



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
THE OMBUDSMAN
INSTITUTION

**THE REPORT
ON
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
COMMITTED BY THE ARMENIAN
ARMED FORCES DURING
AZERBAIJAN - ARMENIA WAR**

[27 September – 10 November 2020]





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ABBREVIATIONS

ICC : INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

ICRC : INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

IDPs : INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

OICOA : ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
OMBUDSMEN ASSOCIATION

OSCE : ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

UN : UNITED NATIONS

USSR : UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

FOREWORD

In the first half of the 20th century, humanity had taken two important steps right after going through two great World wars, which not only cost the lives of tens of millions of people, but also represented an unprecedented catastrophe with an aim to end the sufferings of wars as well as to guarantee the right to life for everybody. The first step is the ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the member countries of the United Nations in 1948 while the second one is signing of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) by the member countries of the European Council two years later, in 1950. Currently, there are 193 countries that have signed the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, while 47 member countries of the European Council are parties to the ECHR, and these countries recognize the authority of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) established as an institution with the aim of overseeing the enforcement of the Convention. Both of these milestone instruments guarantee every individual's fundamental human rights including right to life, right to protection, right to physical integrity, right to freedom of thought and faith, right to property, right to privacy, and right to vote and stand for election without any discrimination notably on grounds of sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, belonging to a national minority, wealth, and birth or any other ground.

Despite such positive developments aiming to protect fundamental human rights, particularly the right to life, we have witnessed incidents of crimes against humanity in the last three decades and we continue to do so. For instance, one of the most ruthless massacres in history was the slaughter of more than two hundred thousand Bosnians between 1992 and 1995 right in the middle of Europe, before the eyes of the entire World. Another tragic example is killings of over eight hundred thousand Tutsis by Hutus in Rwanda in 1994, as a result of attacks which lasted for days, again while the entire World was watching and remained silent. This black list of examples goes on with the recent or currently on-going incidents

in Syria, Yemen, and Afghanistan. Humanity, while recognising the right to life of every individual, has failed in protecting this right and bringing those in violation thereof to justice. Even though the International Criminal Court located in The Hague has tried some of the perpetrators of such crimes, the majority of those who have committed such offenses still go unpunished and remain to be held responsible.

One of the most recent examples of crimes against humanity has been the murders of innocent Azerbaijani civilians, with no concern for women and children, by the Armed Forces of the Armenian State between 1990 and 1994 and in following years. The Azerbaijani territory has been under occupation for the last three decades in contradiction with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. The Armed Forces of the Armenian State has blatantly violated the relevant international treaties including the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. Furthermore, during the conflicts that erupted on 27th September 2020, the Armed Forces of Armenian State launched strikes with long-range conventional missiles against civilian settlements situated hundreds of kilometers away from the war zone and destroyed houses and apartment buildings inhabited by civilians, as well as schools, and places of worship. This recent inhuman act of Armenia is also a clear violation of the fundamental principles of Customary International Law and International Humanitarian Law that bind them.

The mandate of Ombudsmen requires them not only to resolve any disputes between the administration and individuals, but also to report on and cease human rights violations by acting as human rights institutions. The Ombudsman Institutions enjoyed widespread dissemination and empowerment through the developments in the aforementioned human rights and emerged as one of the most important bodies in the protection of human rights in the 20th century. It is critically important for the Ombudsmen to function as a human rights mechanism also in the international arena, specifically through international ombudsman associations and bilateral agreements.

Sabina Aliyeva, the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsperson) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, during the meeting of the Board of Directors of the

Organization of Islamic Cooperation Ombudsmen Association (OICOA) held on 14th October 2020, lodged a motion for an enquiry into the attacks launched by the Armed Forces of the Armenian State against Azerbaijani civilians and invited the members of the Board of Directors to Azerbaijan for on-site observations. So, we formed a Delegation to hold investigative visits to the cities of Baku, Ganja, and Mingachevir on 21st-23rd October 2020 for the purposes of conducting on-site observations and reporting on the situation that, on grounds of the images that appeared on the media, involved rather serious human rights violations, The Delegation also included Ms. Özlem Tunçak, the Ombudsperson who is in charge of the rights of women and children. Through this visit, we had the chance to examine the physical site of the scene of horror created by the missile attacks that had targeted civilians, including women and children, at nighttime, while they were sleeping. I personally witnessed the trauma that afflicted 16-year-old Sevil and 8-year-old Hüseyin, who had lost their parents during a missile attack in the middle of the night. I also had the opportunity to be introduced to 2-year-old Nilay, who will grow up always feeling the absence of her parents who were killed during these attacks.

The present comprehensive Report was prepared based on the findings obtained through on-site investigations and observations of the human rights violations resulting from the attacks launched by the Armenian Armed Forces against innocent Azerbaijani civilians between 27th September and 10th November 2020. These attacks involved long-range missiles, cannon shots, and other weapons used against civilian settlements situated far from the war zone and resulted in the deaths of 94 Azerbaijani citizens and the wounding of 414 civilians. Moreover, the attacks destroyed places of worship, schools, public buildings, and multi-apartment residential buildings.

The aim of this Report is to present to the international community a fully objective and clear picture of these attacks. The ultimate aim is to ensure that whoever is responsible must be invariably tried by law and punished in the manner as they deserve. International human rights institutions and community should not remain silent in the face of these violations.

For their valuable contributions to the preparation of this Report, I would like to extend my gratitude to Celile Özlem Tunçak, Ombudsperson in charge of the rights of women and children, who joined us during the inspection visit held in Azerbaijan, and Hande Hazneci, Ombudsman Expert, who drew up the report with utmost diligence. Furthermore, I would also like to thank Prof. Yusuf Şevki Hakyemez and journalist Okan Müderrisoğlu for their support to the preparation of this Report. With my wishes of a World free of wars and for putting an end to human rights violations.

Yours sincerely,

Şeref Malkoç

Chief Ombudsman of the Republic of Turkey
Chairman of the Board of Directors of the
Organization of Islamic Cooperation
Ombudsmen Association

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nagorno-Karabakh (Upper Karabakh) was recognized as an autonomous oblast under Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic in the year 1923. However, it has witnessed continual violence and war between the States of Armenia and Azerbaijan since 1988. Upper Karabakh and 7 districts surrounding this locality have remained under Armenian occupation for a period of approximately three decades. Armenia maintained its occupation ignoring the relevant Resolutions of the United Nations (UN) Security Council and of the UN General Assembly, which united in “a call for Armenia to withdraw of forces from the Azerbaijani territory under its occupation”. The efforts put forth in this context by the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) also failed in securing peace in the region.

And recently, in the morning of 27th September 2020, the Armenian Armed Forces launched intensive attacks against the Azerbaijani army and the districts of Tartar, Agdam, Fuzuli, and Jabrayil. The attacks were later exacerbated in violence and moved beyond the conflict zone, shifting towards densely populated civilian settlements of Azerbaijan and resulting in the killing of a large number of civilians including women and children. Şeref Malkoç, the Chief Ombudsman and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Ombudsmen Association (OICOA), held an inspection visit to Azerbaijan along with a delegation of the Institution on 21st-23rd October 2020 upon the invitation previously extended by Sabina Aliyeva, Ombudsperson of the Republic of Azerbaijan. During this on-site visit, the Delegation made on-site observations in the cities of Ganja and Mingachevir. Although these cities are situated rather far from the conflict zone and do not feature any military significance, they suffered a large number of civilian losses under the massive assaults launched by Armenia.

Even though the parties signed a ceasefire agreement on 10th November 2020, the heavy attacks launched by the Armenian Armed Forces starting from 27th September 2020 resulted in the deaths of 94 civilians including 12 children (one of them a 1-year-old infant) and 27 women and the wounding of 414 civilians. The Armenian Armed Forces bombed civilian settlements and employed indiscriminate and prohibited weapons such as cluster munitions, thereby not only violating the right to life of civilians, but also committing a war crime under the International Humanitarian Law. This Report aims to display these committed violations as well as to mobilise the international community and to raise the voices of all human rights advocates in this matter.

