



**THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**



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**

**YEREVAN
FEBRUARY 2022**



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INTRODUCTION

Monitoring and evidence-based analyses, fact-finding missions of Armenia's Human Rights Defender's Office have previously confirmed that the Azerbaijani policy of state-supported Armenophobia and enmity have become root causes of gross and massive human rights violations and ethnically motivated crimes by the Azerbaijani armed servicemen.

Yearly reports by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and recently, the decision of the International Court of Justice¹ (ICJ) are a further proof of the true reach of the government-administrated vilification of Armenians.

This policy is the true depiction of the current state of the struggle for peace. As long as there is no strong commitment (moreover, state-supported active policy of hatred) towards eradicating racism and rolling back the effects of a continued decades-long tradition of devilification of Armenians and the Armenian nation, solutions for peace will never be long-lasting.

The International Community needs to take immediate action towards counteracting state-perpetuated hatred amongst member states of the United Nations, especially amongst those with large diasporal representations, so as prevent further violations and promote respect for human dignity.

Direct consequences of the mentioned policies are human rights violations (massive and gross). Vivid examples of consequences of these policies are atrocities, war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Azerbaijani armed forces in September-November 2020, the 2016 April war and other attacks of Azerbaijani servicemen (including border guards) aimed at innocent Armenians.

The Human Rights Defender of Armenia documented numerous cases of willful killings and brutal torture of Armenian servicemen and civilians, acting with open faces and with no consideration of the responsibility and reprehensibility for the acts committed out even thinking about responsibility, being confident that they would only be applauded for their actions. There is also widespread information in mass media and social networks. In addition, there have been multiple reported cases of indiscriminate attacks of innocent Armenian civilians by Azerbaijani servicemen since the end of active battles of the latest Artsakh war on 10 November, 2020.

¹ See the official decision available at: <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20211207-ORD-01-00-EN.pdf> (07 December 2021).

One of the credible documents showing the existence of the state-sponsored hatred and Armenophobia is the 2020 joint evidence-based report of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia and the Human Rights Ombudsman of Artsakh “On organized hate speech and animosity towards ethnic Armenians in Azerbaijan as root causes of ethnically-based torture and inhuman treatment by Azerbaijani armed forces”².

This report has documented application/existence of systemic Armenophobia by public authorities, including high-ranking officials and public figures (amongst others cultural and sports representatives) of Azerbaijan, as well as widespread hate speech amongst the general public.

It clearly proves the Azerbaijani policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide through terroristic methods in Artsakh.

The results of Azerbaijani state supported hatred against ethnic Armenians were also revealed during the outbreak of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on April 2016. Within his ad hoc reports, the Ombudsman of Artsakh in cooperation with the Human Rights Defender of Armenia presented Azerbaijani’s hatred policy towards people of Armenian ethnicity and its horrific consequences, including beheading, torture, and mutilation of combatants’ and civilians’ dead bodies, as well as indiscriminate shelling of civilian objects, and more.³

Reports and objective evidence have shown that while committing the torture of Armenians, live beheadings, mutilating the bodies of the victims, cutting ears, and committing other atrocities, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed forces use the same rhetoric and expressions as the political authorities of Azerbaijan, starting from the President.

The continuous monitoring of Armenia’s Human Rights Defender’s Office has revealed that the policy of Armenophobia after the 2020 Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) war is still being promoted and encouraged by the Azerbaijani authorities and continuously substantiated by new developments in more extremist forms. The most significant recent development is the intensification of the hatred spread in the religious realm. Evidence suggests that rather than roll-back, the government of Azerbaijan is expanding on its policies of intolerance and discrimination.

