



# The Human Rights Defender of the Republic of Armenia



## AD HOC PUBLIC REPORT ON CONSEQUENCES OF AZERBAIJANI MILITARY ATTACK ON THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

**September, 2022  
(Updated)**



**Yerevan, Armenia**

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# I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. In the early hours of September 13, 2022, according to HRD's hotline call information, some local and other sources the Azerbaijani military forces launched a large-scale coordinated attack against the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, along the eastern and south eastern line of contact, deliberately targeting the peaceful borderline communities of Kapan, Goris, Qarashen, Verishen, Khnatsakh, Kornidzor, Khoznavar, Ishkhanasar, Tchakaten, Nerqin Hand, Tsav, Davit Bek, Artanish, Srashen, Jermuk, Vardenis, Sotk, Norabak, Kut, Geghamasar and other borderline communities in the provinces of Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Syunik of Armenia. The Azerbaijani armed forces used different types of weapons including heavy artillery, mortars of different calibers, UAVs, large-caliber guns, and Grad multiple rocket launchers (MRLs).

2. The Azerbaijani military attack was accompanied by gross violations of International Humanitarian Law and human rights.

3. The military attack of the Azerbaijani armed forces has violated the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Armenia. This is a clear violation of Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations which provides that "*All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.*". Moreover, Article 51 of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations provides that "*Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security.*"

4. The fact that the border between the states is not officially delimited and demarcated does not give states the right to derogate from their international obligation from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and launch a military attack on the sovereign territory of a neighboring state, endangering the rights and lives of the residents of borderline communities.

5. It is of particular concern that during the attack the Azerbaijani side is targeting the civilian population and vital civilian infrastructure in gross violation of IHL and international human rights law.

6. Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the UN Charter (Declaration 2625) recalled the "*duty of states to*

*refrain from the military, political, economic or any other form of coercion aimed against the political independence or territorial integrity of any state”.*

7. Besides, the Azerbaijani attack on the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia is a violation of the trilateral ceasefire statement of November 9, which states that the parties to the agreement shall remain at their current positions (the positions they were occupying at the moment of the statement).<sup>1</sup>

8. On September 14 starting from 20:00 a very fragile ceasefire was established, which is very often violated, for example, on September 28 starting from 18.00 Azerbaijan violated the ceasefire in the direction of Jermuk, and both large-caliber small arms and artillery and UAVs were used resulted in the death of three Armenian servicemen.

## **II. METHODOLOGY**

9. The purpose of this Report is to digest, analyze and present the gross violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law by the Azerbaijani armed forces during its military attack against Armenia starting from September 13, 2022.

10. The factual data illustrated in this report include and supplement the data of the Ad hoc Report published on September 16 of this year<sup>2</sup>, including summarised facts covering the period from September 13 until the publication of this report.

11. The Human Rights Defender, as a National Mechanism for the prevention of torture, according to accepted practice, has prepared a separate non-public report, which touches on the facts of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment by the Azerbaijani armed forces against Armenian prisoners of war, recorded in the days after the attack that began on September 13.

12. The Report, among other things, is based on the fact-finding activities of the Human Rights Defender's Office (HRDO), during which representatives of the Defender's Office conducted visits to Sotk, Kut, and Norabak communities of Gegharkunik province as well as to Verishen, Akner, Karashen, Vaghatur, Khoznavar, Aghitu, Noravan communities of Syunik and to Jermuk city of Vayots Dzor province. During the visits, the representatives of the Defender's Office conducted private interviews with the heads of the communities, the residents, the evacuated and displaced persons, as well as persons who had received various injuries and were receiving or have received

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<sup>1</sup> Available at: <https://www.primeminister.am/en/press-release/item/2020/11/10/Announcement/>

<sup>2</sup> Ad hoc Report of the Human Rights Defender on the consequences of the military attack of Azerbaijan against the Republic of Armenia, RA Human Rights Defender, Yerevan, 2022, Available at: <https://ombuds.am/images/files/fc7d77e1dcd3e0573173dfa7314e6c46.pdf> (Accessed on 01.10.2022):

relevant medical care in the medical centers. HRDO visited the injured civilians in Yerevan hospitals as well.

13. On September 13, the Defender's fact-finding team worked in the Sotk community of Gegharkunik region under conditions of active shelling, as a result of which it was able to collect valuable information and record the processes of evacuation and shelter of people on the spot.

14. Starting from September 13 the representatives of HRD regional offices in Gegharkunik and Syunik, and Tavush provinces, have carried out extensive fact-finding activities on the ground of affected communities and in cooperation with the local self-governing bodies and territorial administrations, local civil society organizations, and other actors.

15. The HRDO's fact-finding activities have also included monitoring media publications and analyzing the alarming calls addressed to the HRDO and its regional offices, including through the 24/7 hotline. Media monitoring also covers the traditional and social media of Azerbaijan.

16. During September 13-15 the Human Rights Defender has prepared and sent daily Communiqués on the violations of International Humanitarian Law and human rights to international organizations mandated with the protection of human rights, international partners, and diplomatic missions accredited in the Republic of Armenia. HRD has established a dedicated communication channel related to potential questions on these events by the side of the international partners.

### **III. THE AZERBAIJANI POLICY OF ARMENOPHOBIA**

17. The Azerbaijani policy of hatred towards Armenians both during and after the 44-day war was documented and presented in the ad hoc reports of the HRD<sup>3</sup>. The reports prove that the Azerbaijani policy of promoting hatred and enmity towards Armenians was one of the underlying causes of the torture, and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment of ethnic Armenians by Azerbaijani servicemen during the 44-day war of 2020.

18. The existence of hatred, intolerance and hostility towards Armenians in Azerbaijan, the Armenophobic rhetoric of public officials, as well as its continuous nature were confirmed by international monitoring bodies. The intolerance towards Armenians and dissemination of

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<sup>3</sup> Ad hoc public report "The Azerbaijani Policy of Hatred and Animosity towards Armenians as Root Causes of Ethnically Motivated Violations of Human Rights: Evidence-based Analysis of Post-War Developments", Human Rights Defender of Armenia, Yerevan, 2022, Available at <https://ombuds.am/images/files/3101f60c869b0f378dbc737b002e5054.pdf> (Accessed on 30 September, 2022), Joint ad hoc public report "Organized Hate Speech and Animosity towards Ethnic Armenians in Azerbaijan as Root Causes of Ethnically-based Torture and Inhuman Treatment by Azerbaijani Armed Forces (September-November 2020)", Human Rights Defender of Armenia, Human Rights Ombudsman of Artsakh, 2020, Available at <https://www.ombuds.am/images/files/2032f021fe81176414a649d588ad0e86.pdf> (Accessed on 30 September, 2022).

Armenophobic hate speech (including by state institutions) were first noted by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) back in 2002.<sup>4</sup>

19. In this regard, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in its concluding observations on the combined tenth to twelfth reports of Azerbaijan expressed its concern regarding the incitement to racial hatred and the propagation of racist stereotypes against ethnic Armenians on social media platforms, as well as by public figures and governmental officials (Para. 4(c)), and recommended the Azerbaijani authorities to adopt measures to monitor and combat hate speech and the incitement of racial hatred and discrimination, including on the Internet and social media, as well as by its officials and public institutions which are aimed at ethnic Armenians (Para. 5(d)).

20. The Committee also expressed concerns about reports that school textbooks promote prejudice and incite racial hatred, particularly against ethnic Armenians. Moreover, the Committee pointed out the lack of detailed information on measures taken by Azerbaijan to combat prejudices and intolerance and the incorporation of human rights principles into school curricula and university (Para 34).<sup>5</sup>

## **1. Dissemination of the materials proving the acts of torture and ill-treatment**

21. As during the 44-day war, after the attack of September 13, 2022, videos depicting the acts of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment committed by the Azerbaijani armed forces against Armenian servicemen are being posted on Azerbaijani social media platforms. The video materials contain scenes of physical violence, insults and humiliation of Armenian servicemen, as well as inhuman treatment of the bodies of killed servicepersons. It should also be noted that during this period, some videos recorded in 2020 were also disseminated, presenting them as events that took place during the military attack of September, 2022. The aim is to deepen the still fresh social trauma and intimidation of the Armenian society by creating the false impression of the widespread nature of such cases.

22. The details regarding the contents of the videos depicting violence, torture and degrading treatment are analyzed in a separate non-public ad hoc report of the HRD, which is published by the Defender as the National Preventive Mechanism. At the same time, it is important to stress the fact that the behavior manifested by Azerbaijani servicemen during the 44-day war continued in the same manner in September of this year, indicating that these acts remain unpunished and are thus

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<sup>4</sup> European Commission against Racism and Intolerance Report on Azerbaijan, adopted 28 June 2002, CRI (2003) 3, para. 51-53.

<sup>5</sup> Available at: [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CERD/Shared%20Documents/AZE/CERD\\_C\\_AZE\\_CO\\_10-12\\_49770\\_E.pdf](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CERD/Shared%20Documents/AZE/CERD_C_AZE_CO_10-12_49770_E.pdf) (Accessed on 30.09.2022)

encouraged by both the Azerbaijani authorities and the military leadership. The widespread nature of the torture and inhuman treatment of Armenian servicemen also allows us to conclude that these acts could not have been committed without the instruction or, at least, the knowledge and acquiescence of the military leadership. Thus, by filming and publishing the criminal acts committed by them, Azerbaijani servicemen do not face the risk of being brought to justice, therefore they are not forced to act lawfully or, at least, to exercise caution.

23. At the same time, the main objectives of the publication and wide dissemination of the videos on social media are obvious, namely, intimidating and inflicting additional suffering on the Armenian public, as well as receiving the praise and encouragement of Azerbaijani social media users.

24. The abovementioned is further proven by the fact that publications have been made about informing the location of the killed Armenian servicemen, calling on the servicemen's relatives to contact the given user, which was often followed by attempts of the relatives of the servicemen to establish contact. The monitoring of Azerbaijani social media allows us to state that these users responded to the relatives of Armenian servicemen by insulting them, and messages which were sent by the relatives were published on Azerbaijani Telegram channels with thousands of followers, with the aim of insulting them, and of terrorizing and inflicting additional suffering upon the Armenian society and especially, the relatives of servicepersons (see Appendix 1).<sup>6</sup>

25. Referring to the videos of Armenian Prisoners of War and their publication and widespread dissemination, it should be noted that Prisoners of War are thus being subjected to public curiosity; the publication of the videos is followed by the targeting and mockery of Armenian Prisoners of War with insults and hate speech by social media users. At the same time, according to Article 13 of the Geneva Convention III, Prisoners of War must at all times be protected, particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and *public curiosity*.

## **2. Inhuman and discriminatory treatment of women servicepersons.**

26. Particular attention should be paid to the wide dissemination of videos proving the acts of inhuman treatment of the bodies of killed Armenian female servicepersons on Azerbaijani social media platforms, as well as offensive, degrading expressions of the social media users. The review of

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<sup>6</sup> The data on hate speech spread by users on Azerbaijani social networks presented in this chapter is based on the information collected as a result of monitoring of Twitter and Telegram social networks. It should be noted that several Telegram channels in particular are flooded with anti-Armenian publications and user comments promoting violence against Armenians. See, for example: ([https://web.telegram.org/k/#@zloy\\_mamed\\_1915](https://web.telegram.org/k/#@zloy_mamed_1915) / [https://web.telegram.org/k/#@patriots\\_aze/](https://web.telegram.org/k/#@patriots_aze/) / [https://web.telegram.org/k/#@bez\\_mas\\_FACT](https://web.telegram.org/k/#@bez_mas_FACT)). Some examples of such publications are presented in Appendix 1 of this report.

video materials indicates that violence towards women and the mutilation of their bodies were motivated by not only ethnic but also gender-based hatred.

27. Gender-based violence is rooted in the need to assert male control or power, enforce gender roles, and punish for traditionally “non-feminine” behavior (in this case, for military service). It is important in this regard, that the criminal acts committed towards female servicepersons differed in nature from the torture and ill-treatment of other servicemen. For example, the women were stripped naked, the fingers of one female serviceperson were cut off and placed in her mouth, etc. The details are analyzed in the non-public ad hoc report of the HRD.

28. It should be noted that according to the General Recommendation No. 19 of the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), gender-based violence is a form of discrimination toward women, and as stated in General Recommendation No. 35, a State party is responsible for acts and omissions by its organs and agents that constitute gender-based violence against women both under the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and general international law.<sup>7</sup>

29. In General Recommendation N 30, the Committee states that conflicts exacerbate existing gender inequalities, placing women at a heightened risk of various forms of gender-based violence. The Committee notes that female combatants and women in the military are also vulnerable to gender-based violence, including sexual assault and harassment. Thus, the Committee recommends that State parties prohibit all forms of gender-based violence by State and non-State actors, as well as prevent, investigate and punish all forms of gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence.<sup>8</sup>

### **3. The attitude of the wider Azerbaijani public towards the publications**

30. The social media monitoring conducted by the HRD Office clearly demonstrates that contents proving the acts of torture and inhuman treatment of Armenian servicemen, as well as depicting the bodies of killed combatants and civilians receive public praise, as well as normalization and encouragement of such acts against Armenians by Azerbaijani users.

31. It is important to emphasize that the reaction of Azerbaijani users included expressions of undisguised excitement related to the ill-treatment of Armenians, as well as calls for violence. Often,

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<sup>7</sup> UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, General Recommendation No. 35 on Violence Against Women, updating General Recommendation No. 19, paragraph 22.

<sup>8</sup> UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women “women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations”, general recommendation No. 30, paragraphs 34, 38, 67.

the publication of bodies/body parts of dead servicemen was accompanied by the entries "the best Armenian is a dead Armenian". It is noteworthy that this phrase was repeatedly used by Azerbaijani users during the 44-day war of 2020, which was presented in the abovementioned ad hoc reports of the HRD.

32. Call for violence, including for the extermination of Armenians were also disseminated (See Appendix 1.3). One of the Telegram channels with thousands of subscribers quoted the statement of the press secretary of the Azerbaijani football club "Qarabag" Nurlan Ibrahimov dated October 30, 2020: "We must kill all Armenians: children, women, the elderly, without repentance or compassion. The most important thing now is to get rid of these cattle, otherwise it will be too late."<sup>9</sup>

33. The publication of photos of the killed Armenian servicemen was accompanied by the use of offensive statements against them, and calling them "Armenian terrorists". Photos of servicemen were often edited. In one case, for example, a pig's muzzle and ears were added to a serviceman, and the picture says: "I died too." (see Appendix 1.2).

34. Particularly disturbing is the creation of stickers depicting the tortured bodies and body parts of Armenian servicepersons and civilians on the Telegram social network, which were uploaded and used by tens of thousands Azerbaijani users (see Appendix 1.4).

35. As to the publications concerning female military personnel, several factors specific to the most of these posts should be highlighted. Importantly, the publications and comments regarding servicewomen are targeting not only at their nationality, but also, first and foremost, their gender and are caused by misogyny and gender prejudice of Azerbaijani users. This targeting involves the dissemination of gender stereotypes, the use of obscene expressions of sexual nature, as well as other offensive expressions, which stem from the denial of a woman's personality and the perception of a woman as an object of satisfaction of sexual desires.