2. INTRODUCTION

There are Ombudsman Institutions in more than 140 countries around the World. Ombudsmen are mandated to protect individuals against human rights violations, abuses of authority, unfair decisions, and misconducts. As human rights institutions, *Ombudsmen are also obliged to put forth the efforts necessary to promote the culture of seeking rights; to strengthen human rights not only in their respective countries, but around the entire World; and to raise awareness as required to such ends.* A large number of international ombudsman associations/institutes have been established for such purposes as allowing for exchange of information and sharing good practices within the framework of such mandates and obligations. One of such organizations is represented by the OICOA founded in Islamabad on 29th April 2014. The Association has 33 active members. It had been governed by a “Steering Committee” for a period of 5 years. However, an election was held for its “Board of Directors” during the meeting of General Assembly held on 19th November 2019 in Istanbul, whereby Chief Ombudsman Şeref Malkoç was elected as the first Chairman of the Association. The first meeting of the Board of Directors was held on 14th October 2020, but the event was organized online due to the global COVID-19 pandemic that has given rise to disease control efforts in all countries of the World. During the said meeting, one of the members of the Board of Directors, *Azerbaijani Ombudsman Sabina Aliyeva provided the Board with information on the attacks launched by Armenia against military and civilian targets along the Upper Karabakh frontline and invited all members of the Association to Baku to observe the human rights violations involved on site.* Chief Ombudsman and Chairman of OICOA Şeref Malkoç accepted this invitation and organized an inspection visit to Azerbaijan on 21st-23rd October 2020 together with a delegation of the Ombudsman Institution including Celile Özlem Tunçak, Ombudsperson in charge of the rights of women and children, with the aim of conducting on-site investigations.

The Ombudsman Institution of Republic of Turkey is a Constitutional Institution and is independent and impartial as stipulated in the Law on the Ombudsman Institution. The Institution is mandated to respond to any complaint concerning the functioning of the administration by way of investigation and research into any action or procedure implemented or any attitude or behaviour adopted by the administration in terms of compliance with the law and equity within the framework of a human rights-based understanding of justice. In addition, the Institution is authorised to issue special reports on specific matters as required. Such reports may be exemplified by the publication of the special report on “*Syrians in Turkey*” in 2018 aiming to review the services utilised by Syrians in Turkey on the basis of human rights. On the other hand, Ombudsmen assume specific obligations in promoting the culture of seeking rights, strengthening human rights not only in their respective countries, but also around the entire world, and raising awareness as necessary to this end in addition to their mandate of processing complaints. In fact, the visit held in Azerbaijan was organized not only for the Ombudsman Institution to fulfil its aforementioned duties and responsibilities as an independent and impartial human rights institution, but also for the Chairman of the OICOA to identify the alleged human rights violations committed against a country that is a Member of its Board of Directors.

On 27th September 2020, Azerbaijan responded to the attack launched by the Armenian Armed Forces along the Upper Karabakh frontline. According to the statements released by Azerbaijani officials, Armenia launched massive fire against settlements and social facilities densely inhabited by the civilian population in Azerbaijan with a variety of large-scale and prohibited weapons, and during these attacks, prohibited ballistic missiles had been employed to open fire against the city of Ganja, the second largest city in Republic of Azerbaijan situated far from the conflict zone, on the dates of 4th, 11th and 17th October 2020. In addition, the statements also indicate that on 4th October 2020, the city of Mingachevir, an industrial city boasting the largest powerplant and the largest dam in the South Caucasus and a population of over 100.000, had become the target of an attack through prohibited ballistic missiles, despite its location at approximately 100 km away from the conflict zone. These attacks by Armenia resulted in the deaths of a

large number of civilians including children, women, individuals with disabilities, and elderly individuals. It was informed that although three ceasefire agreements had been declared so far, they all failed to stop the attacks.

As is known, Upper Karabakh and 7 surrounding districts have been under Armenian occupation for three decades and the UN Security Council has issued 4 resolutions calling for withdrawal of Armenia from the territory which is a part of Azerbaijan. Furthermore, attacks launched with the use of indiscriminate and therefore prohibited weapons resulting in killings of civilians are clear violation of human rights. *Chief Ombudsman and Chairman of OICOA Şeref Malkoç organised an inspection visit to Azerbaijan on 21st-23rd October 2020, accompanied by a delegation from the Ombudsman Institution, with the aim of investigating the current claims in the light of the aforementioned observations.*

During the inspection visit, the delegation held meetings with Fikret Memmedov, Minister of Justice of The Republic of Azerbaijan; Farhad Abdullayev, Chairman of Constitutional Court; Chief Prosecutor Kamran Aliyev; Tural Ganjaliyev, Chairman of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of Azerbaijan; and Zeki Öztürk, Consul-General of the Republic of Turkey to Ganja and travelled to the cities of Ganja and Mingachevir. The visit also provided additional opportunities to assess the conclusions of joint investigations undertaken in the cities of Ganja and Mingachevir with Azerbaijan Ombudsperson Sabina Aliyeva who accompanied the delegation throughout the visit.

Following the agreement signed on 10th November 2020 between Russia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, which after the afore-mentioned visit, the conflicts stopped and Armenia conceded to the demand for its retreat from the districts under its occupation. However, the present Report aims to provide the international community and human rights advocates with a depiction of the findings and observations gathered through on-site investigations and meetings with relevant officials with respect to the claims of human rights violations as a result of the attacks launched by Armenia during the conflicts.

3. THE CONFLICT OF NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Lying between Kura and Aras rivers, Karabakh is located in the east part of Lake Sevan and extends in the area of 18.000 km². Nagorno-Karabakh is situated in the northern part around a mountainous part occupying 4.388 km² of this area. It is a small isolated land that has been an issue between Armenia and Azerbaijan since 1988 and ended up in violence and war between the two countries.

Nagorno-Karabakh has a long historical past which had harboured many civilizations. The land was first ruled by the Christian Albans followed by the Arabs, Mongolians, Iran, which then was being ruled by a Turkish origin Safavid Dynasty and eventually by the Turks. The name Karabakh comes from a mixture of Turkish and Persian languages. Beginning from the XI. century until the XV. century, the region was ruled by the Seljuks and then by various other Turkmen lords. These Turkmen lords founded various khanates amongst which were Ganja, Revan, Sheki, Baku, Quba, Derbent, Nakhchivan and Karabakh. The capital of Karabakh Khanate founded in 1747 was Shusha. In time, all the khanates, including Karabakh Khanate in 1805, came under the domination of Russian Tsardom. Subsequently, following the treaties made between both Persian and Ottoman Empires with Russia, the right of Armenians to emigrate from both countries to Russian soil was recognized and about 130.000 Armenians from Persia and Ottoman lands emigrated to today's Armenian borders and to Karabakh. Also, during the First World War a considerable number of Armenians emigrated to the Russian soils.

Armenians insisted on Nakhchivan, Nagorno-Karabakh and Zangezur regions to be annexed to Armenia. However, in line with the pact of 1920 with Armenia and Soviyet Russia left Zangezur to Armenia but refused to comply with the other Armenian demands. Nevertheless, Armenia insisted its claims on Nagorno-Karabakh¹ During the rule of Josef Stalin, in 1921, USSR decided to affiliate Nagorno-Karabakh as an autonomous region to Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic and in 1923 it was annexed to Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. With the 1936

1 Azer C., Yukarı Karabağ Sorunu ve Minsk Grubu, Ermeni Araştırmaları, 2013, Sayı 44

Soviet Russian constitution, the statute of the region was corroborated, and the name was changed to “Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region”. During the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Nagorno-Karabakh wanted to break away from Azerbaijan and be united with Armenia. However, this demand was rejected by the Soviet Union resulting in a clash between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Even though the clash was brought under control by the Soviet Union, the moment the Union faced disintegration, the conflict resurged. In 1992, during an attack by the Armenians to Xocalı town, hundreds of civilians were killed. In the same year, *despite the fact that Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region declared its independence and became the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, including Armenia no other country recognizes this and in the context of international law, the region is still accepted as part of Azerbaijan.* In the year 1993 almost 20% of Azerbaijan land was occupied by Armenia, including



Source: <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/azerbaycan-cephe-hatti/daglik-karabag-konusunda-bilinmesi-gerekenler-6-soruda-daglik-karabag/1987993>

Shusha, Lachin, Akdere (Agdara), Kalbajar, Agdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Horadis and Zengelan regions.²

Between 1988 and 1994, it is estimated that approximately 750.000 to 800.000 Azeri citizens were forced to migrate, and they became internally displaced people (IDPs).³ During this process in 1992 in order to put an end to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia in a peaceful way, OSCE Minsk Group was founded and to this aim, a conference was planned in Minsk. However, this conference was never realized. Although the efforts shown by the Minsk Group to bring peace to the region were insufficient, it led to the issuance of 4 resolutions in 1993, 822, 853, 874 and 884 by the Security Council of UN. The aim of the aforementioned resolutions was to put an end to the armed conflict and demanded *Armenia to pull back from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan*. Consequently, UN accepts that Nagorno-Karabakh is a part of Azerbaijan and within this context the interferences of Armenia is assessed as violation of the international law.

