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: The territory of Azerbaijan came under rocket fire from Armenia

[11:04] 05.10.2020

On October 5 in the morning, the technical means of the radar systems of the Air Defense Forces of Azerbaijan recorded the launch of rockets fired at Azerbaijan from the starting positions in the Jermuk, Gafan and Berd regions of Armenia, Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“For several days, the enemy, pinned down along the entire frontline, has been systematically launching missile strikes from the territory of Armenia against the densely populated regions of Azerbaijan and civilian infrastructure on the territory of Azerbaijan.

At the same time, the ministry of defense of Armenia denies the fact of shelling the territory of Azerbaijan from Armenia and declares that it was fired from our occupied lands.

Such irresponsible and criminal actions of Armenia purposefully force Azerbaijan to retaliate.”

The ministry provided a video evidence of the launch of rockets from the territory of Armenia.

AZERTAC

October 4

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: The enemy shells Mingachevir and Tartar cities

[23:40] 04.10.2020

"The Armenian armed forces subjected to rocket fire Mingachevir and Tartar cities, there are wounded," Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

**President Ilham Aliyev: Today we are writing a new history of our people
and state, a glorious history**

[21:33] 04.10.2020

“As you know, Azerbaijan has been fighting to restore its territorial integrity for a week now. On the battlefield, our soldiers and officers show heroism, inflict crushing blows on the enemy, put the enemy in its place, drive the enemy out of our lands at the cost of their lives. This glorious mission will find its worthy place in history,” said President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev in his address to the nation.

“Today we are writing a new history of our people and state, a glorious history. We are restoring historical justice today because the land of Karabakh is our ancient historical land. The people of Azerbaijan have lived, created and built in these lands for centuries. But for many years, for almost 30 years, Armenian executioners have occupied our lands, destroyed all our historical, religious and cultural sites,” the head of state said.

“We will restore all our cities. We will restore all our mosques destroyed by the Armenians. Life will return to these places. We have put an end to the attempts of Armenians to change our historical names and falsify history, to erase the historical and cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani people. The historical names of our settlements are being restored and they will be restored,” the Azerbaijani President emphasized.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev congratulates people of Azerbaijan on liberation of Jabrayil city and 9 villages of Jabrayil district from occupation

[21:19] 04.10.2020

“Today, the city of Jabrayil and nine villages of Jabrayil district have been liberated from occupation. I heartily congratulate all the people of Azerbaijan on this historic event. I sincerely congratulate all our soldiers and officers who took an active part in the liberation of Jabrayil District and other occupied territories. As a result of their heroism and courage, our native lands have returned to us today. May Allah rest all our martyrs who died in these bloody battles in peace. May Allah sending healing to our wounded soldiers. After many years, the city of Jabrayil has been liberated. Jabrayil is ours!” said President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev in his address to the nation.

“Four years ago, the reconstruction of the village of Jojug Marjanly in Jabrayil District began. The heights liberated as a result of a successful operation allowed the residents the opportunity to return to the village of Jojug Marjanly in Jabrayil district. We have built a beautiful town there. I said at the opening of the settlement that Jojug Marjanli is a symbol of our invincible will. Jojug Marjanly shows that the Azerbaijani people will never put up with the occupation, and our return to other occupied lands began with Jojug Marjanly. I think that the liberation of most of Jabrayil district and the city of Jabrayil today is of special importance,” the head of state said.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Military personnel of Azerbaijan Army complies with standards of humanitarian law

[21:12] 04.10.2020

“The servicemen of the Azerbaijan Army act in accordance with the requirements of the Memorandum of standards of the International Humanitarian Law, which must be adhered to by the parties of international armed conflict.

Our servicemen are able to provide protection to persons not participating in the fighting, provide them with medical and other assistance, as well as comply with the rules for dealing with missing and dead,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“In addition, during military operations, the Azerbaijan Army distinguishes between the civilian population/infrastructure and the military personnel/facilities and also protects the civilian population and infrastructure from military strikes.

At the same time, the Azerbaijan Army is taking measures to inform the civilian population in advance when circumstances permit, as well as to protect the population under its control from enemy attacks,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

**Hikmat Hajiyev: Under leadership of our Supreme Commander-in-Chief,
Azerbaijani armed forces show valour**

[21:10] 04.10.2020

“Under leadership of our Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Azerbaijani armed forces show valour,” said Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

"Our army has achieved success in the direction of Sugovushan by breaking the existing military fortifications in very difficult terrain. We will achieve even greater victories. Our goal is to ensure the liberation of our occupied territories. Let our people rest assured that our Armed Forces, on the instructions of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, are destroying all the military resources of the enemy, destroying their legitimate military targets. The firing points of the enemy, especially those located in the occupied territories are being destroyed," the Presidential Assistant added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani community in Qatar issues statement on Armenia's military provocations

[20:33] 04.10.2020

The Azerbaijani community in Qatar has issued a statement on Armenia's recent military provocations against Azerbaijan.

The statement reads: “We, Azerbaijanis living in Qatar regretfully state that at around 6 AM on September 27, the Armenian armed forces again violated ceasefire and intensively fired on the territory of Azerbaijan in the frontline using large caliber guns and sniper rifles. This appears to be another deliberate and targeted assault by the Armenian armed forces manifested in opening fire towards the civilians densely populated in the front-line areas and civil facilities. As a result of this yet another provocation of occupant Armenian forces, there are casualties among the civilian population and military personnel of Azerbaijan.

Deliberate targeting of civilians is a gross violation of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Convention of 1949. In general, the Khojaly genocide committed in February 1992 and ethnic cleansing of Azerbaijani population in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in the early 1990's as well as the recent Tovuz provocation perpetrated in July 2020, when the world was fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, are vivid examples of targeting civilians by the Armenian armed forces.

Besides the fact that Armenia has been occupying close to 20% of the territory of Azerbaijan for almost 30 years, the numerous provocations of the Armenian armed forces on the state border with Azerbaijan once again demonstrated to the world that Armenians are aggressors.

As if this was not enough, Armenia is currently pursuing a policy of illegal settlement in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan violating the requirements of the Geneva Convention and the international law. Terrorists from various countries, such as Lebanon and Syria, are being deployed to and concentrated on the territories of Azerbaijan occupied by the state of Armenia.

Continuation of aggressive policy and divertive activities by Armenia which is not implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 that call for immediate withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the Azerbaijan territory, UN General Assembly resolutions on the “Situation in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan” adopted in 2006 and 2008, and ignoring the appeals of the UN and WHO and other influential international organizations regarding the current pandemic, as well as norms and principles of international law, should be resolutely condemned by the international organizations and the world's leading powers. The US Congress also characterized Armenia as an aggressor country.

Appealing to world countries and international organizations, we call them to influence Armenia to immediately withdraw from the occupied Azerbaijani territories and take actual steps towards restoring peace in the region.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani Prosecutor General makes statement on Armenian armed forces' shelling of Ganja city

[20:27] 04.10.2020

Azerbaijani Prosecutor General Kamran Aliyev has made a statement on the Armenian armed forces' shelling of the city of Ganja.

The statement reads: "As reported earlier, the aggression launched by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan on September 27 continues. Important settlements and strategic heights were liberated by the Azerbaijani Army with adequate responses to the opposite side.

In response, under the instruction of the so-called "President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" Arayik Harutyunyan, today, October 4, 2020, at about 10 am, Ganja, the second largest city of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with a population of more than five hundred thousand civilians, was subjected to rocket and artillery shelling which is a blatant violation of the requirements of the Geneva Conventions.

According to the information received, Aliyev Tunar Goshgar, a resident of Ganja, was killed, 32 people received various injuries. Moreover, urban infrastructure and residential buildings were severely damaged. The amount of the damage caused is being assessed via an examination and other necessary investigative actions by the operational-investigative group of the Prosecutor General's Office, acting at the scene of the incident.

According to the preliminary investigation, there is enough evidence that the so-called "President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" Arayik Harutyunyan directly violating the requirements of the Geneva Convention committed acts of deliberate murder of civilians causing panic among the people. Therefore, in accordance with Articles 100.1, 100.2 (planning, preparation, commencement or conduct of aggressive war), 116.0.1, 116.0.6, 116.0.7, 116.0.8-1 (violation of international humanitarian law in the event of an armed conflict), 117.2 (giving a criminal order during an armed conflict), 120.2.1, 120.2.4, 120.2.12 (deliberate murder), 186.3 (deliberate destruction of property), 214.2.1, 214.2.3 (terrorism) , 218.3 (creation of a criminal association (organization)), 279.3 (creation of armed groups not provided by law) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I initiated a criminal case against Arayik Harutyunyan and the investigation was entrusted to the Investigation Department of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

I declare that all the necessary measures are being taken for bringing the so-called "President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" Arayik Harutyunyan and other military-political leaders of this illegal regime to the justice regarding crimes committed against peace and humanity as well as war crime. Corresponding appeals on the given issue will be submitted to all the international organizations.

I reiterate that the crimes of provocative nature, targeting the residential sites in non-war zone, cities, and civil infrastructure facilities must be stopped immediately."

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia's treacherous shelling of our civilian population demonstrates its helplessness in the face of Azerbaijani Army

[20:10] 04.10.2020

“Armenia's shelling of our civilian population is a war crime. The Armenian side demonstrates its weakness and helplessness. Armenia, which is left helpless in the face of the Azerbaijani Army, treacherously fires on the civilian population,” said Assistant to Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

“Armenia's goal is to expand the scale of the conflict and involve other international organizations into the conflict. Azerbaijan responds adequately to the Armenians by targeting legitimate military targets, and their military facilities are destroyed as a result of precise strikes of our army,” the President’s Assistant said.

“Armenians will achieve nothing by firing on the civilian population. With their firm determination the Azerbaijani people are closely united around the Supreme Commander-in-Chief. We will continue our struggle until the Azerbaijani lands are liberated from the occupation,” Hikmat Hajiyev emphasized.

AZERTAC

Assistant to President: The presence of Armenian armed forces in Azerbaijani occupied territories is a threat to entire region

[19:37] 04.10.2020

The presence of the Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan is a threat to the entire region, said Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of the Department of Foreign Policy Affairs of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

“The Azerbaijani armed forces are neutralizing the enemy's legitimate military facilities with precise strikes. The enemy will continue to receive an adequate response,” he mentioned.

The Presidential assistant said that missiles were fired at Azerbaijan from the areas near Vardenis and Gorus. “The presence of the Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan is a threat to the entire region. Armenia's current leadership is also a threat to the region. Residents of Ganja, Tartar and other cities are not intimidated by these attacks.”

“The enemy’s artillery points near Khankendi have been destroyed. The Armenian armed forces must be withdrawn from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions,” Hikmat Hajiyev added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani flag hoisted in post where Mubariz Ibrahimov destroyed Armenian forces

[18:48] 04.10.2020

The Azerbaijani flag was hoisted in the post where the National Hero of Azerbaijan Mubariz Ibrahimov fought alone on June 18, 2010, and destroyed a large number of Armenian forces, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defence told AZERTAC.

The Azerbaijani flag is already waving in that post!

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan`s residential settlements are again under fire

[18:42] 04.10.2020

“Currently, Sarijali village of Agjabadi district, Baharli, Chiragli, Uchoghlan villages of Aghdam district and Shahvallar village of Barda district are under intense artillery fire, there are several wounded,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan makes statement on Armenia's shelling of Ganja city from territory of Armenia

[18:25] 04.10.2020

The Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan has made a statement on Armenia's shelling of Ganja city from the territory of Armenia.

The statement reads: "At the behest of the Armenian military-political leadership the armed forces of the occupying country are flagrantly violating the norms and principles of international law, the Geneva Conventions (1949) and their Additional Protocols, UN Security Council resolutions. Starting from October 4 at 10:00 Armenian armed units deliberately targeting the civilian population of Azerbaijan, are currently subjecting Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, which is not relevant to the region where the hostilities took place, to heavy artillery bombardment.

The prosecution authorities at the scene are conducting investigative measures to clarify the list of victims and damaged civil infrastructure facilities.

The public will be updated with detailed information."

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani NGOs appeal to international community regarding war crime committed by Armenia against Ganja city

[17:45] 04.10.2020

Azerbaijani NGOs have made an appeal to the international community regarding the war crime committed by Armenia against the Ganja city.

Signed by 292 NGOs of Azerbaijan, the appeal reads:

Since September 27, 2020 the armed forces of Armenia have been continuously subjecting the civilian population and civilian objects of Azerbaijan to artillery and rocket fire.

Today, on October 4, Armenia has once again grossly violated all the rules of international humanitarian law and warfare, once again demonstrating its helplessness, fired rockets at the historic city of Ganja, a city with a population of more than 500 thousand people far from the conflict zone, killing one person, injuring 4 persons and destroying the historical monuments. While subjecting Ganja to the rocket fire, the armed forces of Armenia have been using the cluster bombs which are strictly prohibited by international conventions.

According to today's statistics, 23 civilians were killed and 76 were injured as a result of missile strikes by Armenia on more than 10 regions and cities of Azerbaijan, public and private property is seriously damaged.

The purpose of Armenia's deliberate targeting of the civilian population is to expand the geography of the war, to divert attention from occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and the seven surrounding regions of Azerbaijan, and to involve a third country in the conflict.

We, the Azerbaijani NGOs, with deep concern draw the attention of the international community to the crimes committed against humanity by the political and military leadership of Armenia and state that Armenia has grossly violated international humanitarian law, especially the Geneva Convention of 1949.

On behalf of the hundreds of NGOs functioning in Azerbaijan, we call on human rights organizations, NGOs, media representatives, parliamentarians and governments around the world to protest against the war crimes committed by Armenia against the civilian population of Azerbaijan and to strongly condemn these crimes.

In conclusion, we would like to note that Armenia's impunity for war crimes, acts of occupation and aggression against Azerbaijan, especially for non-compliance with four UN Security Council resolutions, paves the way for more dangerous and brutal crimes committed today by Armenia.

AZERTAC

Military Command of Azerbaijan addresses peaceful population living in occupied territories

[17:05] 04.10.2020

Addressing the Armenian citizens of Azerbaijan living in human settlements in the combat zone, the Military Command of Azerbaijan declares that the Azerbaijan Army does not target civilian people, as well as civilian facilities and infrastructure.

“The targets of the Azerbaijan Army are firing positions, military facilities, and military infrastructure in the occupied territories. In this regard, we call on the civilian population living in these areas to stay away from the combat zone.”

“We declare that we will create the appropriate conditions for them not to suffer from the heavy fighting and to be evacuated from this area without hindrance. Civilians will be treated in accordance with the requirements of the Geneva Convention and their human rights will be protected,” the Military Command of Azerbaijan said.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army has today liberated the city of Jabrayil and several villages of the district

[16:40] 04.10.2020

“The Azerbaijani Army has today liberated the city of Jabrayil and several villages of the district from the occupation. Long live Azerbaijani Army! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a post on his official Twitter account, AZERTAC reports.

AZERTAC

Turkey condemns Armenian attacks on Azerbaijan's Ganja city

[16:21] 04.10.2020

Turkey strongly condemned Armenia's latest attacks on Azerbaijan's second largest city Ganja on Sunday.

"These attacks are an indication of the desperation Armenia has fallen into and that it will not refrain from committing crimes against humanity with aims to continue its illegal occupation," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The statement further stressed that targeting of civilians in Ganja is "a new manifestation of Armenia's unlawful attitude".

Underscoring that Armenia has violated all principles of humanitarian law, primarily the Geneva Conventions, the ministry said Armenia is attacking civilian settlements beyond the conflict zones that it occupies.

"Armenia is the biggest obstacle to peace and stability in the region," the Foreign Ministry said.

Turkey once again expressed its support for Azerbaijan, a country that declares that it will not bow to the provocation of Armenia, that it uses its right to self-defense arising from international law within its internationally recognized borders and that it makes all possible efforts to prevent harm to the civilian population.

AZERTAC

Croatian MP: Azerbaijan's territorial integrity must be respected, attacks on civilians must be stopped immediately

[16:14] 04.10.2020

"Azerbaijan's territorial integrity must be respected, the Geneva Convention must not be violated, and attacks on civilians must be stopped immediately," Veljko Kajtazi, a member of the Croatian Parliament said in a statement.

In a letter to his Azerbaijani counterparts, he expressed his sorrow over deaths of dozens of civilians in recent days due to Armenian provocations.

"Following three principles based on sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of state borders stated in the Zagreb Declaration signed with Azerbaijan in 2013 in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and the OSCE Summit in Lisbon, I would like to put a stress on the paragraph 3, which emphasizes the importance of a peaceful settlement. Guided by the relevant Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874, and 884, we must respect the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of state borders. As a result of the attacks on the cities of Tartar, Dashkasan, Fuzuli and Naftalan, many civilians' houses, urban infrastructure, hospitals and administrative buildings were destroyed, and innocent people were killed. The whole family of five was killed in Naftalan. The death of civilians is a gross violation of the Geneva Conventions," he said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry: Military provocation by Armenia is aimed at conscious worsening of situation

[16:10] 04.10.2020

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan has released a statement on rocket shelling the Azerbaijani civilians and civilian infrastructure by Armenia.

The statement reads: “On October 4, 2020 the Armed Forces of Armenia continued targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure in Tartar city, as well as Horadiz city of Fuzuli district with rocket fires. The second biggest city of Azerbaijan, Ganja was under rocket fire from the territory of Armenia.

As a result of the deliberate shelling by Armenia, until now 22 Azerbaijani civilians, including 2 schoolchildren were killed and 74 injured.

The purposeful targeting of civilians and civilian objects by Armenia is a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law. Despite numerous warnings by the Azerbaijani side, including via the relevant international organizations, the continuation of the targeted attacks on civilians by the armed forces of Armenia is a clear demonstration of the purposeful killing of innocent people and continuation of the aggression policy of Armenia.

We underline that this military provocation by Armenia is aimed at the conscious worsening of the situation on the ground and demonstrates the intention of Armenia to enlarge the zone of hostilities and scope of military operations. The Armed Forces of Azerbaijan will take adequate countermeasures to protect its civilians.

We urge Armenia to obey norms and principles of international law, including its obligations under the international humanitarian law, and implement the demands of the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council for immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. We reiterate that full responsibility for the deterioration of the situation in the region lies on the leadership of Armenia.”

AZERTAC

Ministry of Emergency Situations takes relevant measures for eliminating consequences of destructions as a result of enemy's shelling of Ganja

[15:47] 04.10.2020

Arising from the provocative nature of the military-political leadership of the Republic of Armenia, Armenian armed forces continue shelling of Azerbaijani settlements with high population density, civilian facilities, including private and apartment buildings, using heavy artillery installations, grossly violating the norms and principles of the international humanitarian law.

“Today, since the early hours in the morning, Ganja, the second largest city of Azerbaijan, which fully situates far away from the battlefield, was hit with rocket missiles from the territory of Armenia. According to the preliminary information fire in an address was prevented and the relevant measures were taken for eliminating the consequences of destructions in three addresses by the Ministry of Emergency Situations. Two injured people were removed from the destructions by the rescuers and handed over relevantly,” Ministry of Emergency Situations told AZERTAC.

The ministry said that additional information would be provided.

AZERTAC

Presidential Assistant: Araik Harutunyan was seriously wounded as a result of Azerbaijani army's precise strike

[15:14] 04.10.2020

“Armenia is a terrorist state and has a fascist nature. Azerbaijan does not leave any of Armenia's attacks unanswered, and these attacks receive an adequate response,” said Assistant to Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

“There are reports that the shelling was fired from the occupied territories by the order of the head of the so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" Araik Harutyunyan. I want to appeal to Araik Harutyunyan. Araik Harutunyan, you hid in a bunker, the Azerbaijani Army found you there too. Araik Harutunyan was seriously wounded as a result of a precise strike of our army. The same fate awaits other separatists,” the President’s Assistant said.

AZERTAC

**Hikmat Hajiyev: Dropping banned bombs on populated areas once again shows
that Armenia is a terrorist state**

[15:09] 04.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces are using banned cluster bombs,” said Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

“Armenia continues dropping banned bombs on the populated areas. It once again shows that Armenia is a terrorist state,” Hajiyev added.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia purposefully targets civilian population and facilities

[14:46] 04.10.2020

“Armenia’s political-military leadership continues to carry out crimes against Azerbaijan. Today Armenia again fired on Azerbaijani civilian facilities with heavy artillery, missiles, including Smerch missiles,” said Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev.

Hajiyev said that there were wounded and casualties among the civilians.

“Armenia purposefully targets the civilian population and facilities. As a result of these heinous actions of the Armenian side during recent days, civilian facilities came under fire by more than 10,000 shells,” Hajiyev added.

AZERTAC

**Hikmat Hajiyev: Such irresponsible missile attack with cluster munitions from Armenia
can in no way intimidate Ganja people**

[14:00] 04.10.2020

“I talked to people in Ganja. Residents of Ganja are more than strong. Such irresponsible missile attack with cluster munitions from Armenia can in no way intimidate them,” Assistant to Azerbaijani President, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has made a post on his Twitter account, AZERTAC reports.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: "Information spread by Armenian side about alleged shelling of military facilities in Ganja is false"

[13:46] 04.10.2020

“The information spread by the Armenian side about the alleged shelling of military facilities in the city of Ganja is provocative and false,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“As a result of enemy fire, civilians, civilian infrastructure, and ancient historical buildings were damaged,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army taking punitive measures against the enemy

[13:25] 04.10.2020

“The Azerbaijan Army is taking punitive measures against the enemy who neglects numerous warnings,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry: In his address to Armenian people, PM Pashinyan voiced his traditional lies and slander

[13:19] 04.10.2020

“In his address to the Armenian people on October 3, the Armenian Prime Minister voiced his traditional lies and slander. Nikol Pashinyan who is trying to justify his aggressive policy and turn the Armenian people into a victim of this policy is far from taking steps to restore peace in the region,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Foreign Affairs commented on the Armenian Prime Minister`s address to the nation.

The ministry said: “Ignoring the illegal presence of the Armenian armed forces in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding regions of Azerbaijan and the demands of the international community, including UN Security Council resolutions, to end the occupation, the current Armenian leadership, on the one hand, continues to cover up its aggressive policy by adding completely unfounded religious elements to the issue, and on the other hand, leads its people to disaster.

What the Armenian leadership repeatedly says about, as if Turkey's involvement in regional operations has only one purpose, and that is to involve third parties in the conflict. We once again remind that the Azerbaijani Army is sufficiently prepared to restore its territorial integrity within its international borders and has been carrying out counter-attacks to prevent new Armenian aggression since September 27, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.”

“As for the absurd views of the Armenian Prime Minister on the policy of "genocide against Armenians", we underline that unlike Armenia, which committed war crimes against the Azerbaijani population, crimes against humanity and the Khojaly genocide, the Azerbaijani side responds to these attacks in compliance with international humanitarian law and does not target civilians.

The Azerbaijani Armed Forces are fighting on their sovereign soil to restore the country`s territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. Every step taken by the Armenian leadership to cover up its direct responsibility for the current situation in the region is doomed to failure,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Azerbaijan retains its right to take adequate measures against legitimate military targets to defend civilians

[12:45] 04.10.2020

"Azerbaijan retains its right to take adequate measures against legitimate military targets to defend civilians and enforce Armenia to peace," Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of the Department of Foreign Policy Affairs of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has tweeted, as Armenia continues to deliberately shell Ganja.

He posted photo evidence, tweeting "results of Armenia's massive missile attacks against dense residential areas in Ganja city. 4 new missile just hit Ganja."

AZERTAC

Zakir Hasanov: Armenian shelling of Azerbaijani territory is a clear provocation

[12:35] 04.10.2020

“Armenian shelling of Azerbaijani territory is an obvious provocation and expands the combat zone,” said Azerbaijan’s Minister of Defence, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov.

AZERTAC

Assistant to President Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia's political-military leadership continues to carry out war crimes against Azerbaijan

[12:31] 04.10.2020

Armenia's political-military leadership continues to carry out war crimes against Azerbaijan, Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of the Department of Foreign Policy Affairs of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has told AZERTAC.

“The Armenian armed forces have fired missiles from the Armenian territory into the Azerbaijani city of Ganja. They deliberately and purposefully shelled the city of Tartar and the city of Horadiz of Fuzuli district using heavy artillery and missiles,” he said.

The Presidential assistant noted that the Armenian armed forces once again fired missiles from Armenia's territory on residential settlements in the direction of Azerbaijan's Fuzuli and Jabrayil districts, which resulted in fatalities and injuries among civilians.

“During the recent days, over 10,000 pieces of projectiles and missiles of various types were launched on Azerbaijan's densely populated settlements. Over 500 private houses were completely destroyed or seriously damaged.

The massive bombardment of Azerbaijani settlements by Armenia without any military necessity is not incidental, it is being deliberately implemented. The systematic bombardment of residential settlements by Armenia proves that this plan has been prepared preliminarily and included in combat and firing program of the Armenian armed forces,” Hikmat Hajiyev said.