36. The refusal of woman's ability to be a serviceperson is also noticeable, as well as mockery resulting from this belief and aimed at both servicewomen, as well as the collective image of an Armenian man who is "sitting on the couch" and "sending Armenian women" to the battlefield instead of himself. In other words, the publications were also based on the idea that military service is suitable for men, and the mere existence of female servicepersons is a disgrace. For example, in the publications made on pages with thousands of followers, it is mentioned that "Armenian men sit on

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<sup>9</sup> Available at: <https://sport.news.am/eng/news/116193/azerbaijan-football-club-representative-we-must-kill-all-armenians.html> (accessed on 30.09.2022)

the couch", while the "Yashma<sup>10</sup> sends Armenian women to God<sup>11</sup>". The same idea is expressed in different wordings in other posts, including by the use of profanities targeting women.

37. Not only did Azerbaijani users express excitement about the torture of the bodies of killed female servicepersons, but also shared pictures and publications of other Armenian women, expressing the desire to commit violence against these women, including sexual violence. Often, the descriptions of the desired violence in these posts reflected the mutilation and dismembering of the body of an Armenian female serviceperson; Azerbaijani users, in particular, mentioned the cutting of the fingers of female Armenian servicepersons and putting them in their mouths (see Appendix 1.5).

38. Posts about children, and not only women, have been disseminated on social networks, targeting also girls with the use of gender-based offensive and discriminatory language (see Appendix 1.6).

#### **4. The statements of officials and public figures and hate propaganda directed at Azerbaijani children**

39. The monitoring of mass media outlets by the HRDO proves that Azerbaijani officials and public figures continue to utilize rhetoric of extreme hatred and Armenophobia, encouraging enmity against ethnic Armenians. On September 13, 2022, several deputies of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan and other high-level officials threatened and insulted Armenians, justifying the aggressive operations of the Azerbaijani armed forces.<sup>12</sup>

40. It should be noted that these statements contain certain repeated phrases and ideas, each of which is important for the formulation of a clear image of an "Armenian" and "Armenian state" in the Azerbaijani society, and which serve as a basis and justification for nationwide ethnic hatred and hostility, as well as aggression against the Republic of Armenia.

41. In particular, Armenians are presented as a cunning, two-faced, hypocritical, treacherous nation, from which betrayal and malice are expected. Officials regularly characterize Armenians as barbarians and savages, thus also emphasizing the impossibility of conducting negotiations with Armenia and highlighting the inevitability of the use of force by Azerbaijan.

42. Thus, on September 19, a member of the ruling "New Azerbaijan" party and a deputy of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan, Malahat Ibrahimgizi, referring to the rallies by Armenians in front

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<sup>10</sup> The name of the Azerbaijani special forces.

<sup>11</sup> The Russian transliteration of the word "god" is used: "Аствац".

<sup>12</sup> Available at: "<https://telegraf.com/news/siyaset/340649.html> and <https://demokrat.az/az/news/122769/texribatlar-ermenistanin-sonunu-yaxinlasdirir-deputat> (accessed on 30.09.2022)

of Azerbaijani Embassies, called them “operations of Armenian fascism”, and called the participants of the rallies “Armenian vandals”, and emphasized that “Throughout history, treachery, hypocrisy, deceitfulness have been formed as national characteristics for the Armenian people living as parasites in the arms of other nations and states.”<sup>13</sup> On September 16, deputy Vugar Iskenderov, referring to the military operation of September 13-15, accused the Armenian side of disseminating fake information, defining it as “the hypocrisy characteristic of the Armenian state and authorities”. He also stated that “the brain of Armenians is poisoned to the level that they live with the fantasies of Greater Armenia”<sup>14</sup>. Similarly, on September 13, the day of the launch of the Azerbaijani military attack, Fazail Agamali, a deputy in the National Assembly, not only called Armenians “a barbaric, and fascist race”, but also unequivocally called for the eradication of Armenia as a state.<sup>15</sup>

43. A deputy from the ruling faction, Elman Mammadov, emphasizing the need to use military force, stated that: “Azerbaijan (...) will force Armenians to go to peace by using its military power. Armenians, as a normal society, as a nation, do not understand words, they do not want peace”<sup>16</sup>. Similarly, Ziyafat Asgerov, the Chairman of the Defense and Security Committee of the National Assembly, stated that “At the same time, the Armenian side proved yet again that there is no point in talking with them politically and diplomatically. It appears as if they have chosen the iron fist of Azerbaijan. Therefore, from now on, we will talk to them only in a language that is understandable to them”.<sup>17</sup>

44. Threats have also been made by certain public figures. For example, during an interview on September 20, 2022, the leader of the National Independence Party Etibar Mammadov stated that if Armenia refuses to give the corridor, they should close the road connecting Stepanakert with Armenia, thus calling to deprive the Armenians living in Artsakh of a vital road, throwing them into a complete blockade.<sup>18</sup>

45. It should also be noted that calling a person “Armenian” or considering his/her ideas as “pro-Armenian” is perceived as an insult in Azerbaijan. On September 16, 2022, deputy Agiye Nakhachivanli, referring to the statements made by certain opposition activists regarding the military attack of the Azerbaijani armed forces on September 13, stated that: “the thoughts and opinions of people who associate themselves with the pro-Armenian forces cannot have any significance for the

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<sup>13</sup> Available at: <https://bakivaxti.az/ru/posts/detail/ermeniler-hemise-basqa-xalqlarin-qoltugunda-parazit-kimi-yasayib-deputat-1663573268> (in Azerbaijani) (Accessed on 30.09.2022)

<sup>14</sup> Available at: <https://azpolitika.info/?p=688741> (in Azerbaijani) (Accessed on 30.09.2022)

<sup>15</sup> Available at: <https://www.bakupost.az/qisasa-benzer-antiterror-emeliyyati-aparilmalidir-deputat> (in Azerbaijani) (Accessed on 30.09.2022)

<sup>16</sup> Available at: <https://pravda.az/news/92392> (in Azerbaijani) (Accessed on 30.09.2022)

<sup>17</sup> Available at: <https://teleqraf.com/news/siyaset/340649.html> (in Azerbaijani) (Accessed on 30.09.2022)

<sup>18</sup> Available at: <https://azpolitika.info/?p=689132> (in Azerbaijani) (Accessed on 30.09.2022)

people of Azerbaijan."<sup>19</sup> Similarly, on September 15, a deputy of National Assembly of Azerbaijan, a member of the ruling party Tahir Rzaev, criticizing the opposition activists, compared them to "bloodthirsty Armenians".<sup>20</sup>

46. The Armenophobic rhetoric of Azerbaijani officials was also evident during the period that preceded the September 13 military attack on Armenia. For example, on September 8, member of the ruling party, deputy Elshad Mirbashiroglu stated that Armenians are a "savage people that cannot be changed", with whom it is "difficult and dangerous" to live in peace. Furthermore, he stated that "We have to keep the enemy in a very weak position after this, so that they will not have a chance to raise their head at all."<sup>21</sup> Similarly, another deputy, Anar Isganderov stated that the Armenian nation and "the Armenian state are foreigners to this region, they are not the owners of this territory, they are newcomers", and that Armenia "should not remain in history", calling for the extermination and eradication of the Armenian state. He also called Armenians "cruel, ruthless, more fascist than fascists", a people without mercy, and justice.<sup>22</sup>

47. Several public figures also called for the use of force. For example, the leader of the Free Democrats party, Sulhedin Akbar, stated that it is necessary to undertake a new "anti-terrorist operation" to take control of the heights of Lachin and Kalbajar regions.<sup>23</sup> Military expert Azad Isazade also spoke about the necessity of the "anti-terrorist operation", noting that in this way the Prime Minister of Armenia will "accept peace" faster.<sup>24</sup>

48. The unrestricted and unpunished manifestation of such expressions inciting hatred and intolerance, as well as advocating the destruction of Armenian statehood, in the Azerbaijani public discourse, especially by officials, indicates that Armenophobia in Azerbaijan is encouraged and nurtured by the authorities, mostly disseminated and supported by high-ranking officials.

49. In this context, it should be emphasized that in their statements, Azerbaijani officials often use the expressions of the President of Azerbaijan and repeat the theses put forward by him. In this regard, it is noteworthy that in their speeches, these officials mention the "iron fist" often referred to by the President of Azerbaijan.<sup>25</sup> This expression was used several times by Ilham Aliyev during, and after

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<sup>19</sup> Available at: <https://azertag.az/xeber/2294177> (In Azerbaijani) (accessed on 30.09.2022)

<sup>20</sup> Available at: <https://demokrat.az/az/news/123145/deputat-coreyimizi-yeyib-suyumuzu-icenlerin-nadanligi-hamimizi-teessuflendirir> (In Azerbaijani) (accessed on 30.09.2022)

<sup>21</sup> Available at: <https://pravda.az/news/92059> (in Azerbaijani) (accessed on 30.09.2022)

<sup>22</sup> Available at: <https://demokrat.az/az/news/122223/ermeniler-yuz-iller-boyu-insanlarin-qebirlerini-goresenler-kimi-esibler-deputat> (In Azerbaijani) (accessed on 30.09.2022)

<sup>23</sup> Available at: <https://teleqraf.com/news/qarabagh/340112.html> (In Azerbaijani) (accessed on 30.09.2022)

<sup>24</sup> Available at: <https://reyting.az/slayd/87556-qarabagda-anti-terror-emeliyyati-kecirile-biler.html> (in Azerbaijani). Also check <https://turaztv.az/xeberler/23663-vacb-qarabada-qisas-2-mliyyat-balanr-aiqlama.htm> (in Azerbaijani) (accessed on 30.09.2022)

<sup>25</sup> Available at : <https://pravda.az/news/92392>, <https://teleqraf.com/news/siyaset/340649.html> (In Azerbaijani) (accessed on 30.09.2022)

the 44-day war of 2020, gaining widespread popularity in the Azerbaijani society, and usually symbolizes an attack by the Azerbaijani armed forces or is used as a threat of use of force. For example, on April 22, 2022, the Azerbaijani president declared: “At last, [the Azerbaijani people] was able to crush the head of the enemy by the “iron fist”, restore historical justice, and national dignity”.<sup>26</sup>

50. It is also noteworthy that officials and public figures use the phrase "Armenian fascism" in their speech referring to the actions of the Armenian authorities, the Armenian Armed Forces, and even civilians. The idea of the Republic of Armenia being a "fascist state" has been repeatedly expressed by the President of Azerbaijan, and is based on his proclamation that the current territory of Armenia is built on "historical Azerbaijani lands". The analysis of the statements and interviews of the Azerbaijani President over a significant period of time proves that by using this expression, he created the false narrative of Azerbaijan's fight against "Armenian fascism", thus, inter alia, justifying the use of force against the Republic of Armenia, and the Armenians in Artsakh.<sup>27</sup>

51. Referring to the hate speech spread by the President of Azerbaijan, it is also worth noting that along with the expressions humiliating the dignity and inciting intolerance towards Armenians, he often uses threats of the use of force and other expressions aimed at terrorizing the population of Armenia, confirming the use of force by Azerbaijan, and at the same time praising this fact. For example, on September 21, 2022, during his visit to Lachin region, Aliyev noted that Armenia should be careful, and that “nothing and no one” can stop Azerbaijan, blatantly threatening with the use of force. He also noted that: “We have liberated our lands by force, and we are proud of that”. The President of Azerbaijan also referred to the attack by Azerbaijan on the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, justifying it with the lack of demarcation and delimitation of the borders, stating that: “They (Armenians) were under the impression that Karabakh and Zangezur (referring to the Syunik province of the Republic of Armenia: Editor’s note) will remain to them, therefore the have

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<sup>26</sup> See Ilham Aliyev's speech at “The fifth Congress of World Azerbaijanis” in Shushi, April 22, 2022, available at: <https://president.az/az/articles/view/55859> (in Azerbaijani) (accessed on 30.09.2022). Check also the statement of Ilham Aliyev on “BBC Monitoring” available at: <https://twitter.com/bbcmonitoring/status/1326064785885192194> (in English) (accessed on 16.09.2022)

<sup>27</sup> (...) Armenian fascism is the ugliest and cruelest form of fascism that has ever existed. In this war, we not only restored our territorial integrity, but also destroyed Armenian fascism. This is a historic mission, which we performed not only for the people of Azerbaijan, but for the whole world. Armenian fascism has been destroyed. It was destroyed by the people of Azerbaijan. If some revanchist forces raise their heads in Armenia today, they should know that if necessary, we will crush their heads at any time. We cannot allow Armenian fascism to raise its head again”. “President Ilham Aliyev interviewed by Azerbaijan Television”, April 21, 2021, available at: <https://apa.az/en/xeber/domestic-news/President-Ilham-Aliyev-interviewed-by-Azerbaijan-Television-coloredUPDATEDcolor-347302> (In English) (accessed on 30.09.2022) See also: “We must ensure that Armenian fascism never arises again” <https://news.az/news/we-must-ensure-that-armenian-fascism-never-arises-again-azerbaijani-president> (in English, accessed on 30.09.2022)

not undertaken any process on the border. With these words, in the absence of demarcation, no one can claim where the border is”.<sup>28</sup>

52. On September 27, on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the war launched by Azerbaijan in 2020, Ilham Aliyev proudly reconfirmed the use of force by the Azerbaijani armed forces in 2020, noting that “they took revenge on the battlefield”. He noted that the Azerbaijani people “united like a fist” and “threw out the enemy from their native lands”. Once again, the speech of the Azerbaijani president contained a threat of use of force; in particular, he noted: “We will not allow for the enemy to raise their head again, and to create threats for us again. If we see a threat, we will act immediately. (..) The growing power of our country, including military power, is the provider and guarantor of our independence and comfortable life”.<sup>29</sup>

53. Referring to the propaganda of hatred directed at children, it should be noted that based on the study of Azerbaijani school textbooks, the Defender has already recorded in their reports that the propaganda of Armenophobia is deeply embedded in the Azerbaijani educational process, as a result of which hatred towards Armenians is instilled in children from their early childhood.<sup>30</sup> In this context, the video widely disseminated on social media and published on Twitter<sup>31</sup> by the press secretary of The Council of State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations adjunct to the President of Azerbaijan deserves special attention. The video depicts Azerbaijani school-age children repeating the words supposedly spoken by the teacher and continuing his sentences, in the school-yard of Sumgait city of Azerbaijan. In particular, the following exchange takes place between the teacher and the students.

“Teacher: Greetings, precious soldier!

Students: Greetings.

Teacher: For the motherland...

Students: Service

Teacher: For the people...

Students: Loyalty.

Teacher: For the enemy...

Students: Hatred, hatred, hatred.

Teacher: Be ready to serve the motherland!

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<sup>28</sup> Available at: <https://apa.az/en/official-news/president-ilham-aliyev-raised-azerbaijani-flag-in-city-of-lachin-updated-385315> (in English) (Accessed on 30.09.2022)

<sup>29</sup> Available at: <https://president.az/az/articles/view/57387> (in Azerbaijani) (Accessed on 30.09.2022)

<sup>30</sup> Available at: <https://ombuds.am/images/files/3101f60c869b0f378dbc737b002e5054.pdf> (in English)

<sup>31</sup> Available at: <https://twitter.com/ElmeddinBehbud/status/1573667212480618496> (Accessed on 30.09.2022)

Students: I am ready.

Teacher: Karabakh...

Students: Is Azerbaijan.

Teacher: Karabakh...

Students: Is Azerbaijan.

Teacher: Very good, Bravo!

Students: Thank you”.

54. Several circumstances regarding the video deserve special attention. First, the expressions of both the teacher and the children are aimed at forming the children's perception of themselves as soldiers or fighters. Thus, the teacher greets the children as “precious soldiers”, and orders them to be ready to serve the motherland; the readiness is confirmed by the children. Moreover, the very act of standing at attention in a column can strengthen a child's ability or perception to imagine himself/herself as a soldier in the given situation.