It is estimated that during the conflicts between 1988 and 1994, approximately 30.000 people lost their lives and hundreds of thousands of them became refugees. Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding seven regions were occupied by Armenian forces. These occupied regions, which cut the link between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, were turned into no man's land.⁴ In the ceasefire agreement signed in Bishkek in 1994, there was no mention about the evacuation. Accordingly, the Azerbaijan territories could not be saved from the occupation of Armenia, and as a result, about a million IDPs were not able to return their homes. Besides, ceasefire violations continued resulting in the loss of lives from both sides and a peace agreement was not reached. In OSCE Summit held in Madrid in 2007, for a peaceful settlement of the conflict, the Co-chairs of Minsk Group proposed some "Basic Principles" which were named "The Madrid Principles". According to these principles; the districts surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh should be returned to Azerbaijan, a corridor adjoining Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh should be introduced, the right to return to their former places of residence should be given to all IDPs and refugees, a temporary status that guarantees self-governing and security to Nagorno-Karabakh should

2 Azer C., Yukarı Karabağ Sorunu ve Minsk Grubu, Ermeni Araştırmaları, (2013), Sayı 44

3 Human Rights Watch, Seven Years of Conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, 1994

4 Tuncel, T., Güney Kafkasya'da 2-5 Nisan 2016'da Yaşanan 4 Gün Savaşı, Ermeni Araştırmaları, (2016), Sayı:53

be introduced, to start the negotiations on the eventual status of Nagorno-Karabakh, a peace keeping force should be sent to the region by OSCE. However, Armenia did not accept these proposals. In 2011 both sides came together in Kazan to discuss the renewed Madrid Principles. No agreement was reached yet again. On the other hand, as a continuation of *the resolution 62/243 accepted in the General Assembly of the UN on March 14, 2008, referring to the relating four resolutions of the Security Council of the UN, it was stressed that the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh region continues threatening international peace and security and “reaffirmed continued respect and support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders”. Furthermore, it was demanded that all Armenian forces should “fully, immediately and unconditionally” withdraw from all the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.*

Despite all efforts to end the conflict between the two countries, these efforts yielded no fruitful result, and finally two parties declared war again between April 2-5, 2016, which was named “Four Day War”. During this war, both sides had losses and the conflict was brought to an end with the mediation of Russia. Lastly, with attacks of Armenia, clashes started once again on the 27th of September 2020. This time the intensity of conflict was much higher that it resulted in the increase of losses.

Negotiations on solving the Karabakh problem has been continuing since 1994 by OSCE Minsk Group co-chaired by USA, France and Russia. Unfortunately, ending the conflict is yet to be achieved.



4. CURRENT STATUS OF THE CONFLICT ZONE

Armenian Armed Forces violated the ceasefire in the morning of 27th September 2020 and attacked the Azerbaijani army deployed on the front line as well as Gapanli village in Tartar district, Chiragli and Orta Garavand villages in Agdam district; Alkhanli and Shukurbayli in Fuzuli district and Jojug Marjanli in Jabrayil district with heavy weapons. As a response to the attacks of Armenia towards

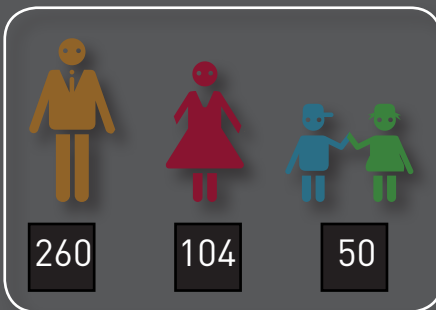


A secondary school building in Tartar damaged in the attacks

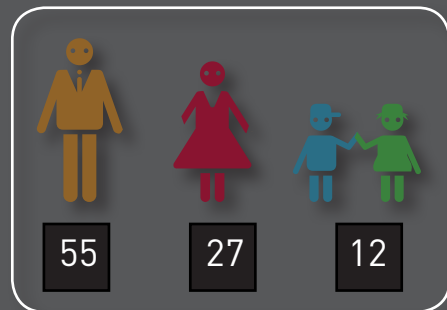
military and civilian targets on the front line of Nagorno-Karabakh, the counter military operations of Azerbaijan continued at various points along the front line. The Azerbaijani government stated that they initiated counter military operations based upon the right of self-defence and 4 cities, 3 districts and approximately 220 villages as well as a few strategically important locations were freed from the

occupation of Armenia. The President Ilham Aliyev declared the liberation of the critically important city of Shusha on the 8th of November 2020, which played a crucial role in the salvation of Nagorno-Karabakh.

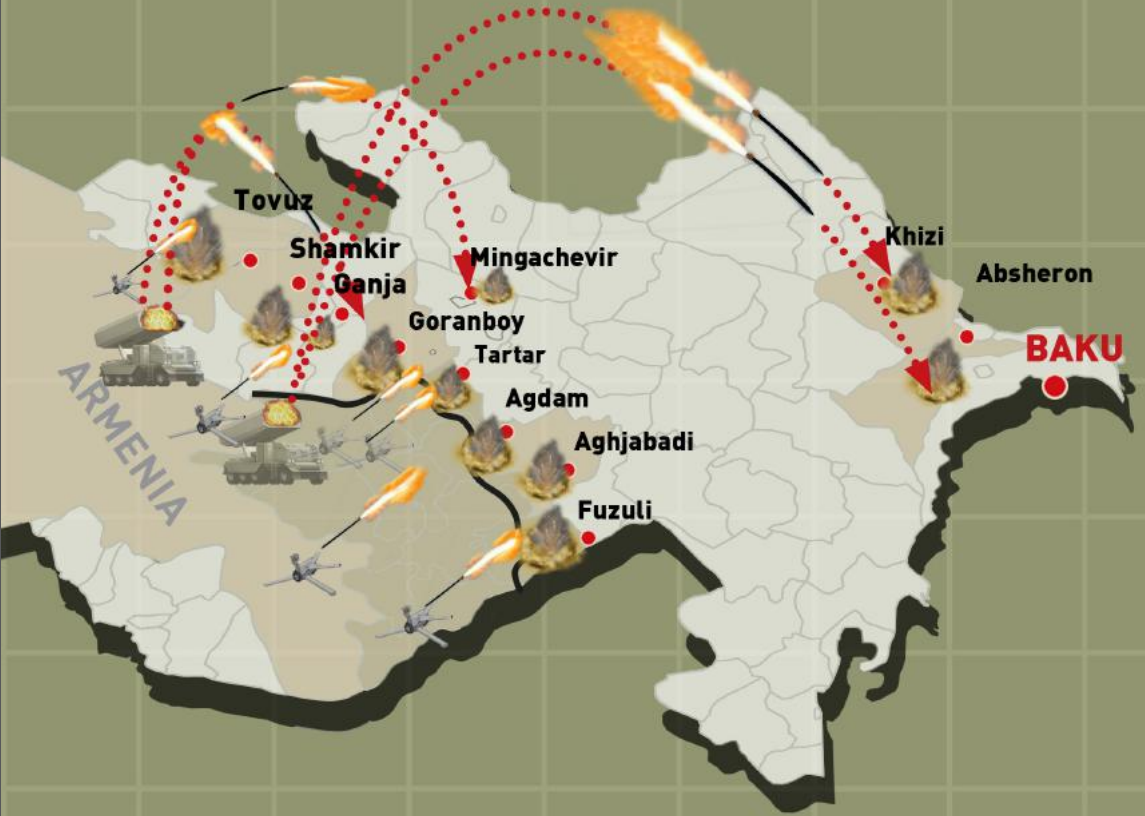
Wounded Civilians



Civilians who were Killed



ATTACKS ON CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS BY ARMENIA



Number of houses fallen into disrepair

3410



*Number of multi-apartment residential
buildings fallen into disrepair*

120



Number of damaged civil facilities

512

Finally, a Russia-brokered ceasefire was declared on the 10th of November 2020 and Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia have signed an agreement to end the military conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

During the conflict, which started on 27th of September 2020, it was found out that Armenian armed forces extended its attacks beyond the occupied territories. Consequently, due to these attacks many residential areas as well as places of worship were destroyed, resulting in an increase in the death toll among women, children and the disabled.

Three attempts of truce were made; yet failed to be implemented in the course of the conflict. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia participated in the talks for negotiation held in Moscow on the 9-10th of October and agreed upon a truce for humanitarian reasons in order to exchange dead bodies and detainees and to define the parameters of the ceasefire in the days to come. Through the intervention of the co-chairs of the Minsk Group, the negotiations were to kick off on the basis of the agreed upon principles. However, in less than 24 hours, the ceasefire broke down as Armenia launched rockets on Ganja.