“The Azerbaijani side, guided by international humanitarian law and Geneva Convention, has warned the Armenian military leadership for several times through relevant international organizations to avoid from firing residential settlements and civilian population using artillery and missiles. They have not followed it, once again demonstrating hypocrisy. It shows clearly, once again, that Armenia's goal is to deliberately target civilians.

Most of artillery and missile attacks are carried out from artillery bases near the town of Khankendi. The Azerbaijani Armed forces destroy the firing stations through targeted and exact fires and take adequate measures in order to provide safety of civilians.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly stated that the presence of the Armenian Armed Forces in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan continues to be a great threat to regional peace and safety. Armenia's political-military leadership is a threat to the entire region.

To ensure lasting peace in the region, the Armenian troops must be completely withdrawn from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in accordance with of the UN Security Council resolutions”, the Presidential assistant added.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: 2 civilians killed as a result of Armenian shelling of Beylagan city

[12:05] 04.10.2020

“The military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law,” Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“As a result of heavy artillery shelling of civilians in different directions of Beylagan city by the armed forces of the occupying country on October 3 at about 19:00 Ismayilova Zulfiya Isgandar, born in 1976, and her sister Asadova Arzu Isgandar, born in 1998, died under the wreckage when numerous artillery shells fell on their house. At the same time, the residents of the city Balakishiyev Etibar Tavakkul, born in 1982 and Bashirova Sevda Yashar, born in 1969 were hospitalized with various injuries, and many houses were severely damaged.

Upon the fact a criminal case has been instituted by Beylagan Prosecutor's Office under Article 100.2 (conducting aggressive war), Article 120.2.1 (deliberate murder committed by criminal community (organization)), Article 120.2.4 (deliberate murder committed with special cruelty or in publicly dangerous way), Articles 120.2.7, 120.2.12 (deliberate murder on motive of national, racial, religious hatred or enmity), Article 186.3 (deliberate destruction or damage of another's property causing especially large damage to a victim) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Also, on October 3 at about 21:00 heavy artillery bombardment of densely populated areas of Azerbaijan by the Armenian armed forces resulted in shrapnel falling on Azad Garagoyunlu village, Tartar district. Mammadov Safar Ayyub, born in 1966, and Guliyev Akif Yunis were hospitalized with various injuries caused from shrapnel fragments.

Given the present combat conditions all necessary investigative measures are being conducted by the prosecution authorities.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan takes all necessary measures to ensure that the servicemen of the provocative Armenian units who committed crimes against our army and civilians are brought to justice within the international law.”

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani districts under Armenian missile, artillery fire

[11:45] 04.10.2020

“Azerbaijan’s Fuzuli district came under missile fire from the territory of Armenia,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“Moreover, the Armenian armed forces stationed in occupied Azerbaijani territories continue shelling villages of Azerbaijan’s Aghdam and Tartar districts,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy shells Ganja

[11:35] 04.10.2020

“The Armenian Armed Forces shell Azerbaijan's Ganja city from the territory of Armenia,” Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

October 3

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army today liberated several more villages

[23:20] 03.10.2020

The Azerbaijani Army today liberated Talish village of Tartar district, Mehdili, Chakhirli, Ashaghi Maralyan, Shaybay and Guyjag villages of Jabrayil district and Ashaghi Abdurrahmanli village of Fuzuli district.

"Karabakh is Azerbaijan!" President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev wrote in his official Twitter account.

AZERTAC

Colonel Vagif Dargahli: "Our attack UAVs destroy the enemy's military equipment"

[21:52] 03.10.2020

"Today, the Armenian side again disseminated misinformation about allegedly shot down aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) of the Azerbaijan Air Force. We repeat once again that not a single combat aircraft of the Azerbaijan Air Force was shot down," Chief of the Press Service of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense, Colonel Vagif Dargahli told AZERTAC.

"On the contrary, Azerbaijan's attack UAVs continue to destroy the military equipment of the Armenian armed forces. Video recordings of the military operations of our attack UAVs are regularly presented to the public," he said.

"Representatives of the Armenian ministry of defense are trying to fill the information void that they have got during the combat operations by spreading false information about the losses of Azerbaijan," Dargahli added.

AZERTAC

**Al Jazeera TV channel airs reportage on Armenian armed forces' shelling
of civilian facilities in Tartar**

[18:14] 03.10.2020

Al Jazeera TV channel has broadcast a reportage on Armenian armed forces' shelling of civilian facilities in Tartar district of Azerbaijan.

AZERTAC reports that Al Jazeera's reporter, dispatched to the frontline, highlighted one of the residents' backyard, whose house was destroyed as a result of heavy artillery attack by Armenian armed forces. The reporter said that residents of the house were temporarily housed in a nearby school building.

The reportage also featured interviews with IDPs living in Tartar district, who said their native lands had been under Armenian occupation for almost 30 years.

"Heavy artillery attacks by the Armenian armed forces inflicted damage to houses of many families in Tartar," the reporter said, adding that the residents are not going to leave their homes.

"The civilian population and civilian facilities of Azerbaijan were targeted, schools, houses even hospitals were damaged, and dozens of people were killed and injured. Residents say they are not frightened by Armenian attacks."

AZERTAC

Foreign Ministry: Armenia and Armenian diaspora organizations bear international legal liability for organizing terrorist activities against Azerbaijan and its civilians

[17:20] 03.10.2020

“Armenia in an attempt to compensate serious losses it has been inflicted in the course of the counter-offensive operations of the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan to repel the armed aggression of the armed forces of Armenia and to protect Azerbaijani civilians takes steps to involve foreign nationals, mainly of Armenian origin into its armed units illegally deployed in the temporarily occupied territories of Azerbaijan,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

“According to information available to the Azerbaijani side, including that from open media resources, thousands of ethnic Armenians from Syria, Lebanon, Russia, Georgia, Greece, United Arab Emirates and other countries have already been either deployed or are in the process of deployment to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

In most cases, the Government of Armenia and diaspora organizations in third countries make calls on diaspora members to expeditiously join armed units of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Ticket sales campaigns are being organized and special assembling points are being defined for that purpose. In addition, certain diaspora organizations operating under disguise as charity or non-governmental entities raise funds and collect other material means among the diaspora members to be sent to the armed units of Armenia involved in the attacks against the civilian population of Azerbaijan.

The Ministry recalls that under the UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) “individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict” are defined as “foreign terrorist fighters”.

Armenia and Armenian diaspora organizations bear international legal liability for organizing these terrorist activities against Azerbaijan and its civilians.

At the same time, the states in the territories of which these terrorist activities are being organized or financed, also bear responsibility under international law, as well as in accordance with their own national legislation.

According to the relevant operative paragraphs of the above-mentioned resolution and the UN Security Council Resolution 2396 (2017), which are legally binding under the Charter of the United Nations, the UN Member States shall prevent the movement of terrorists and terrorist groups by effective border controls and undertake necessary punitive measures under their penal legislation.

In addition to their obligations deriving from international law and national legislation, the states of origin should also bear in mind that these “Armenian terrorist fighters”, once being able to return to their countries of origin, would represent a serious threat to their societies as persons involved in terrorist training.

In view of the above-mentioned, Azerbaijan strongly urges all states, origin or transit, to exercise due diligence in light of the increased intensity of travel by their nationals to Armenia and put in place necessary preventive border control measures, as well as take all steps required for

not allowing their territories to be used for supporting or financing terrorist activities against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its civilian population.

The Azerbaijani side is determined to take all measures stemming from its rights under relevant bilateral and multilateral mechanisms with a view to curbing terrorist activities within its internationally recognized territories and against its civilian population and bring the perpetrators to justice,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Colonel Vagif Dargahli: “The enemy, suffering from a shortage of military personnel, sends into battle the men older than 60 years old”

[16:45] 03.10.2020

“The armed forces of Armenia, which suffered significant losses in both manpower and military equipment during the combat operations, are sending old men aged 60-70 to fight,” Chief of the Press Service of Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense, Colonel Vagif Dargahli told AZERTAC.

“It seems that this will be the last reserve forces of the enemy, who, after the women, sends the old men to fight,” Vagif Dargahli said.

AZERTAC

Bob Blackman: Armenia's deliberate targeting of residential areas and civilians is a gross violation of the international humanitarian law

[14:02] 03.10.2020

“It is clear that Armenia's deliberate targeting of residential areas and civilians is a gross violation of the international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Convention of 1949. Targeting the civilian population is a tactic incorporated in the combat training of Armenia’s armed forces, and the Khojaly genocide perpetrated in February 1992 has been a vivid testimony to that,” Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Azerbaijan, MP Bob Blackman, said in his letter addressed to President Ilham Aliyev.

“I was deeply saddened to read that at 06:00 hours, on 27 September 2020, the armed forces of Armenia blatantly violated the ceasefire regime and, using large-calibre weapons, mortar launchers and artillery have launched an intensive attack on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my support any sympathies after reading the reports of military servicemen who I note are now undertaking necessary counter-offensive measures to prevent Armenia's another military aggression and ensure the security of the civilian population,” Bob Blackman said.

“I would also like to express my sincere sympathy with the civilians who tragically lost their lives and who were injured in the villages of Qapanli of Tartar district, Chiragli and Orta Garvand of Aghdam district, Alkhanli and Shukurbayli of Fuzuli district and Jojuq Marjanly of Jabrayil district and my horror at the pictures of the extensive damage has been inflicted on many homes and civilian infrastructure.

The bombardment of densely populated civilian areas and installations situated along the front line by Armenia's armed forces has clearly been deliberate and targeted.

I have noted that the armed forces of Armenia continue with their bombardment of residential areas along the frontline,” he noted.

“It is clear that Armenia's deliberate targeting of residential areas and civilians is a gross violation of the international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Convention of 1949. Targeting the civilian population is a tactic incorporated in the combat training of Armenia’s armed forces, and the Khojaly genocide perpetrated in February 1992 has been a vivid testimony to that,” the British MP said.

“According to international law, the Armenian strikes against the positions of Azerbaijan's army, against the civilians and civilian infrastructure, with the use of large-calibre weapons, are yet another military aggression and an act of the use of force against Azerbaijan,” Bob Blackman mentioned.

“I note that Azerbaijan has issued repeated warnings to the international community that Armenia has been preparing for a new act of aggression and is actively preparing for war.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly stated that Armenia's ongoing military aggression against Azerbaijan and the presence of the armed forces of Armenia in Azerbaijan's occupied territories have remained a significant threat to regional peace and security.

With the General Debate at the UN General Assembly's 75th Session underway and the world fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, Armenia's political-military leadership has resorted to another military adventure and a provocation. By doing so, Armenia's leadership demonstrated once again a flagrant disregard for the international law, the UN Charter, and the international community.

The responsibility for the present situation and future developments lie squarely with Armenia's political-military leadership.”

“We look forward to the entire region of Nagorno-Karabakh being restored to Azerbaijan as is agreed by the international community and the opportunity for the displaced persons to return to their homes if they so wish and can do so in safety and security.

I and the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Azerbaijan remain at your disposal and we will continue to raise awareness in parliament,” British MP Bob Blackman emphasized.

AZERTAC

Defence Ministry appeals to Azerbaijani citizens

[13:20] 03.10.2020

The Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan has made an appeal to the country`s citizens.

The appeal reads: “The Azerbaijan Army is surrounded by the full attention and care of our state and personally President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev. Activities in the direction of further improving the equipment, provision and social conditions of military personnel continue.

We would like to inform you that in recent days, a large number of applications have been received with offers of various kinds of assistance to the foremost units of the Azerbaijan Army.

The Ministry of Defense expresses its deep gratitude to our people for the attention and care shown to our army. At present, all the military units of the Azerbaijan Army, especially those on the front-line, are fully equipped with all types of supplies and there is no need for additional assistance. Our nation always show moral support to the Azerbaijan soldier and that is his only need.

At the same time, we note that some of our citizens, organizations and enterprises go directly to military units, without coordination with the Ministry of Defense, and offer various assistance. In some cases, these are disorganized actions and lead to unnecessary waste of food and products delivered to the military personnel. The transfer of such food to military personnel without food safety control can pose a serious threat to the life of servicemen.

In this regard, for the centralized coordination of such activities and a more rational redistribution and delivery of aid to military units, a temporary hotline operates in the Ministry of Defense with the following contact numbers: +994 (012) 406-85-43; +994 (070) 946-51-11; +994 (055) 294-15-30.”

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry reveals funds received by
Armed Forces Relief Fund until October 1**

[11:53] 03.10.2020

“According to the approved decree №755 of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 17 August 2002, prior to 1 October 2020, the Armed Forces Relief Fund's AZN account amounted to 120.106.408,24 manats, the dollar account amounted to 218.680,68 USD, the euro account amounted to 18.341 Euros and the ruble account amounted to 5,000 rubles,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“It should be pointed out that from September 1 to October 1, the Armed Forces Relief Fund's AZN account amounted to 6.691.593,07 manats and dollar account amounted to 5102.8USD. The leadership of the Ministry of Defense expresses gratitude to everyone who provides financial and moral support,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry reveals list of Armenia`s destroyed military equipment

[10:55] 03.10.2020

“During the present day, the troops of the Azerbaijan Army, successfully advancing in the intended directions, took possession of new strongholds and carried out a cleanup of the territory from the enemy,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“During the combat operations, a significant amount of manpower, combat, and other equipment, as well as weapons of the enemy were destroyed,” the ministry said.

The total enemy losses from September 27 to 08:00 pm on October 2 are as follows:

- up to 230 tanks and other armored vehicles;
- 250 artillery pieces, multiple launch rocket systems, and mortars;
- 38 Air Defense means;
- 10 command-control and command-observation posts;
- 7 ammunition depots;
- more than 130 vehicles;
- 1 S-300 anti-aircraft missile system.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army suppresses Armenia's combat activity

[10:54] 03.10.2020

“The situation at the front remains tense. During the night, the enemy’s combat activity in various directions of the front has been suppressed and it was inflicted by a crushing blow,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“Fierce battles continue along the entire front,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

German TV Berlin airs Azerbaijani ambassador's interview on latest provocations by Armenia

[10:34] 03.10.2020

German TV Berlin channel has broadcast an extensive interview with Azerbaijani Ambassador Ramin Hasanov, who has highlighted Armenia's latest military provocations against his country.

The ambassador informed the German audience about the historical and legal aspects of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Azerbaijan's position on the settlement of the conflict, Armenia's latest provocations, the position of foreign countries, including Russia, Turkey and Germany, inefficiency of negotiations mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group and other issues.

Noting that the conflict emerged due to the territorial claims of Armenia against Azerbaijan, the diplomat said that the problem could be solved only within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. "Azerbaijan will not allow the establishment of the second Armenian state on its territory," Hasanov emphasized.

During the interview, the diplomat also highlighted the provocations against Azerbaijan after the Armenian Prime Minister came to power, including "presidential and "parliamentary elections" in the so-called "republic", the announcement that some administrative buildings will be moved to Shusha - the ancient city and cultural center of Azerbaijan, as well as the illegal settlement of people of Armenian origin from Lebanon to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Vugar Seyidov
Special Correspondent

AZERTAC

October 2

'Armenia must withdraw from occupied territories for cease-fire'

[19:36] 02.10.2020

For Azerbaijan to agree with a cease-fire, Armenia must withdraw its forces from occupied Azerbaijani territories, the Turkish foreign minister said Friday, according to Anadolu Agency.

Speaking at a joint news conference with his Italian counterpart Luigi Di Maio, Mevlut Cavusoglu said Turkey stands in solidarity with Azerbaijan against its struggle for the occupied territories of Nagorno-Karabakh.

“If the international community wants to do something about Nagorno-Karabakh, they should get Armenia to leave Azerbaijani lands at once,” he said.

Border clashes first broke out on Sunday when Armenian forces targeted Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military positions, leading to casualties.

Azerbaijan's parliament declared a state of war in some of its cities and regions following Armenia's border violations and attacks in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh.

AZERTAC

Erdogan vows struggle until end of Karabakh occupation

[18:34] 02.10.2020

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday vowed to continue the struggle for Azerbaijan's territory of Nagorno-Karabakh until it is freed from Armenian occupation, according to Anadolu Agency.

As tensions run high amid a recent flare-up in the conflict between Baku and Yerevan, Recep Tayyip Erdogan reiterated Turkey's full support for Azerbaijan during a speech at the inauguration of a city hospital in the central Turkish province of Konya.

AZERTAC

Colonel Vagif Dargahli: The enemy is already sending women to the front

[15:13] 02.10.2020

“According to reports, the enemy, who has suffered heavy losses as a result of intense fighting in recent days, has a serious shortage of military personnel.

The reason for this, along with the large number of casualties, is the demoralization of the military personnel of a number of units of the Armenian armed forces on the front line and the increasing refusal of many servicemen to fight,” chief of the press service of Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense Colonel Vagif Dargahli told AZERTAC.

“The growing number of casualties and the lack of reserve forced the Armenian Ministry of Defense to appeal to the women of the country. The Armenian defense ministry has already formed a women's battalion, which is currently being manned,” Dargahli said.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Armenian army's supply and combat equipment were destroyed

[14:24] 02.10.2020

“The supply facilities and military equipment that delivered weapons and ammunitions to the enemy's stronghold on a high mountain peak have been destroyed,” press service of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia subjected to artillery fire villages
of Barda and Tovuz districts**

[14:10] 02.10.2020

“The Armenian armed forces subjected to artillery fire Amirli settlement of Barda district, Aghdam settlement of Tovuz district, and Guzanli settlement of Aghdam district,” Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Armenian Army shells Sabirkand settlement of Shamkir, Guzanli village of Aghdam districts

[13:47] 02.10.2020

“The enemy is shelling the Sabirkand settlement of the Shamkir district from the territory of Armenia and Guzanli village of Aghdam district from the occupied territories using rockets, press service of Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

**Major General Hikmat Hasanov: The victorious attitude of the servicemen
will ensure our victory**

[12:27] 02.10.2020

“The task of the military unit's personnel is to fight to the last drop of blood and destroy the enemy in order to ensure victory,” Commander of the Army Corps, Major General Hikmat Hasanov said.

The Major General noted that the fighting and victorious spirit of the Azerbaijani servicemen are high enough for this.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: On the night and morning hostilities continued in different directions of the front

[12:18] 02.10.2020

“On the night and morning of October 2, hostilities continued in different directions of the front,” press service of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“In the Aghdara direction, our troops liberated the dominant high grounds around Madagiz and control this settlement.

In the Jabrayil-Fuzuli direction, our troops managed to move forward and broking the enemy's resistance, forced him to retreat.

Our troops also control the operational situation in the direction of Murovdag.

From 00:00 to 07:00 am, 5 armored vehicles and military vehicles, 3 military infrastructure facilities, and a large number of enemy military personnel were destroyed.

According to other information, the Armenian volunteers arrived from Armenia to the occupied territories refuse to fight under various pretexts, fearing the intensity of hostilities and heavy losses.

Our successes in battles and the liberation of dominant positions in various directions further increase the high fighting spirit and victorious attitude of the military personnel of the Azerbaijan Army.

Additional information and videos will be made available to the public,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Four villages of Aghdam region are under enemy's intense artillery fire

[11:34] 02.10.2020

“Despite repeated warnings of the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan not to fire at our human settlements, the villages of Hindiristan, Alibayli, Ahmadaghali and Safarli of the Aghdam region are currently under intense artillery fire of the enemy,” press service of the ministry told AZERTAC.

“There are killed and wounded among the civilian population.”

According to the report, there is also a possibility of rocket attacks on Azerbaijani territories from Gorus region of Armenia.

The ministry declared that they will take an adequate retaliatory action.

AZERTAC

Russian Prosecutor General supports settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in compliance with resolutions of UN Security Council

[10:26] 02.10.2020

“A number of Russian media and social networks have published statements of Ara Abramyan, President of the Union of Armenians in Russia, and Semyon Bagdasarov, Chairman of the Center for the Study of the Middle East and Central Asia, against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as open calls to propagate terrorism,” press service of the Prosecutor General’s Office told AZERTAC.

In this regard, Prosecutor General of Azerbaijan Kamran Aliyev officially addressed Igor Krasnov, Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation, and asked to take legal measures against individuals and organizations that openly incite to commit crimes.

In response to an official letter dated October 1, 2020, the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation noted the inadmissibility of open calls to commit illegal actions in any country, as well as incitement of interethnic hatred and enmity in the media. The importance of giving an objective legal assessment to such cases was emphasized.

He also stated his position on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within the framework of international humanitarian law in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council.

Krasnov expressed hope that the cooperation with the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan would continue developing.

AZERTAC

October 1

Prosecutor General's Office: 19 civilians killed, 55 others injured as a result of enemy's targeting peaceful population

[19:43] 1.10.2020

“The military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law.

55 civilians have been hospitalized with various injuries, and 19 persons in total have been killed so far as a result of heavy artillery shelling of Azerbaijani densely populated areas,” press service of the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“In addition, Armenian military units continue to subject densely populated areas - regional and rural centers, civil infrastructure objects - hospitals, medical centers, school buildings, kindergartens, administrative buildings of public agencies and household premises to intensive artillery bombardment.

As a result of the shelling of civilian infrastructure facilities by the occupying country's armed forces, 169 houses, as well as 40 civilian facilities were severely damaged. Vehicles belonging to civilians became unserviceable, and numerous small and large horned animals and haystacks were destroyed as well.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan is taking all necessary steps to ensure that servicemen of the provocative Armenian formations who have committed various crimes against our army and civilians are prosecuted and punished within the frames of international law,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

Armenian armed forces shell Horadiz city, Fuzuli district

[19:22] 01.10.2020

“On October 1, at 17:50, Armenian army units fired on civilian facilities in Horadiz city of Fuzuli district,” press service of Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Armenia shells at Jojug Marjanli, houses severely damaged

[18:36] 01.10.2020

“At the behest of the military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia, enemy military units continue to subject densely populated areas - regional and rural centers, civil infrastructure facilities - hospitals, medical centers, school buildings, kindergartens, administrative buildings of public agencies and household premises areas to intensive artillery bombardment.

As a result of intensive shelling by the Armenian armed forces extensive damage was inflicted to houses in Jojug Marjanli village of Jabrayil district,” Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“At present combat conditions all possible investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan is taking all necessary steps to ensure that servicemen of the provocative Armenian formations who have committed various crimes against our army and civilians are prosecuted and punished within the frames of international law,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

Turkey to continue supporting Baku 'with all means'

[17:59] 01.10.2020

Turkey will continue to support Azerbaijan with all means in its conflict with Armenia over occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, the Turkish president said on Thursday, according to Anadolu Agency.

"As Turkey, we will continue to support our Azerbaijani brothers with all means and with all our heart, in line with the principle of 'two states, one nation,' President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said during his speech at the opening of the Turkish parliament's fourth legislative session of its 27th term in the capital Ankara.

Erdogan noted that permanent peace could only be achieved in the region "if Armenia withdraws from occupied Azerbaijani territories."

"Efforts to slander Turkey also won't be able to save the Armenian administration," Erdogan said.

He warned countries supporting "rogue state" Armenia in its occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh would "answer to the common conscience."

AZERTAC

Military units of Azerbaijan Army destroys several more enemy combat equipment

[17:02] 01.10.2020

Military units of the Azerbaijan Army have destroyed several more air defense assets and multiple launch rocket systems of the enemy, press service of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Turkish FM: Azerbaijan capable of liberate occupied lands by itself

[16:58] 01.10.2020

Azerbaijan has the ability to liberate its occupied lands by itself, Turkey's top diplomat said Wednesday, amid Azerbaijan fighting off an offensive by Armenian forces in occupied Nagorno Karabakh, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said at Anadolu Agency's Editors' Desk.

"Azerbaijan is fighting to protect its own lands. Where in the world are the occupied and occupier treated the same?" he noted.

Border clashes broke out early Sunday when Armenian forces targeted Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military positions, leading to multiple casualties.

With these attacks Armenia ignored the international system and international law, Cavusoglu said, adding that this attitude deserves a response.

Armenia illegally resettled ethnic Armenians from Middle Eastern countries to the Azerbaijani land it occupies in Upper Karabakh – also known as Nagorno-Karabakh – he said.

Turkey continues to support Azerbaijan, he added, saying: "We said that if Azerbaijan wants to solve [the Armenian occupation problem] on the ground, we will stand by Azerbaijan."

Cavusoglu stressed "diplomacy hasn't worked for 30 years" to solve the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh, with no solution reached at the negotiating table since Armenia's illegal occupation began in 1991, and this failure served to "encourage" Armenia.

"Despite all the warnings, where does Armenia find its courage?" he asked.

"If Armenia hadn't enjoyed support today from other countries, from the West, Russia, it wouldn't be able to muster up this courage."

Cavusoglu slammed the international community for only urging a cease-fire but failing to call Armenia to leave the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

"This is not a proper approach," he added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani territory comes under rocket fire from Armenia's Gorus region

[16:45] 01.10.2020

“On October 1 in the morning, the territory of Azerbaijan came under rocket fire from Gorus region of Armenia,” press service of Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the rockets fired from Armenia hit the front line in the Jabrayil-Fuzuli area.