55. Secondly, it is important that assurances about service to the motherland and loyalty to the people are combined with a call to hate the enemy, and the repeated cry of "Karabakh is Azerbaijan" confirms the identity of the enemy. Thus, children are ready to "serve the motherland" from an early age and associate that service with the status of a soldier and hatred towards Armenians. This video also received praise and enthusiasm on Azerbaijani social networks (see Appendix 1.7).

56. It is also noteworthy that the phrase in the video ("Service to the motherland. Loyalty to the people. Hatred, hatred, hatred towards the enemy.") is also repeated by Azerbaijani servicemen in the videos<sup>32</sup> disseminated by them, which proves the effectiveness of Azerbaijan's policy of Armenophobia, as well as the direct link between that policy and the behavior of servicemen.

57. In this context, it should be noted that Azerbaijani officials openly mention the policy of Armenophobia conducted by Azerbaijan. For example, during his speech on April 30, 2022, Ilham Aliyev stated that: “What drove us forward? Patriotism, love for the motherland, hatred for the enemy. This is the spirit in which we brought up the young generation, this is the spirit in which our army has grown, and the special forces, which are the most capable unit of our armed forces, were moving forward with this idea, pushing their chests forward”.<sup>33</sup>

58. The Armenophobic rhetoric of high-ranking Azerbaijani officials, which normalizes and even glorifies violence against Armenians, is one of the deep-rooted reasons for the inhuman and

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<sup>32</sup> See for example: [https://twitter.com/skyblue\\_95\\_/status/1461027833858379787](https://twitter.com/skyblue_95_/status/1461027833858379787) (Accessed on 30.09.2022)

<sup>33</sup> Available at: <https://president.az/az/articles/view/55917> (in Azerbaijani) (Accessed on 30.09.2022)

humiliating treatment of Armenian Prisoners of War by Azerbaijani servicemen. The Monitoring conducted by the Human Rights Defender's Office of Armenia during and after the 44-day war has demonstrated that the manifestations of cruel treatment of Armenian prisoners of War and other Armenian captives receives the praise of the general public on social networks. Moreover, during the same period of time, several Azerbaijani servicemen, while committing atrocities against Armenians, used the same words and phrases voiced by the President of Azerbaijan.<sup>34</sup>

## **5. Terrorizing the population of border communities as a manifestation of the policy of Armenophobia.**

59. As mentioned in this Report, the policy of Armenophobia of Azerbaijan is clearly expressed in the acts of the Azerbaijani armed forces. In this regard, to present a more comprehensive picture, it is important to refer to the acts of the Azerbaijani armed forces deployed in the immediate vicinity of the border communities of Gegharkunik and Tavush provinces, the data on which was collected during the visits to Verin Shorzha, Nerkin Shorzha, Norabak, Kut, Sotk communities of Gegharkunik province, and Azatamut, Baghanis, Kirants, Voskepar, Nerkin Karmiraghbyur, Norashen, Movses, Aigepar, Chinari, Aygedzor, Artsvaber, Choratan, Berkaber, Berekamavan, Sarigigh, Kot communities of Tavush province conducted by the working groups headed by the Human Rights Defender from July to August 2022.<sup>35</sup>

60. Thus, as a result of the fact-finding activities, it was revealed that the Azerbaijani servicemen regularly use weapons of different calibers, which can be clearly heard in the communities. In certain cases, the shootings of Azerbaijani servicemen were directed at the animals in the pastures; cases were registered when the animals were killed during the shootings.

61. Moreover, certain plots of land are not used by residents, because they are under the direct line of fire of Azerbaijani armed forces. If people attempt to approach, Azerbaijani servicemen shoot, not differentiating agricultural activities from engineering work. According to the information provided by the residents, the Azerbaijani servicemen also threaten the villagers by displaying their weapons.

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<sup>34</sup> Ad hoc public report "The Azerbaijani Policy of Hatred and Animosity Towards Armenians as Root Causes of Ethnically Motivated Violations of Human Rights: Evidence-Based Analysis of the Post-War Developments", the Human Rights Defender, Yerevan, 2022, available at <https://ombuds.am/images/files/3101f60c869b0f378dbc737b002e5054.pdf> (in English) (Accessed on 16.09.2022)

<sup>35</sup> Check "The Office of the Human Rights Defender summarized the results of monitoring visits conducted in to Tavush region on July 25-28, 2022" available at: [https://ombuds.am/en\\_us/site/ViewNews/2315](https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/2315) (Accessed on 30.09.2022). Check also: Ms. Kristinne Grigoryan conducted a fact-finding visit to several borderline communities of Gegharkunik province" available at: <https://ombuds.am/am/site/ViewNews/2312> (Accessed on 30.09.2022)

62. Moreover, in almost all the communities of Gegharkunik province, people mentioned that at night the Azerbaijani armed forces turn on strong lights from afar in the direction of the windows of the houses of the villagers, for the purpose of exerting psychological pressure on them, and for creating a constant state of tension in the community. According to the residents, Azerbaijani servicemen throw burning wheels from the heights of their positions in the direction of the collected grass and the pastures, deliberately burning and setting the pastures on fire. Moreover, this behavior has a continuous nature, and was repeated also after the completion of the fact-finding activities, in the heights located in the vicinity of Norabak and Nerkin Shorzha villages of Vardenis community, on September 1-3, 2022. The constant presence and audible sound of UAVs in the areas in the vicinity of their residences also exerts psychological pressure on the population.

63. The continuous and periodic nature of the described acts, their widespread nature in various borderline communities and villages, and the viewing of these acts within the context of the statements made by Azerbaijani officials, containing hate propaganda, as well as the operations of the Azerbaijani armed forces during September 13-15, 2022, allows us to conclude that these actions are not accidental, they are carried out with the guidance and/or knowledge and acquiescence of the military leadership of Azerbaijan, and aim at terrorizing the residents of the borderline communities of Armenia, and spreading panic among them, with the final goal being the depopulation of the borderline communities. Hence, these operations of the Azerbaijani armed forces are part of the state-level policy of Armenophobia aimed at terrorizing the population of Armenia, which is reflected in the other acts of Azerbaijani servicemen presented in this Report, in particular, for example, the torture, and ill-treatment of Armenian servicemen as well as widespread dissemination of videos documenting the torture.

64. It should be noted that the acts of the Azerbaijani armed forces grossly violate the right of the borderline residents to an adequate standard of living, as well as their right to physical and mental integrity. Thus, according to Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (hereinafter referred to as the Covenant), states parties recognize “the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions”. In this regard, it is noteworthy that in the General Comment No.4, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), referring to the right to housing, which is a component of an adequate standard of

living, stated that: “The right to housing (...) should be seen as the right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity.<sup>36</sup>

65. Moreover, Article 8 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms guarantees the right to respect for private and family life of every person, which, according to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, also includes the right to physical and mental integrity of a person.<sup>37</sup> In this context, it should be noted that states have a negative obligation not to take measures that would unlawfully interfere with the realization of the rights guaranteed by the Convention.

## **IV. HUMANITARIAN ISSUES**

### **1. Displaced persons, the most vulnerable persons not being evacuated from the active zones**

66. As a result of the continuous monitoring activities of the HRDO, it was recorded that during 13-15 September at least 7600 persons were displaced from Gegharkunik, Syunik and Vayots Dzor provinces. The majority of them were women, children, elderly people, and persons with disabilities, among them 1437 children and 99 persons with disabilities. The overwhelming majority of these persons had not yet returned at the time of publication of this report, primarily due to frequent and dangerous violations of the ceasefire regime, as well as, in the case of many, due to the fundamental destruction of homes

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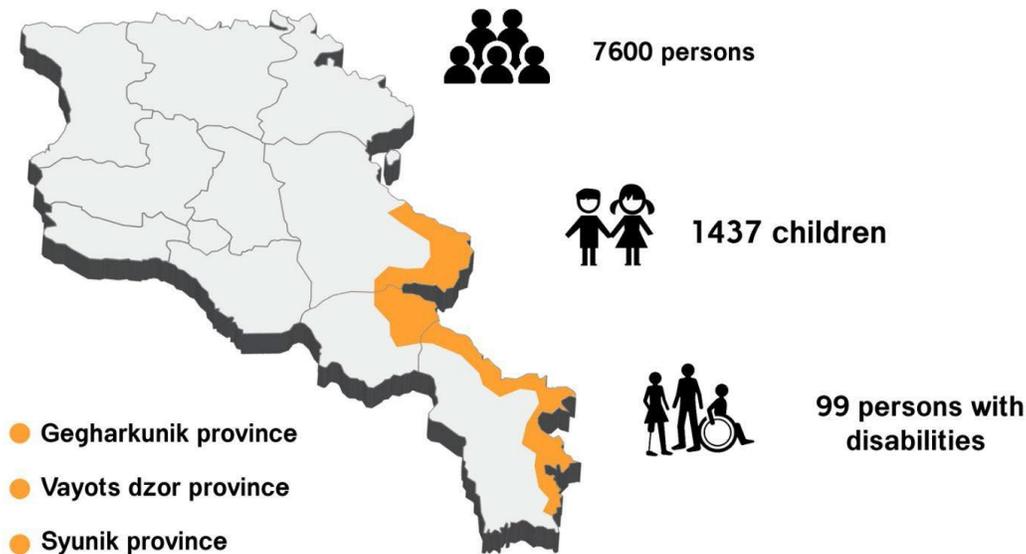
<sup>36</sup> General comment No.4, para. 7 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

<sup>37</sup> See for example, *Buturugă v. Romania*, no. 56867/15, judgment of February 11, 2020, *Vavříčka and Others v. The Czech Republic*, no. 47621/13., judgment of April 8, 2021.



## DATA ON DISPLACED CIVILIANS

(September 13 to 15)



67. In addition to the fact-finding activities of the HRDO, the Human Rights Defender, within the context of her mandate, continues undertaking measures to protect and restore the violated rights of the displaced persons that had to flee or were evacuated from their borderline communities as a result of the direct targeting of their communities by the Azerbaijani armed forces.

68. The HRDO has mapped the areas/communities where the elderly and/or persons with disabilities haven't been evacuated from their homes and remained in the active shelling zones. Mapping was done based on intensive exchanges with local heads of communities and other local actors. Next, this information was shared with the ICRC and national competent authorities.

69. The private interviews held by the representatives of the Defender's Office, which have been double-checked with the Administrative Head of the Community, proved that 2 elderly women, one of which is a woman with a disability (MSD), as well as a man remained in Sotk village on September 13-14 under the unstopped attacks of the Azerbaijani armed forces.

70. Displaced persons enjoy all the human rights guaranteed by international and regional human rights treaties, and the Governments have the obligation of guaranteeing these rights. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement of 1998<sup>38</sup>, reflecting international human rights and International

<sup>38</sup> Available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/43ce1cff2.pdf>

Humanitarian Law, provides a clear structure for States to ensure the rights of internally displaced persons are protected and realized, including the rights to adequate shelter, dignity and physical, mental and moral integrity, to security, etc.

## 2. Targeting medical personnel and media representatives

71. On September 13, according to the fact-finding activities of the HRDO, in the Syunik region, in the direction of Tchakaten village, the Azerbaijani armed forces targeted two ambulance vehicles with distinctive emblems one of which was shot first and then broken down by the Azerbaijani armed forces near Chakaten and was abandoned on the same spot. The health care personnel of one of the ambulance vehicles were able to evacuate the vehicle on time.<sup>39</sup> As to the other vehicle, according to the information received by the HRDO, the driver of the vehicle was killed.



72. Targeting of medical transportation is prohibited both under Customary International Humanitarian Law and Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949. According to Article 35(1) of the Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (hereinafter “First Geneva Convention”), transports of wounded and sick or of medical equipment shall be respected and protected in the same way as mobile medical units. This provision applies to the military means of transportation, however, the scope of the protection of medical transportation was expanded by Article 8(f)-(h) and Article 21 of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (hereinafter Additional Protocol I).

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<sup>39</sup> “The Human Rights Defender’s Office is carrying out fact-finding activities on the targeting of civilian infrastructure during the September 13 aggression of the Azerbaijani armed forces in the Republic of Armenia”, Human Rights Defender of Armenia, September 13, 2022, Available at: [https://ombuds.am/en\\_us/site/ViewNews/2341](https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/2341) (Accessed September 15, 2022)



73. In particular, Article 21 states that medical vehicles shall be respected and protected in the same way as mobile medical units under the Conventions and this Protocol, and under Article 8(g), "medical transport" is defined as any means of transportation, whether military or civilian,

74. It should be noted that while Additional Protocol I was not ratified by Azerbaijan, the provisions of Article 21 granting civilian medical transportation the same level of protection as the military ones, are considered to be a customary norm and hence are applicable notwithstanding the ratification of Additional Protocol I.

75. Furthermore, on September 14, it was reported by several media outlets that the Azerbaijani armed forces opened fire in the direction of Armenia's Sotk community where Armenian reporters from Armenpress (personal data: K.K., H.M. and H.M.), Radar Armenia and the Public Television Company of Armenia, as well as foreign journalists were conducting their professional activities. As reported by the journalists themselves, 2 shells fell in their directions; there were no casualties<sup>40</sup>.

76. A video was published by Armenpress where the sound of a shell explosion can be heard and several persons - some of them wearing vests with the inscription "PRESS" – run in the opposite direction<sup>41</sup>.

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<sup>40</sup> "Azerbaijani armed forces targeted a group of journalists in Sotk", Radar Armenia, September 14, 2022, Available in Armenian at: <https://radar.am/hy/news/social-2526323813/> (Accessed September 15, 2022)

<sup>41</sup> "Armenian and foreign reporters were targeted in Sotk", Armenpress, September 14, 2022, Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFfcTqvsuW4&t=3s> (Accessed September 15, 2022)

77. Such attacks and targeting of journalists constitute a gross violation of Customary International Humanitarian Law under which civilian journalists engaged in professional missions in areas of armed conflict are protected as long as they are not taking a direct part in hostilities.

78. Moreover, Additional Protocol I provide:

“1. Journalists engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians within the meaning of Article 50, paragraph 1.

2. They shall be protected as such under the Conventions and this Protocol, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians, and without prejudice to the right of war correspondents accredited to the armed forces to the status provided for in 4 A 4) of the Third Convention.(...)”.

79. Accordingly, Article 51 (2) of the Additional Protocol I states: “The civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack”. Moreover, under Article 85(3)(a), making the civilian population or individual civilians the object of attack is considered a grave breach of Additional Protocol I.

80. The targeting of a group of journalists covering a military attack by the Azerbaijani armed forces is aimed at providing a field for information sabotage and manipulative information actively carried out by Azerbaijan, since journalists covering events at the time of their development, especially representatives of foreign media, can reveal real facts to the international and local community.

## **V. RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

81. Children are the most vulnerable group in armed conflicts, therefore the fundamental rights of children, including their right to life, the right to live in a family and community, the right to health, the right to individual development, the right to education and the right to protection, require special attention.

82. The monitoring of the HRDO and the study of current facts prove that on September 13-14, 2022, in Syunik, Gegharkunik and Vayots Dzor provinces, the civilian population and vital public infrastructures, including educational institutions, were under indiscriminate targeting by the Azerbaijani armed forces, violating the rights guaranteed by international legal instruments of the civilian population, including children.