Source: <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/azerbaycan-cephe-hatti/azerbaycan-ve-ermenistan-daglik-karabagda-anlasmaya-vardi/2037860>



A house destroyed in the attacks on Barda

As the attacks continued and the death toll among civilians was increasing, Armenia and Azerbaijan declared a ceasefire for humanitarian reasons on the 18th of October at 00.00 local time in line with the Moscow Declaration dated on the 10th of October. Yet, this attempt also failed to halt the military conflict. Finally, through the intervention of the USA, two countries and 414 civilians were wounded. 3410 civilian settlements were torn down, in total 512 residential infrastructures including



A house destroyed in the attacks on Barda



Civilians killed in the attacks on Barda



Civilians killed in the attacks on Ganja



*Residential areas that turned into debris
after the attack on Ganja*



School buildings damaged in the attacks



schools and hospitals and 120 buildings were damaged.⁵

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, said in her statement on the 09 October 2020⁶ that civilian facilities were reported to have been destroyed; heavy weaponry was used adding that although the UN Human Rights Office has not been able to independently verify, 53 civilians had been killed, including children, as a result of

In the attacks of Armenia on the 28th of October, 25-year-old Mirzaliyeva who gave birth only 22 days prior to the attacks and her father Cherkes Mirzaliyev were killed by cluster bombs as heading to the doctor's appointment.

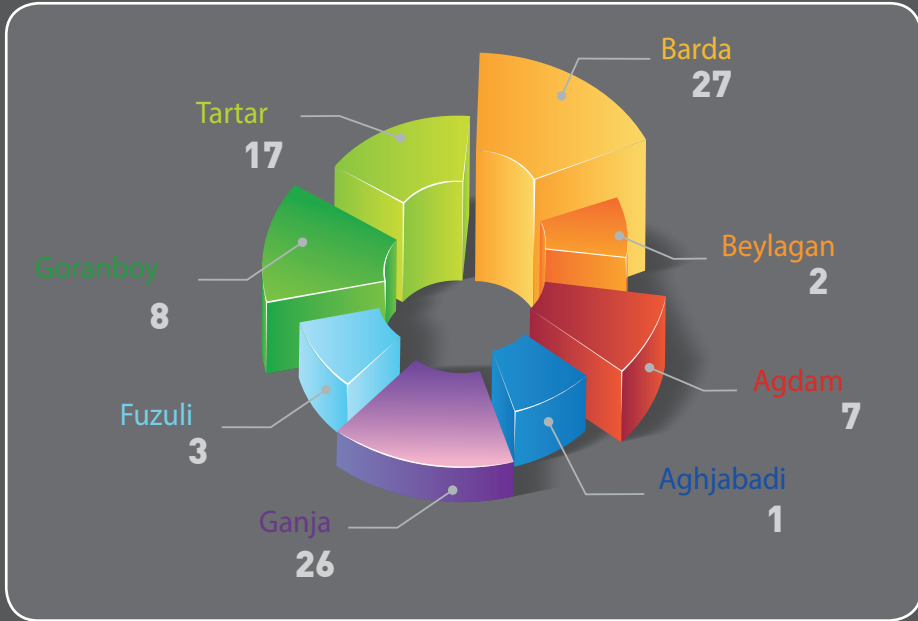


Source: Anadolu ajansi

⁵ <https://genprosecutor.gov.az/az/post/3168#gallery>

⁶ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26464&LangID=E>

The civilians killed in the attacks according to the settlements by 29/10/2020



the hostilities. The UN High Commissioner also urged all parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian law and appealed for an urgent ceasefire. In her second statement of the 2nd of November 2020, Bachelet expressed alarm at continuing indiscriminate attacks in populated areas of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone. Furthermore, the UN High Commissioner highlighted that attacks of this kind violate international humanitarian law and warned they may amount to war crimes⁷. Bachelet declared in the same statement that the biggest single loss of life was on 28th of October, when 21 people were killed and 70 others injured in a missile attack on the Azerbaijani town of Barda, located 30 km from the area of active hostilities. Bachelet urged all parties to comply with the humanitarian ceasefire and called for the negotiations in order to reach a peaceful and permanent agreement.

⁷ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26464&LangID=E>



Imamzadeh Mosque in Ganja and the damages caused in the attacks.

Having suffered from a large number of civilian loss, the city of Ganja is located at approximately 100 km away from the conflict zone and it is the second largest city in the Republic of Azerbaijan. According to the statistical data of 2020, the population of Ganja is 335.600. The establishment of the city has a long-standing history and the first historical information regarding this ancient settlement dates back to VII. century. Due to its strategically important location, as it is situated in the intersection of Baku-Tbilisi trade routes, the city of Ganja harboured numerous civilizations and has been exposed to several military attacks during its history. Ganja served temporarily as the capital city of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan, which was founded in 1918. The city has historical significance with its churches dating back to different periods in addition to its exquisite historical architecture, namely, Shah Abbas Caravanserai, Chokak Bath, Juma Mosque and Imamzadeh Mosque located in the city center.

Being an important economic center in the West-Azerbaijan, Ganja is also home to many prestigious academies such as Azerbaijan Technical University, Medical College, Ganja State University and Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences that further reinforce its reputation as an academic city. The city of Ganja occupies the area of 110 km² and is divided into 2 districts (rayons) of Kapaz and Nizami.

One of the other earliest settlements of Azerbaijan, Barda experienced the death toll of 27 civilians in the missile attacks targeted towards this district. Barda, comprised of one province and 110 towns, hosts 32 pre-school facilities, 76 schools, 16 health centers and 205 cultural associations. Of all the Near Eastern



Russian Orthodox Church "Alexander Nevsky" in Ganja and the damage caused in the attacks



Attacks on Barda

settlements, Barda remains to be the most historical province with the population of approximately 40.000 and is situated some 30 km away from the conflict zone. In the Barda attacks of 27-28th of October 2020, 27 civilians were killed and many human settlements and vehicles as well as historical and cultural artifacts were devastated as a consequence of ballistic missiles and ordnance.

Another city that had become the target of attacks was the city of Mingachevir despite its location far away from the conflict-zone. Mingachevir is the fourth biggest city of Azerbaijan with the population of 106.000 boasting with the largest hydroelectric powerplant in the South Caucasus and the largest dam reservoir in Caucasia.



A missile landed on energy dispersion blocks in the attacks of Mingachevir



5. FINDINGS / OBSERVATIONS OBTAINED AS A RESULT OF ON-SITE INSPECTION

The attacks initiated by Armenia on the date of 27th of September 2020 and the media coverage displaying numerous injuries and casualties among the civilians due to these attacks called the utmost attention of the Turkish Ombudsman Institution which serves as an independent human rights institution. Furthermore, in the virtual meeting dated on the 14th of October 2020, one of the executive board members of the OICOA -the Azerbaijani Ombudsperson Sabina Aliyeva- invited all the board member institutions to pay a visit to Azerbaijan in order to peruse the allegations in-situ. Şeref Malkoç accepted this invitation as the president of OICOA in addition to his role as the head of a human rights institution. The delegation led by Şeref Malkoç paid an inspection visit to Azerbaijan between the dates of 21st-23rd of October.



The Chief Ombudsman of Turkey Şeref Malkoç accompanied by his delegation from the Turkish Ombudsman Institution commemorating the civilians with the Ombudsperson of Azerbaijan Sabina ALIYEVA..



Meetings were held with Fikret Memmedov, Minister of Justice of Republic of Azerbaijan; Farhad Abdullayev, Chairman of Constitutional Court; Chief Prosecutor Kamran Aliyev; Tural Ganjaliyev, Chairman of the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh Region of Azerbaijan; and Zeki Öztürk, Consul-General of the Republic of Turkey to Ganja. During these meetings, official information was obtained regarding the situation. Furthermore, the cities of Ganja and Mingachevir were visited in order to make an on-site inspection, as residential areas were bombed and significant number of civilians purportedly lost their lives in these cities.

The consequences of atrocities in Ganja, a densely populated residential area far from the conflict-affected zone bearing historical importance were perused in-situ; interviews were arranged with the locals, and the families having lost their kids were visited in their homes during the working visit. In the first home visited, the delegation met with the 8-year-old Hüseyin and his elder sister, 16-year-old Sevil whose mother and father were killed in the attacks. Sevil stated that she was watching a movie in the night of the attack while her parents were sleeping, adding that when the attack started, she struggled to reach their room but could not get hold of her mother and father as the second floor collapsed on them. She also uttered that her brother still could not perceive what had happened on that night and that she has been missing her parents and been unable to forget that night. She also expressed that she wanted to make the dreams of their mother and father come true and that she was wishing to be an economist by thriving hard. In the second home visited, the delegation encountered the aunt of a 2-year-old girl named Nilay who lost her mother, father and grandmother in the attack. The aunt stated that Nilay's mother was pregnant and Nilay, who lost her unborn sibling, was constantly crying and asking for her mother.

The information about the number of civilians injured and overall death toll in the attacks was obtained from the authorities in addition to the interviews with the civilians being subject to these attacks. It was found out that among the ones



The Chief Ombudsman Şeref MALKOÇ got together with the children who have lost their parents in the attacks.