“We demand that Armenia immediately stop shelling the territories of Azerbaijan, and we warn that otherwise adequate responsive measures will be taken,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: Father and son were killed as a result of enemy's heavy artillery shelling of Hajimammadli village, Aghdam

[16:07] 01.10.2020

“The military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law.

On October 1 at about 13:00 as a result of heavy artillery shelling of the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan by the occupying country's armed forces Mammadov Murshud Rashid, born in 1966, and his son Samir Mammadov, born in 1996, were killed by shrapnel fragments that hit their house in Hajimammadli village, Aghdam district. Their house was severely damaged,” press service of the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“Upon the fact a criminal case has been instituted by Aghdam Prosecutor's Office under Article 120.2.1 (deliberate murder committed by criminal community (organization)), Article 120.2.4 (deliberate murder committed with special cruelty or in publicly dangerous way), Article 120.2.12 (deliberate murder on motive of national, racial, religious hatred or enmity), Article 100.2 (conducting aggressive war), Articles 186.3 (deliberate destruction or damage of another's property causing especially large amount of damage to a victim), and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At present combat conditions all possible investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan is taking all necessary steps to ensure that servicemen of the provocative Armenian formations who have committed various crimes against our army and civilians are prosecuted and punished within the frames of international law,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: If attacks against Azerbaijan from Armenian territory are not stopped, adequate measures will be taken against military targets which carry out firing

[15:55] 01.10.2020

We warn the Armenian side that if attacks against Azerbaijan from the Armenian territory are not stopped, adequate measures will be taken against the legitimate military targets which carry out firing, said Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of the Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev said.

“The armed forces of Armenia continue to fire on residential settlements of Azerbaijan using heavy artillery and other large-caliber weapons,” Hajiyev said.

The Presidential Assistant noted that as a result of deliberate and targeted artillery shelling of settlements by the Armenian armed forces, 17 civilians including 2 children were killed, 51 people were injured. Public and private properties are also damaged.

“Armenia, by its acts, shows that it is a country far from the civilized values which once again commits heinous attacks against civilians and children. Targeting or deliberately killing of civilians during military operations is considered a war crime. Armenia and its political leadership bears responsibility for this,” he mentioned.

“As another act of aggression against our country, the territory of Azerbaijan has today come under rocket fire from the direction of Gorus region of Armenia. This is already the second attack against Azerbaijan from the territory of Armenia. The first attack was carried out from Vardenis region of Armenia. As a result of missile strike nearly 20 houses were damaged in the newly built IDP village in Jojug Marjanli,” Hikmat Hajiyev added.

AZERTAC

Armenian army shells IDP settlement in Azerbaijan's Aghdam

[13:16] 01.10.2020

The military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population of Azerbaijan, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law.

Armenian military units continue to subject densely populated areas - regional and rural centers, civil infrastructure objects - hospitals, medical centers, school buildings, kindergartens, administrative buildings of public agencies and household premises to intensive artillery bombardment.

This time the Armenian armed forces shelled an IDP settlement in the Birinji Baharli settlement of Azerbaijan's Aghdam district. As a result of the Armenian shelling, dozens of houses inhabited by IDPs in the settlement were destroyed, and livestock perished.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: A civilian was killed as a result of enemy's heavy artillery shelling of Tartar

[12:01] 01.10.2020

“The military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law.

Armenian military units continue to subject densely populated areas - regional and rural centers, civil infrastructure objects - hospitals, medical centers, school buildings, kindergartens, administrative buildings of public agencies and household premises to intensive artillery bombardment,” press service of the Prosecutor General's Office told AZERTAC.

“On October 1 at about 09:00 as a result of the heavy artillery shelling of the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan by the armed forces of the occupying country, Hasanov Zabil Mahammad, born in 1982, was killed by shrapnel fragments that hit the Tartar city bus station. The bus station was severely damaged.

Upon the fact a criminal case has been initiated by Tartar Prosecutor's Office under Article 120.2.1 (deliberate murder committed by criminal community (organization)), Article 120.2.4 (deliberate murder committed with special cruelty or in publicly dangerous way), Article 120.2.12 (deliberate murder on motive of national, racial, religious hatred or enmity), Article 100.2 (conducting aggressive war), and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At present combat conditions all possible investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan is taking all necessary steps to ensure that servicemen of the provocative Armenian formations who have committed various crimes against our army and civilians are prosecuted and punished within the frames of international law,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy resumed shelling of Tartar city

[11:19] 01.10.2020

On October 1 in the morning, units of the armed forces of Armenia again initiated shelling of Tartar city, press service of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said.

AZERTAC

55 civilians injured, 16 others killed as a result of Armenia's heavy artillery shelling of Azerbaijani densely populated areas

[10:54] 01.10.2020

“The military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law.

55 civilians have been hospitalized with various injuries, and 16 persons in total have been killed so far as a consequence of heavy artillery shelling of Azerbaijani densely populated areas,” press service of Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“In addition, Armenian military units continue to subject densely populated areas - regional and rural centers, civil infrastructure objects - hospitals, medical centers, school buildings, kindergartens, administrative buildings of public agencies and household premises areas to intensive artillery bombardment.

As a result of the shelling of civilian infrastructure facilities by the occupying country's armed forces, 163 houses, as well as 36 civilian facilities were severely damaged. Vehicles belonging to civilians became unserviceable, and numerous small and large horned animals and haystacks were destroyed as well.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan is taking all necessary steps to ensure that servicemen of the provocative Armenian formations who have committed various crimes against our army and civilians are prosecuted and punished within the frames of international law,” Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: During the night battles, artillery strikes
were inflicted on the enemy**

[09:45] 01.10.2020

During the night battles, the Azerbaijan Army units inflicted crushing artillery strikes on the positions of the Armenian armed forces stationed in occupied territories, press service of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

September 30

Azerbaijani Prime Minister, Turkish Vice-president hold phone talk

[21:38] 30.09.2020

Vice President of the Republic of Turkey Fuat Oktay has made a phone call to Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ali Asadov.

During the phone conversation, Fuat Oktay noted that Turkey had always stood by Azerbaijan in its efforts to prevent the Armenian aggression and liberate the occupied territories. He affirmed Ankara`s readiness to render any assistance to Baku.

Ali Asadov expressed his gratitude to the leadership of Turkey for support.

They also discussed a range of issues on the bilateral agenda.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: A civilian killed, 3 others injured by shrapnel fragments that fell in Horadiz city

[20:06] 30.09.2020

“As reported earlier, the military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law. Densely populated areas - regional and rural centers, civil infrastructure objects - hospitals, medical centers, school buildings, kindergartens are selected as targets.

On September 30 at about 16:00 as a result of heavy artillery shelling of the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan by the enemy armed forces, Rustamov Murad Tahir, born in 1990, was killed by shrapnel fragments that fell near one of the gas stations in Horadiz, Fuzuli district. Three civilians were hospitalized with various injuries and the station was seriously damaged,” press service of Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“Upon the fact a criminal case has been initiated by Fuzuli Prosecutor's Office under Article 120.2.1 (deliberate murder committed by criminal community (organization)), Article 120.2.4 (deliberate murder committed with special cruelty or in publicly dangerous way), Article 120.2.12 (deliberate murder on motive of national, racial, religious hatred or enmity), Article 100.2 (conducting aggressive war), and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At the same time, on September 30 at around 15:00, another heavy artillery shelling resulted in collapsing of an auxiliary building in the courtyard of a house belonging to Ogorodnik Lyuda Vasilyevna, a resident of Yenikand village, Tartar district.

At present combat conditions all possible investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan is taking all necessary steps to ensure that servicemen of the provocative Armenian formations who have committed various crimes against our army and civilians are prosecuted and punished within the frames of international law,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The battle flag and documents
of the enemy battalion were intercepted**

[19:45] 30.09.2020

“The battle flag and documents of the 193rd separate assault battalion, which arrived to support the 6th defeated mountain rifle regiment of the Armenian army have today been intercepted during the fighting in the Aghdara (Madagiz) direction,” press service of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry reveals number of enemy's military equipment destroyed
before 17:30 today**

[19:31] 30.09.2020

“Until 17:30, the units of Azerbaijan Army destroyed and disabled 2 combat vehicles of the “OSA-AKM” anti-aircraft missile system, 1 “Uragan” multiple launch rocket system, 4 BM-21 “Grad” multiple launch rocket systems, 4 D-20 gun-howitzers, 16 tanks, 1 infantry fighting vehicle and 2 trucks with military personnel,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Lithuania expresses concern over tensions in Nagorno Karabakh

[19:21] 30.09.2020

Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has had a telephone conversation with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevicius.

The Latvian FM expressed his country`s concern over the ongoing tension in the region and stressed the importance of observing the ceasefire.

Minister Bayramov noted that the Azerbaijani armed forces were carrying out a counter-offensive operation within its internationally recognized borders in response to the new military aggression of Armenia.

The minister said the Armenian armed forces continued to target Azerbaijani civilians and civilian facilities, stressing that this is yet another gross violation of international humanitarian law.

The sides stressed the importance of putting an end to Armenia`s policy of occupation to ensure the lasting peace and security in the region.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: We have hoisted our flag on these lands and no-one can take us out of these lands

[19:07] 30.09.2020

“During the fighting that has been ongoing for four days now, the Azerbaijani Army successfully conducted an operation and liberated strategic heights and several settlements. We are returning to these lands after a long break. We have hoisted our flag on these lands and no-one can take us out of these lands. We must restore our territorial integrity,” President of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev said in a meeting with servicemen wounded in the aftermath of Armenia's military provocation launched on 27 September and being treated at the Central Military Clinical Hospital of the Defense Ministry as he spoke about the counter-offensive operation of the Azerbaijani Army.

Emphasizing that the Armenian people must understand this, the head of state said: “The Armenian people must understand that it is a crime to occupy the land of another state for 30 years, destroy all buildings and historical sites, expel more than 1 million people from their homeland and commit genocide against the Azerbaijani people. We are restoring historical justice, historical justice! Karabakh is our native, ancient and historical land. Suffice it to look at the history of the Karabakh khanate to see that the people of Azerbaijan have lived, built and created on these lands for centuries. Our sacred city of Shusha was built by the Azerbaijanis. The lands under occupation today are our historical lands. Our cause is the cause of justice. We want to restore our territorial integrity, we have the right to do so, we are doing it and we will do it.”

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Armenia must leave our lands immediately

[19:05] 30.09.2020

“Armenia must vacate our lands immediately. You know that the leaders of various international organizations and different countries are calling me, enquire about this issue, express their views. My word is the same – both internationally and domestically. We are on the right path, the battles are going on in Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan is restoring its territorial integrity, and we have every right to do so,” President of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev said in a meeting with servicemen wounded in the aftermath of Armenia's military provocation launched on 27 September and being treated at the Central Military Clinical Hospital of the Defense Ministry, AZERTAC reports.

Emphasizing that no country in the world recognizes the so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh republic”, President Ilham Aliyev said: “This is our historical land. From the point of view of international law, this is our land. I am confident that Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity. There is high morale in the army. You know that too. There is high morale in society. I have been receiving many letters every day for the last three to four days, both from citizens of the country and from other countries. Most letters from abroad come from brotherly Turkey. In those letters, our Turkish brothers express their desire to fight with us for this just cause. I express my appreciation to them. But I want to say again that there is no need for that. The Azerbaijani Army is quite strong and well-equipped. We must resolve this issue so that historical justice is restored. At the same time, on behalf of all of you and all the people of Azerbaijan, I express my deep gratitude to brotherly Turkey, its President, my brother Recep Tayyip Erdogan, for his resolute and brotherly position. Because my dear brother's very open and harsh statements show again that Azerbaijan is not alone. Turkey is with Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan is always with Turkey!”

AZERTAC

Armenia used tactical ballistic missile system "Tochka-U"

[18:56] 30.09.2020

“Earlier, the Armenian armed forces fired two missiles from the “Tochka-U” high-precision tactical missile system in the direction of the positions of our units,” Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“Due to the unsuitability and poor quality of the enemy’s military equipment, three of the missiles fired did not explode,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Our soldiers are saviors, while Armenian soldiers are occupiers

[18:44] 30.09.2020

“Azerbaijan is fighting on its own lands and you have been wounded on the path to justice. Our soldiers are saviors, while Armenian soldiers are occupiers. That is the difference. We are fighting on our own lands, while an Armenian soldier dies on the land of another state – Azerbaijan,” President of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev said in a meeting with servicemen wounded in the aftermath of Armenia's military provocation launched on 27 September and being treated at the Central Military Clinical Hospital of the Defense Ministry.

The head of state said: “I want to address the Armenian people and urge them not to become hostages of the ugly deeds of their leadership. Let them hold their government accountable today. They should not send their children to Azerbaijan. What is the Armenian soldier doing in Azerbaijan? We are fighting on our own lands. Our soldiers and officers are dying on their own lands, are getting wounded on their own lands, and we are liberating our own lands.”

AZERTAC

President of Azerbaijan: Ours is the cause of justice, we are fighting on our own lands, we are fighting for the Motherland

[17:41] 30.09.2020

“According to the information provided to me, all our wounded soldiers and officers live with the desire to recover soon and go back to the zone of military action, to continue the just war for the Motherland. Ours is the cause of justice, we are fighting on our own lands, we are fighting for the Motherland. We are fighting for a fair cause, and I am sure that in this conflict we will achieve what we want. Justice will be done and Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity. Our compatriots who have been living as IDPs for many years will also return to their native lands,” President of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev said in a meeting with servicemen wounded in the aftermath of Armenia's military provocation launched on 27 September and being treated at the Central Military Clinical Hospital of the Defense Ministry.

The head of state said: “Special attention is being paid to the families of martyrs in our country, and all necessary work is being done by the state. I can say that Azerbaijan can be considered an exemplary country in the world for the attention being paid to the families of martyrs. You know that on my instructions, all the families of martyrs are provided with apartments and houses by the state. This year alone, 1,500 families of martyrs will be provided with housing by the state. In the next two to three years, the families of our heroic sons who died in the first Karabakh war will be fully provided with houses and apartments. We still have martyrs today. We have had martyrs in the battles for the Motherland. May Allah rest their souls in peace, may Allah give patience to their families and relatives. Their blood does not and will not remain unavenged. The enemy is receiving a fitting rebuff.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry: We hope that the European Court will stay away from Armenia's insidious political games

[16:57] 30.09.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement regarding the press-release of the European Court of Human Rights published on 28 September 2020 concerning the request of Armenia lodged with the Court on taking interim measures against Azerbaijan, as well as information shared by the Head of the Communication Department of the Council of Europe about forthcoming consideration of this request by the Court.

The statement reads: "In the first place, on 27 September 2020, the armed forces of Armenia have launched another act of aggression against Azerbaijan, by intensively attacking the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan as well as residential areas along the frontline, with the use of large-caliber weapons, mortar launchers and artillery of different calibers. Having openly and purposefully targeted the civilian population and civilian objects, in addition to military servicemen Armenia has killed so far nine civilians, among them elderly, women and children, and inflicted serious damage on numerous houses and civilian objects. This request of the Government of Armenia, which violates blatantly the international humanitarian law and human rights, represents another demonstration of its hypocritical policy.

On the other hand, if we take into account the fact that military operations are taken place on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, this request by Armenia could be also understood as its public confession of the occupation of the Azerbaijani lands.

What we can see is that remaining faithful to its customs, Armenia doesn't give up on turning the European Court into a tool in its political games and using this exclusively legal ground for its dirty political purposes. We hope that the European Court will stay away from Armenia's insidious political games.

We consider that one should prevent the attempt by Armenia to misuse the human rights protection system, which continues to violate the fundamental norms and principles of international law, the UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 dated 1993, requesting full and unconditional withdrawal of the forces of Armenia from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols, as well as doesn't implement the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the pilot case Chiragov against Armenia.

As it was stated on multiple occasions by the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan, contrary to Armenia, the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan doesn't target the civilian population, civilian objects and civilian infrastructure. Taking into account that Armenia places purposefully its fire points next to residential areas, the Ministry of Defense made an official call on the population residing in the occupied territories to stay away from the military objects.

It should be also noted that due to the occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other surrounding territories of Azerbaijan, attacks against the Republic of Azerbaijan and regular military provocations, martial law was declared in the Republic of Azerbaijan from 00:00 on 28 September 2020. In accordance with Article 15 of the European Convention, Azerbaijan has

notified to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe about the derogation on some obligations due to the declaration of martial law on 28 September 2020.

We inform that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan fully and resolutely respect the international humanitarian law in the counter operations conducted within the right to self-defense to prevent another military aggression by Armenia and protect the civilian population densely residing along the frontline.”

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: 14 civilians killed, 46 injured as a result of Armenian provocation

[16:17] 30.09.2020

“As reported earlier, the military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law. 46 civilians have been hospitalized with various injuries, and 14 have been killed so far as a consequence of heavy artillery shelling of Azerbaijani densely populated areas,” press service of the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“In addition, Armenian military units continue to subject densely populated areas - regional and rural centers, civil infrastructure objects - hospitals, medical centers, school buildings, kindergartens, administrative buildings of public agencies and household premises to intensive artillery bombardment.

As a result of the shelling of civil infrastructure facilities by the enemy armed forces, 116 houses, as well as 26 civil facilities, including a carpet weaving factory in Tartar city, a modular school building in Tazakand village, Aghdam district, the building of secondary school No.1 in Shikharkh settlement, Tartar district, the building of school-lyceum No.2 in Tartar city, the cotton plant of “MKT Istehsal Kommersiya” LLC located in Azad Garagoyunlu village of Tartar district, the medical center in Gapanli village, Tartar district have fallen in disrepair. Vehicles belonging to civilians were severely damaged, and numerous small and large horned animals and haystacks were destroyed.

At present combat conditions all possible investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan is taking all necessary steps to ensure that servicemen of the Armenian armed forces who have committed various crimes are prosecuted and punished within the frames of international law,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The 4th battalion of the enemy stationed in Fuzuli direction was shelled

[16:04] 30.09.2020

“The units of Azerbaijan Army subjected to heavy artillery fire the 4th battalion of the armed forces of Armenia, stationed in the Fuzuli direction,” press service of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

According to the ministry, the enemy suffered heavy losses in manpower and military equipment.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy reserve forces were destroyed

[14:57] 30.09.2020

“The 2nd battalion of the 7th mountain rifle regiment of the 10th mountain rifle division of the 1st combined arms army of Armenia, which was shelled by our troops, suffered heavy losses and urgently asked the command for help,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The reserve forces arriving to support were determined and destroyed by our units,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva met with wounded servicemen undergoing treatment at Central Military Clinical Hospital of Defense Ministry

[13:55] 30.09.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva have met with the servicemen wounded during the Armenian military provocation that launched on September 27 and treated at the Central Military Clinical Hospital of the Defense Ministry.

Minister of Defense Colonel General Zakir Hasanov reported to President, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev.

The head of state made a speech at the meeting.

Speech of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev

- May Allah grant you healing. Dear guys, you received various injuries, you were wounded in the battles for the Motherland. The doctors are taking good care of you. I am sure that the doctors will do their best for you to recover as soon as possible and return to normal life.

According to the information provided to me, all our wounded soldiers and officers live with the desire to recover soon and go back to the zone of military action, to continue the just war for the Motherland. Ours is the cause of justice, we are fighting on our own lands, we are fighting for the Motherland. We are fighting for a fair cause, and I am sure that in this conflict we will achieve what we want. Justice will be done and Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity. Our compatriots who have been living as IDPs for many years will also return to their native lands.

As you know, special attention is being paid to the families of martyrs in our country, and all necessary work is being done by the state. I can say that Azerbaijan can be considered an exemplary country in the world for the attention being paid to the families of martyrs. You know that on my instructions, all the families of martyrs are provided with apartments and houses by the state. This year alone, 1,500 families of martyrs will be provided with housing by the state. In the next two to three years, the families of our heroic sons who died in the first Karabakh war will be fully provided with houses and apartments. We still have martyrs today. We have had martyrs in the battles for the Motherland. May Allah rest their souls in peace, may Allah give patience to their families and relatives. Their blood does not and will not remain unavenged. The enemy is receiving a fitting rebuff.

At the same time, the state provides the necessary support to the veterans of Karabakh. Their day-to-day problems are being solved. You can also be sure that the state will be by your side, the doctors are doing and will do everything possible for you to recover here as soon as possible and return to normal life.

Azerbaijan is fighting on its own lands and you have been wounded on the path to justice. Our soldiers are saviors, while Armenian soldiers are occupiers. That is the difference. We are fighting on our own lands, while an Armenian soldier dies on the land of another state – Azerbaijan. I want to address the Armenian people and urge them not to become hostages of the ugly deeds of their leadership. Let them hold their government accountable today. They should not send their children to Azerbaijan. What is the Armenian soldier doing in Azerbaijan? We are fighting on our own lands. Our soldiers and officers are dying on their own lands, are getting

wounded on their own lands, and we are liberating our own lands. During the fighting that has been ongoing for four days now, the Azerbaijani Army successfully conducted an operation and liberated strategic heights and several settlements. We are returning to these lands after a long break. We have hoisted our flag on these lands and no-one can take us out of these lands. We must restore our territorial integrity. This is why the Armenian people must understand this, the head of state said: “The Armenian people must understand that it is a crime to occupy the land of another state for 30 years, destroy all buildings and historical sites, expel more than 1 million people from their homeland and commit genocide against the Azerbaijani people. We are restoring historical justice, historical justice! Karabakh is our native, ancient and historical land. Suffice it to look at the history of the Karabakh khanate to see that the people of Azerbaijan have lived, built and created on these lands for centuries. Our sacred city of Shusha was built by the Azerbaijanis. The lands under occupation today are our historical lands. Our cause is the cause of justice. We want to restore our territorial integrity, we have the right to do so, we are doing it and we will do it.

If the Armenian people want to live in peace, they should hold their government accountable. Because the misfortune of the Armenian people lies in the fact that for many years they were governed by a bandit criminal regime, the regime that committed genocide against the Azerbaijanis only in its own personal interests and keeps our lands under occupation. I am sure that the Armenian people will understand my words correctly. We have nothing against the Armenian people. Azerbaijan is a multinational state, many nations live here in peace and tranquility, including the Armenian people. Thousands of Armenians live on the territory of Azerbaijan. No-one says anything to them, they are our citizens. Therefore, our struggle is a struggle for a just cause. We are right from the point of view of history, from the point of view of international law, from the point of view of justice. Azerbaijani soldiers and officers are fighting for their native land. Fierce battles are under way in Fizuli, Jabrayil and other occupied territories today, we are suffering losses, our veterans and servicemen are getting wounded. But this fight is a fight for a just cause. Therefore, I want to say again that our cause is just, historical truth, international law and justice are on our side by 100 percent.

On 27 September, the Armenian armed forces committed another military provocation against us. I warned them. I spoke to them from the UN rostrum. I told the entire international community that Armenia is preparing for a new war and that Armenia must be stopped. Unfortunately, the international community and the parties involved in this issue were unable to influence the Armenian government at the required level. If they cannot stop the occupier, then the Azerbaijani soldier will stop them. The Azerbaijani soldier will remove them from our lands and restore justice. I said that if the military provocations committed against us in July and August are repeated, then Armenia will regret it, and I stand my ground. The advantage gained on the battlefield, our liberated settlements and strategic heights once again show that Azerbaijani soldiers, Azerbaijani officers are fulfilling their civic duty with dignity.

Armenia must end its policy of occupation. Instead, the prime minister of Armenia puts forward conditions. He put forward seven conditions to us. I said some time ago that we reject these conditions. We have one condition – they must leave our lands unconditionally, completely and immediately. This condition is still in force, and if the Armenian government fulfills it, the fighting will stop, blood will not be shed, there will be peace. Peace will come to our region. We want peace, we want a solution to the issue. Otherwise, we would not have cherished hopes for

negotiations for 30 years. The only reason we remained committed to the negotiation was that there was hope. We were encouraged, they sent us signals that we should bear with them a little and the issue would be resolved. But I said that the Azerbaijani people will never accept this occupation. I said that if the issue is not resolved through negotiations, then Azerbaijan has every right to resolve this issue by military means. The Azerbaijani people gave us this right, the norms of international law gave us this right. The charter of the highest international body of the world, the United Nations, states that every state has the right to self-defense, and we are exercising it to defend ourselves. Having launched a counteroffensive, we are inflicting crushing blows on the enemy.

It is not too late. I want to say again: Armenia must vacate our lands immediately. You know that the leaders of various international organizations and different countries are calling me, enquire about this issue, express their views. My word is the same – both internationally and domestically. We are on the right path, the battles are going on in Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan is restoring its territorial integrity, and we have every right to do so. Because no country in the world recognizes the so-called “Nagorno-Karabakh republic. This is our historical land. From the point of view of international law as well, this is our land.

I am confident that Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity. There is high morale in the army. You know that too. There is high morale in society. I have been receiving many letters every day for the last three to four days, both from citizens of the country and from other countries. Most letters from abroad come from brotherly Turkey. In those letters, our Turkish brothers express their desire to fight with us for this just cause. I express my appreciation to them. But I want to say again that there is no need for that. The Azerbaijani Army is quite strong and well-equipped. We must resolve this issue so that historical justice is restored. At the same time, on behalf of all of us and all the people of Azerbaijan, I express my deep gratitude to brotherly Turkey, its President, my brother Recep Tayyip Erdogan, for his resolute and brotherly position. Because my dear brother's very open and harsh statements show again that Azerbaijan is not alone. Turkey is with Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan is always with Turkey!