83. Residents of the affected settlements, fearing especially for the lives of their children, were forced to leave their homes with their families or displace their children to safer places with other accompanying persons while staying in the communities themselves. According to the data collected by the Office of the Human Rights Defender, as a result of the war operations of the Azerbaijani armed forces, at least 276 children in Syunik province, at least 851 in Vayots Dzor province, and at least 300 children in Gegharkunik province were displaced from their places of residence, in total, at least 1427 children were displaced from their places of residence and fundamental rights of the latter were violated.

84. It should be emphasized that the use of various military equipment by the Azerbaijani armed forces was more intense, especially during the hours when children attended school and kindergarten. In addition, in the current situation, especially displaced children, are deprived of the opportunity to realize their right to education.

85. In some cases, schools and kindergartens were under direct fire and targeted by the Azerbaijani armed forces. The information collected by the HRDO proves the use of various types of weapons by the Azerbaijani armed forces in the direction of educational institutions. For instance, the educational institution of the Sotk community of Gegharkunik province was damaged.



*Educational institution  
targeted in Sotk  
community*



86. The data collected as a result of the media monitoring by the Defender's office also proves that some residents of the affected settlements did not even manage to leave the conflict zone and had to hide with their children in the nearby caves as a result of the indiscriminate targeting of the civilian population by the Azerbaijani armed forces. For example, one of the families of the Verishen community of Syunik province took shelter with their children in a nearby cave from artillery fire.

87. In this context, it is important to emphasize once again that the rights of children who do not



participate in military operations in an armed conflict or military situation are guaranteed by the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949 (hereinafter "Fourth Geneva Convention") and Additional Protocol I.

88. Customary International Humanitarian Law indicates the special respect and protection due to children affected by armed conflict,

in particular: protection against all forms of sexual violence; separation from adults while deprived of liberty, unless they are members of the same family; access to education, food and health care; evacuation from areas of combat for safety reasons; the reunification of unaccompanied children with their families.

89. The documents adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN Security Council, the General Assembly, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe emphasized not only the inadmissibility of the violation of children's rights during military operations but also the consequences preventing imperative that is necessary for guaranteeing children's daily life, their mental and physical development. These organizations have repeatedly condemned the attacks and targeting of educational, child care, and protection institutions.

90. In this regard, it should be noted that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child clearly stipulates that all feasible measures must be taken to ensure the protection and care of children affected by an armed conflict. Moreover, Article 38(1) of the Convention requires the States Parties to respect and ensure respect for rules of international humanitarian law applicable to children in armed conflicts.

91. Taking into consideration the above-mentioned the Defender finds that continuous military attacks of Azerbaijan directly affect the regular life of children grossly violating the fundamental rights of children guaranteed by international law. In particular, the data recorded by the HRDO shows that children's rights to life, health, a safe and healthy environment, living in family and community, individual development and protection, and many other rights were violated in Syunik, Vayots Dzor and Gegharkunik provinces.

## **VI. RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

92. The study of the results of monitoring conducted by the Office of the Human Rights Defender, as well as the collected data as of now, evidence that the civilian population and vital public infrastructures in Syunik, Gegharkunik, and Vayots Dzor provinces were under indiscriminate targeting by the Azerbaijani armed forces on September 13-14, 2022 violating several rights of civilians, including people with disabilities guaranteed by international legal acts. According to the information collected by the HRDO, at least 46 people with disabilities from villages in the Gegharkunik province, including Kut and Sotk, and at least 22 people with disabilities from some villages in the Syunik province, including Nerkin Hand, Chakaten, and Davit Bek, and at least 31 people with disabilities from some communities of Vayots Dzor, including Jermuk, Gndevaz were displaced as a result of the actions of the Azerbaijani armed forces.

93. It should be specifically mentioned that due to the indiscriminate targeting of the Azerbaijani armed forces and the intensity of the use of various weapons, people with disabilities and the elderly from several communities of the mentioned provinces were practically deprived of the opportunity of displacement. For example, in Chakaten, Syunik, and Srashen communities of the Syunik province, some people with disabilities or various health issues, as well as their caregivers were not displaced. Some non-displaced people with disabilities are bedridden, which makes it even more difficult to ensure their safety and security, as well as care in the community. Although the medical personnel on duty have tried to ensure the medical supervision for those people in the communities, however, in the context of the protection of human rights and international humanitarian law, the fact that the mentioned persons are not provided with the necessary opportunities to exercise their rights in practice is itself problematic.

94. The indiscriminate targeting of Vardenis city of Gegharkunik province by the Azerbaijani armed forces directly threatened rights to life, safety and health of over 450 people with mental and

intellectual disabilities living in Vardenis neuropsychological boarding house, as well as created additional obstacles for provision of medical, social and other services. This was recorded also by the European Disability Forum and Mental Health Europe<sup>42</sup>.

95. In this regard, it should be highlighted that as early as 1949, people with disabilities were recognized as subjects of special protection due to disruption of access and accessibility to services by international humanitarian law.

96. It should be specifically highlighted that the requirements for respect for people with disabilities and their protection, including the use of special measures for evacuation, are defined by the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949 (hereinafter “Third Geneva Convention”) and Fourth Geneva Convention (Articles 16, 30, 40, 45 of the Third Geneva Convention, Articles 16, 17, 21, 22, 27, 85, 119 and 127 of the Fourth Geneva Convention), other international legal acts and Customary International Humanitarian Law. In addition, special protection measures for the elderly and people with disabilities may differ depending on the situation in which they find themselves. Thus, according to Articles 14 and 17 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, as an opportunity for the proper fulfillment of the stated obligation, the establishment of evacuation safety zones for the elderly, people with disabilities from encircled or besieged areas, as well as the achievement of special agreements between the conflicting parties are considered. At the same time, it is important to note that the conflicted parties, as a matter of priority, are obliged to create and ensure the real necessary facilities and opportunities for the provision of medical assistance, including humanitarian assistance for people with disabilities, as well as for any person in need of immediate medical assistance or care.

97. The armed conflict, war, hostilities, emergencies, or martial law create additional challenges for people with disabilities, requiring the establishment of special conceptions. At the same time, issues with access to living conditions and services, including obstacles to the unhindered provision and provision of water, sanitation, food, shelter, and health services, can cause a humanitarian disaster. In this context, people with disabilities are doubly vulnerable due to their special needs and health issues. Therefore, both international humanitarian law and the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities aim to create additional guarantees for the realization of the rights of people with disabilities during armed conflicts, war actions, and dangerous or emergency humanitarian situations. Hence, Article 11 of the UN Convention of Rights of People with Disabilities states that States Parties

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<sup>42</sup> Joint statement about the attacks on the Armenian border, European Disability Forum, Disability Rights Agenda and Mental Health Europe, 15 September 2022, Available at: <https://www.edf-feph.org/joint-statement-about-the-attacks-on-the-armenian-border/> (Accessed 16 September, 2022)

shall take, by their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of people with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters. The application of this provision also includes ensuring access to basic services necessary for the life, dignity, and safety of people with disabilities on an equal basis with others. In addition, according to resolution 2475 (2019), the UN Security Council calls upon all parties to armed conflict to allow and facilitate safe, timely, and unimpeded humanitarian access to all people in need of assistance. It further urged them to prevent violence and abuses against civilians in situations of armed conflict, including those involved in killing and maiming, abduction, and torture, as well as sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.

98. Thus, the monitoring and examination of the evidence of the fact that numerous rights of persons with disabilities are being violated, including the right to life, the right to safety, and the right to health, by the indiscriminate targeted military attacks against the Republic of Armenia in gross violation of international humanitarian law and Geneva Conventions.

## **VII. TARGETING CIVILIANS AND VITAL CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURES**

### **1. Killed and injured civilians**

99. Since the night of September 12 and the early morning of September 13, 2022, several Armenian communities in Gegharkunik, Vayots Dzor and Syunik provinces were subjected to intensive shelling by the Azerbaijani armed forces using various weapons, including AUVs and heavy artillery weaponry.

100. The civilian population and vital civilian infrastructures were directly targeted as well.

101. On September 13-15, due to the large-scale and coordinated attacks by the Azerbaijani armed forces, 4 civilian deaths were recorded in the above-mentioned provinces as a result of the fact-finding activities carried out by the Human Rights Defender.

- H. G., born in 1993; was killed as a result of a shell explosion fired by the Azerbaijani armed forces, while engaged in agricultural work in the Noravan community of Syunik province.
- B. K., born in 1960; was killed while conducting agricultural work in the Vardenis community, Gegharkunik province.

- M. A., born in 1990, Tegh community, Syunik province, died in Astghik medical center, and was injured while engaged in work of cattle raising.
- B. S., born in 1964, was killed in Jermuk, while conducting construction activities.

There is a case of one missing civilian:

- A. A., born in 1986, Vardenis community, Gegharkunik province.

102. Throughout September 13-14, 7 civilians were injured, one of whom was an elderly woman. 5 injured civilians are from Gegharkunik province and 2 from Vayots Dzor.

103. In order to examine the humanitarian and other issues caused by the Azerbaijani attack, representatives of the HRDO visited the border settlements under attack and recorded on the spot that heavy artillery and air strikes, including UAVs, were used in the direction of the villages on September 13 and 14 at all hours of the day.

## **2. Civilian houses, vital civilian infrastructures, and other objects**

104. During the military attack on Armenia, the Azerbaijani armed forces were deliberately targeting peaceful civilians and civilian infrastructures, including houses of the border communities in Gegharkunik, Syunik, and Vayots Dzor provinces. The indiscriminate attacks pose a real danger to the rights to life and health of the civilian population.

### **A. Civilian houses and vehicles**

105. On September 13-14, the Azerbaijani armed forces opened fire in the direction of civilian communities in the vicinity of Goris. In particular, one of the residents of the Verishen community informed the representatives of the HRDO that the basement and the walls of their house were destroyed; the house belonging to Mr. G.H. was damaged (see Appendix 2).

106. In Akner village of Syunik province, a house was bombed on September 14, at around 12:30 (see Appendix 3).

107. A missile shot in the direction of Karashen village in Syunik province fell on a house and seriously damaged it (see Appendix 4).

108. Due to the indiscriminate shelling of Azerbaijani armed forces in the direction of the Vaghatur community of Syunik province, the roofs of three houses were demolished.

109. In Verin Shorzha community of Gegharkunik province the car of one of the residents<sup>43</sup> and 1000 bales of hay (animal feed). In the same community, 8 houses and adjacent buildings were damaged.
110. On September 13-14, 4 houses, a garage, other household buildings, as well as cars, were damaged in Kut community of Gegharkunik province<sup>44</sup> (See Appendix 5).
111. On September 13-14, 200 houses and household buildings were damaged in the Sotk community of Gegharkunik province, 50 of which were totally demolished (See Appendix 6).
112. In Geghamasar community civilian houses have been damaged due to UAV strikes (See Appendix 7).
113. Due to the constant targeting of roads, the rights of the Armenian population to freedom of movement and to the use of vital services was unlawfully restricted. In particular, a civilian vehicle was damaged and was left abandoned on the Sisian-Noravan highway (See Appendix 8).
114. On September 14, the Azerbaijani armed forces targeted a civilian vehicle in the Jermuk community of Vayots Dzor province, as a result of which the driver was hospitalized with severe injuries (See Appendix 9).
115. The residents of the Verin Shorzha community, who were evacuated to Vardenis, informed the representatives of the HRDO that the Azerbaijani armed forces directly targeted civilian vehicles, as a result of which several vehicles were damaged.

## **B. Administrative infrastructure**

116. As a result of the attack of Azerbaijani armed forces on the night of September 13, the building of the municipality of Sotk village of Gegharkunik province was subjected to artillery shelling and was severely damaged.
117. One of the missiles launched in the direction of Karashen village of Syunik province fell on the banquet hall located in the center of the village.
118. In the Kut community of Gegharkunik province, the municipality building, a part of which served as a medical center, was shelled.<sup>46</sup>
119. In the Ayrk community of Gegharkunik province, the windows of the school building were damaged.

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<sup>43</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1We184piuLJQ6LbiWd4i-QOcoGTuBJ7YQ/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>44</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18Hmjy2aGvbWT6Y2wsoWqstcjdiChJSL/view?usp=sharing>

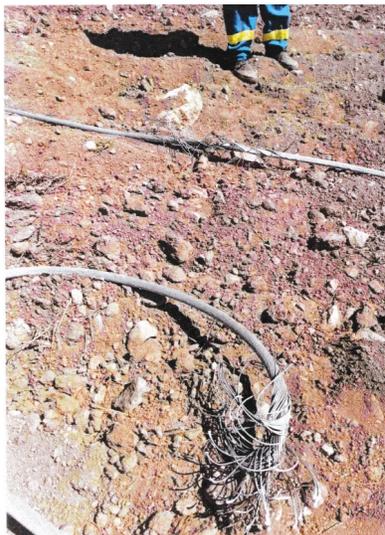
<sup>45</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jzZoAHiZ0MZJz7M6ZGQJiqnREuyIXwVV/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>46</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q3sFn3R-Vxwgh4krfFTgrbbnf5x0Skmd/view>

120. As a result of the military attack on Azerbaijan on September 13, civil infrastructures were shelled in Jermuk, and the administrative building of the Ministry of Emergency Situations in Jermuk was damaged. Moreover, a missile was launched at the sanatorium of Jermuk. Overall, 3 hotels, one sanatorium, the ropeway, one building located in the vicinity of the ropeway, and a cafe were damaged in Jermuk.

121. Several parts of the overhauled road were also damaged, residents' vehicles and a combine harvester were damaged, and the building of the "Shepherd's house" was destroyed.

### C. Electricity and gas supply



122. Moreover, according to the information received from local and additional sources, and as a result of the fact-finding activities of the Human Rights Defender, the Azerbaijani armed forces targeted Noravan, Srashen and other nearby communities in Syunik province, damaging vital civilian infrastructures, in particular, gas pipeline and high-voltage power

lines. As a result of this, 8 communities were deprived of electricity.

123. In Ishkhanasar, the wires of the overhead power line and the transfer lines of the anchor support were damaged. As a result, the export of electricity to the Islamic Republic of Iran was limited. In order to reduce the risks, the stations of "ARMENIAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT" CJSC and some other CJSCs of Armenia were discharged to the minimum load. For more than 12 hours, the employees of "HIGH-VOLTAGE ELECTRIC NETWORKS" CJSC did not have the opportunity to approach the damaged areas for the purpose of repair due to the fire opened by the Azerbaijani side. Targeting similar infrastructures and preventing their repair for a long time indicate the intention of the Azerbaijani side to cause as much damage as possible in the field of energy, including atomic energy, and create threats.

124. The administrative building and controller's connection of some CJSCs were disrupted due to fiber optic cable damage.

125. Another damaged fiber optic cable rendered Tolors reservoir level telemetry unavailable.

126. A number of infrastructures of "Electronic Networks of Armenia" CJSC was also damaged, some of which could not be restored as of 14.09.22.

127. Power lines were damaged in Aghitu village of the Sisian community. Since September 13 of this year, the village has been deprived of electricity.

128. During the fact-finding activities of the HRDO, it was recorded that as a result of the actions of the Azerbaijani armed forces, the gas supply pipes and electricity supply cables of the Sotk community of Gegharkunik province were also damaged. As a result of shelling, the electricity supply cables of Kut, Azat and Norabak settlements were damaged. As a result of Azerbaijan's attack, a missile was also launched in the direction of the gas pipe of the gas supply network of the city of Jermuk. As a result of the fact-finding activities of the HRDO, it became clear that the gas pipelines of the Vaghatur settlement of the Tegh community were damaged. Gas supply was also ceased in Petrosyan district and Shatjrek settlement of Vardenis. Since 13.09.2022, a similar issue has also been recorded in such settlements of Goris and Sisian of Syunik province as Vaghatur, Khoznavar, Khnatsakh and Aghitu.