In the investigation visit to Ganja, it was witnessed that Imamzadeh Mosque was damaged and became unserviceable.

The Chief Ombudsman Malkoç encountered with the people whose houses were torn down and who lost their beloved ones.



who lost their lives, there was a 1-year-old baby as well as the children going to the elementary and secondary school, many women and the elderly. Children left without parents due to the attacks, the traumas of the families having lost their beloved ones, children, women and the elderly killed in the atrocity reveal the tragedy and severity of the agony.

As a result of the missile attacks on Ganja- the second densely populated city of Azerbaijan- by the Armenian armed forces, it was witnessed that many buildings were devastated, a missile landed in the vicinity of a school and several places of worship of historical nature including an Orthodox Church and a mosque were ruined. Furthermore, it was affirmed that the public was in despair as the missiles

landed in human settlements. The same observations were made during the inspection visit to Mingachevir, an important industrial city of Azerbaijan where the hydroelectric plant is located as the residential buildings were torn down by missile attacks and consequently the civilians were trapped under debris. Further concern was expressed towards the risk of a possible submergence of human settlements and the threats that would possibly be encountered by civilians in case of the continuation of missile attacks to Mingachevir in which hydroelectric plant and an important water reservoir are located.



Şeref MALKOÇ and Sabina ALIYEVA making a press statement during the on-site inspections.

6. AN ANALYSIS OF THE CONFLICTS FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE

Inter-governmental relations are regulated by international law. In addition to fundamental principles of law and international law, which is based on international conventions and jurisprudence, a concept of “humanitarian law” is developed to protect innocent people in the course of a war. Humanitarian law aims to protect civilians during an armed conflict or similar tensions who are not parties to such conflicts or wars.

The fundamental documents of Humanitarian Law are the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols of 1977.⁸

Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I):

■ **Article 35:**

“1. In any armed conflict, the right of the Parties to the conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited.

2. It is prohibited to employ weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering.

3. 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.

■ **Article 48:**

“In order to ensure respect for and protection of the civilian population and civilian objects, the Parties to the conflict shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives and accordingly shall direct their operations only against military objectives.”

⁸ Çeçen A., “İnsan Hakları ve İnsancıl Hukuk”, <https://journal.yasar.edu.tr/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/22-An%C4%B1l-%C3%87E%C3%87EN.pdf> , sf.822,823

■ **Article 52, clause 2:**

“Attacks shall be limited strictly to military objectives. In so far as objects are concerned, military objectives are limited to those objects which by their nature, location, purpose or use make an effective contribution to military action and whose total or partial destruction, capture or neutralization, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offers a definite military advantage.”

■ **Article 53:**

“Without prejudice to the provisions of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 14 May 1954, and of other relevant international instruments, it is prohibited: (a) to commit any acts of hostility directed against the historic monuments, works of art or places of worship which constitute the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples; ...”

■ **Article 56, clause 1:**

“Works or installations containing dangerous forces, namely dams, dykes and nuclear electrical generating stations, all 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. ...”

In addition, according to the **Article 85** of the same Protocol, *making the civilian population or individual civilians the object of attack; launching an indiscriminate attack affecting the civilian population or civilian objects in the knowledge that such attack will cause excessive loss of life, injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects* are regarded as grave breaches of the Protocol.

As another key rule regarding International Humanitarian Law, **“War Crimes” as defined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)** are as follows:-

“2. For the purpose of this Statute, “war crimes” means:

(a) Grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, namely, any of the following acts against persons or property protected under the provisions of the relevant Geneva Convention:

i) Willful killing;

ii) Torture or inhuman treatment, including biological experiments;

iii) Willfully causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or health;

iv) Extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly;

...

(b) Other serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict, within the established framework of international law, namely, any of the following acts:

i) Intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities;

ii) Intentionally directing attacks against civilian objects, that is, objects which are not military objectives;

...

v) Attacking or bombarding, by whatever means, towns, villages, dwellings or buildings which are undefended and which are not military objectives;

ix) Intentionally directing attacks against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, historic monuments, hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, provided they are not military objectives;

xix) Employing bullets which expand or flatten easily in the human body, such as bullets with a hard envelope which does not entirely cover the core or is pierced with incisions;

xx) Employing weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare which are of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering or which are inherently indiscriminate in violation of the international law of armed conflict, provided that such weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare are the subject of a comprehensive prohibition and are

included in an annex to this Statute, by an amendment in accordance with the relevant provisions set forth in articles 121 and 123;”

During the inspection visits to Ganja and Mingachevir, Azerbaijan, it was observed that the Armenian armed forces had widened the line of military contact and targeted cities outside the immediate area of conflict. Several residential buildings were destroyed by rocket attacks leaving civilians, including children, under the debris; missiles fell in the vicinity of schools, hospitals and public buildings; historical artifacts were also damaged; and many civilians were killed and injured by the attacks. Even if the sides of the conflict decided for a “humanitarian truce” three times, the Armenian side continued their attacks on civilians within 24 hours of the said decision, causing the losses to increase even further. 94 civilians including 12 children (one of them was a 1-year-old infant) and 27 women were killed and 414 civilians were injured by the attacks.

Targeting and killing civilians is, above all, against the “Right to Life” - the founding principle of all rights - **governed by the Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights**, *which cannot be violated in time of war or other public emergency threatening the life of the nation*. According to the said article: “Everyone’s right to life shall be protected by law. No one shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of a sentence of a court following his conviction of a crime for which this penalty is provided by law.” In addition, **the Article 6 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child regulates children’s right to life and development**, according to which “States Parties recognize that every child has the inherent right to life; and ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child”. However, Armenian armed forces targeted civilians and caused death of 12 children including a 1-year-old infant, violating their right to life. Moreover, given the fact that schools were also the target of the attacks, children’s right to life was obviously risked and their right to education was violated by preventing them from going to school.

It is also confirmed by Human Rights Watch that Armenian armed forces used cluster munition, which is forbidden to use, and at least another type of long-range missile, in the Barda attack of October 28, 2020, that killed 21 civilians

and left more than 70 injured.⁹ The organization reported that they checked the photographs of the cluster bomb remnants taken by international and local journalists and local residents; two of the projectiles were identified as a Smerch cluster munition rocket and a Smerch parachute-retarded high-explosive fragmentation rocket; while Armenian armed forces possessed multiple-launch rocket systems, Nagorno-Karabakh forces did not, therefore Armenian forces were likely to have carried out the attack or supplied the said munition to the Nagorno-Karabakh forces. It was also reported that Barda had a population of 40,000; the attack took place in the middle of the day when no one was prepared and no military presence was visible before or after the attack, as recalled by a witnessing foreign journalist; one of the attacks took place closer than 100 meters to Barda Central Hospital, the largest and fully-equipped hospital of the area; and even if a military element had been present, it would still have been forbidden under the laws of war to use cluster munitions in civilian settlement areas, considering the indiscriminate effects of such munitions.

Amnesty International also confirmed that Armenian forces fired 9N235 cluster munitions Russian-made 9M55 Smerch rockets in the attack on the city of Barda on October 28, 2020.¹⁰

Aiming to protect civilians and curb the grief caused by the armed conflict, international humanitarian law has fundamental principles and rules regarding the choice of weapons, prohibiting some of them from use. An independent and impartial philanthropic organization authorized by the Geneva Conventions of 1949, the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) leads the efforts to draw up directives regulating the use of certain weapons. ICRC conducted a study on “Customary International Humanitarian Law” and made a 161-item list of the Customary International Humanitarian Laws. **According to the Rule 71, “The use of weapons which are by nature indiscriminate is prohibited.”**

9 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/10/30/armenia-cluster-munitions-kill-civilians-azerbaijan>

10 <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/10/armenia-azerbaijan-first-confirmed-use-of-cluster-munitions-by-armenia-cruel-and-reckless/>

Weapons that are by nature indiscriminate are those that cannot be directed at a military objective or whose effects cannot be limited as required by international humanitarian law.¹¹ Accordingly, the use of use of poison or poisoned weapons, biological weapons, chemical weapons, riot control agents as a method of warfare, methods of warfare that destroy the natural vegetation; bullets which expand or flatten easily in the human body; bullets which explode within the human body; weapons the primary effect of which is to injure by fragments which are not detectable by X-rays in the human body; booby-traps which are in any way attached to or associated with objects or persons entitled to special protection under international humanitarian law or with objects that are likely to attract civilians, laser weapons that are specifically designed, as their sole combat function or as one of their combat functions, to cause permanent blindness to unenhanced vision is prohibited.¹²