I have already said this but I want to say again that these bloody battles are the moment of truth for us, for the entire Azerbaijani people. We see who is who. We see that sometimes those who say nice words and make good statements do not keep their word. One thing is said and a different is done. But Turkey, Pakistan and Afghanistan have unequivocally supported Azerbaijan. You know, there is an international format for negotiations. Unfortunately, this format has not achieved any results. Therefore, in the current situation, calls for dialogue from any side are not relevant. This is done by international organizations, the UN is doing it. We naturally accept that. The OSCE is doing this and we accept it because the OSCE has the mandate. But when someone says to us, ‘let's start such a dialogue, we will also help’, there is no need for that. Now is the moment of truth. Which side are you on? Truth or lie? On the side of a friend or an enemy? This is the moment of truth for me, for our people, for all of us.

Of course, we will never forget the countries, organizations and people who support us these days. You know that Azerbaijan has strong positions in the world. In recent years, we have carried out quite effective activities in international organizations and have been able to prove our case. We had to prove our case. We can already say that all major international organizations support our position. The UN, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement, the

European Parliament, the OSCE – all these organizations have issued statements in support of our position. We are grateful for that. This is the legal side of the issue. As for the historical side, the historical truth is on our side. Anyone can go online and read. There are materials related to the history of the Karabakh Khanate. There is information about the inclusion of the Karabakh Khanate into the Russian Empire. There is information about the Kurekchay peace treaty. On the one hand, the Kurekchay peace treaty was signed by Ibrahim Khalil Khan of Shusha and Karabakh. This is the way he is referred to in the agreement – Ibrahim Khalil Khan of Shusha and Karabakh. On the other hand, it was signed by a general of Tsarist Russia. There is not a word about the Armenian people in the Kurekchay peace treaty. What does this mean? This means that there was no Armenian population there at that time, they were resettled there after that. When they were settled there, they put forward territorial claims against us. Therefore, we are absolutely right. Our fight is a fight for justice. We will not deviate from our principled position. I have repeatedly spoken about this from all international platforms and I say today that we are on the path of justice. We must restore our territorial integrity and we will restore it.

The information I receive shows that the events of the last three to four days do not become a lesson for the Armenian leadership. They are preparing new provocations, they want to bombard our settlements again and continue to do this. Our civilian casualties are growing every day. According to information as of yesterday morning, 10 of our civilians were killed. According to information provided to me this morning, the number of civilians killed has reached 13. What does this mean? This demonstrates the ugly face of Armenian fascism. We have never fought against civilians. As soon as the counter-offensive operation began, I instructed all our commanders and the Ministry of Defense that no action should be taken against the civilian population. Our goal is the positions, equipment and manpower of Armenia's armed formations. But they bombard our villages and cities, 13 civilians were killed, more than 40 civilians were wounded, 168 houses were destroyed. This is the face of Armenian fascism. They cannot resist us on the battlefield, therefore they strike at our villages and towns. But all our compatriots living there are there and everyone says 'Long live the Motherland'. They have not retreated a centimeter and, I am sure, will not do that. They are confident that the Azerbaijani army will protect them. They are looking forward to the moment when the Azerbaijani flag is raised in the occupied territories and the occupation ends.

I want to congratulate you. At a young age, you showed true heroism and courage, fought for your Motherland with dignity and inscribed your names in the history of Azerbaijan. At the same time, it is very difficult for me, for all of us to see you in this state. But you can rest assured that we will do everything necessary for your health. Everyone who is undergoing treatment in all our hospitals, in our military hospitals now deserves special care, and all our doctors, in fact, not only doctors, but also our entire people should support you. You can be sure that the state will be by your side. We dream of one thing – for you to get well as soon as possible, return to normal life and continue your glorious mission. You should be an example for the young people. The people of Azerbaijan are a heroic people, because they raised sons like you.

I want to take this opportunity to pay a tribute of respect to your parents and the parents of our other wounded and martyred servicemen. I want to thank them on my own behalf and on behalf of all the people of Azerbaijan. They have raised heroic children. I am sure that both them and all the people of Azerbaijan are proud of you. We will win, Karabakh is ours, Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

Major Etibar Jamalov: Mr. Commander-in-Chief, Mr. President, thank you very much! Indeed, the Azerbaijani soldier stopped the enemy and gave them a fitting rebuff. Today, everyone is ready to return to the front line. We are proud of your great words. We are always ready to burn like a candle for our land, for our state. Many thanks to the medical staff, they are looking after us very well. We are ready to return to the front line with all our fighting friends in the near future. Thank you very much!

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy guns shelling the positions of our units were destroyed by a precise fire

[13:40] 30.09.2020

The Armenian army's guns shelling the positions of the Azerbaijani armed forces have been destroyed by a precise fire, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Armenian armed forces shell Ashaghi Aghjakand village, Goranboy district

[13:31] 30.09.2020

“Artillery units of the Armenian armed forces have started shelling the Ashaghi Aghjakand village of Goranboy district,” Azerbaijani Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

“The Azerbaijani army is taking adequate retaliatory measures,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Indonesia's National Awakening Party issues statement condemning Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan

[13:23] 30.09.2020

The National Awakening Party of the Indonesian parliament has issued a statement on the latest military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, sovereignty and security of its citizens.

Issued on behalf of Member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia from the faction of National Awakening Party, Chairperson of Fatayat NU Anggia Erma Rini and on behalf of the National Awakening Party, the statement reads: "Regarding the Armenian armed forces' blatant violations of ceasefire and attacks starting from September 27, 2020 against the civilian population of Azerbaijan, alongside the front line, in Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan we strongly disagree with the aggression. As a result, there have been casualties among the civilians and military servicemen of Azerbaijan. Extensive damage has been inflicted on many homes and other civilian infrastructure.

We strongly urge Armenia to respect principles of the international law, the international humanitarian law as well as all relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and insist that Armenia immediately and unconditionally withdraw all its troops from the all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

We support all actions taken by Azerbaijan, including counter-offensive measures undertaken by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the right of self-defense and in full compliance with the international humanitarian law in order to repel military aggression by Armenia and ensure the security of civilians and densely populated residential areas deep inside the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan.

On behalf of my group and on my own behalf, I extend my deepest condolences to families and loved ones of Martyrs and the whole people of Azerbaijan. May Allah rest the souls of the Martyrs in peace!"

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: A fire attack was inflicted on enemy's command post of the regiment

[12:40] 30.09.2020

“A fire attack was inflicted on Armenia's command post of the 41st separate artillery regiment of the 18th motorized rifle division,” Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The control of troops has been completely disrupted. There are many killed and wounded among the military personnel. The regiment command asks for help to evacuate the wounded,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense addresses volunteers who want to join fighting

[11:36] 30.09.2020

“The success of the Azerbaijan Army in the battles against the enemy for the liberation of our lands has caused a rise in the fighting spirit of our people. Encouraged by the success of the Azerbaijani soldier, tens of thousands of our compatriots contacted the Ministry of Defense and expressed their desire to join the battles voluntarily together with our Army,” a statement by Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense says.

“The leadership of the Ministry of Defense thanks everyone for their moral support of Azerbaijani soldier and expresses his deep gratitude to those who want to join the fighting and be with our servicemen on the battlefield.

We state that our citizens with combat experience who wish to participate voluntarily in battles should apply to the State Service for Mobilization and Conscription, not to military units.

Victory is with us! Homeland will be liberated from the occupation!” the statement by the ministry adds.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: As a result of heavy artillery shelling of Tartar city by Armenian military units, 7 civilians were injured

[11:18] 30.09.2020

As reported earlier, the military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law. Densely populated areas - regional and rural centers, civil infrastructure objects - hospitals, medical centers, school buildings, kindergartens are selected as targets.

“On September 30, at about 08:00 as a result of heavy artillery shelling of Tartar city by Armenian military units, 7 civilians were hospitalized with various injuries, and extensive damage was inflicted to civilian infrastructure,” press service of the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“At present combat conditions all necessary investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities. Appropriate examinations to determine the severity of bodily injuries, as well as to estimate the amount of damage inflicted to civilian infrastructure are defined.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan is taking all necessary steps to ensure that servicemen of the Armenian armed forces who have committed various crimes are prosecuted and punished within the frames of international law,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

Enemy subjected to artillery fire city of Tartar

[10:47] 30.09.2020

On September 30, starting at 08.00 am, the units of the armed forces of Armenia subjected to artillery fire the Tartar city, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“According to initial reports, civilian infrastructure was damaged, and there are wounded,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Up to 2,300 enemy soldiers were killed

[10:40] 30.09.2020

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense has said that intense battles of the Azerbaijan Army for the liberation of the occupied lands continue.

“Starting from September 27 until this morning, about 2,300 enemy servicemen were killed and wounded, about 130 tanks and other armored vehicles, more than 200 artillery pieces, multiple launch rocket systems, grenade launchers, about 25 air defense systems, 6 command posts, and command-observation posts, 5 ammunition depots, about 50 anti-tank weapons, 55 vehicles were destroyed and forced out of operation.

During yesterday's fighting on the territory of Shushakand of Khojaly region, one S-300 anti-aircraft missile system was destroyed.

The enemy, who had concentrated additional forces in the Madagiz direction to regain lost positions, attempted to attack in the early morning of September 30.

Currently, combat operations are conducted along the entire front,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Enemy group is surrounded

[10:21] 30.09.2020

“An operation to destroy the surrounded Armenian forces by an artillery fire and clean up the area in the Aghdara-Tartar direction of the front is underway,” press service of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Ministry of Defence: The positions of Armenian army have been defeated

[08:11] 30.09.2020

"As a result of the Azerbaijan Army's artillery strikes, the positions of the 1st battalion of the 5th motorized rifle regiment stationed near the Hasangaya settlement of the Tartar region and the 1st battalion of the 6th motorized rifle regiment of the Armenian armed forces stationed in the Talish direction were destroyed," press service of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry told AZERTAC.

"The enemy, who has suffered heavy losses, is facing difficulties in finding equipment for organizing the evacuation of the dead and wounded," the ministry added.

AZERTAC

September 29

Release of the Press Service of the President

[22:18] 29.09.2020

On 29 September, Amir of the State of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani made a phone call to President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

During the conversation, they discussed the issues relating to bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Amir of the State of Qatar and the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan also discussed the issues relating to tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In this regard, the Amir of Qatar called to calm the situation, and try to resolve the dispute between the two countries through dialogue and diplomatic means by protecting the interests of both countries and peoples.

President Ilham Aliyev noted that on September 27, Armenia committed another military provocation against Azerbaijan. As a result of Armenia's heavy artillery shelling of our residential settlements and military units along the line of contact, our civilians and servicemen were killed.

Giving a worthy response to the enemy, the Azerbaijani army performs successful counter-offensive operations.

The head of state emphasized that the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict can be resolved only on the basis of norms and principles of international law, within the framework of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev responded to questions in “60 minutes” program of Rossiya-1” TV channel I

[21:37] 29.09.2020

On September 29, the Rossiya-1 TV channel broadcast the “60 minutes” program dedicated to the latest events on the Azerbaijani-Armenian line of contact.

AZERTAC reports that, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan responded to questions from the hosts on the program.

The hosts first asked questions of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

Host: Mr. President, thank you for agreeing to this interview. What is happening at the front right now? Information about the use of aviation is already coming in.

President Ilham Aliyev: The situation at the front is tense. As a result of the Armenian military provocation, which began on the morning of 27 September, Azerbaijani settlements and our combat positions were subjected to massive artillery fire. As a result of this aggression, 11 Azerbaijani civilians, including two children, were killed. There are also casualties among the military. We were forced to give an adequate response to the aggressor and thus protect our people and our land. So fierce battles have been going on for three days now, as a result of which the Azerbaijani Army has liberated a number of settlements from occupation and also seized strategic heights in different directions. Today the situation is such that active hostilities are underway.

Host: Ilham Heydarovich, please clarify to us the role of Turkey. Ankara has officially, through its President and leaders of the Foreign Ministry, announced that it will help you on the battlefield.

President Ilham Aliyev: I believe that Turkey is playing a stabilizing role in the region. Turkey is our brotherly country and our ally. From the very first hour the world community learned that Armenia attacked Azerbaijan, Turkey spoke out unequivocally at the level of the head of state and other leaders in support of Azerbaijan, in support of international law. Armenia has grossly violated international law by occupying the territory of Azerbaijan for about 30 years. So the role of Turkey consists in that, nothing else. Turkey provides us with moral support, and we are grateful to the Turkish leadership, the President and the Turkish people for their solidarity and support. Turkey does not participate in this conflict in any other capacity. All the rumors that Turkey is participating as a party to the conflict being circulated by the Armenian side are of provocative nature. As they say now, this is fake news. There is no evidence of Turkey's involvement in the conflict and neither is that necessary. The Azerbaijani Army is sufficiently prepared to protect its people and territory.

Host: Ilham Heydarovich, so you do not confirm, moreover, you refute the information that Turkish Air Force shot down a plane of the Armenian Air Force literally an hour ago. It was about the F-16 and Su-25.

President Ilham Aliyev: We do not have this information. Just recently, I was informed that such news appeared in the information space. It is not confirmed by anything. The F-16 aircraft of the Turkish Air Force do not participate in hostilities in any way. You know, taking into account modern technologies, it is very difficult to conceal anything today, because there are objective forms of observation. There are satellite observations, and therefore it is very easy to verify that

this is another provocation. We understand the goal of the Armenian side – by creating such false news, they first want to belittle the combat capability of the Azerbaijani Army, which is now fulfilling the task of restoring its territorial integrity with dignity, and also to create the impression that the conflict is growing, that third countries are joining it. They are trying to attract as many countries as possible in order to justify their provocation. Therefore, I declare to you with full responsibility: Turkey is not a party to the conflict, does not participate in it in any way, and there is no need for this.

Host: Ilham Heydarovich, is your country ready to move towards the Kazan formula, within the framework of which Armenia must liberate several districts, or any other formula? What can be done in principle now? How can the situation be reversed if the conflict in Karabakh and Karabakh proper has been burning or at least smoldering for as many as 30 years? What to do?

President Ilham Aliyev: You know, Azerbaijan has always shown constructiveness on the negotiation track. And the co-chairs of the Minsk Group, who are responsible for the mediation mission, can confirm this. In particular, over the past two years, we have repeatedly stated, both myself and other officials, that we are committed to the principles of settlement that have been developed over the years and which the Minsk Group and its co-chairs consider the basis for the negotiating process. Moreover, we have stated repeatedly in the past two years and before that we are committed to the format of the negotiations. Negotiations are underway between Armenia and Azerbaijan. There are only two sides to the conflict. Sometimes, when talking about the conflict, there is a mention of all sides. This is an incorrect definition. Not all sides. There are only two sides – Armenia and Azerbaijan. But what has been happening in recent years, after the Soros coup which was carried out by the current government in Armenia? The Armenian prime minister publicly declares that Karabakh is Armenia, full stop. In this case, what kind of negotiations can we talk about? After all, the essence of the principles developed by the OSCE Minsk Group is that the territories around the former Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region should be transferred to Azerbaijan. And if he says that Karabakh is Armenia and, in addition, that we have to negotiate with the so-called puppet regime of Nagorno-Karabakh, thereby trying to undermine the format of negotiations that has already existed for 20 years, it means that Armenia deliberately disrupts the negotiations and puts forward unacceptable demands. When the Minsk Group recently began to speak more actively about who is still an obstacle to the settlement, they resorted to provocations like the one on 27 September. Before that, on 12 July, our positions at the state border were attacked. After that, on 23 August, when an Armenian sabotage group was captured, its leader was captured on the line of contact. Everything is being done to disrupt the negotiations, then accuse Azerbaijan, then involve third parties and thereby disrupt the negotiations. Because the Armenian side wants to maintain the status quo. The co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group represented by the presidents of Russia, France and the United States have repeatedly made statements that the status quo is unacceptable. And this means that the territories under occupation must be returned to Azerbaijan. We are committed to negotiations, but we see completely opposite actions from the Armenian side.

Host: Please tell us, Mr. President, what happened on Sunday, what provoked such a large-scale and bloody confrontation?

President Ilham Aliyev: You know, Armenia had been moving towards this Sunday, towards what happened on Sunday for several months. If you trace the chronology of their actions and statements, you will clearly see that they deliberately went for this provocation. Not so long ago, speaking at the UN General Assembly, I openly said that Armenia was preparing for war and it must be stopped. In July, they launched an armed attack on our settlements at the state border. This is far from the conflict zone. One civilian and several servicemen were killed then. The clashes lasted four days, and since we did not have and do not have any military targets on the territory of Armenia, as soon as the Armenian armed forces were driven back from our territory, the fire was ceased by mutual agreement. Then, as I said, a sabotage group infiltrated our territory and was neutralized. Then the Armenian side publicly and defiantly announced the resettlement of Armenians from Lebanon to the occupied territories and to our ancient Azerbaijani city of Shusha, which is a war crime. This is a violation of the Geneva Convention. This is done demonstratively. Prior to that, they held the so-called swearing-in ceremony for the so-called leader of the criminal Nagorno-Karabakh regime in Shusha, an ancient pearl of Azerbaijani culture. All these are deliberate provocations against us, attempts to drag us into conflict and provoke retaliatory actions. We showed restraint, constructiveness and common sense, but when they failed, they made this attempt. Moreover, another reason is the internal political crisis that exists in Armenia. After all, there is a Soros regime in Armenia today. The coup that failed in Belarus was successful in Yerevan two years ago. Today the Armenian leader in the person of Pashinyan is Soros' henchman, a man who made a lot of promises and who cannot fulfill them, and the country is in crisis.

So he needed an external factor, some kind of a mess, so to speak, in order to divert the attention of the population, which he succeeded in doing. Moreover, literally two days before they attacked us, the leader of the main opposition party in Armenia was arrested again. So, the dictatorial and despotic regime of Pashinyan eliminated the entire opposition in his country and is now demonstrating aggression against the Azerbaijani people again.

Host: Your position is clear. Many thanks! Can you please say quite briefly: yes or no. Are there fighters from Syria on the front right now?

President Ilham Aliyev: No! This is more fake news. There are no fighters from Syria. There is no evidence, no proof. This has been introduced by Armenian propaganda and circulates through different websites and different media. There is no need for this. Azerbaijan has a trained army and a very large mobilization reserve. Just yesterday, I announced partial mobilization, we are calling tens of thousands of reservists under arms, and with a population of 10 million versus 2 million in Armenia we have no need for human resources. Therefore, we are able to stand up for ourselves and punish the aggressor so that he doesn't venture even to look in our direction.

Host: Thank you very much! Ilham Aliyev was on the line with us from Baku. Peace to you. Good bye!

President Ilham Aliyev: Thank you! Good bye!

Host: Now we are being joined by Yerevan. The Armenian leader, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan is on the line. Nikol Vovayevich, hello. First of all, we would like to ask you to comment on what is happening right now. There is some very disturbing news coming in.

Nikol Pashinyan: This morning the news is that Azerbaijan bombed villages directly on the territory of the Republic of Armenia. And before that, on 27 September, the Armed Forces of

Azerbaijan launched a full-scale military aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh. For three days, they have been bombing the settlements of Nagorno-Karabakh using artillery and multiple launch rocket systems. Unfortunately, we have casualties not only among the military, but also among the civilian population. A very important nuance is that Turkey is actually involved in this process. According to our reliable information, military instructors and high-ranking military personnel are now in the command posts of Azerbaijan and in some places they even direct military operations. Another very important nuance – there have already been many publications in international media outlets that Turkey is recruiting mercenaries in Syria and transporting them to Azerbaijan to participate in the war against Nagorno-Karabakh and the Republic of Armenia. By the way, there is information that right in Azerbaijani settlements there were some clashes between these mercenaries and local residents, because these mercenaries are trying to impose Sharia law in these villages. They go into shops and demand that these shops stop selling alcoholic products, etc.

Host: Mr. Pashinyan, the news has just come in that a Turkish F-16 shot down a Su-25 of the Armenian Air Force. Moreover, the news came in with reference to the Armenian Ministry of Defense. The pilot died. Are you aware of this? What can this mean if planes of Armenia and Turkey are already colliding in the sky?

Nikol Pashinyan: This is a fact that has already taken place and is yet another proof of what I was talking about. You know, it is obvious that both Armenia and the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh are under the direct threat of Turkey now. Turkey, according to our information, is looking for a reason for wider involvement in this conflict. According to our information, they are looking for an excuse to bring their troops to Nakhchivan. It is an Azerbaijani enclave bordering Turkey, Armenia and Iran. Although we have information here that some units of the Turkish army are already present there. In general, this is no secret. Turkish troops have already been in Azerbaijan since August. They began joint military exercises, and this war began as a continuation of these military exercises.

Host: Nikolay Vovayevich, many experts these days are formulating and explaining everything that is now happening in Nagorno-Karabakh quite rigidly. The word war is floating around. To what extent is it correct and appropriate to use this word and is it possible to do at least something in order to stop the bloodshed and stop the fire?

Nikol Pashinyan: Well, of course, this is the correct wording. Because there is a war going on. There is a lot of destruction, casualties and a huge number of military personnel involved, and this is a very important nuance for us. As you know, at the beginning of the 20th century, the first genocide of the 20th century took place. This happened in the Ottoman Empire, and the Armenian people fell victim to that genocide. Therefore, we all perceive this as an existential threat to our people. In fact, we perceive it as a war that was declared to the Armenian people. Our people are now simply forced to exercise their right to self-defense. What can we do? The international community must resolutely condemn the aggressive actions and aggression of Azerbaijan, condemn the actions of Turkey, demand that Turkey withdraw from this region altogether, because Turkey's military presence in the South Caucasus does not promise anything good. This can lead to further escalation and an increase in the scale of this military action, this war. The international community must take specific steps to force Turkey to withdraw from the South Caucasus and force Azerbaijan to stop aggression and aggressive actions, military operations.

Host: Prime Minister, we will not detain you any longer. We know that you need to run to a meeting with the military. A very short question: what negotiation formats can work now? Or have all the previous agreements already been thrown into the past – relatively speaking, the Kazan format, according to which you must liberate several districts? Have all these agreements been erased or is it still possible to move along them?

Nikol Pashinyan: You know, as far as the format of negotiations is concerned, we believe that the negotiations should continue where they were started – with the co-chairmanship of the OSCE Minsk Group. As for specific negotiations, negotiations need to have an appropriate atmosphere. It is very difficult to talk about negotiations, especially about their content, when military action is taking place. First of all, violence must be stopped, and it must be stated. Azerbaijan must accept the formula that there is no military solution for the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. After all, this war did not start from scratch. For a long time, the Azerbaijani government has been developing a rhetoric of hatred against Armenians and has been threatening for a long time, contrary to international appeals, that it is going to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh issue by military means. I hope that at least these events and the situation we now have will convince Azerbaijan that there is no military solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Because the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan have failed to fulfill their task. I think the military-political leadership could not achieve any success in the military sense at the front. That is, they could not resolve their problem. I hope this will convince Azerbaijan that there is no military solution to this conflict. There is only a peaceful and negotiated solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and any solution must be acceptable not only to Azerbaijan, but also to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. After all, I want to state that when I became prime minister, I proposed and continued to offer a specific formula for resolving this conflict that any solution should be acceptable to Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan. The names of the countries doesn't matter. I mean that this solution should be equally acceptable. Unfortunately, the government of Azerbaijan, the President of Azerbaijan want to reach a solution that will be acceptable only to Azerbaijan. That is impossible. A compromise is needed, and an atmosphere is needed for a compromise, and to do that Azerbaijan must immediately stop its aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia because Azerbaijan started it. By the way, and it was a pre-planned operation, and there is no doubt that this operation was planned during the military exercises in conjunction with the Turkish armed forces. Thank you.

Host: Thank you very much! Let's proceed from the fact that the option should be really acceptable both for Armenia and, of course, for Azerbaijan. There is no military solution to this conflict. Only politics and the diplomatic path. Thank you!

X X X

Political and military experts then joined the discussions.

Igor Korotchenko, Editor-in-Chief of the “Natsionalnaya oborona” magazine:

- I listened to the speeches of the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia very attentively. Undoubtedly, it was an absolutely clear, logical, precise and consistent speech by Ilham Aliyev. This is the MGIMO school. MGIMO trains great personnel! Now to the essence of what has been said. President Ilham Aliyev is right when he said absolutely correctly that with the current level of development of intelligence technologies – satellite, electronic, undercover – it is impossible to

conceal the fact that if Turkish fighters were really deployed to the territory of Azerbaijan, this would be exposed quite easily by any country that has satellite intelligence... Today the Nagorno-Karabakh region is closely monitored by all the leading countries of the world. I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the following. We are all adherents of international law. From the point of view of the norms of international law, military action today is taking place on the territory of Azerbaijan, between the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan and Armenian military formations.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Prosecutor General addresses his Russian counterpart

[21:25] 29.09.2020

“A number of Russian media and social networks reported that Ara Abrahamyan, head of the Union of Armenians of Russia, would voluntarily send about 20 thousand Armenian compatriots living in Russia to Nagorno-Karabakh with the help of the Armenian diaspora in Russia,” press service of the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC,

“In addition, the chairman of the Center for the Study of the Middle East and Central Asia, Semyon Bagdasarov, shared his views in the “Vzglyad” newspaper about the shelling of the Ganja and Dashkasan districts inhabited by Azerbaijani citizens, as well as the Baku-Ceyhan gas pipeline of international strategic importance.