² Ad Hoc Public Report is available in English at <https://www.ombuds.am/images/files/2032f021fe81176414a649d588ad0e86.pdf>

³ Artsakh ombudsman: “Interim public report on atrocities committed by Azerbaijani military forces against the civilian population of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and servicemen of the Nagorno Karabakh Defence Army on 2-5 April 2016, <https://artsakhombuds.am/ru/document/560>

The Human Rights Defender's Office has studied and singled out the materials from their primary sources in Azerbaijani. All the evidence of hatred and animosity towards Armenians presented in this report is not meant to be exhaustive or is not meant to cover all cases of Armenophobia in Azerbaijan.

The primary reasoning behind writing the current report is the fact that Azerbaijani state-coordinated policies and the spill-over incidents that have breached the rights of Armenian citizens henceforth directly interfering with the primary duty of the Human Rights Defenders Office of Armenia – namely to protect Armenian citizens from gross violations of their rights, with no distinction as to the origin of perpetrators.

The purpose of the monitoring activities by the Human Rights Defender of Armenia have been to document the evidences of the state-supported policy of Armenophobia and show that the main reason and source of the violations of the rights of the Armenians by the Azerbaijani armed forces is policy that has reached levels of fascism⁴.

This report shows that this is not only about rhetorics or words used but about a long-standing institutional policy that have been implemented in real life (science, education, culture, sport, etc.).

For the Azerbaijani authorities, anti-Armenianism is a domestic and foreign policy tool, a source of nourishment. It is a deliberate policy of keeping one's own people in Armenophobia in order to divert them from their internal state problems.

This is a policy full of jeopardising perils of perpetuating hostility between the peoples of the two countries and not only in the region, but also worldwide. Not only do these actions violate the basic principles of international law and undermine the entire international system of human rights, but is also a threat to the democracies and human rights of those countries where Armenians and Azerbaijanis live. The policy aims at maintaining the enmity between the two people around the world.

⁴ Roger Griffin, one of the most prominent scholars on fascism defines it as “a genus of political ideology whose mythic core in its various permutations is a palingenetic form of populist ultranationalism”, palingenetic meaning ‘rebirth’. See R. Griffin, *The Nature of Fascism* (London, 1991).

I. AZERBAIJANI STATE POLICY OF ORGANIZED HATRED AND ANIMOSITY AGAINST ARMENIANS

The existence of Azerbaijani state-perpetrated ethnic hatred towards Armenians has been proven in numerous instances where international observers have found irrevocable evidence of existing policies and political structures directed at maintaining and escalating inter-state animosity amongst its population. Such policies have been particularly ardent since the beginning of the 21th century, coinciding with the transfer of power into the hands of the contemporary ruling forces in Azerbaijani politics.

In particular, racial discrimination against Armenians has been established by the Council of Europe Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI). The first report on Azerbaijan of June 28 of 2002 had inter alia indicated that Armenians living on the territory of Azerbaijan under the effective control of Azerbaijani authorities tended to shield their ethnic identity or avoided exposing it publicly⁵. The report indicated that hate speech and derogatory public statements against Armenians would take place routinely, and the mere attribution of Armenian ethnic origin to an ethnic Azerbaijani may have been perceived as an insult, as illustrated by trials for slander and insult opened by public figures against persons who had publicly and falsely alleged their Armenian ancestry.

The report further emphasized the discrimination against Armenians in different fields, including employment and the exercise of property rights. Judicial proceedings opened by Armenians trying to protect their property had reportedly not led to the restoration of their rights. According to the mentioned document, Armenians have been reported to have suffered from harassment at schools and at the workplace, they have been refused pensions or renewal of permits to live in Baku by local governmental authorities.

In its report of 15 December 2006 on Azerbaijan, ECRI stated that the situation concerning Armenians living in Azerbaijan had not seen any improvements⁶. The second ECRI Report had stated that Azerbaijani authorities have not demonstrated their will to tackle the problem of racism and racial discrimination against Armenians. According to the ECRI, Armenians have experienced discrimination in their daily lives, particularly in terms of access to public services, e.g. some officials merely refused to proceed with enquiries from Armenians when they discover their ethnic origin. The report established

⁵ Report on Azerbaijan, adopted on 28 June 2002, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, para. 51.