129. Attacks on civilian objects violate the essence and principles of international humanitarian law, in particular, Article 56 of Additional Protocol No. 1 states "Works or installations containing dangerous forces, namely dams, dykes and nuclear electrical generating stations, shall not be made the object of attack, even where these objects are military objectives, if such attack may cause the release of dangerous forces and consequent severe losses among the civilian population. Other military objectives located at or in the vicinity of these works or installations shall not be made the object of attack if such attack may cause the release of dangerous forces from the works or installations and consequent severe losses among the civilian population." (paragraph 1). Paragraph 2 (b) states that the special protection against attack provided by paragraph 1 shall cease for a nuclear electrical generating station only if it provides electric power in regular, significant and direct support of military operations and if such attack is the only feasible way to terminate such support. Paragraph 4 of the same article envisages that it is prohibited to make any of the works, installations or military objectives mentioned in paragraph 1 the object of reprisals.

130. The UN General Assembly considers that any threat to attack and destroy nuclear facilities in Iraq and in other countries constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations (Resolution No. 38/9 of November 10, 1983, Article 3).

131. Article 51(2) of the Additional Protocol I states: "The civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack."

132. Article 85(3)(a) of the Additional Protocol I state that “making the civilian population or individual civilians the object of attack” is a grave breach of the Protocol.

#### **D. Violations of property rights**

133. Several alarming-calls were addressed to the Human Rights Defender in relation to the violation of the property rights of the residents as a result of the Azerbaijani military attack. For example, several civilians informed that the Azerbaijani armed forces advanced their positions in the direction of Jermuk, in the vicinity of Amulsar, as a result of which 5000 heads of cattle (sheep) went under their control.

134. The shepherds added that they were barely able to escape and not be captured by Azerbaijani servicemen.



*Abandoned flock of sheep in Sotk*

*(photo credit: Gabriel Gavin / The Spectator)*

135. In another case, 190 bee colonies were damaged in the Lusakunk community of Gegharkunik province. Moreover, due to the constant targeting of Azerbaijani armed forces, the residents of the same community are unable to transport agricultural machinery and other transportation, bee colonies, etc, as a result of being under the gun of the enemy in the same community, residents are unable to transport agricultural machines and other vehicles, bee colonies, mobile homes, etc.

136. The representatives of the fact-finding group of the HRDO held conversations with the residents of Sotk, Norabak, and Kut villages, who reported that they were at home or in the vicinity of their

homes during the attacks. People reported that they were forced to leave their homes due to Azerbaijani military attack, leaving behind their personal belongings, documents (for example passport), and domestic animals, and are deprived of the opportunity to return to their homes due to shelling, and their normal lives are disrupted.

137. As a result of the attack of Azerbaijani armed forces, 80 hectares of wheat and barley fields, as well as approximately 80% of meadows and pastures of this community were burnt.

## VIII. ENVIRONMENT

137. As a result of the Azerbaijani military attacks in the Armenian-Azerbaijani border area of the Vayots Dzor province of the Republic of Armenia, the Kechut Reservoir and the hydro-technical structures of the Reservoir system were shelled. Projectiles fell in the adjacent areas of the Reservoir and hydro-technical structures of the system, in the neighborhood, as well as in the water of the basin of the Reservoir, but the structures of the system were not damaged.

138. During the shelling, operative administration of the Kechut Reservoir site was carried out in cooperation with the accredited administrator of the Vorotan-Arpa-Sevan state special-purpose hydro-technical complex (the Kechut Reservoir site is part of the hydro-technical complex) and the Water Committee, in order to control the volume of water in the Reservoir as much as possible to reduce the possibility of risks in the water coverage zone in case of significant damage to the Reservoir. To find out the possible impact on the water quality as a result of the shelling, a test sample taken from the water of the Reservoir was investigated and the results did not record changes in the composition of substances in the water.



139. On September 13, due to continuous shelling towards Jermuk city, a fire<sup>47</sup> broke out in the forested areas on more than 10 hectare area in the vicinity of the city. The firefighters did not manage to effectively respond to the situation and carry out the necessary operations, due to the constant

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<sup>47</sup> Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iPAbiO0>

danger of being targeted by the Azerbaijani military forces. The fire was put out in the morning of September 14. Three firefighters were injured.

140. On September 13, a fire broke out in the fields of Ishkhanasar as a result of the Azerbaijani attacks. Due to security considerations and the constant danger of being targeted by the Azerbaijani forces, no firefighting operations were carried out. The fire went out by itself.

141. A fire has been caused by intensive shelling of Azerbaijani military forces in the mountains of Vardenis<sup>48</sup>.

142. The above-mentioned actions have resulted in the violations of a number of obligations established



by various international legal documents, in particular Article 2 of the Protocol III entitled “Incendiary Weapons” to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons defines that “It is prohibited to make forests or other kinds of plants cover the object of attack by incendiary weapons except when such natural elements are used to cover, conceal or camouflage combatants or other military objectives, or are themselves military objectives”.

143. Article 35(3) of the Additional Protocol I defines that “It is prohibited to employ methods or means of warfare which are intended, or may be expected, to cause widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment”.

144. Under the paragraph (c) of Article 6 of 1979 Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, the deliberate disturbance of wild fauna specified under Appendix II, particularly during the period of breeding, rearing and hibernation, insofar as disturbance would be significant in relation to the objectives of this Convention.

### **Damage to fauna and flora, loss of soil layers and fertility**

145. In the targeted areas, the issue of biodiversity conservation is endangered, the mentioned areas are rich in endemic and vanishing species, which has key importance not only in the context of the conservation of biodiversity in Armenia, but also in the world.

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<sup>48</sup> Available at: <https://news.5tv.am/news/tshnamou-hretakocoutyan-patchar>

146. In the threatened areas there are specially protected natural areas that are habitats for such globally threatened species as the Armenian mouflon, the Bezoar goat and the Persian leopard, which are included in both the Red Book of Armenia and the Red List of Threatened Species of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and any military disturbance can cause a change in the migratory route of animals, which can pose a threat to subpopulations of various species.

147. There are important ecosystems in Jermuk (oaks, junipers, pines) that are also threatened by forest fires.

## **IX. DAMAGE TO TOURISM AND ECONOMY**

148. The attack of Azerbaijani forces on the city of Jermuk, among other challenges, has also created a serious economic hurdle, considering the fact that Jermuk is a popular health tourism center due to its natural mineral springs and well-known health resorts.

149. In the previous parts of this Report, the evidence gathered through the fact-finding activities of the Defender reveal that the Azerbaijani armed forces also shelled several health resort complexes, the ropeway, and other civilian infrastructures.

150. The sanatorium building damaged as a result of shelling towards Jermuk city was intended for providing rehabilitation treatment services, therefore the latter's targeting endangered the lives and health of people who were there at the time of shelling and were receiving treatment. During the mentioned period, there were Armenian and foreign tourists who left the hotels during the shelling.

151. The attack on this city, which is an attractive tourist destination, aims to cause direct economic losses and damage to its tourist rating<sup>49</sup> (See Appendix 10).

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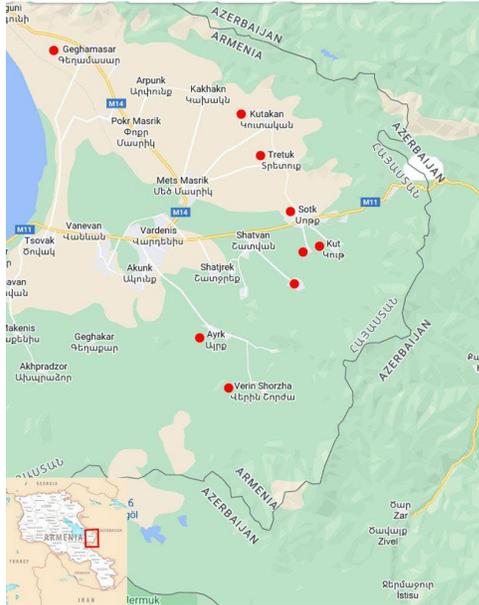
<sup>49</sup> Available at: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/111PK0v4vNInNnK83Y-5gtB3\\_mp0DLTAI/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/111PK0v4vNInNnK83Y-5gtB3_mp0DLTAI/view?usp=sharing)  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HYpcFqqIE2J9gvfrM9bhVJo\\_jhmEvv33/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HYpcFqqIE2J9gvfrM9bhVJo_jhmEvv33/view?usp=sharing)



THE CONSEQUENCES OF AZERBAIJANI MILITARY ATTACK ON ARMENIA

Gegharkunik province

(Data as of September 23, 2022)



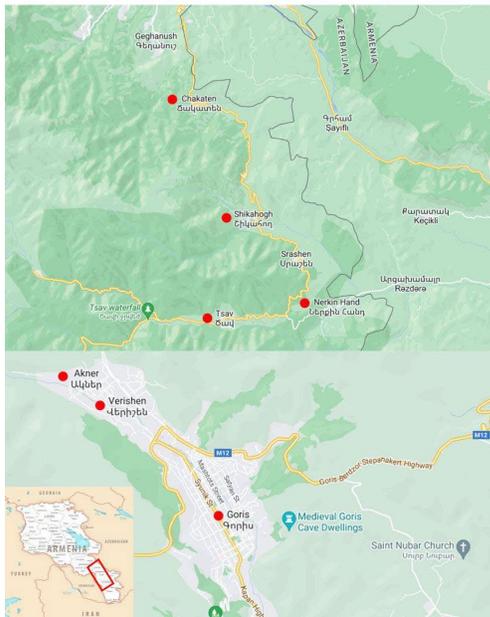
- From September 13 to 15, at least 7,600 people were displaced from Gegharkunik, Syunik and Vayots Dzor provinces. The majority of displaced persons are women, children and the elderly. Accordingly, 1,437 children and 99 persons with disabilities were displaced.
- Videos and other evidence of war crimes committed by the Azerbaijani armed forces have been obtained and verified. Manifestations of ethnic hatred against Armenian servicemen were proudly videotaped and shared by Azerbaijani servicemen. The bodies of female Armenian servicepersons were tortured with extreme cruelty.
- In Gegharkunik province, one civilian was killed (B.K. born in 1960), and 4 civilians were injured- one of them received serious injuries. The whereabouts of one more civilian (A.A., born in 1986) from Vardenis community is unknown.
- The Azerbaijani armed forces deliberately targeted a group of Armenian and foreign journalists (who were wearing "press" insignia).
- About 200 houses were damaged in Sotk community, more than 50 of which were completely destroyed. The school building of Sotk community was targeted.
- 4 houses, a garage and other nearby structures were damaged in Kut community. The medical aid station of the community was also targeted.
- The administrative buildings of Sotk, Kut and Geghamasar communities were damaged.
- The gas supply pipe of Sotk community was damaged. As a result of continuous targeting of roads in Gegharkunik province, people's right to freedom of movement, as well as access to vital services, were illegally restricted.



THE CONSEQUENCES OF AZERBAIJANI MILITARY ATTACK ON ARMENIA

Syunik province

(Data as of September 23, 2022)



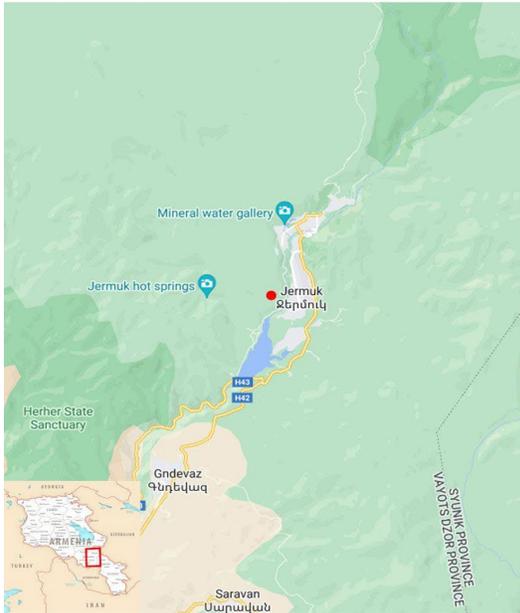
- From September 13 to 15, at least 7,600 people were displaced from Gegharkunik, Syunik and Vayots Dzor provinces. The majority of displaced persons are women, children and the elderly. Accordingly, 1,437 children and 99 persons with disabilities were displaced.
- September 14, during the second half of the day, one civilian (H.G., born in 1993) was killed as a result of the direct shootings of the Azerbaijani armed forces. In Tegh community, one civilian (M.A. born in 1991) was wounded in the head, and later died in the hospital.
- Two ambulances were targeted and damaged in Syunik province.
- Civilian houses were damaged by UAV strikes in Geghamasar community. In Karashen community, the banquet hall was targeted, the missiles seriously damaged one civilian house.
- In Verishen village, 5 residential houses were shelled, and another house was damaged. One house was damaged in Aghitu community, and a residential house was targeted in Akner village.
- 13 missiles fell in Vaghatur community, 4 houses, the administrative building and the school were damaged. Gas supply pipes were damaged in Tegh and Vaghatur communities.
- As a result of continuous targeting of roads, people's right to freedom of movement, as well as access to vital services, were illegally restricted. One civilian vehicle was damaged on the Sisian-Noravan highway.



**THE CONSEQUENCES OF AZERBAIJANI MILITARY  
ATTACK ON ARMENIA**

**Vayots Dzor province**

(Data as of September 23, 2022)



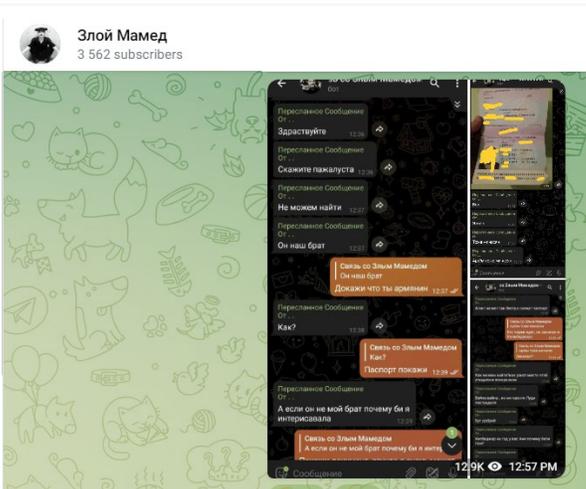
- From September 13 to 15, at least 7,600 people were displaced from Gegharkunik, Syunik and Vayots Dzor provinces. The majority of displaced persons are women, children and the elderly. Accordingly, 1,437 children and 99 persons with disabilities were displaced.
- One civilian was killed (S.B., born in 1964), and two others were injured in Jermuk.
- One civilian vehicle was targeted in Jermuk city, as a result of which one civilian was injured. One ambulance was targeted.
- As a result of continuous shelling in the direction of Jermuk city, more than 6 hectares of forest area adjacent to the city, caught fire; 3 firefighters were injured.
- Kechut Reservoir was targeted.
- The sanatorium of Jermuk city was specifically targeted. At the time of the attack, several dozen patients were receiving treatment.
- The touristic infrastructures of Jermuk city, including a hotel, a cafe, and the ropeway, were shelled.
- The gas supply pipes, electricity lines and communication cables of Jermuk city were damaged.
- As a result of continuous targeting of roads, people's right to freedom of movement, as well as access to vital services, were illegally restricted.