In this regard, Kamran Aliyev, the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in his address to Igor Krasnov, the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation and Alexander Bastrykin, the Chairman of the Investigative Committee, stated that from September 27 the military-political leadership of Armenia continued its provocative actions, blatantly violating the basic norms and principles of international humanitarian law. In contradiction with its obligations under the Geneva Conventions and UN Security Council resolutions, Armenian armed forces shelled densely populated areas of Azerbaijan from heavy artillery, resulting in civilian casualties.

The address also states that densely populated areas - district and village centers, civil infrastructure facilities - hospitals, medical centers, school buildings, kindergartens are chosen as targets.

Given the current situation and the above, the Prosecutor General in his address asked to take all necessary legal actions about persons and organizations pursuing an aggressive policy against the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including those who openly call for the commission of crimes provided for in Articles 208.1 (establishment of an armed group not provided for by federal law, as well as the leadership or financing of such an organization), 205.2.2 (open calls for terrorist activities using the media, public justification of terrorism or propaganda of terrorism), 280.2 (open calls to extremist activities using the media), Article 282.2 (b) (incitement to hatred or enmity, as well as humiliation of human dignity), Article 359.3 (mercenarism) and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. Kamran Aliyev also expressed hope that the issue would be taken under his personal control,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

**Mehriban Aliyeva: May the Almighty grant every Azerbaijani the chance to kiss
the sacred Karabakh soil!**

[21:10] 29.09.2020

“The Azerbaijani state has never laid claim to anyone else’s lands, has never committed crimes against humanity. The Azerbaijani Army has never set foot on the lands of another state, it defends and fights for its native land,” First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva has posted on her official Instagram page, AZERTAC reports.

The post says: “Yet another armed provocation of Armenia has been rebuffed! Defending the Motherland, the Azerbaijani Army is conducting a successful counter-offensive operation and liberating the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

I express my gratitude to all people, organizations and states that have expressed their principled and fair position in support of the Azerbaijani state and people. First of all, I express my deep gratitude to the brotherly people of Turkey and personally to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Their solidarity and support evoke a sense of pride in every Azerbaijani today.

I pray for the life and health of every Azerbaijani soldier and officer!

We, the Azerbaijanis, are united in our thoughts, actions and prayers more than ever today!
May the Great Allah protect the Azerbaijani people in their sacred struggle!

May the Almighty grant every Azerbaijani the chance to kiss the sacred Karabakh soil!

May Allah rest the souls of our martyrs in peace!”

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: 12 people killed, 35 other hospitalized as enemy's armed forces shelled Azerbaijani civilian population

[20:21] 29.09.2020

“As a result of another heavy artillery shelling of the Azerbaijani civilian population by the enemy's armed forces at the behest of the Armenian military-political leadership, a total of 35 civilians have been hospitalized with various injuries, and 12 people have been killed,” press service of the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“As a result of the shelling of by the aggressor Armenia, 66 houses, 8 civilian facilities have fallen in disrepair, small and large horned animals and haystacks were destroyed.

At present, all possible investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities. Appropriate examinations to determine the severity of bodily injuries, as well as to estimate the amount of damage inflicted to civilian infrastructure are defined.

The public will be regularly updated with the latest information,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation strongly condemns Armenia's new act of aggression against Azerbaijan

[20:14] 29.09.2020

The International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation has issued a statement condemning Armenia's new act of aggression against Azerbaijan.

The statement reads:

“The International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation strongly condemns yet another violation of the ceasefire by Armenia on September 27 of this year, as well as its occupied policy aimed at carrying out military provocations on the historical lands of Azerbaijan, insulting and destroying its cultural heritage, including ancient and religious monuments, shelling of civilians.

The International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation stresses the importance of fulfilling the relevant resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council on the unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the occupied territories and ensuring the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

The International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation supports the fair policy of Azerbaijan in relation to its ancestral lands and calls on the world community to adequately respond to the aggressive policy of Armenia.

The International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation commemorates the memory of those killed as a result of military provocations of Armenia, expresses deep condolences to their families and all Azerbaijani people, wishes a speedy recovery to the wounded.”

AZERTAC

Colonel Vagif Dargahli: The shooting down of Armenian Su-25 aircraft by F-16 fighter is another fantasy of the enemy's military propaganda machine

[19:34] 29.09.2020

“The information spread by the Armenian media about the alleged shooting down of the Su-25 plane belonging to the Armenian Air Force by an F-16 fighter is fake and is another fantasy of the Armenian military propaganda machine,” chief of the press service of Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense Colonel Vagif Dargahli told AZERTAC.

“Such information disseminated by the Armenian side is provocative and is aimed at attracting the attention of the international community,” Colonel Dargahli said.

AZERTAC

Chairman of Caucasian Muslims Office addresses to people of Azerbaijan

[18:44] 29.09.2020

Chairman of the Caucasian Muslims Office Sheikh-ul-islam Allahshukur Pashazade has addressed the Azerbaijani people.

The address sent to AZERTAC from the press service of the Caucasian Muslims Office says:

“Addressing the Azerbaijani people, I pray to the Almighty to prolong our victories achieved over the past few days in the legitimate struggle for the liberation of our lands from Armenian occupiers and to rest the souls of our brave sons who have become martyrs in peace. Our people rose to war for the territorial integrity of the Motherland. The War for the Motherland is a just war. From time immemorial, we have been a peace-loving people who have never coveted foreign lands. We treat universal human values with the same attention, care and respect as we treat our national and spiritual values. But the reality is that we are faced with the claims of the Armenian invaders to our ancestral lands, occupation, terror, ethnic cleansing against our people, a purposeful policy of destruction of our religious and cultural sites. This constant aggression has drained the patience of the Azerbaijani people. The occupation and moral aggression that has been going on for over 30 years must end. Justice must prevail. Now, in response to the regular provocations of the occupying country Armenia, Azerbaijan has found itself in the arena of military operations. This is an arena for the triumph of justice. The occupier, who has ignored the fair voice of Azerbaijan and the calls of mankind for peace for many years, undermined the efforts of the international community, desecrated our spiritual values, destroyed our religious hearths, turned the land of our fathers into ruins, razed cemeteries to the ground, tried to erase our traces and distort our history, who vandalizes sites of universal importance is finally being held accountable for what it has done in the arena of hostilities. The Armenians’ appeal to the European Court of Human Rights is a genuine hypocrisy that does not fit into any frames. As the head of our state has noted, what is the Armenian soldier doing on our lands?!

Azerbaijan is restoring its territorial integrity recognized by the international community and the United Nations, and is fighting for its own lands. As a civilized society based on international law, we hoped for a just negotiated settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We pinned great hopes on the numerous visits, meetings and negotiations under the auspices of international organizations acting in the interests of a peaceful settlement of this conflict, and we value these efforts. However, the Armenian side is doing everything possible to render these efforts futile. The world community is not applying sanctions against extremism and terror in Armenia, a country that ignores international law, demonstratively fails to comply with UN resolutions, a country that has committed genocide against the Azerbaijanis in Khojaly, destroyed our mosques and cemeteries, desecrated our spiritual values, exterminated the civilian population, women, children, old people, destroyed their homes, thereby violating international conventions.

As a religious leader and Sheikh-ul-Islam of the Caucasus, I was joined by the heads of religious confessions in Azerbaijan all these years in our regular appeals to international organizations, parliaments of different countries, political and religious leaders, informing them about the crimes of the Armenian side. Since the beginning of the conflict, I have repeatedly held

meetings with representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Georgian Orthodox Church, the World Council of Churches, the Vatican and Muslim religious centers in the name of a peaceful settlement of the conflict, participated in negotiations with the Armenian Church. As a result, we succeeded in making sure that the conflict did not slide into the plane of interreligious confrontation. Unfortunately, the Armenian side did not show commitment to the joint statements we signed. Trying in every possible way to disguise its occupation-extremist policy, Armenia tried to give the conflict a religious coloring, to portray it as a confrontation between Christians and Muslims. I declare absolutely unequivocally: we do not lay claims to anyone else's lands. The only goal of the Azerbaijani people is to save the Motherland from aggression and liberate the ancestral Azerbaijani lands from Armenian invaders.

The Caucasian Muslims Office congratulates the Commander-in-Chief and all our people on the successes achieved by our glorious army in the name of the Motherland. These successes are the harbingers of the great victory we deserve. May Allah protect the glorious Azerbaijani army, which has given a fitting rebuff to the enemy! Our soldiers, filled with bright love of the Motherland, are forever in our hearts. We, religious leaders, pray for the victory in the legitimate struggle of our people and the triumph of justice. We are always ready to be shoulder to shoulder with our soldiers, to provide them with support. The homeland is calling us. Our national pride and courage, spiritual unity and solidarity against oppression and injustice must be higher than ever. All Azerbaijanis, regardless of their nationality, religion, political views and place of residence, must act as a united front against the common enemy, rally into a fist. As the head of our state emphasized, "Together we are strong!"

The appeal of the Commander-in-Chief and President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to the people on the occasion of the triumph of the Azerbaijani army filled all our people, including ourselves, believers and religious leaders who are an integral part of our society, with happiness and joy. The courage and bravery of our residents standing up against Armenian invaders, who committed provocative actions both in Karabakh and in the Tovuz direction, are an example of civic consciousness that inspires our people. The desire of millions of believers is in tune with the desire of our entire people to liberate the occupied lands under the leadership of the Commander-in-Chief. The believers of our country, as always, continue to support the decisive steps of the head of state and are ready to contribute to the achievement of a historic victory under the leadership of the Commander-in-Chief. Addressing the Azerbaijani people, we pray for the repose of the souls of our martyrs who gave their lives on the path of a just struggle for the salvation of our religious and spiritual values and the repose of our ancestors. We pray for the healing of the wounded. May the Almighty be with us! May Allah protect our Azerbaijan, may Allah grant victory to our Commander-in-Chief, our country, army and people! Amen!"

AZERTAC

Armenian servicemen shell residential complex for IDPs

[18:23] 29.09.2020

Early this morning, the Armenian armed forces have shelled a new residential complex for 1,170 IDP families, which was inaugurated in 2017 in Tartar district.

AZERTAC's regional correspondent reports that seven out of 34 residential buildings in the complex, as well as infrastructure, were severely damaged.

Azerbaijani Army gives a fitting response to the enemy's provocation.

Armenia is committing a war crime by shelling attacks on the civilian population and demonstrates that it is using terror against civilians and once again grossly violating international humanitarian law.

AZERTAC

Prosecutor General's Office: By now, 33 civilians in total have been hospitalized with various injuries

[17:15] 29.09.2020

“As reported earlier, the military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law.

At the behest of the hypocritical and unconstructive Armenian military-political leadership, the enemy's armed forces continue to subject densely populated areas - regional and rural centers, civil infrastructure objects - hospitals, medical centers, school buildings, kindergartens to intensive artillery bombardment.

By now, 33 civilians in total have been hospitalized with various injuries,” press service of the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“As a result of the shelling by the enemy, 65 residential buildings and 5 civilian objects were seriously damaged, small and large horned animals and haystacks were destroyed.

We deeply regret to inform that, on September 29 at about 13:00 as a result of the enemy's intensive artillery shelling on the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan, Sariyev Elmaddin Humbat, born in 1997, a resident of Garadaghli village, Aghdam district, was killed by shrapnel fragments falling on a medical center. The building of the center was destroyed and the residents in that area were evacuated.

Upon the fact a criminal case has been initiated by Aghdam Prosecutor's Office under Article 120.2.1 (deliberate murder committed by criminal community (organization)), Article 120.2.4 (deliberate murder committed with special cruelty or in publicly dangers way), Article 120.2.12 (deliberate murder on motive of national, racial, religious hatred or enmity), Article 100.2 (conducting aggressive war), Articles 186.3 (deliberate destruction or damage of another's property causing especially large amount of damage to a victim), and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At present, all possible investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities. Appropriate examinations to determine the severity of bodily injuries, as well as to estimate the amount of damage inflicted to civilian infrastructure are appointed.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan is taking all necessary steps to ensure that servicemen of the Armenian armed forces who have committed various crimes are prosecuted and punished within the frames of international law,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

President of Turkish Interparliamentary Union Group makes phone call to Azerbaijan`s Parliament Speaker

[16:19] 29.09.2020

President of the Turkish Interparliamentary Union Group of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Ravza Kavakcı has made a phone call to Speaker of Azerbaijan`s Parliament Sahiba Gafarova.

The Speaker of the Parliament stressed the importance of support of Turkish officials and public figures to Azerbaijan regarding course of events in Nagorno-Karabakh. Mrs. Gafarova noted during her phone conversation with her counterpart Mustafa Shentop, the Chairman of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey mentioned his country supports Azerbaijan`s just position. "This is an embodiment of "One nation, two states" expression," she added.

The Speaker also hailed expression of solidarity in the statements of all political parties represented in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

AZERTAC

Colonel Dargahli: The S-300 air defense missile systems put forward for use in battles will be destroyed as soon as they enter our occupied territories

[16:08] 29.09.2020

“According to our intelligence information, the S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems, defending the airspace of Yerevan, have been removed from combat duty and are moving in the direction of the occupied territories,” chief of the press service of Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry Colonel Vagif Dargahli told AZERTAC.

“We declare that they will face the fate of the destroyed military equipment of the Armenian army in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The recent battles once again show that the myth of the invincibility of the Armenian army is unfounded,” Colonel Dargahli said.

AZERTAC

Mevlut Cavusoglu: Armenia's withdrawal only solution to Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

[15:59] 29.09.2020

The Nagorno-Karabakh dispute can only be solved with the withdrawal of Armenia from Azerbaijani territories, Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the news conference in Ankara following his visit to Khazar Ibrahim, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Turkey, Mevlut Cavusoglu reiterated Turkey's full support to Azerbaijan.

"We, as Turkey, always stand with brotherly Azerbaijan as they always side with Turkey," he said, adding that they are determined to solve the dispute completely.

Referring to international organizations' decisions on the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, Cavusoglu criticized the parties including the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) over taking no concrete steps towards solving the problem.

AZERTAC

Colonel Dargahli: The Armenian army's regiment in Madagiz is completely demoralized

[14:47] 29.09.2020

“As a result of a large-scale combat operation of the Azerbaijan Army, the Armenian army's regiment in Madagiz was completely demoralized, and agony began,” chief of the press service of Azerbaijani Defense Ministry Vagif Dargahli told AZERTAC.

“The military personnel are in a panic. Many of them, including the newly arrived reservists for replenishment, refuse to join the battle, and are leaving the area of combat operation,” Dargahli said.

AZERTAC

Colonel: Azerbaijani army destroys Armenia's command and observation post

[13:41] 29.09.2020

“A command and observation post of the Armenian armed forces has been destroyed, chief of Azerbaijani Defence Ministry's press service Colonel Vagif Dargahli said.

“A command and observation post of the 3rd battalion of the 1st regiment of the Armenian army, stationed in the direction of the settlement of Hadrut of the Khojavand district was destroyed by precise fire,” Dargahli added.

AZERTAC

Colonel Dargahli: Helicopters not involved in today's battles

[13:28] 29.09.2020

“Armenian reports on the alleged downing of an helicopter of the Azerbaijani Air Force is another disinformation,” chief of the press service of Azerbaijani Defense Ministry Colonel Vagif Dargahli told AZERTAC.

“The Azerbaijani army did not use helicopters in today's battles,” Dargahli added.

AZERTAC

Release of the Press Service of the President

[13:20] 29.09.2020

On September 29, Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Angela Merkel made a phone call to President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

German Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed her country's concern over the armed clashes on the line of contact between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and inquired about the course of events.

President Ilham Aliyev noted that in the morning of September 27, Armenia committed a military provocation against Azerbaijan and shelled military units, towns and villages of Azerbaijan along the line of contact using heavy artillery, as a result of which Azerbaijani servicemen, 10 civilians, including two children were killed, 29 civilians were wounded, 150 houses were destroyed during two days. The head of state said the Azerbaijani side launched a counter-offensive operation.

The President noted that previously Armenia committed military provocations against Azerbaijan in July-August as well, killing Azerbaijani servicemen and civilians. President Ilham Aliyev emphasized that these provocations were a continuation of Armenia's policy of aggression against Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijani President noted that the Armenian Prime Minister's statement "Karabakh is Armenia, full stop" made the negotiation process senseless, and that the Armenian leadership's demand that Azerbaijan negotiate with the self-styled "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" should be assessed as an attempt to change the format of negotiations. At the same time, the head of state said that the Armenian defense minister had threatened Azerbaijan with a new war for new territories, adding that this plan was being implemented in reality.

President Ilham Aliyev stressed that the military-political leadership of Armenia was responsible for further development of events in the wake of Armenia's military provocation, saying the Azerbaijani Army was fighting on its own land and the Armenian army should not be present on the Azerbaijani soil.

President Ilham Aliyev added that Armenia was conducting a policy of illegal settlement of foreign citizens in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, which is a gross violation of international law under the Geneva Convention, adding that it is considered a war crime.

During the telephone conversation, the possibilities to restore the ceasefire and the negotiation process were discussed.

AZERTAC

Armenians fire on 14-year-old child in Jojug Marjanli

[13:07] 29.09.2020

As reported earlier, the military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law, press service of Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“On September 28 at about 18:00 Haziyev Hilal Ilgar, born in 2006, resident of Jojug Marjanli village, Jabrayil district, was hospitalized with shrapnel wounds in the head as a result of a fire opened by the Armenian armed forces while he was grazing sheep in the village.

Upon the fact a criminal case has been initiated by Jabrail Prosecutor's Office under Article 100.2 (conducting aggressive war), Articles 29, 120.2.1 (deliberate murder committed by criminal community (organization)), Articles 29, 120.2.4 (deliberate murder committed with special cruelty or in publicly dangerous way), Articles 29, 120.2.12 (deliberate murder on motive of national, racial, religious hatred or enmity), and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Given the present combat conditions all necessary investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities.”

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan conducts the necessary documentation and collects evidence to ensure that servicemen of the Armenian Armed Forces who have committed various crimes are prosecuted and punished in accordance with international law.

The public will be regularly updated with the latest information,” the Prosecutor General's Office added.

AZERTAC

Colonel Dargahli: Another Armenian military officer eliminated

[12:40] 29.09.2020

Another officer of the Armenian army has been killed, said Colonel Vagif Dargahli, chief of the press service of Azerbaijani Defense Ministry.

“Spartak Kocharyan, an officer of the military unit #13516 of the Armenian army’s 61st special engineer regiment, deployed in the Echmiadzin region and involved in the fighting in the occupied Azerbaijani territories, was killed today,” Dargahli said.

AZERTAC

Ambassador affirms Pakistan`s support for Azerbaijan amid Armenian provocation

[11:54] 29.09.2020

Pakistan`s newly appointed ambassador Bilal Hayee has expressed his country`s backing for Azerbaijan as the country is engaged in fierce clashes with Armenia after the Armenian troops committed a massive attack on Azerbaijani civil settlements and army positions.

Hayee said Pakistan had always stood by Azerbaijan in its just struggle, as he handed a copy of his diplomatic credentials to Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov.

The FM commended Pakistan for supporting Azerbaijan`s stance. He highlighted the latest act of Armenian aggression. Bayramov said the armed forces of Armenia shelled the Azerbaijani positions and villages along the line of contact which resulted in casualties among the civilian population. Noting that the attack was a continuation of the deliberate provocative actions carried out by Armenia in the latest months, the minister said Azerbaijan took appropriate counter-measures in execution of its legal right to self-defense and ensure security of civilians.

Minister Bayramov also stressed the importance of relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. He said the two countries maintained high-level cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and other fields, effectively collaborating and providing mutual support to each other in multilateral platforms.

AZERTAC

Australian Azerbaijanis appeal to country's Prime Minister on Armenian armed forces' latest provocation

[11:50] 29.09.2020

The Australian Azerbaijanian Association Inc (AAA) has made an appeal to Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison regarding the latest provocation committed by the Armenian armed forces against Azerbaijan on September 27, AAA President Michael Oyta told AZERTAC's special correspondent.

The appeal says: "We write to you on behalf of the Australian Azerbaijani community in relation to Armenia's criminal acts of war against Azerbaijan. On 12 July 2020 Armenian army reignited the war with Azerbaijan by shelling Azerbaijan's gas pipelines into the Tovuz region. Over the weeks the fighting deescalated until Sunday 27 September 2020 at 6:00am when the Armenian armed forces launched a shelling campaign on a family home in Gashalti village of Naftalan Azerbaijan. The shelling killed a civilian family of five and was an intentional violation of the Geneva Convention of 1949, and a violation of the ceasefire agreement. These breaches led to Azerbaijan carrying out a large-scale counter offensive operation to end the 27-year military occupation of Azerbaijan's Nagorno-Karabakh. At present Azerbaijan has liberated six strategic towns in Nagorno-Karabakh and expelled some hostile occupying forces from the region. The Australian Azerbaijani community supports Azerbaijan in its efforts to regain control of its homeland and reunite 1 million Azerbaijani internally displaced people with their homes in Nagorno-Karabakh. We had been hopeful that the conflict would resolve via diplomacy, however Armenia and its agents made it clear they had no intention of making any concessions on the matter. Particularly by declaring war on Azerbaijan when attacking the pipelines in Tovuz. Full responsibility for the present situation falls on the political-military leadership of Armenia. We ask the Australian Parliament to support the peaceful resolution of this matter by encouraging the Armenian people to respect the borders between Azerbaijan and Armenia."

Vugar Aghayev
Special Correspondent

AZERTAC

Colonel Vagif Dargahli: "Armenian side presents old videos to the population as new ones

[11:47] 29.09.2020

“Armenia's military propaganda machine, which is in a desperate situation after a series of successful military operations of the Azerbaijan Army, has launched a large-scale provocation in the information space,” chief of the press service of Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense Colonel Vagif Dargahli told AZERTAC.

“As always, such activity of the Armenian side includes presenting old videos from previous battles to the population as new ones. The goal is to pass their failure off to the population as their success,” Dargahli added.

AZERTAC

Colonel Dargahli: Azerbaijani armed forces destroy Armenia's regiment

[11:21] 29.09.2020

“As a result of the strikes by the Azerbaijani army, the 3rd Martuni motorized rifle regiment of the Armenian armed forces, stationed in Khojavand region, was destroyed, chief of the press service of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry Colonel Vagif Dargahli told AZERTAC.

“As a result, the Armenian side suffered heavy losses, the regiment was completely defeated,” Dargahli noted.

He added that the command of the Armenian army appealed to everyone with a request to deliver vehicles for the evacuation of the dead and wounded.

AZERTAC

Saudi Arabia calls for peaceful solution to Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

[10:36] 29.09.2020

Saudi Arabia has called for the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan to be resolved by “peaceful means,” Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported, according to the Al Arabiya.

“The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is following with great concern and interest the developments of the situation between Armenia and Azerbaijan,” SPA reported.

The agency said Saudi Arabia called for a ceasefire and urged the two parties to resolve the conflict by “peaceful means in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.”

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan`s Parliament Speaker highlights Armenia`s aggression in phone talk
with OSCE PA President**

[10:28] 29.09.2020

Speaker of Azerbaijan`s Parliament Sahiba Gafarova has had a telephone conversation with President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly George Tsereteli, during which she highlighted Armenia`s aggression against Azerbaijan.

They discussed the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

AZERTAC

Colonel Vagif Dargahli: Not an inch of the liberated territories has been lost

[10:20] 29.09.2020

“The Armenian side continues to spread provocative information,” chief of the press service of Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry Vagif Dargahli told AZERTAC.

“News spread by the Armenian side about the alleged return of part of the territories liberated by the Azerbaijan Army is misinformation.

We state that not an inch of the liberated territories has been lost. At present, the Azerbaijan Army is conducting an operation to break the enemy's resistance,” Colonel Dargahli said.

AZERTAC

Offensive operation ongoing to liberate Fuzuli, Defense Ministry

[10:16] 29.09.2020

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry has said an offensive operation has been ongoing since the morning hours of Tuesday to liberate the city of Fuzuli.

"Approximately at 07.00-08.00 in the morning, our heroic soldiers destroyed four more tanks of the Armenian troops in the Fuzuli-Jabrayil direction of the front. Currently, the combat operation is ongoing," the ministry said in a statement.

AZERTAC

Intense fighting continued during all night

[10:02] 29.09.2020

Intense fighting continued along the entire length of the front in the night from 28 to 29 September, press service of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The Armenian armed forces have repeatedly attempted to counterattack to regain the lost positions in the Fuzuli-Jabrayil and Aghdara-Tartar directions.