⁶ Report on Azerbaijan, adopted on 15 December 2006, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, para. 107.

that discrimination in some cases had amounted to harassment which had prevented the persons concerned from exercising their basic rights, e.g. the right to pension allowance or the right to work.

The concerns and allegations of racial discrimination against Armenians had again been reiterated by ECRI in its report on Azerbaijan adopted on March 23, 2011. In that report, ECRI stated that the negative climate against Armenians continued, and the Azerbaijani authorities had not taken any steps to combat the racial discrimination against Armenians. Particularly, in this report ECRI stated that the Commission was still deeply concerned about the fact that the constant negative official and media discourse had helped to sustain a negative climate of opinion regarding people of Armenian ethnicity. This prejudice has been so ingrained that describing someone as an Armenian in the media has been considered by some people - including by certain Armenians themselves - to qualify as an insult that justifies initiating judicial proceedings against the persons making such statements. Further, ECRI underlines the seriousness of this situation, where it seems that persons belonging to the group discriminated against in this way may themselves have interiorized this discriminatory attitude⁷.

The fact of discriminatory policy and racism by Azerbaijan towards Armenians has also been pointed out by the Advisory Committee on the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. In its opinions on Azerbaijan, the Advisory Committee pointed out the incidents of “hostility and discrimination” against Armenians, existence of anti-Armenian sentiments in Azerbaijan and recommended Azerbaijan to take steps for eliminating the discriminatory attitude towards Armenians⁸.

Besides, the Advisory Committee mentioned that persons belonging to some national minorities, and especially those belonging to the Armenian minority, continued to face widespread discrimination in various fields and hostility, often triggered by the media. Access of these persons to effective remedies, including legal remedies, against discrimination had been very limited as there seemed to be very limited awareness on discrimination-related issues in the judiciary and in the police, but also in the population at large. The legislation against discrimination did not seem to be applied and the case-law related to discrimination on grounds of ethnic origin had been non-existent⁹.

An important example is the case of Ramil Safarov, being a member of the Azerbaijani army, had brutally murdered an Armenian officer – Gurgen Margaryan – while he was asleep by decapitating him

⁷ Report on Azerbaijan, adopted on 23 March 2011, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, Para. 99.

⁸ Advisory Committee on the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Opinion on Azerbaijan (adopted on 22 May 2003), ACFC/INF/OP/I (2004)001.

⁹ Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Second Opinion on Azerbaijan (adopted on 9 November, 2007), ACFC/OP/II (2007)007, Para. 16.

with sixteen blows of an axe during the night of February 19, 2004 in Budapest, Hungary¹⁰. He was sentenced in Hungary, however was given to Azerbaijan. Upon his arrival in 2012, Safarov was granted a hero's welcome and pardoned by the Azerbaijani president. He was promoted in rank and his salary was compensated for the years he had spent in the Hungarian prison. Other high-ranked state officials of Azerbaijan had also reinvigorated Rafarov's status as a national hero. The Ombudsman of Azerbaijan had expressed gratitude to the President of Azerbaijan for the efforts in extradition and pardoning of a criminal. Notably, Ms. Suleymanova had subsequently stated in 2004: "***Safarov must become an example of patriotism for the Azerbaijani youth.***"¹¹ Below this report discusses some details of this example showing that this case as an ethnically motivated crime.

In a more recent case, in the official decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the application of the Republic of Armenia regarding provisional measures against the Republic of Azerbaijan, the court has found that "there is an imminent risk of irreplaceable harm to Armenians' rights under the CERD"¹². According to the decision, the government of Azerbaijan has been obliged to take appropriate measures to prohibit the spread of racial hatred and discrimination against persons of Armenian origin, specifically ones incited and promoted by government officials and public institutions.