## **X. APPENDIXES**

### APPENDIX 1

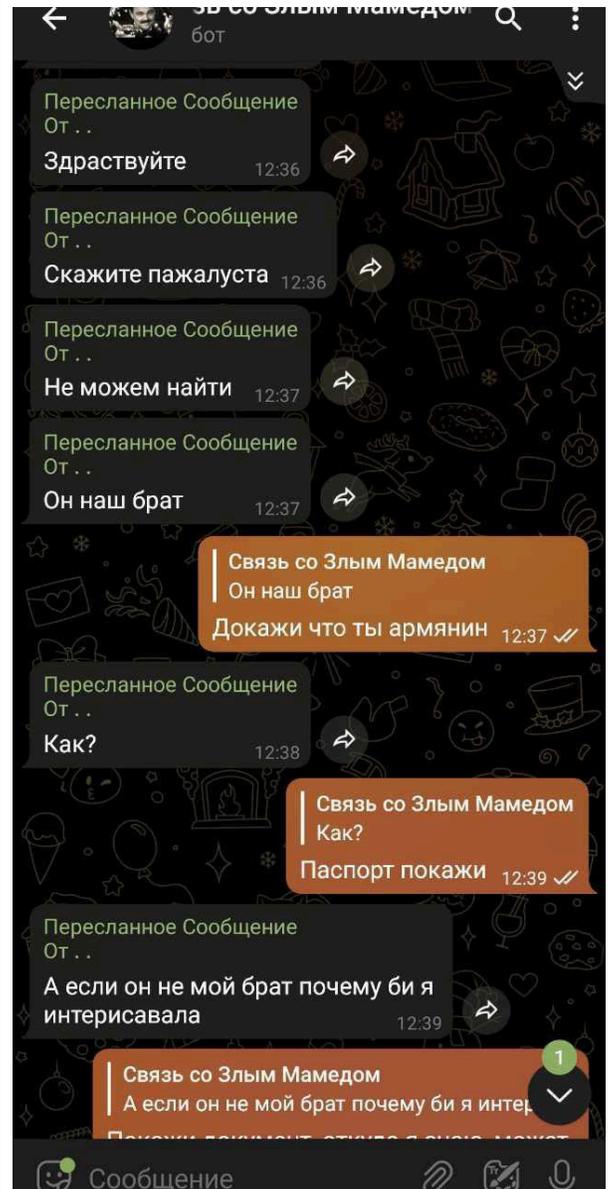
#### **Hate speech disseminated by Azerbaijani users on social networks**

*1.1. The attempts of the relatives of the killed servicemen to find out the location of their relative*



**Translation from Russian:**

- Hello. Please let me know whether we can find him. He is my brother
- Prove that you are Armenian!
- How?
- Show me your passport!
- If he is not my brother, then why am I interested?
- There it is. (the user sends his Armenian passport) He and I hold the surname Minasyan. Artyom's surname is also Minasyan. An agent could not have sent his passport this fast.
- Worms are eating his body. He is buried in Kalbajar.
- How we can find him to bring and bury him? War is a war. But we are people. Be kind! It is already a year that Kalbajar is under your control. So why do you keep them there?

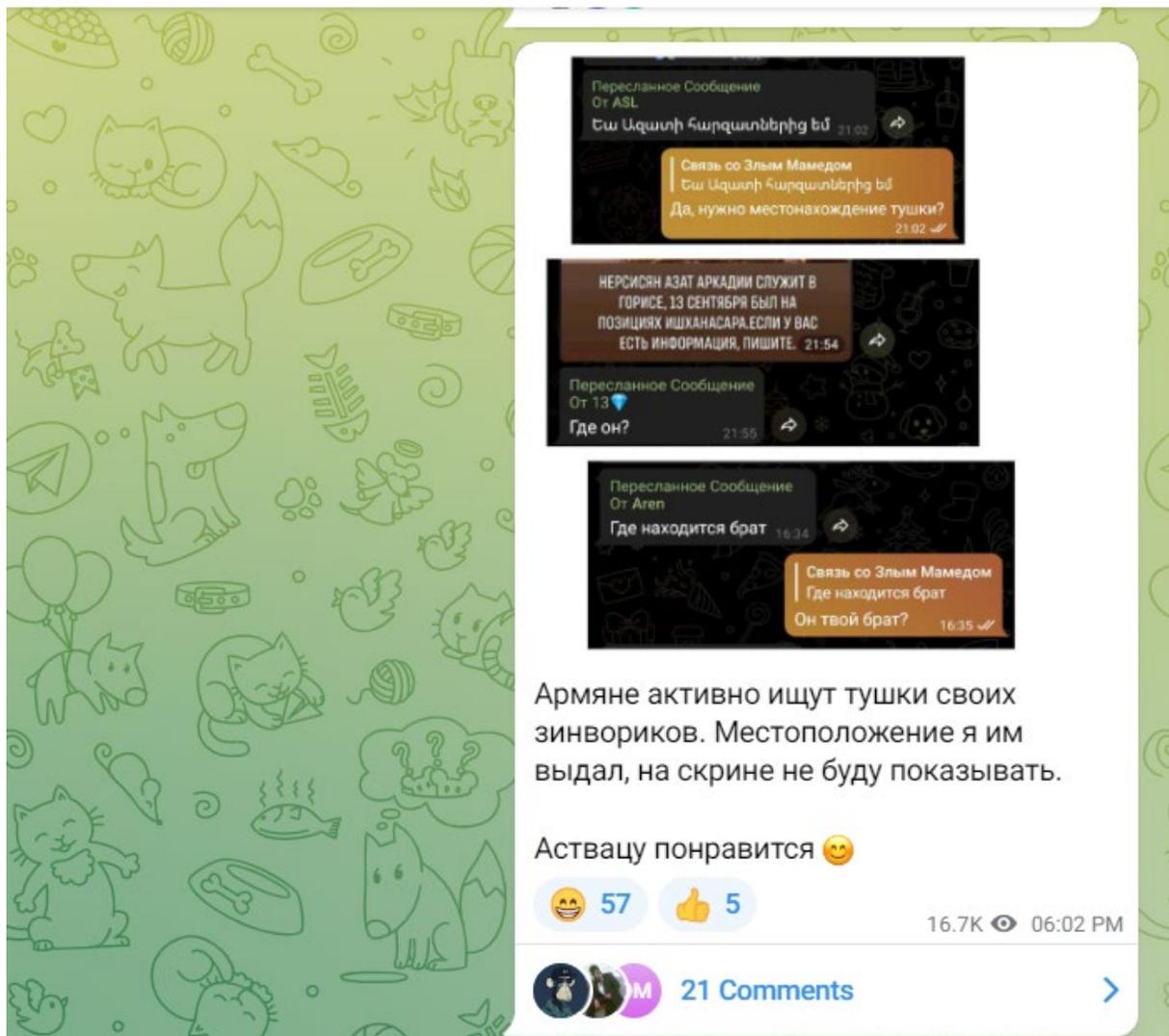






Злой Мамед

3 562 subscribers



*I am one of the Azat's relatives.*

*Do you need the location of the dead body?*

*Azat Arkadi Nersisyan is conscripted into Goris military unit. On September 13, he was in the military position of Ishkhanasar. If you have any information, please write me. (in the photo)*

*Where is he? Where is my brother?*

*Is he your brother?*

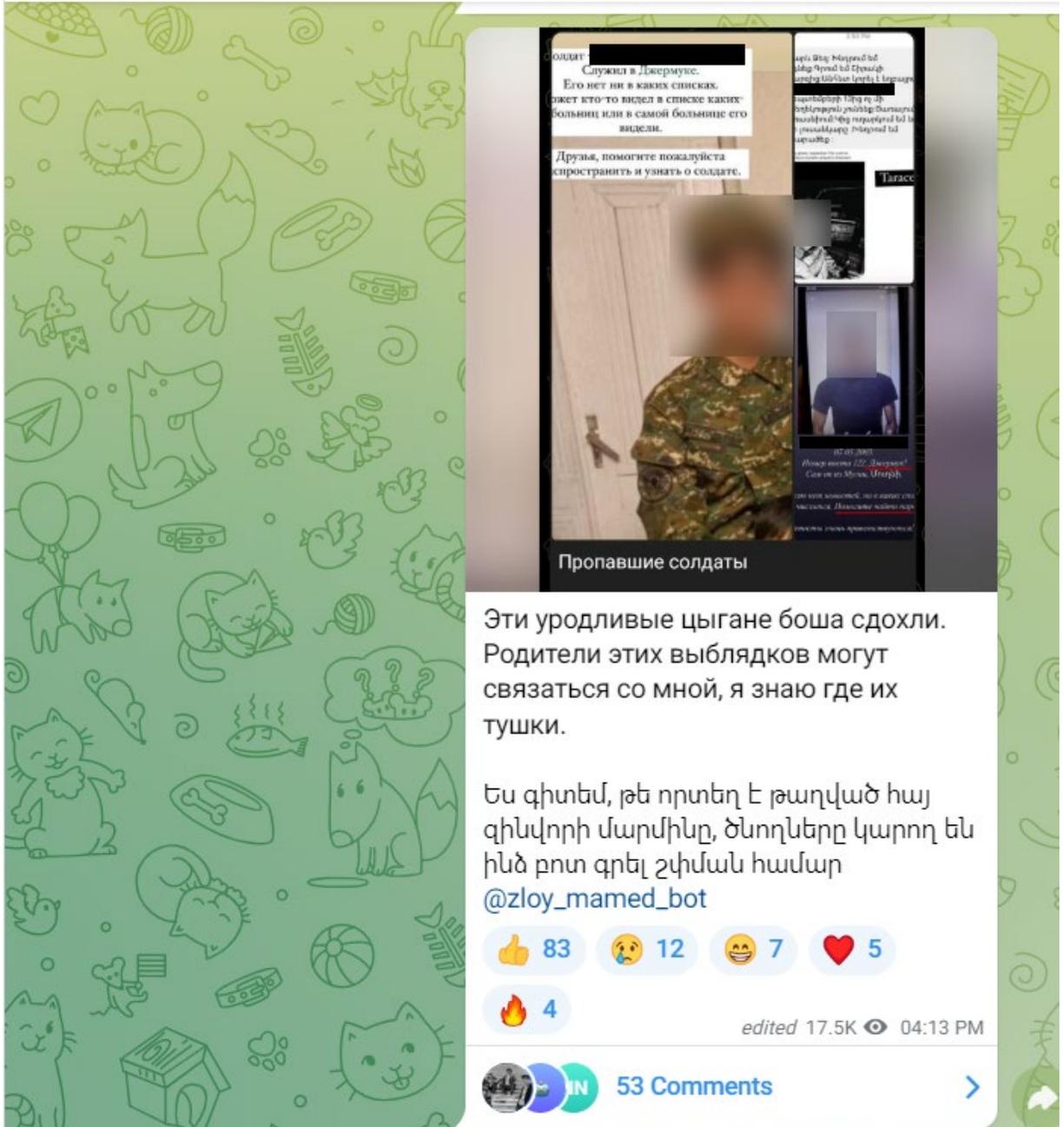
*Armenians are actively searching for the dead bodies of their "zinvoriks" [in Armenian, meaning little soldiers]. I gave them the locations but I am not going to share them with you.*

Astvats [in Armenian; meaning God] would like it.



**Злой Мамед**

3 562 subscribers



**Translation from Russian:** (in the picture) Soldier .. was a conscript in Jermuk. He has not been found in any list. Maybe someone saw his name on the hospitals' lists or in the hospital itself. Dear friends, please help me to disseminate this post and get information about the soldier. (in the photo)

-Hello. Please help me! I am writing to you from Shirak province. He is missing since September 13. We don't have any information about him. I am sharing his picture attached. Please share it. (picture)

Answer from Azerbaijani user: - These ugly Gypsy and Lom people have died. The parents of these bastards may get in touch with me. I know the location where the dead bodies are buried.



**Злой Мамед**

3 562 subscribers



Я знаю где его тушка зарыта. Родители этого пидора могут написать мне в бот: [@zloy\\_mamed\\_bot](#)

Ես գիտեմ, թե որտեղ է թաղված հայ գիւնկորի դիակ, [redacted] ծնողները կարող են ինձ գրել բոտով՝ կապի համար [@zloy\\_mamed\\_bot](#)

Армяне, распространяйте

78 
 19 
 18 
 4 
 3

edited 18.7K 👁 08:53 PM

[NN SA Д](#) 12 Comments



Translation from Russian/which is also translated into Armenian/: These ugly Gypsy and Lom people have died. The parents of these fags (a slur referring to gay people) may get in touch with me. I know the location where the dead bodies are buried. Armenians, disseminate.

1.2. Publications on PoWs and dead Armenian servicemen

 **Злой Мамед**  
3 563 subscribers

Forwarded from Ялварырам Сянанов



Самый красивый армянин на свете!  
Смотрите какое милое личико. Ну разве это не мило?! 😊

👍 55 🇷🇺 31 😄 26 👍 14  
😱 2

29.3K 👁 02:25 AM

 30 Comments

**Translation from Russian:** “the most beautiful Armenian in the world. Look how beautiful is he, isn’t he cute? (meaning the dead Armenian servicemen).”



Bez Masok v42.1

10 126 subscribers

Forwarded from Ялварырам Сяанов

0:52 🔊



Новые пленные шлюхины дети

👍 199 🍌 10 🔥 8 🇷🇺 8

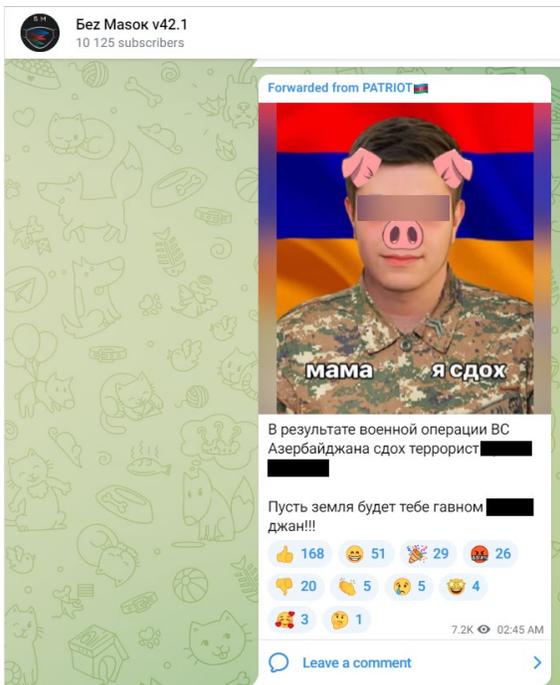
❤️ 7 😄 5 🙄 1

7K 👁️ 09:05 PM

💬 Leave a comment



**Translation from Russian:** “New captivated sons of the whores”



**Translation from Russian:** “Let the soil be a shit on your grave”



**Translation from Russian:** ...()You will never have a child, will never see the sun and a sea (oops, sorry you (meaning Armenia) never had and never will have a sea. Let the soil be a shit on your grave



PATRIOT

4 102 subscribers

Три сдохших зинвора, чем не праздник?

Друзья, всем шампанского! 🍷🍷

👍 92 🍷 57 😂 9 🔥 8

🍷 2 😊 1

2K 👁 12:03 AM

38 Comments >

**Translation from Russian:** “Three Armenian dead servicemen, why not celebrate? Friends, a shot of Champaign for everyone.”

1.3. Publications inciting hatred, violence against and extermination of Armenians

← Tweet

 Səadət  
@seadetsalmanli

Realist olun. Düşməyə qarşı kin, nifrət olmadığı sürədə hələ çox əziləcəksiniz.