The units of the Azerbaijan Army stationed in these directions, having successfully defended, immediately suppressed all enemy attempts.

During the night battles, a mixed column of enemy armored vehicles and other combat vehicles moving from Madagiz in the direction of Aghdara, and an artillery battery providing fire support for its movement, were destroyed by the aviation assets of the Air Force and our troops stationed in this direction.

1 tank, 1 vehicle and up to 10 servicemen of the enemy, who tried to move to the fore in the Fuzuli-Jabrayil direction of the front in the morning, were destroyed by artillery fire.

Intense fighting continues. The enemy was forced to retreat, suffering heavy losses,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Territory of Dashkesan region shelled from Armenian territory

[09:13] 29.09.2020

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry has said the Armenian armed forces have been shelling the territory of Dashkesan region from the early hours of Tuesday.

"Armenia has committed another provocation. On September 29, starting from 07.30, the territory of the Dashkesan region of Azerbaijan is subjected to artillery fire from the territory of the Vardenis region of Armenia," the ministry said in a statement.

"Adequate retaliatory actions will be taken by the Azerbaijani Army," the ministry added.

AZERTAC

September 28

**President Ilham Aliyev met with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres
through videoconferencing**

[21:52] 28.09.2020

On the initiative of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, a meeting through videoconferencing has today been held between him and President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

President Ilham Aliyev provided information about the military provocation committed by Armenia against Azerbaijan yesterday, AZERTAC reports. He noted that on 27 September, Armenia used heavy artillery to fire on the positions of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces and settlements located along the line of contact. As a result of the attack, Azerbaijani civilians and servicemen were killed. The Azerbaijani side is conducting a successful counter-offensive operation in self-defense.

The head of state emphasized that this was not the first time the Armenian side had committed a military provocation. In particular, the occupying country perpetrated a similar provocation on the Azerbaijani-Armenian border in July this year and then, in August, an Armenian sabotage group attempted to cross the line of contact. At the same time, Armenia is illegally resettling foreign nationals from other countries in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, which represents a flagrant violation of international law under the Geneva Convention.

The President of Azerbaijan also noted that the Armenian prime minister had created armed groups of volunteers consisting of tens of thousands of civilians who were being forced to take part in military operations against Azerbaijan.

During the conversation, President Ilham Aliyev said he had talked about Armenia's preparations for a new war in his speech at the general debates of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.

The head of state said that the Armenian leadership was deliberately disrupting the negotiations. The statement of the Armenian leadership that "Nagorno-Karabakh is Armenia" dealt a serious blow to the talks. The statement that "Azerbaijan should hold talks with Nagorno-Karabakh" is an attempt to change the format of the talks, which is also unacceptable, as confirmed by the leadership of the Minsk Group.

President Ilham Aliyev said that the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict should be resolved only within the framework of international law and the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, on the basis of relevant UN Security Council resolutions calling for an immediate, unconditional and complete withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories.

During the conversation, the sides also recalled the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in response to COVID-19 initiated by Azerbaijan, and the head of state thanked the UN Secretary General for supporting this initiative. President Ilham Aliyev noted that Azerbaijan would continue to spare no efforts in the international arena to combat COVID-19.

The issues related to the prospects for cooperation between Azerbaijan and the UN were also discussed during the meeting in a videoconference format.

AZERTAC

Two killed, another two injured as a result of enemy's artillery shelling building for disabled and IDPs in Tartar

[21:14] 28.09.2020

“As reported earlier, the military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law.

At the behest of the hypocritical and unconstructive Armenian military-political leadership, the enemy's armed forces continue to subject densely populated areas - regional and rural centers, civil infrastructure objects - hospitals, medical centers, school buildings, kindergartens to intensive artillery bombardment,” the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“We deeply regret to inform that, on September 28 at about 19:00, residents of Tartar district - Abbasov Khalig Asif, born in 1981, and his brother Abbasov Elshan Asif, born in 1987, were killed as a result of artillery shelling hitting the yard of an apartment building built for the disabled and IDPs in Shikh Arkh settlement of Tartar district. Mammadov Seymur Fuzuli, born in 1984, and Mahmudov Faig Malik, born in 1989, were hospitalized with various injuries.

Upon the fact a criminal case has been initiated by Tartar Prosecutor's Office under Article 100.2 (conducting aggressive war), Article 120.2.1 (deliberate murder committed by criminal community (organization)), Article 120.2.4 (deliberate murder committed with special cruelty or in publicly dangerous way), 120.2.12 (deliberate murder on motive of national, racial, religious hatred or enmity), Articles 29, 120.2.7 (deliberate murder of two or more persons), and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Given the present combat conditions all necessary investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan conducts the necessary documentation and collects evidence to ensure that servicemen of the Armenian Armed Forces who have committed various crimes are prosecuted and punished in accordance with international law.

The public will be regularly updated with the latest information,” the Prosecutor General's Office added.

AZERTAC

OIC condemns repeated provocations and aggression by Armenian military forces against Azerbaijan

[21:09] 28.09.2020

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has condemned Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan.

"The General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is following with deep concern the aggression by the Republic of Armenia forces against the Republic of Azerbaijan's forces in several locations on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, violating the ceasefire and leaving behind civilian casualties," the OIC said in a statement.

"While the OIC strongly condemns repeated provocations and aggression by the military forces of the Republic of Armenia, it renews its solidarity with the Republic of Azerbaijan and recalls the relevant resolutions and decisions of the OIC and the United Nations Security Council."

The OIC called for the full and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied Azerbaijani territories and for dialogue to reach a political solution to the conflict between the two countries based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the inviolability of its internationally recognized borders.

AZERTAC

Turkish parties condemn Armenian attack on Azerbaijan

[20:12] 28.09.2020

Turkey's mainstream political parties on Monday unanimously condemned the Armenian attack on Azerbaijan, Anadolu Agency reports.

They include the ruling Justice and Development Party and its ally Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), along with the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) and Good (IYI) Party.

"As political parties having representation in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, we strongly condemn the attack with heavy weapons by the Armenian Armed Forces targeting Azerbaijani civilian settlements and soldiers on Sept. 28 in clear violation of the cease-fire and international law in Upper Karabakh," according to a joint statement.

Turkey supports Azerbaijan's right to self-defense in line with international law to protect its people and ensure territorial integrity, it added.

Stressing that Nagorno-Karabakh has been under Armenian occupation for 30 years, it said Turkey reaffirmed support for a peaceful solution to end the occupation in line with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

The parties called on the international community to stand by Azerbaijan, which has suffered from occupation and reckless attacks by Armenia.

AZERTAC

Colonel Vagif Dargahli: The enemy fired on territory of Goranboy district

[19:58] 28.09.2020

“The enemy fired on the villages of Yukhari Aghjakand and Garamusali of Goranboy district. Civilian infrastructure was not seriously damaged. There are no casualties among the villagers,” chief of the press service of Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense Colonel Vagif Dargahli told AZERTAC.

Dargahli said that the Azerbaijani army units are taking adequate countermeasures against the enemy.

AZERTAC

Gurbanovs' family became victims of Armenian provocation: two of those killed were schoolchildren - let the world see Armenian fascism

[19:41] 28.09.2020

Since September 27, the Armenian armed forces have been shelling the Azerbaijani settlements and social facilities using various large-caliber artillery and other weapons, killing and injuring civilians, including women and children, as well as seriously damaging many homes and civilian objects.

Gurbanov Elbrus Isa, a resident of Gashalti Garagoyunlu village of Naftalan city and his four family members, including 2 children, were killed as a result of another shelling of the civilian population by Armenian armed forces. Moreover, 19 civilians have been hospitalized with various injuries.

Having visited Gashalti village, AZERTAC's regional correspondent highlighted the traces of Armenian provocation.

The two of those killed as a result of Armenian aggression are schoolchildren. Shahriyar Gurbanov, born in 2007, and his cousin, Fidan Gurbanova, born in 2006, are pupils of Gashalti Garagoyunlu village secondary school named after Z. Rustamov.

Armenia's deliberately targeting of the civilian population and infrastructure of Azerbaijan is a blatant violation of norms and principles of international law, in particular, the international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

AZERTAC

Turkish General Prosecutor condemns Armenian violence against Azerbaijan

[18:23] 28.09.2020

Turkish General Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of Appeal Bekir Sahin has condemned Armenian violence against Azerbaijan as he sent a message to Azerbaijani Prosecutor General Kamran Aliyev.

"Yesterday, today and tomorrow, I condemn the terrorist attack of occupant Armenia against our brother - one nation, two states, Azerbaijan. I wish God's mercy upon martyrs and offer my condolences to their families. I wish a speedy recovery to those injured," Sahin said in his message.

AZERTAC

**Nizami Ganjavi International Center issues statement condemning
Armenia's military provocations**

[17:43] 28.09.2020

Co-chairs and members of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center have issued a statement condemning Armenia's recent military provocations.

The statement reads: "The early morning news of border clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia have shocked a world fully focused on the 75th anniversary of the UN General Assembly.

At a time when the Secretary-General, supported by many world leaders, has reiterated his call for a multilateral world order, governed by international law, we would like to express our strongest condemnation over the artillery attacks by Armenian military forces along the frontline in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Not for the first time, ceasefire lines established since 1994 have been violated and civil casualties are being deplored.

The world needs to be reminded that the Republic of Armenia has so far utterly failed to unconditionally comply and fully implement UN Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884, calling inter alia for a complete and immediate withdrawal of occupying forces from all occupied regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

As co-chairs and members of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center, an international body headquartered in Baku and dedicated to learning, tolerance, dialogue and understanding, we would like to express our full solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan as it is continuously confronted with blatant violations of international law. The rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan to its sovereignty and territorial integrity are accepted internationally and have been repeatedly supported by resolutions of the UN and other international bodies."

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of those who have lost their lives in the latest flare-up of armed conflict along the borders, where provocations from Armenia have been multiplying of late. We fully support all efforts of the Republic of Azerbaijan to restore its territorial integrity. We would entreat the Presidents of both neighboring countries, Azerbaijan and Armenia, to observe restraint and avoid an escalation of the conflict, which would endanger the stability and security of the whole region of the South Caucasus. We call on the international community, especially the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to live up to its legal commitments and moral responsibilities, by taking all necessary steps to defuse the currently acute clashes as well as to resolve the long-standing frozen conflict concerning Nagorno-Karabakh and other illegally occupied Azerbaijani territories. The one million Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons, like refugees everywhere, are waiting for the right to finally return to their lands and their homes. The peaceful civilians living along the borders of disputed territories deserve calling on the Responsibility to Protect of the United Nations."

Dr Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of Latvia 1999-2007, co-chair

Dr Ismail Serageldin, Vice President of the World Bank, co-chair

Zlatko Lagumdžija, Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2001-2002, Minister of Foreign Affairs 2012-2015

Filip Vujanovic, President of Montenegro 2003-2018

Jan Fisher, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic 2009-2010

Hikmet Cetin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey 1991-1994
Mladen Ivanic, President of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014-2018
Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, former Secretary General of Organization of Islamic Countries
Eka Tkeshelashvili, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia 2010-
2012
Kateryna Yushchenko, First Lady of Ukraine 2005-2010
Ivo Josipovic, President of Croatia 2010-2015
Amre Moussa, Secretary General of the Arab League 2001-2011
Elsa Papademiou, former Vice President of the Greek Parliament
Peter Stoyanov, President of Bulgaria 1997-2002

AZERTAC

End occupation in Upper Karabakh: Erdogan tells Armenia

[16:51] 28.09.2020

The Turkish president on Monday called on Armenia to immediately end the occupation of Azerbaijani territories, so the peace will reign in the region again, according to Anadolu Agency.

“The crisis in the region that started with the occupation of Upper Karabakh must be put to an end,” Recep Tayyip Erdogan said during a symposium on international maritime law and Eastern Mediterranean at the Dolmabahce Office in Istanbul.

Erdogan’s remarks came after border clashes broke out early Sunday after Armenian forces targeted Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military positions in the region, which is also known as Nagorno-Karabakh.

Relations between the two former Soviet nations have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Upper Karabakh, an internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan.

Four UN Security Council and two UN General Assembly resolutions as well as many international organizations demand the withdrawal of the occupying forces.

AZERTAC

**Armenia's treacherous attacks on civilian population do not frighten residents
of Tartar – AZERTAC reports from Tartar**

[16:28] 28.09.2020

The enemy, unable to withstand the counterattack by the Azerbaijani Army on the front line, continues to shell artillery settlements and civilian homes along the frontline. As in other regions of the frontline, civilians were killed and injured, houses and infrastructure have been severely damaged as a result of the shelling of settlements in Tartar.

AZERTAC's regional correspondent has visited the spots fired by the enemy in Tartar district and talked to the heroic residents of Tartar district.

Ashur Muradov, 84, a resident of Tartar, said he had never left his hometown despite the provocations by the enemy. "Both in the early 1990s and later, in April 2016, when Tartar was repeatedly subjected to the enemy's artillery fire, neither I nor my family have ever left our city," he added.

The house of Zenfira Sultanova, a resident of Tartar, was destroyed as a result of heavy artillery fire by Armenians "As soon as we left, an artillery shell hit our house. We had just renovated it. However, we don't feel disappointed at this. We want the Armenian occupation to end. We want to win," she said.

Elkhan Ismayilov, another resident of Tartar, said he was outside when Armenians shelled the city: "Suddenly, we heard a loud explosion nearby. I saw that our house was destroyed."

Munavvar Jamilova, an IDP from the Kalbajar district, also expressed her confidence saying that they would soon return to their native lands. "We are not afraid of gunfire or explosions. The main issue for each of us is the liberation of our native lands," she added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani army strikes Armenia's artillery units in Aghdara direction

[16:21] 28.09.2020

“Armenian armed forces artillery units that have been targeting our human settlements in the Aghdara direction were struck,” Azerbaijan's Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“Enemy units, which suffered heavy losses as a result of accurate artillery fire, were forced to withdraw from their firing positions.

It should be pointed out that adversary artillery is part of the 5th Mountain Rifle Regiment of the Armenian Army,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan declares partial military mobilization

28.09.2020 [15:03]

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has today signed an Order on partial military mobilization in the country.

Under the Order, the Azerbaijan State Service for Mobilization and Conscription will implement measures related to the recruitment of citizens for military service and military transportation.

AZERTAC

Austrian Azerbaijanis Society issues statement on Armenia`s provocation against Azerbaijan

[14:55] 28.09.2020

The Austrian Azerbaijanis Society has issued a statement about Armenian`s invasive policy, the latest provocation against Azerbaijan.

The statement says that Armenia continues aggression by ignoring the principles of international law, decisions and statements of UN and other international organizations and keeps under shelling Azerbaijani civilians and infrastructure. The statement further emphasizes Armenia continues its dirty deeds by settling terrorists from Lebanon, Syria and other countries in occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The statement was sent to the Austrian Parliament and provincial parliaments, as well as international organizations, embassies and consulates operated in the country.

AZERTAC

**Ugly face of Armenian fascism: the enemy continues to target civilians-AZERTAC
reports from the scene**

[14:47] 28.09.2020

Starting from September 28, the center of Azerbaijan's Tartar district, including densely populated villages have been under heavy artillery fire by the Armenian armed forces beginning from around 7 am morning.

AZERTAC special correspondent reports that Mehman Aliyev, a resident of Tartar city, was killed as a result of another enemy shelling of the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan. Tural Ibrahimov, a resident of the city, and Ganbar Asadov, an ambulance driver, were also injured. The injured have been hospitalized.

The city police station, a courthouse and civilian facilities of Tartar district are chosen as targets. This once again shows the ugly face of Armenian fascism.

As a result of heavy artillery fire by the enemy, the houses of Azad Garagoyunlu village residents Ahmadov Mayil Alasgar, Salahov Nizami Majid, Karimov Elshan Shahmat were severely damaged, the main strategic bridge and the police department were shelled.

As a result of the shelling of civilian objects by the enemy, the building No.10 consisting of 54 apartments located in Tartar city, E. Safarov Street, the multi-floor residential building No.16 located in Shikharkh settlement of the district became unusable, the residents of the buildings were evacuated.

Moreover, as a result of intensive fire by the occupant Armenian armed forces, artillery shells fell on the auxiliary buildings belonging to Aghayev Bakhtiyar Rahim in Sahlabad village and Rasmiyya Hasanova in Yukhari Gapanli village of Tartar district, small and large livestock were killed.

AZERTAC

Colonel Vagif Dargahli: “Military command staff of Armenia ordered to use weapons against its soldiers”

[14:41] 28.09.2020

“According to the intelligence information received, the military command staff of Armenia has established commandant posts on the roads between the occupied territories and Armenia,” Chief of the Press Service of Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense, Colonel Vagif Dargahli told AZERTAC.

“The aim is to prevent the population from fleeing in panic to Armenia and to delay Armenian soldiers fled from the army.

According to some reports, serious incidents with the use of weapons were registered at these posts, there are dead and wounded,” Vagif Dargahli added.

AZERTAC

One person killed and three others injured as a result of the enemy's intensive artillery shelling in Tartar

[14:35] 28.09.2020

“As reported earlier, blatantly violating the basic norms and principles of international humanitarian law, the military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to subject civilians, numerous houses and objects, as well as household premises to intensive artillery fire.

We deeply regret to inform that, on September 28th at about 11:00 as a result of the enemy's intensive artillery shelling on the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan, Aliyev Mehman Sovet, born in 1975, was killed by shrapnel fragments falling near the administrative building of Tartar District Court on Heydar Aliyev Avenue. The driver of the ambulance passing by at that time Asadov Ganbar Asgar, born in 1968, and the military police officer in the car - Huseynov Fakhraddin Farman, born in 1994, as well as another resident of Tartar, Ibrahimov Tural Firdovsi, born in 1991, were injured,” the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“Upon the fact a criminal case has been initiated by Tartar Prosecutor's Office under Article 100.2 (conducting aggressive war), Article 120.2.1 (deliberate murder committed by criminal community (organization)), Article 120.2.4 (deliberate murder committed with special cruelty or in publicly dangers way), 120.2.12 (deliberate murder on motive of national, racial, religious hatred or enmity), Articles 29, 120.2.7 (deliberate murder of two or more persons), and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Given the present combat conditions all necessary investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan conducts the necessary documentation and collects evidence to ensure that servicemen of the Armenian Armed Forces who have committed various crimes are prosecuted and punished in accordance with international law.

The public will be regularly updated with the latest information,” the Prosecutor General's Office added.

AZERTAC

Criminal case launched on death of Aghdam district resident as a result of enemy shelling

[13:30] 28.09.2020

“As reported earlier, grossly violating its commitments under the Geneva Conventions, and neglecting the basic norms and principles of international humanitarian law, the military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to subject civilians, numerous houses and objects, as well as household premises to intensive artillery fire,” press service of the Prosecutor General’s Office of Azerbaijan told AZRTAC.

“Densely populated areas - regional and rural centers, civil infrastructure objects - hospitals, medical centers, school buildings, kindergartens are chosen as targets.

By now, 27 civilians in total have been hospitalized with various injuries.

We deeply regret that Pashayev Joshgun Anvar, born in 1979, a resident of Evoghlu village, Aghdam district, was killed as a result of another enemy shelling of the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan.

Upon the fact a criminal case has been initiated by Aghdam Prosecutor's Office under Article 120.2.1 (deliberate murder committed by group of persons, on preliminary arrangement by group of persons, by organized group or criminal community (organization)), Article 120.2.4 (deliberate murder committed with special cruelty or in publicly dangerous way), Article 120.2.7 (deliberate murder of two or more persons), Article 120.2.12 (deliberate murder on motive of national, racial, religious hatred or enmity), Article 100.2 (conducting aggressive war), and other articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At present combat conditions all necessary investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan conducts the necessary documentation and collects evidence to ensure that servicemen of the Armenian Armed Forces who have committed various crimes are prosecuted and punished in accordance with international law.

The public will be regularly updated with the latest information,” the Prosecutor General’s Office said.

AZERTAC

**Assistant to President of Azerbaijan highlights Armenia's provocations
on Al Jazeera TV channel**

[12:59] 28.09.2020

The Al Jazeera International TV channel has interviewed Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan, Head of the Department of Foreign Policy Affairs of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has been interviewed by The Al Jazeera International TV channel on Armenia's latest provocations against Azerbaijan.

“For 30 years we have been suffering from Armenia's military occupation and our civilians are becoming target of Armenian armed forces and we have one million ethnically cleansed Azerbaijanis from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. And therefore, Azerbaijani armed forces are taking these counter actions and counter attacks to first repel Armenia's provocations and further acts of aggression against Azerbaijan and enforce Armenia to peace,” Hajiyev said.

“Our peaceful negotiations process is also failing because of the deliberate and destructive attitude of Armenia. Currently we don't have a real negotiation that is mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs. And therefore, here first is to ensure the security and safety of Azerbaijani civilians who are living in close proximity to the line of contact area. In the meantime, to ensure the liberation of Azerbaijan's occupied lands from the Armenian occupation at last more than 30 years,” he mentioned.

“So therefore, the UN Security Council resolutions demand immediate, unconditional and full withdrawal of the Armenian troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Armenia continues to attack our civilians. The Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs have a right to return back to their sovereign lands. Because of the Armenian occupation they cannot return back,” the Presidential Assistant emphasized.

AZERTAC

**Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan: By now, 26 civilians in total
have been hospitalized with various injuries**

[12:02] 28.09.2020

“The military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to strike at the civilian population, numerous houses and civilian objects, as well as at household premises, grossly violating its obligations under the Geneva Conventions. Densely populated areas - regional and rural centers, civil infrastructure objects - hospitals, medical centers, school buildings, kindergartens are selected as targets.

By now, 26 civilians in total have been hospitalized with various injuries,” the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“It should be noted that as a result of heavy artillery shelling of the center of Tartar district, as well as of densely populated villages by the enemy forces, the houses of Ahmadov Mayil Alasgar, Salahov Nizami Majid, Karimov Elshan Shahmat were severely damaged, the main strategic bridge and the police station were hit.

Furthermore, as a consequence of the enemy shelling, house No. 10 consisting of 54 apartments on E.Safarov Street, Tartar district, as well as apartment house No. 16 in Shikh Arkh village of the district fell into disrepair, the residents were evacuated.

Also, numerous small and large horned livestock perished as a result of artillery shells hitting the auxiliary buildings belonging to Aghayev Bakhtiyar Rahim, resident of Sahlabad village, and Rasmiyya Hasanova, a resident of Yukhari Gapanli village of Tartar district.

At present, all possible investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities. Appropriate examinations to determine the severity of bodily injuries, as well as to estimate the amount of damage inflicted to civilian infrastructure are appointed.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan is taking all necessary steps to ensure that servicemen of the Armenian armed forces who have committed various crimes are prosecuted and punished within the frames of international law,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Advantageous high grounds around
Talish village cleared of the enemy**

[11:43] 28.09.2020

A large number of enemy forces have been killed

“Units of the Azerbaijan Army, moving from the high grounds and advantageous positions liberated from the Armenian armed forces, continue the counter-attack to consolidate the achieved success,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“By inflicting rocket-artillery and air strikes on the enemy positions, it was forced to retreat from the frontiers it was trying to hold.

Several advantageous high grounds around the village of Talish were cleared of the occupying forces, and the enemy suffered heavy losses,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Armenian army`s 3 ammunition depots, dozens of equipment destroyed, the enemy has more than 550 casualties

[11:06] 28.09.2020

"The information spread by the Armenian Defense Ministry on the number of casualties in the Azerbaijan Army is groundless and does not reflect the reality. This is aimed at reducing the anxiety and chaos among the Armenian population in the face of the success of the Azerbaijan Army," the Ministry of Defense said.

"According to intelligence reports obtained at the end of the operation day, the Armenian army suffered heavy losses as a result of the fighting. Thus, 22 enemy tanks and other armored vehicles, 15 OSA Anti-Aircraft missile systems, 18 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), 8 artillery pieces were destroyed, more than 550 people were killed and wounded. The enemy`s 3 ammunition depots were destroyed in different directions."

"According to the report, the commander of the enemy airborne assault battalion of Armenian Army, Lieutenant Colonel Lernik Babayan was killed in the battles in the direction of Talish village, and the personnel of the military unit under his command suffered heavy losses. Due to the high number of wounded in the enemy's army, there is a shortage of beds in military hospitals and civilian hospitals, and there is a lack of spare blood in the blood bank. As always, the Armenian side hides the real number of casualties in its army from the public," the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan conducts combat operations to liberate its lands

[10:45] 28.09.2020

“Azerbaijani units carry out combat operations to destroy the enemy and liberate our occupied lands,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

AZERTAC

Release of the Press Service of the President

[10:20] 28.09.2020

On 27 September, President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron made a phone call to President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

Emmanuel Macron expressed his country's concern over the armed confrontation on the line of contact between Armenia and Azerbaijan and stressed the importance of resolving the conflict through negotiations.