The state-perpetrated policy of hatred towards Armenians and 'everything Armenian' has been systematically ingrained in Azerbaijani internal and external policies for decades¹³. Azerbaijani policy of organized hatred and animosity against Armenians has been the primary source for the human rights violations not only before the September-November 2020 war, during the war but also after the war. These policies have been invigorated even further as a tool of directing the internal grievances of the population towards 'an external evil' in the image of Armenia and its people.

Government-orchestrated policies of anti-Armenian hatred have found themselves embedded in all spheres of public life – in politics, education, sports, media outlets, culture and religion. This policy is the manifestation of an ingrained hatred of Armenians that is continuously pursued by actors at various

¹⁰ Artsakh ombudsman: "Interim public report on atrocities committed by Azerbaijani military forces against the civilian population of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and servicemen of the Nagorno Karabakh Defence Army on 2-5 April 2016, <https://artsakhombuds.am/ru/document/560>

¹¹ See the documented words available at: <https://artsakhombuds.am/hy/document/570>. These words are also documented in the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Makuchyan and Minasyan v. Azerbaijan and Hungary (Application no. 17247/13) delivered on 26 May, 2020. This case the court discusses as an ethnically based crime.

¹² See the official decision available at: <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20211207-ORD-01-00-EN.pdf>

¹³ See "Interim public report on "Armenophobia in Azerbaijan organized hate speech animosity towards Armenians" <https://www.artsakhombuds.am/en/document/570>

levels of authority – from kindergarten teachers to the high level officials of different branches of Azerbaijani government.

Just after the September-November 2020 war, the President of Azerbaijan made announcements that prove existence of the policies mentioned above. Thereby, President Aliyev’s speeches are allusions to the premise of the rebirth of the national spirit, culture and society that had initiated since the beginning of his first presidential term in 2003.



President of Azerbaijan: *“The younger generation has grown up with (...) hatred for the enemy, and this young generation has liberated our lands from the invaders. I said that representatives of all generations performed successfully in the liberation of our lands, but the absolute majority of those across the battlefields have been the people who were children when I came to power in 2003.”*¹⁴



Raman Nazarov, Azerbaijani Army Major: *“We knew that we would defeat the enemy, destroy and drive them away from our lands. To bring this about, our military personnel was instilled with (...) hatred for the enemy.”*¹⁵

The Government institutions and high-ranking officials have followed President Aliyev’s racist lead. Among many examples, in his nationwide address during the war, the President of Azerbaijan had stated: *“We are driving them [Armenians] away like dogs! Azerbaijani soldiers drive them away like dogs!”*¹⁶. In October 2020, Azerbaijan’s Ministry of Defense had announced the production of military drones formally emblazoned with the words *“Iti Qovan” or “dog chaser” in Azerbaijani.*¹⁷

¹⁴ The full text of the interview is available on the official website of the President of Azerbaijan (5 March, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/50798>

¹⁵ Available at: <https://www.azerbaycan24.com/en/liberation-gained-through-iron-fist-servicemen-talk-about-aghdam-s-liberation/> (20 November, 2021)

¹⁶ Youtube link to the video available in Russian at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eAVs7fjUFM> 04:18 minute // <https://defence.az/en/news/146240/president-aliyev-azerbaijani-soldiers-drive-them-away-like-dogs>

¹⁷ Azerbaijan starts production of ‘Iti Qovan’ (22 October, 2020), see full text available at: <https://defence.az/en/news/147499/azerbaijan-starts-production-of-%E2%80%9Citi-qovan%E2%80%9D-uavs->

From the outset, this abuse may not seem so offensive or deep-hearted, but there is in fact a much deeper connotation to it. Traditionally, in Islam dogs have been seen as something ‘impure’ (similar to pigs) and the Islamic legal tradition has developed several references as warning against contact with dogs. Additionally, according to a 1911 dictionary by M. Popov, the word “*gyaur – or literally a ‘dog’*” *had been used as a slur by Turkic people to refer to those who did not follow the Islamic tradition (infidels, non-believers)*¹⁸.