10:57 AM · Sep 18, 2022 · Twitter for Android

7 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 173 Likes

Translation from Azerbaijani: “Be realistic. If there is no enmity and hatred against the enemy, you will be further crushed”

← Tweet

 TURAL TAGHIZADE  
@TaghizadeTural

45 erməni iti bu an üçün qəhrəman ordumuz tərəfindən cəhənnəmə vasil olub. Atəşləri bol olsun 🔥

2:17 AM · Sep 13, 2022 · Twitter for Android

Translation from Azerbaijani: “At the moment 45 Armenian dogs were sent to hell by our hero army. Let the fight continue”

Retweeted ALEyna 🇹🇷🇦🇷



ALEyna 🇹🇷🇦🇷  
@Aleeynnaa1



Azərbaycan torpaqlarını heç kim ala bilməz ! 🇹🇷🇦🇷  
[#Azerbaijan](#) [#Armenia](#)

[Translate Tweet](#)



2:05 AM · Sep 13, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



117 Retweets 1 Quote Tweet 1,784 Likes

*Translation from Azerbaijani:* “We will expel Armenia like a dog”



**Злой Мамед**  
3 561 subscribers



**Pinned Message**  
Бетховен Людвиг... Лунная С.



Тюрки расшатывают Иран, Дагестанцы (если осмелятся), и другие народы расшатывают Россию, Запад занят с Украиной и энергетическими вопросами, а мы заходим геноцидить армян, зарежем всех от мала до велика, с особой жестокостью (пальчики, царапание сисек и прочее).

Как вам такой расклад?

Сиранухи, вы тоже можете высказаться, не буду банить, Ашоты идут нахуй.

👍 91 😊 26 🇷🇺 2 🔥 1 🐾 1

edited 6.4K 👁 10:47 PM



37 Comments



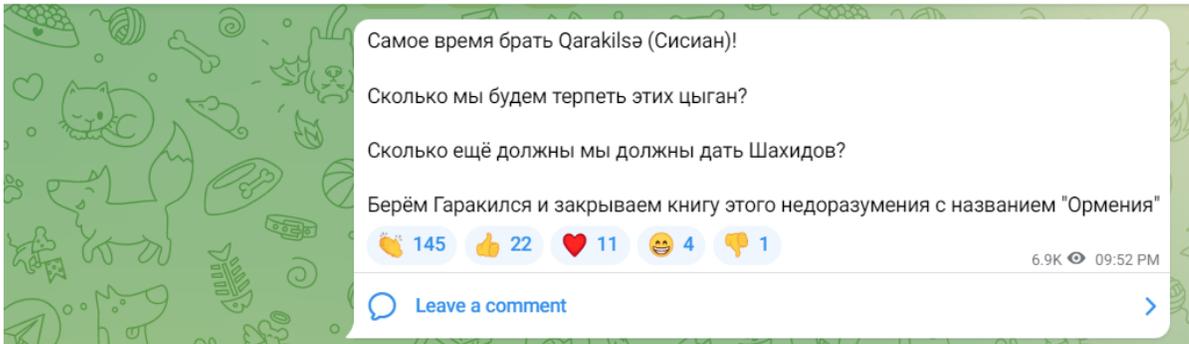
**Translation from Russian:** .....()other nations are shaking(weakening) Russia, the west is busy with Ukraine and energy issues, we (meaning Azerbaijan) are committing genocide of Armenians, we will extort everyone from the youngest to the oldest, with special cruelty (fingers, tit scratching etc.)



Без Масок v42.1  
10 125 subscribers

Pinned Message #6

В А Ж Н О ! Азербайджанские кан...



**Translation from Russian:** "Its high time to conquer Gharakilisa (Sisian). How long we will tolerate these gypsies (a slur referring to Roma)? ....)We will conquer Gharakilisa and end the last page of this nonsense called "Ormenia" (meaning "Armenia")"



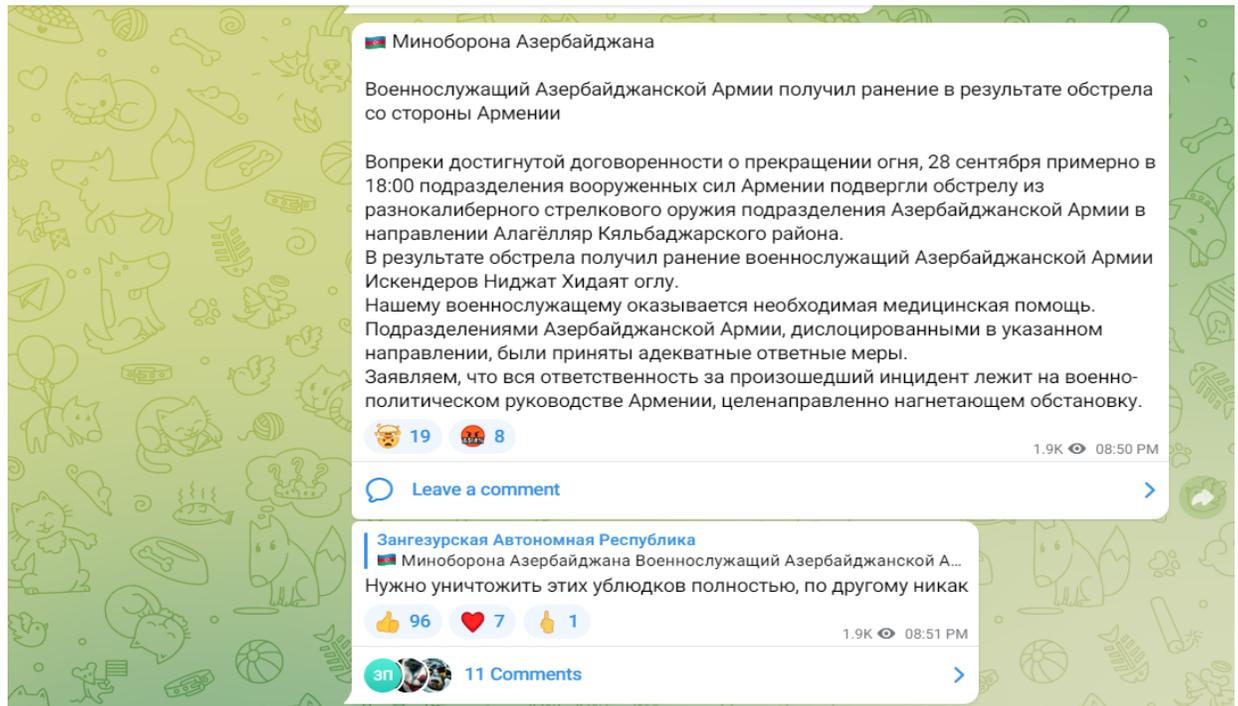
Зангезурская Автономная Республика  
7 162 subscribers



Pinned Message #132

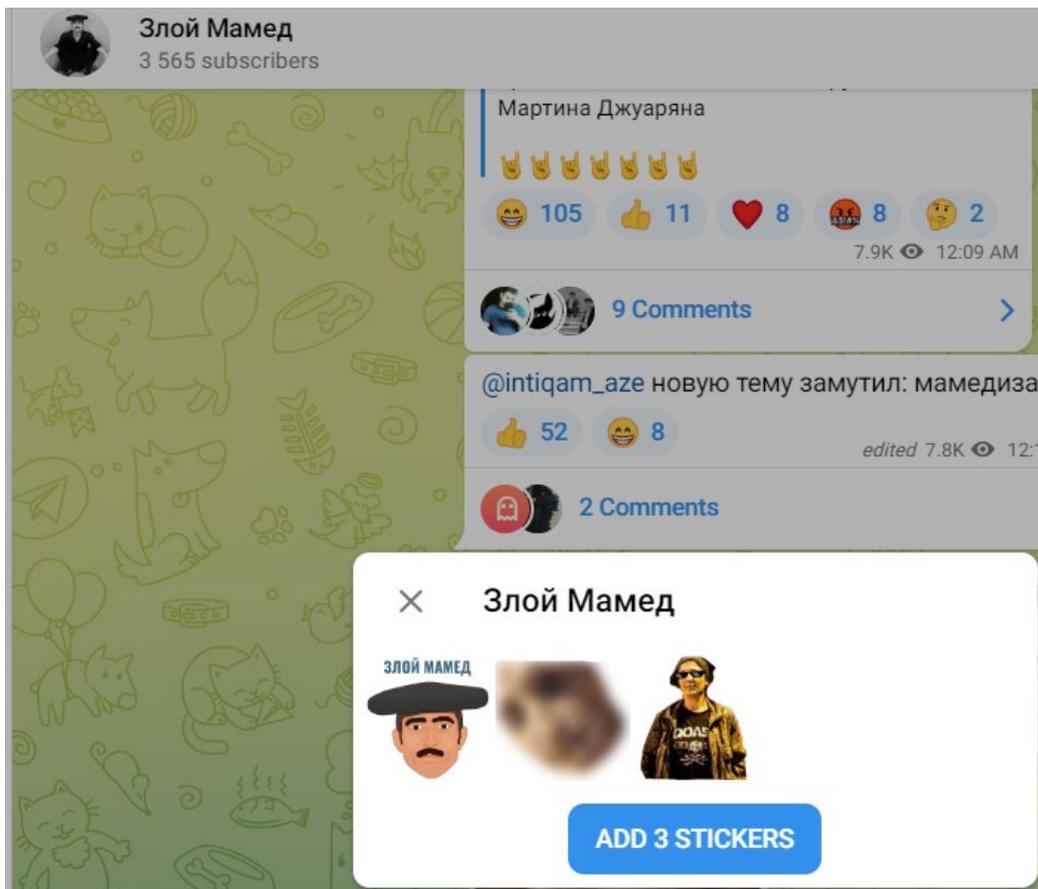
Дорогие подписчики, с ваше...

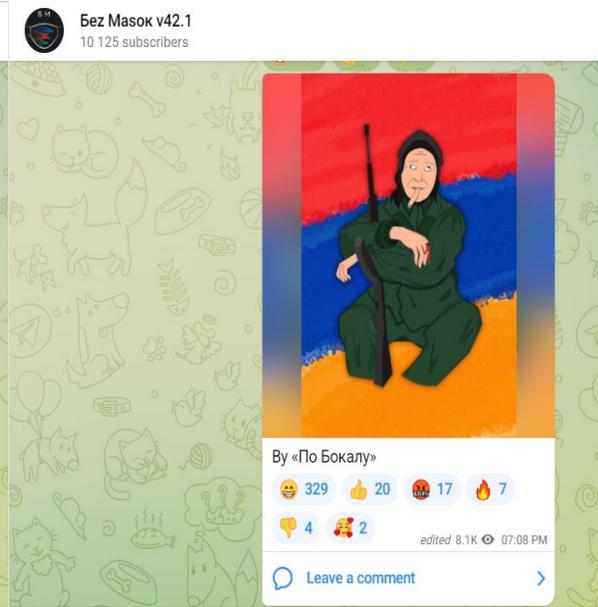
SUBS



**Translation from Russian:** Regarding the announcement of the MoD of Azerbaijan "it is necessary to totally extort these bastards, there is no other way.

#### 1.4. Stickers and other images:





The pictures of Armenian servicemen were edited by mutilating their body parts

## 1.5. Hate speech against women

Без Тормозов  
6 713 subscribers

Pinned Message  
Эксклюзив Специальн...

SUBSCRIBE

120 1  
edited 4.9K 08:31 PM

3 Comments

Армянские мужчины сами сидят на диване в Краснодаре, тем временем Яшма отправляет айканушок к Аствацу

100 16 3 2 2 1  
3.3K 08:40 PM

8 Comments

0:20

**Translation from Russian:** Armenian man sit in their homes in Krasnodar and “Yasma” sends Aykanushok (the edited word meaning Armenian in Armenian) to God.



Злой Мамед  
2 835 subscribers



Pinned Message  
Бетховен Людвиг... Лунная С...

SUBSCRIBE



Forwarded from Ялварырам Сянанов

Пересланное Сообщение  
От ПотршыйКа



4:19  
4:20

Рубрика до и после встречи с Яшмой продолжается.

Нашли фото этой шлюхи при жизни. Эх, знала бы она что с нею сделают, училась бы в школе на одни пятерки и возможно уехала бы в Краснодарца и была бы местной шлюхой.

Вай бляя, племя пидарасов. Одних баб своих отправили воевать, цыгане боша. Тьфу

[https://t.me/aze\\_patriotlar/2730?single](https://t.me/aze_patriotlar/2730?single)

👍 125 🗨️ 32 🔥 10 🤔 3  
❤️ 2 😂 1

25.5K 👁 05:03 PM

 25 Comments

Translation from Russian: Tribe of motherfuckers. They [meaning Armenian men] sent only women to fight, Roma and Bosha.



PATRIOT

4 102 subscribers

СДОХШИЕ ШЛЮХИ

ЧМО Шлюхистана обнародовало данные сдохших террористок во время военной операции ВС Азербайджана.

Имена шлюх: Сусанна Григорян, Ануш Апетян, Алиса Мелконян, Ирина Гаспарян, Гаяне Абгарян.

Пусть земля будет будет вам стекловатой шлюхи!!!

101 10 4 4 4.1K 07:43 PM

36 Comments

**Translation from Russian:** The whorehouse (meaning Armenia) identifies the data of dead terrorists during the military operation of Azerbaijan. The names of the whores: .....(..)

Злой Мамед  
3 563 subscribers

Бетховен Людвиг... Лунная С

**!** Обращение к армянам мужского пола.

Не отправляйте своих жён, сестёр и матерей с оружием в руках в места, где проходят боевые действия.

**!** А также, обращаемся к армянам женского пола. Любая из вас, кто будет держать оружие в руках и стрелять по азербайджанцам – будет **расчленена**.

Омбудсмену и генштабу Армении: прислушайтесь к нам, чтобы потом не ныть.

107 7 6 3 2

edited 37.7K 07:27 PM

18 Comments

**Translation from Russian:** We call on the women of Armenia. Any of you, who will have a gun in her hand and will shoot Azerbaijanis will be mutilated.

Злой Мамед  
2 830 subscribers

Бетховен Людвиг... Лунная С... SUBSCRIBE

Forwarded from Ялварырам Сянанов



На 2-ой фотке она более красивая, чертовка 😊

Красивая армянка - мёртвая армянка.  
Хороший армянин - мёртвый армянин.

83 30 10 1

8.6K 06:34 PM

22 Comments

**Translation from Russian:** In the second photo (meaning the death photo) she is more beautiful. A beautiful Armenian woman is a dead Armenian woman. A good Armenian man is a dead Armenian man.



Злой Мамед  
2 835 subscribers



Pinned Message  
Бетховен Людвиг... Лунная С...

SUBSCRIBE



Интересно, это какая из них? Которая в красных труселях или красном лифчике? Обе были жирными....не похожа... Найдите мне фото её трупа, стикер сделаю и изуродую.

[https://t.me/aze\\_patriotlar/2723](https://t.me/aze_patriotlar/2723)



Telegram

PATRIOT 🇦🇿

!! Сдохла крыса...

Террорист - контрактник Ануш Абетян тоже сдохла в результате спецоперации ВС Азербайджана.

У 36-летней Ануш Абетян было трое несов...



**Translation from Russian:** It's interesting to know which one is she [meaning the dead Armenian servicewomen]. The one with red panties or with a red bra? These two were fat, she doesn't look like them. Please find the photo of her dead body I will make a sticker and mutilate her.