The head of state noted that the Armenian leadership was consciously disrupting the process of negotiations. The statement of the Armenian leadership that "Nagorno-Karabakh is Armenia" dealt a serious blow to the talks, while his statement "Azerbaijan should negotiate with Nagorno-Karabakh" is an attempt to change the format of the talks, which is also unacceptable, as stated by the leadership of the Minsk Group.

During the telephone conversation, the head of state highlighted the course of events related to the ongoing military provocation committed by Armenia against Azerbaijan on September 27, noting that our civilians and our servicemen were killed as a result of heavy artillery fire on the positions of the Azerbaijani armed forces and settlements along the frontline, and the Azerbaijani Armed Forces are conducting successful counter-offensives in response.

The Azerbaijani President noted that the political and military leadership of Armenia bears responsibility for the further development of events related to the military provocation of Armenia.

During the telephone conversation, the sides agreed to establish contacts through diplomatic channels.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Several more enemy military vehicles destroyed

[09:35] 28.09.2020

As a result of precise strikes by Azerbaijan Army units, several more combat vehicles belonging to the Armenian armed forces were destroyed in different directions of the front.

The video footage features the destruction moments of enemy combat vehicles.

AZERTAC

September 27

Prosecutor General's office issues statement highlighting latest situation on front

[21:33] 27.09.2020

“Since September 27, continuing its provocative actions the military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia has violated its commitments under the Geneva Conventions, firing from heavy weapons at densely populated areas, as well as committing various crimes against the civilian population.

So far, several soldiers of the Azerbaijani Army have become martyrs, and some servicemen have received various injuries,” a statement by Azerbaijani Prosecutor General's office said.

“Based on the materials collected in connection with the incidents, criminal proceedings have been instituted by Fuzuli, Tartar, Karabakh and Ganja Military Prosecutor's Offices under Article 100.1 (planning, preparation or initiation of aggressive war), Article 116.0.7 (attack on unprotected territories, settlements and zones of disarmament), Article 116.0.8 (non-military attack on clearly visible and identifiable religious, educational, scientific, charitable, medical facilities, and the places where the sick and wounded are placed), Article 120.2.12 (deliberate murder on motive of national, racial, religious hatred or enmity). Urgent investigative actions are being carried out by the established investigation groups.

At present, all possible investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities. Appropriate examinations to determine the severity of bodily injuries, as well as to estimate the amount of damage inflicted to civilian infrastructure are appointed.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan is taking all necessary steps to ensure that servicemen of the Armenian armed forces who have committed various crimes are prosecuted and punished within the frames of international law.

Mass media, as well as social media users are asked not to share unofficial and unspecified information.

The public will be regularly updated with the latest information,” the statement added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Armenian army ammunition depot was destroyed

[21:12] 27.09.2020

“As a result of the counter-attack operation conducted by our troops, a weapon and ammunition depot belonging to the Armenian army was destroyed,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“Explosions in the depot as a result of our army's strikes are obviously seen in the video,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, Turkish FMs have phone talk

[20:50] 27.09.2020

On September 27, Azerbaijan`s Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov had a telephone conversation with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu.

During the telephone conversation, Mevlut Cavusoglu, strongly condemning the new act of aggression by Armenia emphasized that Turkey always stand by Azerbaijan in its struggle based on international law and justice.

FM Bayramov expressed his gratitude for always existing support of brotherly Turkey. In response to the new act of aggression by the armed forces of Armenia against positions of Azerbaijan along the frontline on September 27, the Minister informed his Turkish counterpart on the counter-attacks carried out by the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan within the right to self-defense and to protect the civilian population. He stressed that the new act of aggression by the armed forces of Armenia against Azerbaijan was a gross violation of fundamental norms and principles of international law, UN Security Council resolutions calling for the full and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols.

The necessity of the withdrawal of occupying forces of Armenia from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan in order to ensure peace and security in the region was stressed.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani FM, EU Special Representative hold phone conversation

[20:38] 27.09.2020

On September 27, on the initiative of the other side, Azerbaijan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov held a telephone conversation with EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Toivo Klaar.

During the telephone conversation, Special Representative Toivo Klaar expressed his concern over the situation in the region.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov noted that the new act of Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan on September 27 was the continuation of the provocations by Armenia in recent months, including the attempt of an attack in the direction of Tovuz district on July 12-16, sabotage-reconnaissance provocation in the direction of Goranboy district on August 23, the illegal settlement in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, as well as provocative statements and activities of the leadership of Armenia. FM Bayramov also underlined that another aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan is a gross violation of the fundamental norms and principles of international law, the UN Security Council resolutions calling for the full and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, international humanitarian law, as well as the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

The EU Special Representative stressed the importance of taking the appropriate measures to reduce tension in the region.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev signs Decree declaring martial law

[20:27] 27.09.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has today signed a Decree declaring martial law.

According to the Decree, due to the occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region and surrounding districts of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, armed attacks against the Republic of Azerbaijan and regular military provocations, martial law is being declared throughout the country starting from 00:00 on 28 September 2020.

The Decree states: In the interests of martial law, the measures provided for in the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On martial law" shall be implemented.

During the martial law, curfew shall be introduced from 21:00 to 06:00 in Baku, Ganja, Sumgayit, Yevlakh, Mingachevir, Naftalan, Absheron, Jabrayil, Fuzuli, Aghjabadi, Beylagan, Aghdam, Barda, Tartar, Goranboy, Goygol, Dashkasan, Gadabay, Tovuz, Shamkir, Gazakh and Aghstafa. The following restrictions shall be applied in the territories where curfew has been introduced:

- To prohibit persons from being on the street and in other public places without special permits and identity documents;

- To apply a special entry-exit regime and take measures to restrict the movement of vehicles.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall ensure the implementation of measures arising from the application of curfew.

Measures envisaging partial and temporary restriction of the rights and legitimate interests of departments, enterprises and organizations during martial law regardless of their ownership and organizational-legal status, as well as the rights and freedoms of citizens, shall be applied within the limits of the situation and in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, international conventions to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a signatory and laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

AZERTAC

Pakistan condemns Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan

[19:53] 27.09.2020

Foreign Office of Pakistan has strongly condemned the latest Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, reports DND News Agency from Islamabad.

In an official press statement issued by the Foreign Office of Pakistan here on Sunday, Pakistan expressed its concern on the deteriorating security situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The statement said that the intensive shelling by Armenian forces over the weekend on civilian populations of Azerbaijani villages of Tartar, Aghdam, Fuzuli and Jabrayil regions is reprehensible and most unfortunate.

The statement further said:

This could compromise the peace and security of the entire region. Armenia must stop its military action to avoid further escalation.

Pakistan stands with the brotherly nation of Azerbaijan and supports its right of self-defense. We support Azerbaijan's position on Nagorno-Karabakh, which is in line with the several unanimously adopted UN Security Council resolutions.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani, Russian FMs hold phone talk

[19:33] 27.09.2020

On September 27, with the initiative of the opposite side, the telephone conversation took place between Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov.

During the telephone conversation, the Russian FM expressed his concern over the situation in the region and stressed the importance of the restoration of the ceasefire.

Minister Jeyhun Bayramov noted that, on 27 September, violating the ceasefire regime, the armed forces of Armenia shelled the positions of Azerbaijan along the line of contact with the large-caliber weapons, mortars launchers, as well as various artillery and thus, launched another aggression against Azerbaijan, which is the continuation of the purposeful provocative activities conducted by Armenia over the recent months.

It was noted that the armed forces of Armenia have been met with appropriate countermeasures within the right of self-defense in order to ensure the security of the civilian population.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani army liberates Murov peak from occupation

[18:33] 27.09.2020

As a result of the military operation of the Azerbaijani armed forces in the Goranboy direction of the front, the Murov peak of the Murov mountain range was liberated from occupation, Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“As a result of the operation, the Vardenis-Aghdara highway of military importance connecting the occupied Azerbaijani territories with Armenia was taken under visual control, as well as under the control of firearms and artillery.

The military advantage gained will prevent the transportation of additional military cargo from Armenia on the Kalbajar-Aghdara route.

The Azerbaijani army continues military operations,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Colonel Vagif Dargahli: There are a number of technical problems due to large number of requests to website of Ministry of Defense

[18:26] 27.09.2020

The official website of Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense is experiencing certain technical problems due to the large number of requests in regard to the successful counter-attack operations carried out by the Azerbaijan Army, Defense Ministry Chief of the Press Service Colonel Vagif Dargahli told AZERTAC.

Colonel Vagif Dargahli said that, despite this, the press and the public are being promptly informed by means of alternative internet resources.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: The enemy is fleeing the battlefield leaving
combat vehicles behind**

[18:24] 27.09.2020

As a result of the counter-attack operation of the Azerbaijan Army units, enemy troops retreated and left a large number of armored vehicles on the battlefield, press service of Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said.

The ministry released a video footage showing destroyed and abandoned Armenian combat vehicles.

AZERTAC

Erdogan says Armenia 'biggest threat to regional peace'

[18:13] 27.09.2020

Armenia's latest violations along the border with Azerbaijan in occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region have shown that it is the biggest threat to regional peace, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced on Twitter that Turkey fully stands by Azerbaijan, and lamented the international community's "double standards" by not condemning Armenian aggression.

Erdogan said Turkey will continue its solidarity with Azerbaijan, urging the global community to stand by the latter.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Parliament declares state of war in country

[18:06] 27.09.2020

Azerbaijan`s Parliament has declared a state of war in the country at its special plenary session.

AZERTAC

More than 500 NGOs in Azerbaijan appeal to international organizations

[18:00] 27.09.2020

The non-government organizations (NGOs) in Azerbaijan have made an appeal to the United Nations, OSCE, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, NATO, NATO Parliamentary Assembly, European Commission, European Parliament, Organization of Islamic Cooperation Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries, as well as other international organizations on the military aggression and armed attack committed by the Armenian armed forces against Azerbaijan.

Approved by the signatures of 502 NGOs, the appeal reads: “This morning, the Armenian armed forces have violated the ceasefire and launched a large-scale military operation to occupy new territories of Azerbaijan using large-caliber weapons, mortars and artillery of various calibers. As a result of the Armenian military aggression along the entire frontline, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan, as well as civilian population and settlements in the frontline areas were shelled, and as a result, one civilian and one serviceman were killed and wounded. The property of civilians was severely damaged.

The attack on Azerbaijan, which the Armenian military-political leadership has been preparing for a long time without hiding from anyone and launched today, is continuing on the entire frontline. Despite Azerbaijan's calls on the Armenian side to put an end to its inhumane actions, the occupying country does not give up its activities and continues to violate all norms and principles of international law.

On September 27, Armenia defied the world with its next military aggression launched against Azerbaijan. Despite being one of the countries that adopted and joined the Conventions on international humanitarian law, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, Armenia is deliberately killing civilians with such despicable attacks and once again demonstrating its terrorist nature to the world.

Azerbaijan has always faced the provocations of the occupiers. The whole world community and all organizations recognize our territorial integrity. International negotiations have been going on for almost 30 years, but at the end of all the negotiations, Armenia paralyzes the whole process by resorting to new provocations. We are fighting on our own land, and today the Azerbaijani Army protects the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan on its own land.

Therefore, we, all the undersigned Azerbaijani non-governmental organizations, appeal to you to strongly condemn the military aggression launched by Armenia against Azerbaijan, to take effective steps to stop Armenia's new occupation intentions and to punish the aggressor.

The international community, including you is responsible for the next military aggression committed by Armenia today, for the aggressor country's gross violation of the norms and principles of international law and non-compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on the conflict.”

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani NGOs appeal to UN Security Council, US, Russian and French presidents

[17:56] 27.09.2020

The non-government organizations (NGOs) in Azerbaijan have made an appeal to the United Nations Security Council, the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairing countries, US President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron.

The appeal by the Platform of NGO Leaders on the military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan reads:

“On September 27, 2020, at around 06:00, the Armenian armed forces violated the ceasefire and launched a large-scale military operation to occupy new territories of Azerbaijan using large-caliber weapons, mortars and artillery of various calibers. As a result of the military aggression organized by Armenia along the entire frontline, the servicemen of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan and civilians living in the frontline areas and their property were targeted. There are reports of civilian and military casualties. Numerous houses and civilian objects were severely damaged.

Armenia's deliberate targeting of settlements and civilian population is a gross violation of international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

The attack on Azerbaijan, which had been being prepared by the Armenian military-political leadership for a long time and has been launched today, is now continuing along the entire frontline. This is an act of trampling of the norms and principles of international law and another act of military aggression and use of force by Armenia against Azerbaijan.

If the illegal and inhumane activities of the occupant Armenia had been adequately assessed and condemned by international organizations, particularly the UN Security Council, the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Freedom House and other relevant institutions after this July's provocative attacks, we would not be witnessing now another act of Armenian aggression.

Therefore, we, the signatories of this statement, call on you on behalf of all Azerbaijani non-governmental organizations, regardless of their political views, to strongly condemn the military aggression launched by Armenia against Azerbaijan, to take effective steps to stop Armenia's intentions of new occupation and to take the relevant measures to punish the aggressor country.

The international community, including you, is responsible for the continuation of Armenia's war crimes, the new military aggression against Azerbaijan, the gross violation of international law and the failure to implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on the conflict.

The members of the Platform of NGO Leaders of Azerbaijan:

1. Rauf Zeyni - National NGO Forum of Azerbaijan;
2. Sabit Baghirov – Foundation for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship and Market Economy;
3. Umud Mirzayev – International Eurasia Press Fund;
4. Alimammad Nuriyev - “Constitution” Research Fund;
5. Sahib Mammadov - Citizens' Labor Rights Protection League;
6. Novela Jafarova – Society for Protection of Women Rights named after Dilara Aliyeva;
7. Saadat Bananyarli - Azerbaijan National Section of International Society for Human Rights Public Union;
8. Saltanat Gojamanli - “Public Union for the Protection of Human Rights and Law Order”;

9. Gorkhmaz Ibrahimli – “Biosphere” Public Union;
10. Avaz Hasanov - Humanitarian Research Public Union;
11. Aziz Alakbarov - Azerbaijan Refugee Society Public Union;
12. Israyil Isgandarov - “Umid” Support for Social Development Public Union;
13. Vugar Bayramov – “Center for Economic and Social Development” Public Union;
14. Chingiz Ganizade - “Democracy and Human Rights Committee”;
15. Maharram Zulfugarli - Association for the Research of Social Problems;
16. Kamil Salimov - Prison Watch Public Association;
17. Fuad Mammadov – “Simurg” Azerbaijan Cultural Association;
18. Eyyub Huseynov – Independent Consumer Union;
19. Tanzila Rustamkhanli – Independent Consumer Union;
20. Mirvari Gahramanova - Oil Workers Rights Protection Public Union;
21. Shamistan Alizamanli - “Support for the Promotion of Patriotism” Public Union;
22. Akif Naghi - Karabakh Liberation Organization;
23. Osman Gunduz - “Multimedia” Information Systems and Technologies Center;
24. Mayis Aliyev - "Investigation of Social Rights" Public Union;
25. Irada Rizazade - Public Association “Social Welfare for the Citizens”;
26. Bahar Gasimova - Republican Women's Society;
27. Malahat Ibrahimgizi - "Leader Women" Public Union;
28. Fuzuli Rzaguliyev - Public Union of the Azerbaijani Veterans of the Patriotic War;
29. Mehdi Mehdiyev – “Karabakh war disabled, veterans and families of martyrs” Public Union;
30. Mehriban Zeynalova - “Clean World” Aid to Women Public Union;
31. Ahmad Abbasbeyli - Development of Society and Civil Relations Public Union;
32. Nasiman Yagublu - Support for History and Press Studies Public Union;
33. Shahin Rajabov - “Azerbaijan Parent-Teacher Association” Public Union;
34. Aydin Abilov - “Beginner Writers and Artists” Public Union;
35. Fikrat Yusifov - “Economics” International Economic Research Association;
36. Elchin Huseynov – “Azerbaijan Writers Club” Public Union;
37. Aydin Karimov - Independent Law Center;
38. Ahmad Gashamoglu - Progress and Democracy Public Union;
39. Hafiz Hasanov – Law and Development Public Union;
40. Mirali Huseynov - “Democracy Learning” Public Union;
41. Shamsaddin Aliyev - Public Union “Support to Police”;
42. Asif Asgarli - Azerbaijan Democratic Students and Youth Organization;
43. Emin Hasanli - Demobilized Servicemen Public Union for the Youth Enlightenment;
44. Ilgar Orujov - “Azerbaijan Society of Young Scientists, Postgraduates and Masters” Public Union.”

Prosecutor General's Office: By now, 9 civilians have been hospitalized with various injuries

[16:14] 27.09.2020

“As reported, on September 27, at about 06:00 the Armenian armed forces conducted a large-scale provocation along the entire front line. Positions of the Azerbaijani army were intensively fired from large-caliber weapons, mortars and artillery of various calibers.

The military-political leadership of Armenia, pursuing a hypocritical and unconstructive policy, also committed various crimes against the civilian population, deliberately and purposefully shelling densely populated areas of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and violating the fundamental norms and principles of international law,” the Prosecutor General's Office of Azerbaijan told AZERTAC.

“As a result of the intensive shelling by the enemy, civilians were killed and wounded, and many houses and civilian objects were seriously damaged in Gapanli village of Tartar district, Chiragli and Orta Garvand villages of Aghdam district, Alkhanli and Shukurbayli villages of Fuzuli district, and Jojug Marjanli village of Jabrayil district.

By now, 9 civilians have been hospitalized with various injuries.

It is also reported that as a result of the shelling of civilian objects by the enemy, a number of residential buildings were seriously damaged, small and large horned animals and haystacks were destroyed.

At present combat conditions all necessary investigative measures are being carried out by the prosecution authorities. Appropriate examinations to determine the severity of bodily injuries, as well as to estimate the amount of damage inflicted to civilian infrastructure are appointed.

The public will be regularly updated with the latest information,” the Prosecutor General's Office said.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's political parties issue joint statement on Armenian provocation against Azerbaijan

[16:31] 27.09.2020

In a joint statement, 50 political parties of Azerbaijan have condemned a massive military provocation committed by the Armenian Armed Forces against Azerbaijan on Sunday morning.

The statement said that the military aggression organized by Armenia along the entire frontline targeted servicemen of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan and civilians living on the frontline areas and their property. "There are reports of civilian and military casualties. Numerous houses and civilian objects were severely damaged."

The political parties said Armenia had been ignoring the UN Security Council resolutions for nearly 30 years, but had remained unpunished. "In some cases, the UN Security Council resolutions are implemented within a few days. When it comes to Azerbaijan, the resolutions are not being implemented. This double standard approach is unacceptable."

The political parties said Armenia's military operations posed a serious threat not only to security of the region, but also to the international community. They urged the OSCE Minsk Group and other international organizations to take immediate political and legal measures against Armenia.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry: Armenia should lay down its arms

[16:23] 27.09.2020

Azerbaijan on Sunday called on Armenia to lay down its arms and cease its border violations in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region.

If Armenian forces surrender, the prisoners of war and civilian hostages will be treated in line with the Geneva Convention and other international legal norms, Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said in a statement.

The statement added that if Armenian forces continue their resistance, all their armed forces will be neutralized.

Border clashes broke out earlier Sunday after Armenian forces targeted Azerbaijani civilian settlements and military positions. The number of casualties is not yet known.

Baku has the right of self-defense to protect its people and territory, it said.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: As a result of our army's successful counter-offensive several settlements have been liberated

[16:20] 27.09.2020

“The Azerbaijani Army is currently conducting a counter-offensive in response to military provocation. I can say that the operation has been successful. As a result of the successful counter-offensive, the enemy's manpower and military equipment were severely damaged. Several occupied Azerbaijani settlements have been liberated,” said President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev as he addressed a meeting of the Security Council, AZERTAC reports.

Congratulating the people of Azerbaijan on the successful counter-offensive of the Azerbaijani army, the head of state said: “I am confident that our successful counter-offensive will end the occupation! It will end injustice! It will end the occupation that has lasted for nearly 30 years! Because the people of Azerbaijan want to live on their lands. Azerbaijani citizen lives longing for his homeland. People who were forcibly driven out of their ancestral lands by Armenians, by the Armenian leadership want to return to their native lands even though their homes have already been destroyed by savages. Look at the ruins of Aghdam. Look at the ruins of Fuzuli. Look at the state of our mosques in the occupied territories, the state of our cemeteries. All this was committed by Armenian executioners, and we are absolutely right. Our struggle is a struggle for justice, and the citizens of Azerbaijan fully support the state today. We always feel this support. Citizen of Azerbaijan are with the Azerbaijani Army, and I turn to our compatriots who have not been able to return to their native lands for almost 30 years and say that we will do our best to return you to your native lands.”

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev chaired meeting of Security Council

[15:57] 27.09.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has chaired a meeting of the Security Council.

The head of state made a speech at the meeting, AZERTAC reports.

Speech of President Ilham Aliyev

- As you know, early this morning, Armenian armed forces committed yet another military provocation against Azerbaijan. We have losses as a result of this provocation, both among the civilian population and servicemen. This once again shows that Armenia's policy of aggression against Azerbaijan continues, and this policy shows the fascist essence of Armenia to the whole world.

As soon as I received the information in the morning, I contacted the Minister of Defense and the heads of other relevant agencies, gave relevant instructions, and on the basis of these instructions, the Azerbaijani Army launched a large-scale counter-offensive.

I must say that Armenia's military provocation was pre-planned. They have been preparing for this provocation for a long time, and the intelligence we have shows that Armenia intends to start a new war against us. I have repeatedly talked about this issue in the last week – both in my TV interview and from the UN platform. I said that the aggressive state must be stopped. They are preparing for a new war.

I addressed the people of Azerbaijan today. In my address, I gave detailed information about the reasons for this provocation and the ugly steps Armenia has been taking in recent times. I have shared my views, so I do not want to repeat them. I simply want to reiterate that the military attack on us early this morning was a pre-planned military provocation. Because our positions were fired on from various directions using different weaponry, including heavy artillery. At the same time, our settlements and villages were fired on. As I said, we have losses among the civilian population. This once again shows the ugly face of Armenian fascism. Because such atrocities against the civilian population can only be attributed to fascist states, and this is not the first time – the events in Tovuz and others. The Khojaly genocide was committed by Armenian savages against the civilian population. This time too, Armenia's main target is our settlements. By opening fire, they want to create panic among the Azerbaijani public, among the citizens of Azerbaijan, in the villages and towns along the frontline. This morning, I received information from all frontline regions. I can say with full confidence that the citizens of Azerbaijan are showing courage. Everyone is in their place and are ready to support our army and state at any time, and they are doing that.

The Azerbaijani Army is currently conducting a counter-offensive in response to military provocation. I can say that the operation has been successful. The Presidential Administration and the Ministry of Defense have been instructed to keep the population informed about the events on a regular basis. I can say that as a result of the successful counter-offensive, the enemy's manpower and military equipment were severely damaged. Several occupied Azerbaijani settlements have been liberated. I congratulate all the people of Azerbaijan on this occasion!

I am confident that our successful counter-offensive will end the occupation! It will end injustice! It will end the occupation that has lasted for nearly 30 years! Because the people of Azerbaijan want to live on their lands. Azerbaijani citizen live longing for his homeland. People who were forcibly driven out of their ancestral lands by Armenians, by the Armenian leadership want to return to their native lands even though their homes have already been destroyed by savages. Look at the ruins of Aghdam. Look at the ruins of Fuzuli. Look at the state of our mosques in the occupied territories, the state of our cemeteries. All this was committed by Armenian executioners, and we are absolutely right. Our struggle is a struggle for justice, and the citizens of Azerbaijan fully support the state today. We always feel this support. A citizen of Azerbaijan is with the Azerbaijani Army, and I turn to our compatriots who have not been able to return to their native lands for almost 30 years and say that we will do our best to return you to your native lands.

I warned Armenia. After the events in Tovuz, I warned them several times that they would regret it if they did not give up their ugly deeds. We taught them a lesson in 2016, in 2018, in July of this year. But it did not seem to be a lesson for them. This time we are teaching them another lesson and will continue to do that. Today, the glorious Azerbaijani Army is conducting a counter-offensive with great success, and this operation continues.

I must also say that there is high morale in all our military units and formations. At the same time, the number of volunteers enlisted in our army has reached tens of thousands. This shows the commitment of our people to their state.

The settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue is our historical task. I have said this many times and I want to reiterate today that we must resolve this issue in a way that would satisfy the people of Azerbaijan. We must resolve this so that historical justice can be restored. We must do so in order to restore the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

I have said in different countries many times that we do not need an incomplete solution to this issue, to this conflict. We are on our own lands, we have no claims to the lands of other countries. But we will not give our lands to anyone either. We will never allow for the creation of a second so-called Armenian state on Azerbaijani soil. We will never allow that, and today's events are showing that again.