In a video-address directed at Armenians, *Azerbaijani General Huseynov Camal addresses Armenian people as “dogs”, adding “Armenia is ours ... we will come, after Karabakh we will come and you will see what we do, you dogs, you are dogs – we will come for you until the end”*¹⁹, reiterating the state-chartered policy of discrimination against peoples of Armenian origin.



Ali Jabbarov, Associate Professor Department of Economy Nakhchivan University stated:

*“Armenians are also human beings, but they walk on all fours at home.” It is difficult to say on what grounds the Roman historian Petro wrote these words, but from the past to the present all those who see the abominable deeds of Armenians can say that they are completely incompatible with the normal life on earth.”*²⁰



Farah Aliyeva, Head of the Department for Humanitarian Policy, Diaspora Issues,

Multiculturalism and Religion of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan stated: *“The entire ideology of Armenians is based on hatred and a false history.”*²¹

photos?_cf_chl_jschl_tk_=pmd_Mg2Vf1zmQDNKqhw6edW7KcVkYXV.wFP7p.3IEeYFCi4-gqNtZGzNAnujcnBszQh9 1629830372-0-

¹⁸ Popov, M., Словарь иностранных слов, вошедших в употребление в русском языке, и.д. Сытина, 1911.

¹⁹ Nail Kemerlinin Kanali, “Bilsəydilər erməni dilini bilirəm dərimi soyardılar - General Camal (ALL SUBTITLES AVAILABLE) [If they knew I spoke Armenian, they would have peeled my skin - General Camal],” YouTube (13 November 2020), at 13:21, available at <https://youtu.be/YworvILKGyQ?t=800> translation from Azerbaijani)

²⁰ Available at : <http://serqqapisi.az/index.php/idztimai-siaysi/31288-mars-n-zhaezaebi-yakhud-ermaenilaerin-dzaehaennaem-hekayaesi.html>

²¹ <https://www.azerbaycan24.com/en/entire-ideology-of-armenians-built-on-hatred-false-history-azerbaijani-official/>

During the 2020 war, after the founder of a children’s café chain “AnderSon” Anastasia Tatulova had expressed her support for Armenia and a peaceful resolution between the two countries, she was lamented with wide-scale backlash and hatred from various sources within the Azerbaijani public. As a consequence, the owners of the local “AnderSon” café in Baku terminated their partnership with the franchise with the slogan *“the AnderSon brand has been exiled from Baku like a dog”*.



Azerbaijani media outlets make regular references towards Armenians being “dirty dogs”. As a vivid illustration, an article published by the *Trend News Agency* compares Armenia to the character of *Tabaqui*, a scavenging jackal from R. Kipling’s “The Jungle Book” who feeds on leftover scraps from other characters²².

The denigrating vocabulary used towards people of Armenian origin is mirrored in communications and officials statements of representatives of all branches of government, as well as other notable public figures of Azerbaijan²³.

²² Vugar İmanov, “Армения – типичный шакал Табаки...” (13 January, 2022) Available at: <https://www.trend.az/life/socium/3326114.html>

²³ See “Interim public report on “Armenophobia in Azerbaijan organized hate speech animosity towards Armenians” <https://www.artsakhombuds.am/en/document/570>

For example, Hajibala Abutalybov, former Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, explicitly acknowledged, while serving as Mayor of Baku, that Azerbaijan's goal is "*the complete elimination of Armenians*."²⁴

Studies of the Armenian Human Rights Defender's Office have revealed that Armenophobia in Azerbaijan is deeply enshrined in the educational process through which Azerbaijani children are instilled with hatred of the Armenian people since early childhood.