The cluster munitions used by the Armenian armed forces against Azerbaijan were one of the said indiscriminate weapons, and any use, production, storage and transfer of such munitions was prohibited by the **UN Convention on Cluster Munitions** that was signed in 2008 and entered into force in 2010. The reason for the prohibition is that cluster munitions “cause unacceptable harm” to civilians. This is because cluster munitions have broad range of impact and do not discriminate between civilian and military targets, which makes them more likely to cause more civilian casualties. Second, the use of cluster munitions leaves many dangerous, unexploded submunitions behind. Such remnants cause civilian casualties and injuries even after decades, hindering economic and social development as well as causing many other serious problems.¹³

As reminded by Human Rights Watch, parties of the armed conflicts are bound by the *Geneva Conventions and to customary international law and obliged to comply with the fundamental principles of the international humanitarian law*. It is stipulated in both Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of ICC that

11 https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v1_rul_rule71#:~:text=Weapons%20That%20Are%20by%20Nature%20Indiscriminate,-Related%20Practice&text=Rule%2071,-The%20use%20of&text=State%20practice%20establishes%20this%20rule,and%20non%20In-international%20armed%20conflicts

12 https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/other/tur-irrc_857_henckaerts.pdf

13 <https://www.clusterconvention.org/>



civilians, civilian property, and towns, villages, dwellings which are not military objectives should be protected. *It is a grave breach of the Additional Protocol 1 of 1977 of the Geneva Conventions and a war crime in accordance with the article 8 (b) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court that Armenia targeted civilian people and buildings and caused casualties. Moreover, civilian casualties were caused by ballistic missile, heavy artillery and cluster munition attacks, which is clearly a war crime due to the properties and actual/potential damage caused by such weapons.*

As part of the inspection visit to Azerbaijan, the city of Ganja - one of Azerbaijan's oldest cities and the second largest city of the country - was also visited to see the destruction caused by the Armenian attacks on the city. *The significance of Ganja in this context is that the city was attacked although it was located very far from the conflict zone and it did not hold any object that would give the Azerbaijani army any military advantage.* Since Ganja is a historical city, it was observed that the historical and cultural artifacts of the city were severely harmed, including the campus of the Imamzadeh Mosque and the historical Orthodox Church. Again, it is a war crime under the Geneva Convention and the Rome Statute of ICC that Armenian forces hit Ganja by missiles, damaged places of worship, and caused civilian casualties, even though the city had a largely civilian population and was located far from the conflict zone.

7. CONCLUSION

Nagorno-Karabakh is an autonomous area within the borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which has been a cause of conflicts and countless casualties between Armenia and Azerbaijan for many years, despite the intervention attempts of the international community. Seven districts in Nagorno-Karabakh and its vicinity, which account for 20 percent of the territories of Azerbaijan, have been occupied by Armenia for approximately 30 years. Founded in 1992 to end the conflict and work out a peaceful solution in the area, the OSCE Minsk Group made certain efforts, which eventually proved fruitless. However, the efforts of the Minsk Group made the basis of the UN Security Council decisions, and the Council announced four resolutions in 1993: 822, 853, 874 and 884. By these resolutions, Armenian forces were asked to withdraw from the Azerbaijani territories that they occupied. According to the resolution 62/243 adopted in the General Assembly of the UN on March 14, 2008, referring to the relating four resolutions of the Security Council of the UN, the Armenian forces should “fully, immediately and unconditionally” withdraw from Azerbaijan. However, the said international efforts failed to yield any result, and the armed conflicts continued. The two parties fought in a declared war from April 2 to 5, 2016, which was named “Four Day War” where both sides had losses. With the mediation of Russia, the conflict was brought to an end, only to be started again by Armenia with a violent attack on September 27, 2020. Despite the fact that Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region declared its independence and became the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, no other country including Armenia recognizes this and in the context of international law, the region is still considered a territory of Azerbaijan. Thus, the Article 51 of the UN Charter (*Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence 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*) legally authorizes Azerbaijan for self-defence.

The attacks that started on September 27 killed 94 civilian citizens of Azerbaijan, including 27 women and 12 children, also injuring 414 civilians. It is striking in terms of international humanitarian law that during the attacks of Armenian forces, civilian settlements far from the conflict zone were targeted, prohibited heavy artillery and indiscriminate munitions were used in the said attacks, and private civilian property, schools, hospitals, sanctuaries and public buildings were damaged. As confirmed by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, Ganja and Barda, were attacked with ballistic missiles and cluster munitions despite their civilian population and distance to the conflict zone. These attacks killed 53 and injured more than 200 civilians in the two districts. The destruction in Ganja was directly confirmed by field visits. Dead bodies of children removed from the debris aggravated the pain even further. Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocols of 1977 forming the basis of the International Humanitarian Law, and the Rome Statute of ICC confirm that the attacks of Armenia constitute a war crime. While International Humanitarian Law is intended to protect civilians and does prohibit any activity that may damage civilians, Armenia directly targeted civilians and civilian structures without making a distinction between civilian property and military targets and used disproportionate weapons.

According to the **Additional Protocol 1 to the Geneva Conventions**; *“Works or installations containing dangerous forces, namely dams, dykes and nuclear electrical generating stations, 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 should not be attacked.”* During the inspection visit, it has been personally witnessed that although the biggest energy plant and dam reservoir of the South Caucasia Region are located the city of Mingachevir, the city was exposed to the attacks of ballistic missiles prohibited by the conventions, which was considered as deliberate war crime. It was just mere luck that the missiles did not hit the dam and hydroelectric plant which would have caused the human settlements to be submerged and would have led a severe increase in the death toll.

Even though the truce was signed on 10 November 2020, putting a halt on the attacks, 94 civilians lost their lives among whom 12 were children. It is apparent that the survivors of these attacks shall not overcome the agony and traumas

of these attacks easily in such a short time. To conclude, launching attacks on civilians and keeping the human settlements under fire constantly as of 27th of September, Armenia ignored the International Humanitarian Law and committed a war crime by trying to achieve deterrence through civilians, hitting targets that would not provide any military advantage, causing the death of many civilians, until the ceasefire was agreed on 10th of November. The ones responsible for the crime should undoubtedly be tried by law. No human rights institution nor any association working in the field of promotion of human rights should remain silent in the face of this experience but to go beyond issuing recommendations and to take solid action. Attacks being halted as a result of a ceasefire does not hide away the war crime committed. It is essential to take firm steps so as to prevent future human rights violations of the similar nature.

Annex I

27th of September 2020

The armed forces of Armenia broke the ceasefire and attacked the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the front line and the settlements of Tartar, Agdam, Fuzuli and Jabrayil districts with cannon shells.

28th of September 2020

As a result of the intense attacks of the armed forces of Armenia, 1 civilian died in Agdam region and 5 civilians among whom 2 children at the ages of 13 and 14 in Goranboy region, and 4 civilians in Tartar region lost their lives.

29th of September 2020

As a result of the attacks of the armed forces of Armenia, one civilian died in each of Agdam, Tartar and Fuzuli districts.

30th September 2020

As a result of the attacks of the armed forces of Armenia, two civilians were killed in the districts of Fuzuli and Tartar respectively.

1st of October 2020

The bombing of the Agdam district by the Armenian armed forces caused the death of a father and son; additionally, one civilian also died in Tartar.

4th of October 2020

As a result of the attacks of the armed forces of Armenia, a 14-year-old child was killed in Ağcabedi, 2 civilians in Beylegan and 1 civilian in Ganja lost their lives.

5th of October 2020

As a result of the attacks of the armed forces of Armenia, 1 civilian in Agdam, 2 civilians in Barda and 1 in Goranbay were killed.

6th of October 2020

As a result of the attacks of the armed forces of Armenia, 1 civilian was killed in Tartar district.

7th of October 2020

As a result of the attacks of the Armenian armed forces, 1 civilian was killed in Agdam district.

8th of October 2020

One civilian was killed in Goranbay as a result of the attacks of the armed forces of Armenia.

10th of October 2020

Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed upon a humanitarian “ceasefire” during the meetings held in Moscow, which envisages the exchange of remains of the dead bodies and prisoners in Nagorno-Karabakh entered into vigor as of 12:00 on October 10.

As a result of the attacks of the Armenian armed forces, 1 civilian was killed in Agdam.

11th of October 2020

12 civilians were killed in the nocturnal attacks on 4 residential buildings in Ganja by the armed forces of Armenia.

14th of October 2020

As a result of the attacks of the armed forces of Armenia, 1 civilian was killed in Tartar.

15th of October 2020

Due to the attacks on the funeral ceremony in the city of Tartar by the armed forces of Armenia, 4 civilians were killed.

17th of October 2020

The central region of Ganja was attacked by “SCUD / Elbrus” ballistic missiles, and 15 civilians out of whom 6 were children including 1-year-old baby were killed.