Nagorno-Karabakh is our ancient and historical land. I have repeatedly spoken at various international events on the history and past of Nagorno-Karabakh. I have shared the historical truth with the world community. As a result of our focused and tireless efforts, the world has a broad picture of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict today. But in the first years of the conflict, this was not the case. In the first years of the conflict, Armenians of the world portrayed Azerbaijan as an aggressor. Unfortunately, those who were in the leadership of Azerbaijan at that time could not speak out against this propaganda. Azerbaijan was in such a difficult situation: our lands were being lost but the world thought that Azerbaijan was an aggressor. The cause of the loss of Karabakh lands is the Popular Front Party, the Musavat Party of Azerbaijan. It was during their time that our lands were occupied. As a result of their treacherous and incompetent activities, we lost these lands. I always said that we lost them temporarily and that we must return to these lands. The sale of Shusha took place only as a result of struggle for power at that time. The occupation of Kalbajar and Lachin is the direct responsibility of the Popular Front government of Azerbaijan. It was after this occupation that the next occupation was almost inevitable. Because the occupation of Lachin, Kalbajar and Shusha created a geographical link between Nagorno-Karabakh and

Armenia. This being the case, of course, the supply of weapons to those regions, to Nagorno-Karabakh, and then the supply of other material resources became easier.

Today, we are wiping out the incompetent actions of the Popular Front Party of Azerbaijan and the Musavat Party, this stain on Azerbaijan. Today we are restoring our lands. In 2016, part of Aghdara, Fuzuli and Jabrayil districts were liberated from the occupiers. Today, in 2020, I want to emphasize once again that several of our settlements were liberated from the occupiers, several strategic heights came under the control of Azerbaijan. A strong Azerbaijani Army is based on a strong political will.

Army building is always the top priority of my activity. Both the military and the Azerbaijani people know this. I have always said that we will do whatever is necessary for our army. We have created a powerful and strong-willed army. All our armed forces meet modern standards and carry out combat missions with dignity, conscience and courage. Today, our various armed units are involved in the counter-offensive, and the counter-offensive is going well under the leadership of a single team. There is full coordination between all armed forces. I am confident that this counter-offensive will continue to be successful.

By giving this information to the people of Azerbaijan, I want to say once again that we are on the right path. We are defending ourselves. We do not lay claim to anyone else's lands, Azerbaijani armed forces have no targets on anyone else's lands, in the territory of Armenia. But we will defend ourselves on our own land and liberate our occupied lands from occupiers.

Now the floor is given to Defense Minister Zakir Hasanov.

Defense Minister **Zakir Hasanov** said:

- Dear President, Mr. Commander-in-Chief. Let me report that a few minutes to 6, Armenian armed forces shelled the villages of Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Tartar and Aghdam districts. There were casualties and wounded among the population. The frontline of the military units was also fired upon. At the same time, a concentration of the enemy's armed forces from the direction of Aghdam, Fuzuli and Jabrayil was in evidence and it was observed that they were preparing for an attack. First of all, it was reported to you and, taking into account the operational situation, the Azerbaijani Army conducted a counter-offensive. As a result of the counter-offensive, the enemy's frontline was broken. I have now been given additional information that seven villages have been liberated. Is it advisable to mention their names here?

President Ilham Aliyev: Do mention.

Minister Zakir Hasanov: Garakhanbayli, Nuzgar, Yukhari Abdurrahmanli, Boyuk Marjanli, Kand Horadiz and Garvand villages have been liberated. The Azerbaijani Army is conducting a successful counter-offensive in other directions and the enemy is retreating with heavy losses. I want to emphasize that the strikes of the Azerbaijani Army are carried out both on the frontline and deep within the enemy. As you mentioned, the most modern weapons are being used and we do not see much resistance from the enemy. The enemy is fully retreating. Reported by Minister of Defense, Colonel-General Hasanov.

President Ilham Aliyev: Clear! We will hold the rest of the Security Council behind closed doors. I am confident that the citizens of Azerbaijan will understand this decision. Many of the issues to be discussed are military secrets. But I want to say again that the population of Azerbaijan

is regularly informed by both the Presidential Administration and the Ministry of Defense. Operational information will be shared with the citizens of Azerbaijan.

I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani Army on their first successes. Long live the Azerbaijani Army! Long live Azerbaijan!

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Other members of the Security Council took part in the discussion.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijani Army liberates several villages from occupation

[15:27] 27.09.2020

“As a result of the successful counter-offensive of the Azerbaijani troops, a number of occupied villages were liberated,” said Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense.

“The Azerbaijani army liberated Garakhanbayli, Garvand, Kend Horadiz, Yukhari Abdurrahmanli villages of Fuzuli district, Boyuk Marjanli and Nuzgar villages of Jabrayil district.

Moreover, the enemy’s positions in the direction of Aghdara and Murovdagh were destroyed, and strategic heights were taken under the control,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

**Azerbaijan`s Foreign Ministry: Full responsibility for the present situation falls
on political-military leadership of Armenia**

[15:10] 27.09.2020

“On September 27, 2020 the armed forces of Armenia blatantly violating the ceasefire regime have launched another aggression against Azerbaijan, by intensively shelling the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the frontline, as well as the villages of Gapanli of Tartar district, Chiragli and Orta Garvand of Aghdam district, Alkhanli and Shukurbayli of Fuzuli district and Jojug Marjanli of Jabrayil district, using large-caliber weapons, mortar launchers and artillery,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The statement reads: “According to the information of the Ministry of Defence, there are reports of dead and wounded among civilians and military servicemen. Extensive damage has been inflicted on many homes and civilian infrastructure.

In order to prevent another military aggression by Armenia and provide the security of densely populated civilian residential areas the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan undertake counter-offensive measures within the right of self-defense and in full compliance with the international humanitarian law.

Another aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan is a blatant violation of fundamental norms and principles of international law, the international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, as well as the United Nations Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874, 884 of 1993 demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The new act of aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan is the continuation of the latest provocations of the Armenian side, including the attempt to an armed attack in the direction of Tovuz region on 12-16 July, 2020, the sabotage-reconnaissance group`s provocation in the direction of Goranboy region, illegal settlement policy in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, as well as the provocative statements and activities of Armenian leadership.

Being well aware of the fact that the illegal presence of the armed forces of Armenia in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding regions of Azerbaijan is a serious threat to regional peace and security and demonstrating the principled position based on the norms and principles of international law on the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and its illegal activities, the international community should strongly condemn Armenia`s policy of aggression and provocative activities against Azerbaijan and force Armenia to comply with the international law, including its commitments under the international humanitarian law.

Full responsibility for the present situation falls on the political-military leadership of Armenia.”

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Armenia's ongoing policy of aggression against Azerbaijan shows its fascist essence to the whole world

[14:56] 27.09.2020

“As you know, early this morning, Armenian armed forces committed yet another military provocation against Azerbaijan. We have losses as a result of this provocation, both among the civilian population and servicemen. This once again shows that Armenia's policy of aggression against Azerbaijan continues, and this policy shows the fascist essence of Armenia to the whole world,” said President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev as he addressed a meeting of the Security Council, AZERTAC reports.

The head of state said: “As soon as I received the information in the morning, I contacted the Minister of Defense and the heads of other relevant agencies, gave relevant instructions, and on the basis of these instructions, the Azerbaijani Army launched a large-scale counter-offensive.

I must say that Armenia's military provocation was pre-planned. They have been preparing for this provocation for a long time, and the intelligence we have shows that Armenia intends to start a new war against us. I have repeatedly talked about this issue in the last week – in my TV interview and from the UN platform. I said that the aggressive state must be stopped. They are preparing for a new war.”

“Azerbaijani citizens are ready to support our army and state at any time and are doing that”

Emphasizing that the attack on Azerbaijan this morning was a pre-planned military provocation, President Ilham Aliyev said: “Our positions were fired on from various directions using different weaponry, including heavy artillery. At the same time, our settlements and villages were fired on. As I said, we have losses among the civilian population. This once again shows the ugly face of Armenian fascism. Because such atrocities against the civilian population can only be attributed to fascist states, and this is not the first time – the events in Tovuz and others. The Khojaly genocide was committed by Armenian savages against the civilian population. This time too, Armenia's main target is our settlements. By opening fire, they want to create panic among the Azerbaijani public, among the citizens of Azerbaijan, in the villages and towns along the frontline. This morning, I received information from all frontline regions. I can say with full confidence that the citizens of Azerbaijan are showing courage. Everyone is in their place and are ready to support our army and state at any time, and they are doing that.”

AZERTAC

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan phoned President Ilham Aliyev

[14:16] 27.09.2020

On September 27, President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan made a phone call to President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan offered his condolences to the head of state and the people of Azerbaijan over the death of Azerbaijani civilians and servicemen as a result of the Armenian military provocation today, and wished God's mercy upon them. Recep Tayyip Erdogan emphasized that today, Turkey has as always stood by Azerbaijan.

Expressing his gratitude for the condolences, the head of state hailed the continued support of the Turkish President on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

President Ilham Aliyev informed President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of the course of events that took place on the frontline today as a result of Armenia's military provocation against Azerbaijan.

The heads of state expressed their confidence that relations between friendly and brotherly Azerbaijan and Turkey would continue to develop successfully.

AZERTAC

Turkey condemns Armenian attack on Azerbaijan

[13:20] 27.09.2020

Turkey on Sunday strongly condemned the Armenian attack on Azerbaijan which caused civilian casualties.

“We strongly condemn the Armenian attack which is a clear violation of international law and caused civilian casualties,” the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Border clashes broke out early Sunday after Armenian forces opened fire targeting Azerbaijani civilian settlements.

The Armenian army violated the ceasefire this morning launching cross-border attacks on several districts, the Turkish statement added.

With this, Armenia once again proved that it is the biggest obstacle to peace and stability in the region, the statement said.

Turkey will stand with Azerbaijan by all means, the Foreign Ministry said, adding that Baku had the right of self-defense to protect its people and territory.

Ankara also extended condolences to the brotherly people of Azerbaijan and wished speedy recovery to the wounded.

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev appealed to people

[12:45] 27.09.2020

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has made an appeal to the people of Azerbaijan.

AZERTAC presents the President's appeal.

Appeal of President Ilham Aliyev to the people

- Armenian armed forces fired on our settlements, as well as our military positions, from several directions this morning, using various types of weaponry, including heavy artillery.

As a result of the enemy fire, there are casualties among the civilian population and our servicemen. Some people have been wounded. May God rest our martyrs in peace! Their blood will not remain unavenged. The Azerbaijani Army is currently firing on the enemy's military positions, and as a result of these strikes, many units of the enemy's military equipment have been destroyed. This is another manifestation of Armenian fascism.

Armenia's military provocations against Azerbaijan have become regular of late. In July, our servicemen and a civilian were killed as a result of artillery fire in the direction of Tovuz on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. It is no secret that the first fire, including artillery fire, was opened by Armenia, and the first victims were Azerbaijani servicemen. Azerbaijan gave a fitting rebuff to the enemy and they could not move an inch forward. The enemy was stopped and the territorial integrity of our country was protected. As a result of the crushing blows, the Armenian side was forced to accept a bitter defeat. I have said this and I want to say again that if we had wanted, we could have conducted military battles on the territory of Armenia. However, we do not have military targets in Armenia, and this being the case, a ceasefire was introduced a few days later.

What objectives did Armenia pursue by committing this provocation? First of all, Armenia plans to occupy Azerbaijani lands and does not conceal that. Their military-political leadership tried to threaten Azerbaijan with a new occupation, a new policy of occupation for new territories – this is the policy of Armenia's military-political leadership today. Another reason is to distract the population from the very serious social and economic problems in Armenia and portray Azerbaijan as an enemy. Yet another reason is that Armenia is doing everything possible to disrupt the negotiations, and I can say that it has succeeded in doing that. It is as a result of Armenia's hypocritical, unconstructive and false policy that the negotiations have actually stopped and this provocation is aimed at these goals. These are the main goals for them.

In July, Azerbaijan gave a fitting response to the enemy, preserved its territorial integrity and once again showed that anyone speaking to Azerbaijan in the language of threats will regret doing that. Unfortunately, this was not a lesson for them. However, after the July provocation, I said that this bitter defeat by Armenia should be a lesson for them.

In August, Armenia launched yet another military provocation. This time a sabotage group was sent to Azerbaijan. The head of the sabotage group was detained by the Azerbaijani military and is currently giving evidence. His statements clearly show that this sabotage group came to Azerbaijan with a plan to commit acts of terror. Another military provocation against the civilian

population and our servicemen was committed by Armenia today and, as I said, they have received their punishment this time again and will continue to receive it.

Armenia's provocations are also reflected in the statements made by the Armenian leadership. A year ago, the Armenian prime minister said in the occupied territories, in Khankandi, that "Karabakh is Armenia, full stop." First of all, it is a lie, Karabakh is Azerbaijan, and I have repeatedly expressed my views on this issue. Karabakh is Azerbaijan, an exclamation mark! Secondly, this provocative statement was in fact a major blow to the negotiations. If the prime minister of Armenia says that "Karabakh is Armenia", then what kind of talks can there be?! At the same time, the Armenian leadership has been repeatedly stating for two years that Azerbaijan should negotiate not with Armenia, but with the so-called "Nagorno-Karabakh republic". This is a big blow to the negotiation process. First of all, Azerbaijan will never negotiate with the puppet junta regime. Secondly, attempts to change the format of talks show once again that Armenia's main goal is to disrupt the talks and maintain the status quo. However, the heads of state of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs have repeatedly stated that the status quo is unacceptable, which means that the occupation must end.

Armenia's provocations against us do not end at that. Recently, the "swearing-in" ceremony of the head of the so-called criminal junta was held in Shusha, an ancient city of our ancient Azerbaijan. Isn't this a provocation? This is an insult to us. They thought that we would put up with this insult. They are deliberately provoking us and they will see the bitter consequences.

Recently, a decision was made by the so-called parliament of the "Nagorno-Karabakh republic" to settle people in the ancient Azerbaijani city of Shusha. This is another provocation. Recently, the prime minister of Armenia announced that "voluntary" military units would be established, bringing together tens of thousands of people. Why is this necessary? Who will they fight against? This was part of the preparations for today's provocation against Azerbaijan. I have said several times, including from the UN platform recently, that Armenia is preparing for a new war, and Armenia must and will be stopped.

Armenia is pursuing a policy of illegal settlement in the occupied territories. Several Lebanese Armenian families have recently been resettled to Nagorno-Karabakh, including Shusha, an ancient city in Azerbaijan. This is a war crime. This is completely contrary to the Geneva Convention. Armenia will be held accountable for this crime. This is another provocation against us. Settlement in the occupied territories is a crime, and this policy has been pursued by Armenia for many years. The fact is that the country's population is declining due to the difficult economic, political and social situation in Armenia. Armenia is experiencing a demographic crisis and does not have the human resources to deploy its people in the occupied territories. That is why they hope for Armenians living abroad. This policy is currently underway. At the same time, according to the accurate information we have, Armenia has carried out illegal settlement in some of our occupied territories. The names of our districts and villages are being changed. The historical heritage of Azerbaijanis is being erased. Our historical monuments are being destroyed. Azerbaijani mosques are being destroyed and desecrated. Armenia keeps cows and pigs in our mosques. This is the greatest insult to the entire Muslim world. The graves of our ancestors are being destroyed by tractors. It is fascists, vandals and savages who have done this.

At the same time, the recent military exercises in the occupied territories should be considered another provocation by Armenia. Because these exercises have one purpose: to attack

Azerbaijan, to fire on the civilian population and to occupy new lands! All the facts I have mentioned show again that Armenia and its ugly policies are the source of danger in the region.

Azerbaijan has not resorted to any provocation. Azerbaijan simply defends its interests, supports its position and pursues its policy openly. We have repeatedly stated that Nagorno-Karabakh is historical and ancient land of Azerbaijan, and this is true. When the prime minister of Armenia says that “Karabakh is Armenia”, it is a lie. When I say that “Karabakh is Azerbaijan”, it is true. The whole world recognizes Nagorno-Karabakh as an integral part of Azerbaijan. Historical justice is on our side. Because it is our native land, our ancestral land. International law is on our side. All international organizations recognize the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. All countries recognize the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Decisions and resolutions adopted within international organizations explicitly state that Nagorno-Karabakh belongs to Azerbaijan. Four UN Security Council resolutions call for an immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories. These resolutions have been on paper for almost 30 years. Negotiations within the Minsk Group have been going on for almost 30 years and, as a result, Armenia has paralyzed the negotiations by regularly committing military provocations. Besides the United Nations, all other leading international organizations support our rightful position. The Non-Aligned Movement is the second largest international institution after the United Nations, and it is currently chaired by Azerbaijan. It has adopted a fair resolution on the conflict. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation has adopted fair resolutions. The decisions of the OSCE and the resolutions of the European Parliament support our position. Our position is based on international law and justice. We are fighting on our own land. Today, the Azerbaijani Army is dealing crushing blows to the enemy on Azerbaijani soil. Today, the Azerbaijani Army protects the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan on its territory. What are Armenian soldiers doing in our lands?! What is the Armenian army doing in our lands?! It is no secret that 90 percent of the personnel in the “Nagorno-Karabakh army” are Armenian citizens. Armenia is an occupying state, this occupation must and will end.

We are on the right path! Ours is the cause of justice! We will win! Karabakh is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!

AZERTAC

Another military provocation against civilian population and our servicemen was committed by Armenia today, and they have received their punishment this time again and will continue to receive it, Azerbaijani President

[12:41] 27.09.2020

“In July, Azerbaijan gave a fitting response to the enemy, preserved its territorial integrity and once again showed that anyone speaking to Azerbaijan in the language of threats will regret doing that. Unfortunately, this was not a lesson for them,” said President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev as he addressed to the nation.

“However, after the July provocation, I said that this bitter defeat by Armenia should be a lesson for them.

In August, Armenia launched yet another military provocation. This time a sabotage group was sent to Azerbaijan. The head of the sabotage group was detained by the Azerbaijani military and is currently giving evidence. His statements clearly show that this sabotage group came to Azerbaijan with a plan to commit acts of terror. Another military provocation against the civilian population and our servicemen was committed by Armenia today and, as I said, they have received their punishment this time again and will continue to receive it,” the head of state added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijani President: We have no military targets in Armenia

[12:35] 27.09.2020

“Azerbaijan has no military targets in Armenia,” President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev said in his address to the people, AZERTAC reports.

The address says: “Armenia's military provocations against Azerbaijan have become regular of late. In July, our servicemen and a civilian were killed as a result of artillery fire in the direction of Tovuz on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. It is no secret that the first fire, including artillery fire, was opened by Armenia, and the first victims were Azerbaijani servicemen. Azerbaijan gave a fitting rebuff to the enemy and they could not move an inch forward. The enemy was stopped and the territorial integrity of our country was protected. As a result of the crushing blows, the Armenian side was forced to accept a bitter defeat. I have said this and I want to say again that if we had wanted, we could have conducted military battles on the territory of Armenia. However, we do not have military targets in Armenia, and this being the case, a ceasefire was introduced a few days later.”

AZERTAC

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijani Army is currently firing on and dealing blows to the enemy's military positions

[12:27] 27.09.2020

Armenian armed forces committed large-scale military provocations on the frontline today.

According to AZERTAC, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev has addressed the nation in this regard.

The statement says: “Armenian armed forces fired on our settlements, as well as our military positions, from several directions this morning, using various types of weaponry, including heavy artillery. As a result of the enemy fire, there are casualties among the civilian population and our servicemen. Some people have been wounded. May God rest our martyrs in peace! Their blood will not remain unavenged. The Azerbaijani Army is currently firing on the enemy's military positions, and as a result of these strikes, many units of the enemy's military equipment have been destroyed. This is another manifestation of Armenian fascism.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan Army's counter-offensive operation continues successfully

[12:13] 27.09.2020

“Units of the Azerbaijan Army are fighting for important heights located under the occupation of Armenian troops in the Tartar-Aghdam, Fuzuli-Jabrayil directions, and in the direction of Murovdag Mountain,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“Rocket and artillery troops and aviation assets strike at enemy command posts, destroying a large number of maneuvering forces, military equipment, and military facilities.

Fierce battles are taking place along the entire length of the front,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan Army does not shell civilians

[11:16] 27.09.2020

“As reported earlier, the command staff of the Azerbaijan Army decided to launch a counter-offensive operation along the entire front to suppress the combat activity of the armed forces of Armenia and ensure the safety of the civilian population,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“We officially announce that the Azerbaijan Army does not target the civilian population, civilian facilities, and civilian infrastructure. Unlike the occupying country Armenia, during military operations, Azerbaijan complies with the requirements of the regulation of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions,” the ministry said.

“The Armenian army deliberately places its firing points inside and near human settlements.

The Azerbaijan Army makes calls for the civilian population in the occupied territories to stay away from military facilities,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Azerbaijan`s Defense Ministry: Our units maintain full advantage over the enemy in the front

[11:00] 27.09.2020

“Information spread by Armenia about allegedly shooting down of 3 tanks, 2 helicopters and 3 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) of the Azerbaijan Army is false and disinformation,” Azerbaijan`s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“We pointed out that, our units maintain full advantage over the enemy in the front,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC

Hikmat Hajiyev: Armenia's deliberate targeting of residential areas and the civilians is a gross violation of international humanitarian law

[10:44] 27.09.2020

Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Head of Foreign Policy Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration Hikmat Hajiyev has made a statement as the armed forces of Armenia blatantly violated the ceasefire regime on September 27.

The statement reads: “As it has already been reported by the Ministry of Defense, around 06:00 hours, on 27 September 2020, the armed forces of Armenia blatantly violated the ceasefire regime and using large-caliber weapons, mortar launchers and artillery launched an intensive attack on the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the frontline, as well as the villages of Gapanli of Tartar district, Chiragli and Orta Garavand of Aghdam district, Alkhanli and Shukurbayli of Fuzuli district and Jojug Marjanli of Jabrayil district.

The bombardment of densely populated civilian areas and installations situated along the front line by Armenia's armed forces has been deliberate and targeted.

There are reports of dead and wounded among civilians and military servicemen. Extensive damage has been inflicted on many homes and civilian infrastructure.

The armed forces of Armenia continue with the bombardment of our positions and residential areas along the frontline.

Armenia's deliberate targeting of residential areas and the civilians is a gross violation of the international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Convention of 1949. Targeting the civilian population is a tactic incorporated in the combat training of Armenia's armed forces, and the Khojaly genocide perpetrated in February 1992 has been a vivid testimony to that.

According to the international law, Armenian armed forces' strikes against the positions of Azerbaijan's army, against the civilians and civilian infrastructure, with the use of large-caliber weapons, are Armenia's yet another military aggression and an act of the use of force against Azerbaijan.

The armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan are undertaking necessary counter-offensive measures to prevent Armenia's another military aggression and ensure the security of the civilian population.

Azerbaijan has issued repeated warnings to the international community that Armenia is preparing for a new act of aggression and war.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly stated that Armenia's ongoing military aggression against Azerbaijan and the presence of the armed forces of Armenia in Azerbaijan's occupied territories have remained a significant threat to regional peace and security.

With the General Debate at the UN General Assembly's 75th Session underway and the world fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, Armenia's political-military leadership has resorted to another military adventure and a provocation. By doing so, Armenia's leadership demonstrated once again a flagrant disregard for the international law, UN Charter and the international community.

The responsibility for the present situation and future developments lie squarely with Armenia's political-military leadership.”

AZERTAC

Ministry of Defense: Azerbaijan Army's troops launched counter-offensive operation along the entire front

[09:12] 27.09.2020

“The command staff of the Azerbaijan Army decided to launch a counter-offensive operation of our troops along the entire front to suppress the combat activity of the armed forces of Armenia and ensure the safety of the civilian population,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“The military personnel and tank units, with the support of units of the Rocket and Artillery Troops, frontline aviation, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), determining a large number of manpower (military personnel), military facilities, and military equipment of the Armenian armed forces located in the forward line and in the depths of the enemy's defense, have destroyed them.”

“According to the information received, 12 OSA anti-aircraft missile systems of the Armenian air defense units were destroyed in various directions. A combat helicopter of the Air Force of Azerbaijan was shot down in the Tartar direction, the crew members are alive.

The blitz counter-offensive operation of our troops continues,” the ministry said.

AZERTAC

Armenian armed forces committed large-scale provocations along entire length of the front

[07:46] 27.09.2020

“On September 27, at about 06:00, the armed forces of Armenia, committing large-scale provocations, subjected to intensive shelling from large-caliber weapons, mortars, and artillery mounts of various calibers of the positions of the Azerbaijan Army along the entire length of the front and our human settlements located in the frontline zone,” Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense told AZERTAC.

“There are killed and wounded among the civilian population as a result of the intensive shelling by the enemy of Gapanli village of Tartar region, Chiragli and Orta Garvand villages of Aghdam region, Alkhanli and Shukurbayli villages of Fuzuli region and Jojug Marjanli village of Jabrayil region. Serious damage was caused to civilian infrastructure.

Information on casualties and wounded among the civilian population and military personnel is being specified,” the ministry said.

“The foremost units of the Azerbaijan Army are taking retaliatory measures to suppress this provocation of the enemy and to ensure the safety of the civilian population living near the line of confrontation of the troops,” the ministry added.

AZERTAC