Textbook of History of Azerbaijan, 9th Grade (2016): "(...) The main aim of the party was the defence of our people from the *Armenian terrorism*. The party mercilessly avenged to *the Armenian terrorists and their patrons*."²⁵

Textbook of History of Azerbaijan, 9th Grade (2016): "(...) *How could the Armenians, who did not have a state in the South Caucasus, create it? What other lands did the Armenians lay claim to? The creation of the Republic of Armenia on the Azerbaijani lands. From the first day of its creation, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic faced the groundless territorial claims of the Republic of Armenia. 'The Armenian problem' had a special place among the countless problems the young republic was to solve. The Armenians' territorial appetite grew bigger each day and was accompanied by destructions of Azerbaijani villages and extermination of the Muslim Turkic population. The government of Azerbaijan took up all the possible measures to stop this.*"²⁶

²⁴ See the documented words available at: <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20210916-APP-01-00-EN.pdf>.

²⁵ Textbook of History of Azerbaijan (page 140) is available at: http://azerichild.education/pdf/history_9-2016.pdf

²⁶ Textbook of History of Azerbaijan (page 19-192) is available at: http://azerichild.education/pdf/history_9-2016.pdf

Textbook of Cognition of the World, 7th Grade (2014): “(...) *As the Armenian armed formations were seizing our lands, they were destroying the historical and cultural monuments there. Hundreds of historical monuments and museums were ruined as a result of the occupation. This process is still going on today.*”²⁷

In another example, referring to “infidels in black clothes,” *a fifth-grade textbook* speaks of Armenians as the source of most of the calamities that have befallen on Azerbaijanis throughout history.

Similarly, *a tenth-grade history textbook* refers to Armenians as “wily and corrupt,” and states that they always pursue “dirty goals.”²⁸

A widely disseminated video shows a group of kindergarteners who are asked “*who is our enemy?*” and together they shout: “*Armenians.*”²⁹

In one of its latest announcements, the government of Azerbaijan has announced its intention of enacting a new law on “Patriotic Education”³⁰, entailing a tailoring of the education system in accordance with the state-lined understanding of what is to be considered as ‘patriotism’ – an alarming prospect for the long-term feasibility of peace and regional stability, considering current circumstances surrounding the policy of state-perpetuated ethnic hatred towards Armenians.

Social media video post on Facebook: “At night, my children and I hold discussions for the sovereignty of the country. There is useful information to listen to in the end....”³¹

“FB: Who is our enemy?”

Children: Armenia.

FB: How do we feel about them?

Children: Hate.

FB: Keep your hands up, repeat, we will drive you away from Karabakh like a dog.

Children: We will drive you away from Karabakh like a dog.

FB: Who are the people who died for the sake of the homeland?

²⁷ Textbook of Cognition of the World (page 76) is available at: <http://azerichild.education/pdf/poznanie-mira-7.pdf>

²⁸ See the official application available at: <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20210916-APP-01-00-EN.pdf>

²⁹ Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7g56wAbY-fg>

³⁰ Full article available at: <https://jam-news.net/patriotic-education-draft-law-in-azerbaijan-heres-what-it-means-for-children-and-society/>

³¹ <https://www.facebook.com/100001256548842/posts/3661152757269906/?extid=0> (19 October, 2020)

Children: “Martyrs.”



As a continuation of this policy, the opening of the War ‘Trophy’ Park in Baku is another clear evidence of Armenophobia, an evidence of policy of racism and propaganda of animosity amounting to fascism. The ‘Trophy’ park was opened for public viewing in April 2021 to display the war ‘trophies’ captured by the Azerbaijani armed forces in the September-November war.

At the opening of the park, the President of Azerbaijan had stated: “*An Armenian is a barbarian who digs graves, digs and removes the golden teeth of the dead.*”³²

*He had added: “Today, they [Armenian tanks] are displayed in the Military Trophy Park as a manifestation of strength of the Azerbaijani Army and the Armenian army’s defeat. From now on, we will always live as a victorious nation and a victorious state.”*³³

³² Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan (12 April, 2021) <https://president.az/articles/51067>

³³ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan in Hadrut settlement (24 December, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/54888>

The initial exhibits had included wax figures of Armenian soldiers and prisoners of war, wearing real helmets of deceased soldiers and those fallen into captivity³⁴. In the words of one of the creative designers of the figures, Kamran Asadov, “*we tried to create the ugliest images. We usually try to do something beautiful. But now it was the other way around. It was a long and difficult process. We gave them hooked noses, flat heads and other similar features.*”³⁵ The humiliating cynicism of the exhibition was to such extent as to disregard the memory of the victims of the war and the rights of missing persons and captives, in violation of the rights and dignities of their families.