18th of October 2020

Azerbaijan and Armenia agreed on a temporary humanitarian ceasefire on October 18 from 00:00 local time. In the statement made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, it was stated that the temporary ceasefire decision was adopted on the basis of the statement of the heads of states of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chair countries dated on the 1st of October and the statements of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs on October 5th and in accordance with the Moscow declaration of dated on the 10th of October.

20th of October 2020

As a result of the attacks of the armed forces of Armenia, 2 civilians were killed in Tartar.

24th of October 2020

As a result of the attacks of the armed forces of Armenia, a 16-year-old child was killed in Tartar.

26th of October 2020

The USA announced that Azerbaijan and Armenia reached an agreement on a humanitarian ceasefire starting at 08:00 local time on October 26th.

27th of October 2020

As a result of the attack launched by the armed forces of Armenia, 5 civilians including a 7-year-old child were killed.

28th of October 2020

20 civilians were killed in the attack on the city of Barda with Smerch rockets (cluster bombs).






29th of October 2020


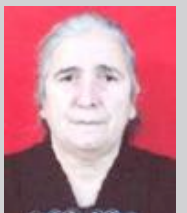
As a result of the attack launched by the armed forces of Armenia, 1 civilian was killed in Goranboy.







10th of November 2020

With the agreement signed between Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, the conflicts ceased, and Armenia accepted the request to withdraw from the districts that it occupied. Within the scope of the agreement, a corridor will be opened from Armenia to Nagorno-Karabakh and from Nakhchivan to Azerbaijan and Russian peacekeepers will be deployed in the region.

List of the Names of the Civilians Who Have Lost Their Lives Due to the Attacks of the Armenian Armed Forces between the Dates of 27.09.2020-29.10.2020

AGHDAM (7 Civilians)		
		Date of Birth
	<p>Elmaddin Humbat SARIYEV</p> <p>On 29.09.2020, he was killed in the courtyard of his own house in Garadagli village, of Aghdam district, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	05.03.1997
	<p>Eyvaz Musa RAHIMOV</p> <p>On 05.10.2020, he was killed in his own house in Safarli village, of Aghdam district, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	07.07.1954
	<p>Gunduz Taryel HUSEYNOV</p> <p>On 10.10.2020, he was killed by a shell which hit his own house in Chamenli in Aghdam district, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	08.01.1974
	<p>Joshgun Anvar PASHAYEV</p> <p>On 28.09.2020, he was killed in the courtyard of a house in Garadagli village, of Aghdam district, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	01.01.1979
	<p>Murshud Rashid MAMMADOV</p> <p>On 01.10.2020, he was killed in his own house in Hajimammadli village of Aghdam district, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	16.03.1966

	<p>Samir Murshud MAMMADOV</p> <p>On 01.10.2020, he was killed in his own house in Hajimammadli village of Aghdam district, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>15.04.1996</p>
	<p>Zarifa Gamboy ALIYEVA</p> <p>On 07.10.2020, she was killed in her own house in Khindiristan village of Aghdam district, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>27.03.1945</p>
<p>AGHJABADI (1 civilian)</p>		
	<p>Farid Dilafat ISKANDAROV</p> <p>On 04.10.2020, he was killed next to a cafe in his village, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>11.08.2006</p>
<p>BARDA (27 civilians)</p>		
	<p>Aybaniz Ashraf AHMADOVA</p> <p>On 27.10.2020 around 16.00, she was killed in Qarayusifli village of Barda district as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>08.01.1959</p>
	<p>Aysu Rovshan ISKANDARLI</p> <p>On 27.10.2020 around 16.00, she was killed in Qarayusifli village of Barda district as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>11.06.2013</p>
	<p>Almaz Salah ALIYEVA</p> <p>On 27.10.2020 around 16.00, she was injured by a shell in Qarayusifli village of Barda district as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces; and lost her life on 28.10.2020.</p>	<p>18.12.1960</p>

	<p>Asgar Mahir ALLAHVERDIYEV</p> <p>On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	04.02.1983
	<p>Amil Fazil JAFAROV</p> <p>On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	22.07.1990
	<p>Aghamoglan Baylar GULIYEV</p> <p>On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	26.03.1947
	<p>Charkaz Khanlar MIRZALIYEV</p> <p>On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	15.03.1972
	<p>Dayanat Tahir KAZIMOV</p> <p>On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	30.04.1990
	<p>Ehtiram Khalil ISMAYILOV</p> <p>On 27.10.2020 around 16.00, he was killed in Qarayusifli village of Barda district as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	11.01.1980



Fazil Haji HAJIYEV

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

01.09.1969



Fuad Isa ISMAYILOV

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

29.12.1988



Gulshan Mehrab HUSEYNOVA

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, she was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

07.01.1972



Hummat Suleyman SULEYMANOV

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

23.09.1955



Intigam Alamdar KHIDIROV

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

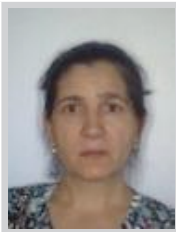
25.12.1977



Javid Ali RUSTAMOV

On 05.10.2020 he was injured in Barda as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces and lost his life at the hospital on 07.10.2020.

14.03.1975



Leyla Elmir MUSTAFAYEVA

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, she was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

21.09.1969



Maharram Anvar MUSTAFAYEV

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

26.02.1971



Mirsahir Yusif AHMADOV

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

09.04.1980



Ofelya Majid JAFAROVA

On 27.10.2020 around 16.00, she was killed in Qarayusifli village of Barda district as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

10.03.1970



Rashad Vagif SHAFIYEV

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

13.10.1991



Ruslan Mahammad ABBASOV

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

01.11.1984



Shahriyar Isa MEHDIYEVA

On 05.10.2020 she was killed in Barda as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

26.03.1961



Sadiq Sahib ALIYEV

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

18.01.1993



Solmaz Sadraddin GASIMOVA

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, she was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

21.06.1961



Tukazban Charkaz MIRZALIYEVA

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, she was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

01.10.1995



Vasif Vagif ISMAYILLI

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

08.12.1990



Yalchin Rizvan ISGANDAROV

On 28.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed in the city center of Barda, as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

19.05.1984

BEYLAGAN (2 civilians)



Arzu Isgandar ASADOVA

On 04.10.2020, she was killed in the city of Beylagan as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

15.12.1998



Zulfiyya Isgandar ISMAYILOVA

On 04.10.2020, she was killed in the city of Beylagan as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

04.12.1976

FUZULI (3 civilians)



Emil Elshad GULIYEV

On 30.09.2020 around 16.00, he was injured by a shell blast near Azpetrol gas station in city of Horadiz, and then lost his life.

14.02.2000



Ikhtiyar Ajdar SAFAROV

On 29.10.2020, he was killed in the courtyard of his own house as a result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces.

12.02.1971















Murad Tahir RUSTAMOV





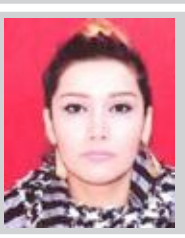
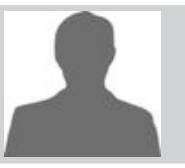
On 30.09.2020 around 16.00, he was killed by a shell blast near Azpetrol gas station in city of Horadiz.





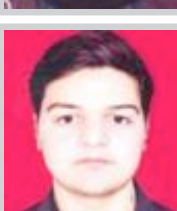

16.02.1990

GENCE (26 sivil)

	<p>Adil Hamza ALIYEV</p> <p>On 11.10.2020 around 02-03 a.m., he was killed as result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces which targeted a residential building located in Kapaz district in Ganja.</p>	<p>14.04.1992</p>
	<p>Afag Aziz ALIYEVA</p> <p>On 11.10.2020 around 02-03 a.m., she was killed as result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces which targeted a residential building located in Kapaz district in Ganja.</p>	<p>27.09.1957</p>
	<p>Anar Adil ALIYEV</p> <p>On 11.10.2020 around 02-03 a.m., he was killed as result of the firing opened by the Armenian armed forces which targeted a residential building located in Kapaz district in Ganja.</p>	<p>31.07.1982</p>
	<p>Artur Ramiz MAYAKOV</p> <p>On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., he was injured in his house in city of Ganja as result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces and lost his life on 24.10.2020.</p>	<p>09.01.2007</p>
	<p>Bakhtiyar Suliddin ASGAROV</p> <p>On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., he was killed in city of Ganja. as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>28.12.1980</p>
	<p>Durra Hilal JAFAROVA</p> <p>On 11.10.2020 around 02-03 a.m., she was killed as result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces which targeted a residential building located in Kapaz district in Ganja.</p>	<p>17.04.1967</p>