Злой Мамед  
2 829 subscribers



Pinned Message  
Бетховен Людвиг... Лунная С...

SUBSCRIBE



12 Comments



Пишут, что эта чатлашка служила в Зангезуре (исконно Азербайджанская земля).



@zloy\_mamed\_1915



69



8

edited 9.8K 👁 03:35 PM



37 Comments

**Translation from Russian:** *This whore was serving in Zangezur (pure Azerbaijani land)*



Злой Мамед

3 561 subscribers

Forwarded from Ялварырам Сянанов

Мы плетём маскировочные сети в Ереване по адресу Терьяна 74, в спортивном зале Аграрного Университета, не хватает рук. С 10 утра до 8 вечера.

!!!! ВНИМАНИЕ !!!! Девочки, девушки, женщины из Еревана! Если у кого-то из вас есть время и желание помочь во благо Родины обязательно приходите по этому адресу. Хотя бы пару раз в неделю!!! Это общее дело! Очень многие не имеют возможности помочь финансово армии, но эта помощь также незаменима! Приходите и расскажите близким! Девушкам очень нужна помощь!

Армянки, единственный вариант, при котором ваши пальцы останутся целы, это если вы будете участвовать в таких "мероприятиях". Плетите хуйню, копайте свежие могилы для мужей, готовьте гробы для братьев, но автомат в руки не брать.

Потом не нойте на весь мир, что вас не предупредили 🗡️ 🔪

😄 74 👍 12 🍌 5 🇷🇺 5

😍 3

8.3K 👁️ 07:46 PM



35 Comments



**Translation from Russian:** *Armenian women, the only way for your fingers to be safe, is that you will focus on this kind of activity [meaning the weaving of masking nets]. Weave bullshit, dig graves for your husbands and brothers, but don't take guns. Then don't whine to the whole world that you weren't warned.*



Злой Мамед

3 562 subscribers

Forwarded from Ялварырам Сянанов



На фронт подготавливается новая партия Сиранух 😊

армяшки, вы же уже знаете что будет с вашими пальчиками? 🤚

😄 98 🇷🇺 24 👍 4 ❤️ 2

15.4K 👁 01:26 AM



33 Comments



Translation from Russian: .....(...) Armenian women, you know what is the future of your fingers?



Злой Мамед  
3 566 subscribers



@MaidenTower

❤️ 108 👍 21 🗣️ 7 😄 5

5.8K 👁️ 03:24 PM

👤 8 🗣️ 7 Comments

Forwarded from Ялварырам Сянанов



У этой Сиранухи пальчики норм. Очень удобно резать такие пальчики, ротик у неё тоже рабочий, при желании 3 пальца можно уместить

@zloy\_mamed\_1915

👍 85 🗣️ 11 😄 6 🔥 5 🙏 1

6K 👁️ 06:05 PM

👤 29 Comments

**Translation from Russian:** This Siranugh's [meaning degrading form of Armenian female name Siranush] finger is normal. It should be very handy t cut these fingers, the mouth is workable and 3 fingers could fit

## 1.6. Hate speech against children

Злой Мамед  
2 836 subscribers

Pinned Message  
Бетховен Людвиг... Лунная С...

SUBSCRIBE

September 16



Горисский пресс-клуб опубликовал фотографию детей, которые вынуждены были искать убежище в пещерах вблизи села  
Какой же кайф 😄 Пусть страдают их выблядки.  
Бумеранг, нахуй

74 37 18 4 4

edited 23.5K 12:17 AM

13 Comments

Translation from Russian: “What a thrill. Let their bastards suffer.”



PATRIOT

4 106 subscribers

0:04



!! Маленькая армянская шлюха вытирает сопли своего сдохшего отца.

Ничего блядина маленькая вырастишь родишь какого нибудь чатлаха, его тоже к отцу твоему отправим.

Ну что сасальцы и мамкины хуяншисты, классный пост дааа? Смотрите и кайфуйте, мы ваших детей в глотку ебали.

👍 45

😊 20

👉 5

👉 1

😂 1

1.4K 👁 09:57 PM



92 Comments



**Translation from Russian:** Little Armenian whore wipes snot of her dead father. A little whore you will grow up and give birth to a bastard and we will send him also to your father. ....()See and get off, we fucked your children in the throat



PATRIOT

4 106 subscribers



1:47 🔊

Единственные дети на земле, которые должны сдохнуть - это дети армянских шлюх, которые вырастут потенциальными террористами и будут представлять нашим детишкам проблемы.

Мы должны истребить это племя до самого последнего чатлаха.

👍 105 🔥 3 🍌 2 😂 1 🐱 1

1.5K 👁 05:03 PM

С Л В 44 Comments >

***Translation from Russian:*** the only child in the world who must die is the child of Armenian whores, they will grow up as potential terrorists and will be a threat to our children. We should exterminate this tribe till the last bastard.



Злой Мамед  
3 523 subscribers



Pinned Message  
Бетховен Людвиг... Лунная С...

SUBSCRIBE



Forwarded from Ялварырам Сянанов



Говорящее фото 😏

Дают своим выблядкам и женщинам ложные надежды, дают им оружие в руки, потом ноют на весь мир, что их шлюх убивают.

Будущие армяшки с пальчиком во рту 🗡️🔪



62



4



2



1

1.9K 👁️ 09:59 AM



22 Comments



**Translation from Russian:** "A speaking photo" .... () Future Armenian women with their fingers in the mouth.

1.7. The publications praising the events in the Sumgait school



**PATRIOT** 🇷🇺

4 102 subscribers



Доброе утро! 🇷🇺

Сумгайыт 2022 год 🙌

❤️ 157	👍 20	⚡ 3	😘 3
🏆 3	🔥 2	😊 1	👑 1

edited 2.8K 👁 09:08 AM

 **Н К** 19 Comments >

*Translation from Russian: Good morning. Sumgait 2022.*



Девичья башня

34 328 subscribers



0:07

🇷🇺 Правильное воспитание детей!  
Когда есть враг, который покушается на твои земли, убивает твоих родных и близких, то вся нация от мала до велика должна быть готова защитить Родину!

Vətənə xidmət! Xalqa sədaqət! Düşməne nifrət!

Сумгаит, 2022 г.

@MaidenTower

👍 584 🗑️ 127 ❤️ 116 🇷🇺 47

🤪 17 😄 11 🤔 5 ❤️ 4

18.9K 👁️ 02:39 PM

*Translation from Russian: "The proper bringing up of children. When you have an enemy who attacks your lands, shot your siblings, all the nation from children to the elderly should be ready to protect the homeland"*

*Syunik province, Verishen community*











Video link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GCcBsiz7wspUVEUbn9jzIh5C4zK2AeD/view?usp=sharing>







*Syunik province, Akner village*



*Syunik province, Karashen village*

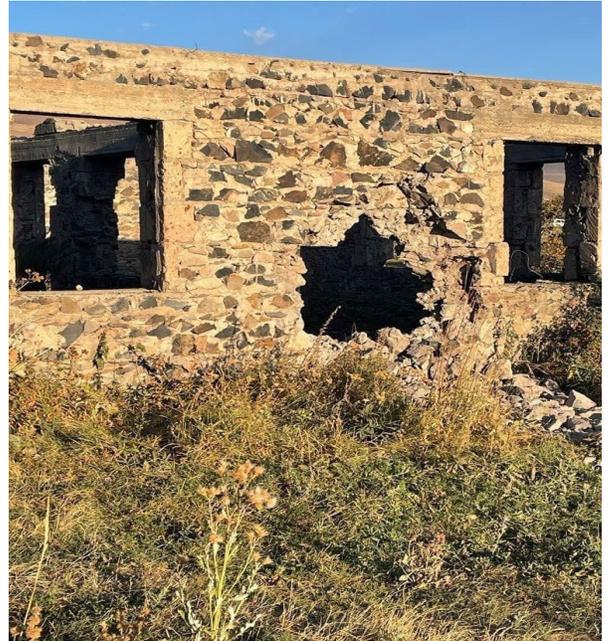


Gegharkunik province, Kut community



*Gegharkunik province, Sotk community*





*Gegharkunik province, Sotk community*



*Gegharkunik province, Sotk community*

**In Geghamasar community civilian houses have suffered damage due to UAV strikes.**



*Civilian vehicles damaged and left abandoned on the Sisian-Noravan highway*



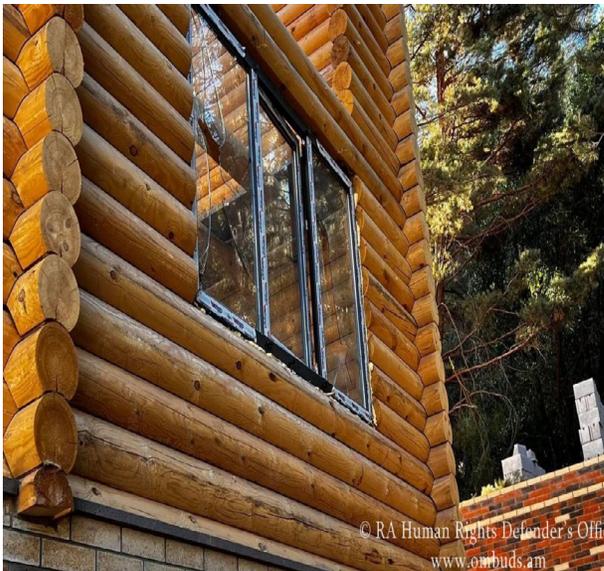
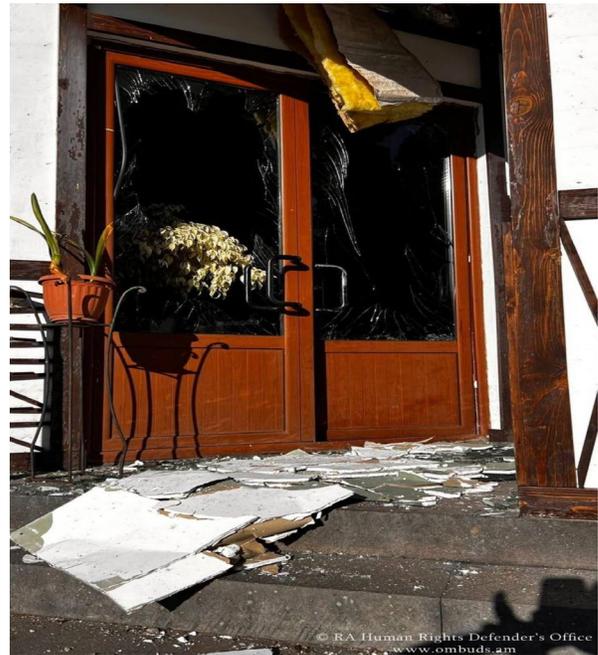
Video link:

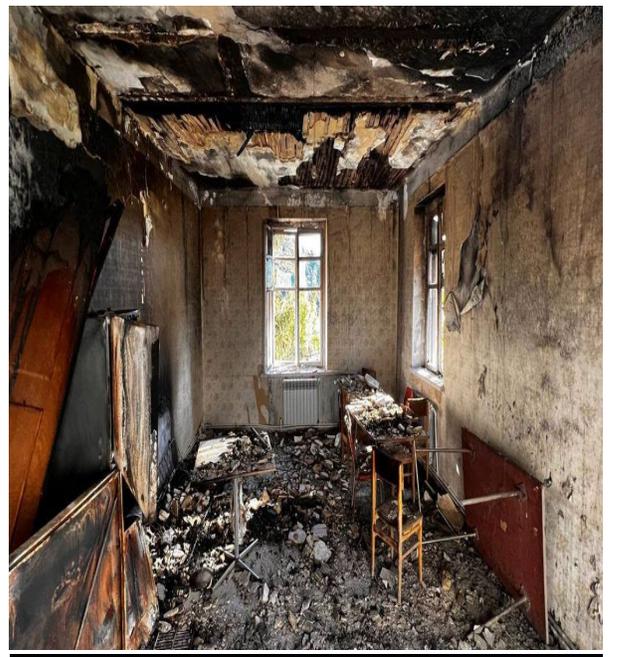
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hx\\_9vLL1fLiQEW6yMMCjdZ4qA6agQNaA/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hx_9vLL1fLiQEW6yMMCjdZ4qA6agQNaA/view?usp=sharing)

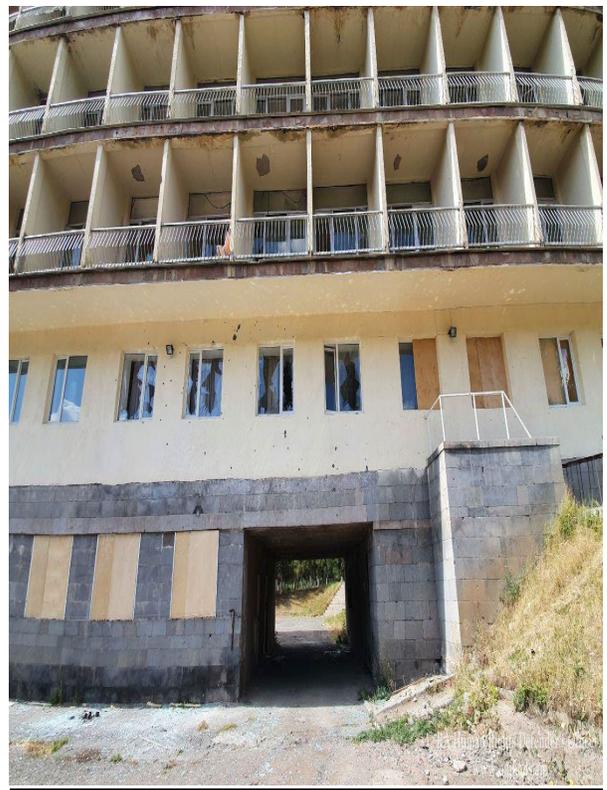
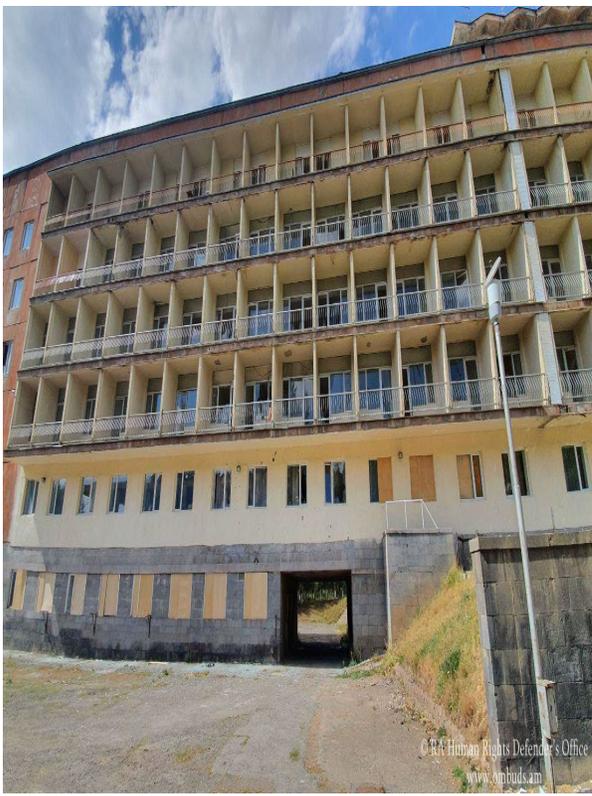
Civilian vehicle targeted in Jermuk community of Vayots Dzor province, as a result of which the driver was hospitalized with serious injuries



Vayots Dzor province, Jermuk community











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