The ‘Trophy’ Park was designed to increment and encourage hatred towards the population of Armenia and people of Armenian origin in general. In addition, the monitoring activities of the Armenia’s Human Rights Defender’s office revealed posts in Azerbaijani social media about the exhibition which only reciprocated the rhetoric and encouraged the initiative of the Azerbaijani authorities. The establishment of the park and its reception by the general public demonstrate the extent of the state of hatred and hostility towards Armenians. This was confirmed by the Human Rights Defender’s report entitled “A Park of killed Armenian soldiers and chained prisoners of war in Baku: A museum of human sufferings and promotion of racism”.³⁶

³⁴ According to reports, the waxed figures were removed by the government just before the ICJ trials. In its later decision, the court had ordered for the removal of mannequins depicting Armenians soldiers and prohibited the display of helmets worn by Armenian soldiers.

³⁵ See the documented words available at: https://zartokmedia.com/2021/04/14/creators-of-armenian-wax-figures-we-tried-to-create-the-ugliest-images/?fbclid=IwAR0nnfczWCDJol-MvKIf_ITtOoROO4EwRjSSsUoDo7iSg88OOzD5X4U-J2w

³⁶ Available at: <https://ombuds.am/images/files/96e6d55d169a784b6424e4d565b29dba.pdf>



Sadaqat Valiyeva, member of Parliament of Azerbaijan Republic stated: “The Trophy park is a lesson for revanchists, another **"Iron Fist" warning**.”³⁷



The hate is so ingrained and has been perpetuated by the government rhetoric for so long that many Azerbaijanis are expressing their ‘willingness to eliminate all Armenians’ – from children to the elderly, ‘so that they do not grow up and come back for revenge’. During the 2020 war the monitoring of the Azerbaijani social media by the Human Rights Defender’s Office revealed cases of using hate speech encouraging and inciting violence against children (these cases are reflected in a public ad hoc report³⁸). It covers not only written communications but also other expressions of public opinion such as surveys, polls that encourage killings and cruel treatment of Armenian children.

³⁷ See the documented words available at: <https://twitter.com/SadagatValiyeva/status/1382428483771637764> (15 April, 2021)

³⁸ Available at: <https://www.ombuds.am/images/files/2032f021fe81176414a649d588ad0e86.pdf>



“The fight started and you are also at the scene of hostilities. At that moment, an Armenian child appears in front of you. Will you kill him or will you feel sorry for him?”

As a matter of great concern such practices have continued after the war. In 2021, Azerbaijani armed servicemen in masks illegally stopped a civilian bus that was transporting children with the purpose of intimidating them.

The children who had been travelling on the road of Vorotan³⁹ are from Artsakh (football players aged 15-16 years). The Azerbaijani servicemen examined the cellphones of children, under the pretext of finding certain video recordings of unknown nature. While having the bus restrained, the border guards demonstratively scrapped off an image of the flag of the Republic of Artsakh off the back of it.⁴⁰