	<p>Gunay Zahid ALIYEVA</p> <p>On 11.10.2020 around 02-03 a.m., she was killed as result of the firing opened by the Armenian armed forces which targeted a residential building located in Kapaz district in Ganja.</p>	<p>31.01.1992</p>
	<p>Jeyhun Jamal ALASGAROV</p> <p>On 11.10.2020 around 02-03 a.m., he was killed as result of the firing opened by the Armenian armed forces which targeted a residential building located in Kapaz district in Ganja.</p>	<p>01.12.1958</p>
	<p>Khatira Ramiz KHALILOVA (GAHRAMANOVA)</p> <p>On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., she was killed in city of Ganja. as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>02.08.1986</p>
	<p>Laman Ramin GAHRAMANOVA</p> <p>On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., she was killed in city of Ganja. as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>16.04.2002</p>
	<p>Madina Royal SHAHNAZARLI</p> <p>On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., he was killed in city of Ganja. as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>02.06.2019</p>
	<p>Maral Yunis YUSIBOVA</p> <p>On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., he was killed in city of Ganja. as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>xx.xx.1963</p>

	<p>Maryam Goshgar KHALILLI</p> <p>On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., she was killed in city of Ganja. as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	03.08.2014
	<p>Nazrin Teymur ASGAROVA</p> <p>On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., she was killed in city of Ganja. as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	05.12.2014
	<p>Nigar Azer ASGAROVA</p> <p>On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., she was killed in city of Ganja. as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	18.10.2005
	<p>Nuraddin Polad AGHAYEV</p> <p>On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., he was killed in city of Ganja. as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	01.01.1943
	<p>Nurchin Emin ALIYEVA</p> <p>On 11.10.2020 around 02-03 a.m., she was killed as result of the fire opened by the Armenian armed forces which targeted a residential building located in Kapaz district in Ganja.</p>	06.03.1987
	<p>Orkhan Goshgar KHALILLI</p> <p>On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., he was killed in city of Ganja. as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	29.04.2009
	<p>Ramiz Yusif BAGHIROV</p> <p>On 11.10.2020 around 02-03 a.m., he was killed as result of the firing opened by the Armenian armed forces which targeted a residential building located in Kapaz district in Ganja.</p>	26.04.1958

	<p>Royal Yusif SHAHNAZAROV</p> <p>On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., he was killed in city of Ganja. as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>18.01.1986</p>
	<p>Sevil Suliddin ASGAROVA</p> <p>On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., she was killed in city of Ganja. as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>22.11.1982</p>
	<p>Suliddin Ismayil ASGAROV</p> <p>On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., he was killed in city of Ganja. as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>25.12.1948</p>
	<p>Tarana Pasha ALASGAROVA</p> <p>On 11.10.2020 around 02-03 a.m., she was killed as result of the firing opened by the Armenian armed forces which targeted a residential building located in Kapaz district in Ganja.</p>	<p>28.01.1965</p>
	<p>Tunar Goshgar ALIYEV</p> <p>On 04.10.2020, he was killed in city of Ganja as a result of the firing opened by the Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>22.05.1999</p>
	<p>Ulvi Jeyhun ALASGAROV</p> <p>On 11.10.2020 around 02-03 a.m., he was killed as result of the firing opened by the Armenian armed forces which targeted a residential building located in Kapaz district in Ganja.</p>	<p>23.07.1990</p>



Zuleykha Nizami SHAHNAZAROVA

On 17.10.2020 around 01.00 a.m., she was killed in city of Ganja. as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.

19.02.1996

GORANBOY (8 civilians)



Afag Damir AMIROVA

On 29.10.2020, she was killed in her own house in Tapgaragoyunlu village of Goranboy district, as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.

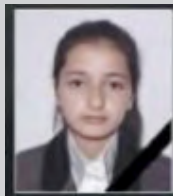
12.01.1981



Elbrus Isa GURBANOV

On 28.09.2020 around 16.00, he was killed in his own house in Qaşaltı Qaraqoyunlu village in Naftalan city, as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.

24.11.1951



Fidan Elshan GURBANOVA

On 28.09.2020 around 16.00, she was killed in her own house in Qaşaltı Qaraqoyunlu village in Naftalan city, as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.

01.03.2006



Flora Garash ZIYADOVA

On 29.10.2020 around 18.00, she was killed in her own house in Tapgaragoyunlu village of Goranboy district, as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.

09.05.1967









Raziya Bayramali ABBASOVA

On 05.10.2020, she was killed in her own house as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.

18.01.1955

	<p>Shafayat Novruz GURBANOVA</p> <p>On 28.09.2020 around 16.00, she was killed in her own house in Qaşaltı Qaraqoyunlu village in Naftalan city, as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>22.02.1956</p>
	<p>Shahriyar Elshan GURBANOV</p> <p>On 28.09.2020 around 16.00, he was killed in his own house in Qaşaltı Qaraqoyunlu village in Naftalan city, as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>30.11.2007</p>
	<p>Turyan Tofiq GULIYEVA</p> <p>On 08.10.2020, she was killed in her own house in Shahmammadli village of Goranboy district, as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>23.04.1957</p>
<p>TARTAR (17 civilians)</p>		
	<p>Adavat Zahid AKHUNDOV</p> <p>On 14.10.2020 around 08.00 a.m., he was killed by a shell blast which hit his own house in killed as a result of a shell falling on his house in Narlig settlement of Tartar district.</p>	<p>01.05.1969</p>
	<p>Anar Tofiq GULIYEV</p> <p>On 20.10.2020, he was killed by a shell blast which hit his own house in killed as a result of a shell falling Jamilli village of Tartar.</p>	<p>23.05.1985</p>
	<p>Anar Rasul ISAKHLI</p> <p>On 20.10.2020, he was killed by a shell blast which hit his own house in killed as a result of a shell falling Jamilli village of Tartar.</p>	<p>30.05.1997</p>

	<p>Ayna Muhammedali MEHTIYEVA</p> <p>On 29.09.2020, she was killed by a shell blast that hit her house, as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>20.06.1965</p>
	<p>Elshan Asif ABBASOV</p> <p>On 28.09.2020, he was killed by a shell blast in Shikharkh village as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>04.10.1987</p>
	<p>Khalig Asif ABBASOV</p> <p>On 28.09.2020, he was killed by a shell blast in Shikharkh village as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>24.07.1981</p>
	<p>Hasan Asif MAMMADOV</p> <p>On 06.10.2020, he was killed by a shell blast that fell in Dordyol in Tartar district.</p>	<p>01.02.1981</p>
	<p>Isgandar Yelmar AMIROV</p> <p>On 15.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed by a shell which exploded in front of the Tartar city cemetery.</p>	<p>18.02.1967</p>
	<p>Mehman Sovet ALIYEV</p> <p>On 28.09.2020 he was killed by a shell blast which had fallen across the Tartar District Court, as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>04.09.1977</p>

	<p>Muzaffar Ali ALIYEV</p> <p>On 30.09.2020 around 08.00 a.m., he was killed by a shell blast that fell in front of an administrative building of Tartar district.</p>	<p>27.08.1971</p>
	<p>Orkhan Rahbar ISMAYILZADA</p> <p>On 24.10.2020 he was killed by a shell blast that hit Kebirli village.</p>	<p>02.04.2004</p>
	<p>Parviz Novruz ORUJOV</p> <p>On 15.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed by a shell which exploded in front of the Tartar city cemetery.</p>	<p>10.06.1989</p>
	<p>Sabit Usub ASADOV</p> <p>On 28.09.2020, he was killed by a shell blast in Shikharkh village as a result of the fire opened by Armenian armed forces.</p>	<p>22.07.1981</p>
	<p>Shahin Mahmud IBRAHIMOV</p> <p>On 30.09.2020 around 08.00 a.m., he was killed by a shell blast that fell in front of an administrative building of Tartar district.</p>	<p>24.12.1987</p>
	<p>Shakir Khasay ZAMANOV</p> <p>On 15.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed by a shell which exploded in front of the Tartar city cemetery.</p>	<p>25.04.1988</p>



Vasif Bahadur RUSTAMOV

On 15.10.2020 around 13.00, he was killed by a shell which exploded in front of the Tartar city cemetery.

07.03.1960



Zabil Mahammad HASANOV

On 01.10.2020, he was killed by the shell blast which fell on the administrative building of Tartar city bus terminal.

01.06.1983

“During the attacks realized by Armenian Armed Forces until the date of 29.10.2020, in total 91 civilians lost their lives including 11 children (one of them is a baby), 27 women and 53 men; 8 of the men and women who lost their lives were over 65 years old.

On 17.11.2020, by the Azerbaijani official authorities it is learnt that one more child lost his life and total number of civilians who have lost their lives rose to 94.”



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