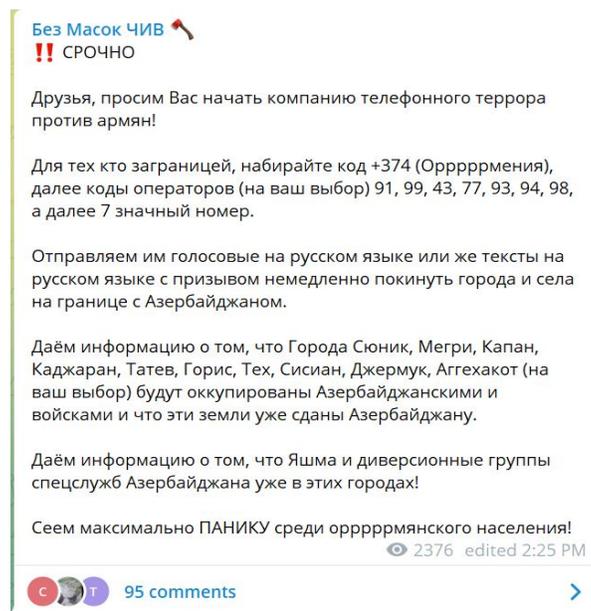


³⁹ This road is currently unlawfully blocked by the Azerbaijani armed servicemen.

⁴⁰ Available at: https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/VideoGalleryView/595

A video capturing the detainment of the bus and its passengers, was disseminated on Azerbaijani social media pages. Commentators and discussions denoted vile insults towards the children, calls for the killings of Armenians – an embodiment of the general sentiments perpetuated by the state.

During the recent escalation of the border situation on November 16th, a popular Azerbaijani-based telegram channel had called its subscribers for a telephone terror campaign against Armenian citizens. The post had included instructions on how to make calls to random Armenian citizens and intimidate them with the message of ‘approaching Azerbaijani forces’ in order to blackmail residents of border communities to leave their homes⁴¹.



In the absence of delimitation and demarcation, the appearance of the Azerbaijani servicemen in the immediate vicinity of Armenia’s villages of Gegharkunik and Syunik provinces, and on the roads between the Syunik communities took place in the context of Azerbaijani genocidal policy and under the threats of war against Armenia and its entire population, as well as against Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) and its population. These issues are reflected in a detailed ad hoc public report of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia on “Urgent necessity for a demilitarized security zone in the areas of contact with the Azerbaijani military forces as a fundamental safeguard to protect the rights of population in Armenia: Evidence-based analysis in the context of ongoing situation in Gegharkunik and Syunik provinces (published in November, 2020)⁴².

⁴¹ Original post available at: https://t.me/bez_mas/10318

⁴² <https://ombuds.am/images/files/4f4d3319548889e2900530457ae24bad.pdf>.

II. HATRED SPREAD BY THE PRESIDENT OF AZERBAIJAN

In complementarity to the policies mentioned above, the president of Azerbaijan himself, directly uses hate-speech in addressing people of Armenian origin and the Republic of Armenia in general. This practice has received further resurgence in the post-September-November 2020 war context. Armenians are being regularly compared to uncivilised “barbarians” and “dogs” who have been driven away by the ‘glorious soldiers of the Azerbaijani army’⁴³.

Some of the most alarming cases of hate-speech can be found in the addresses and statements of the official head of state of the Republic of Azerbaijan. While he regularly speaks about “Armenian fascism”, the general rhetoric spread by Ilham Aliyev is saturated with fascist inclinations that are targeting at the indoctrination of not just the military servicemen, but also the general population at large.

Below are further examples of statements made by Ilham Aliyev during his official appearances and in his public addresses. Most statements are published on the official webpage of the President of Azerbaijan and in other official sources.

“Armenia as a country is of no value”⁴⁴, “We will continue to expel these [Armenians] liars. They have neither conscience nor morality. They don’t even have a brain.”⁴⁵, “I was saying that they need to be treated. They are sick, a virus more dangerous than coronavirus has permeated them.”⁴⁶

⁴³ The video is available in Russian at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eAVs7fjUFM> (06 October, 2020) // <https://www.voltairenet.org/article211050.html> (04 October, 2020).

⁴⁴ Available at: <https://twitter.com/presidentaz/status/270827003521929216> (20 November, 2012)

⁴⁵ Nationwide address of President Ilham Aliyev (20 October 2020) <https://defence.az/en/news/147408/azerbajjani-presidentilham-aliyev-addresses-nation-on-tv-%C2%A0live>.

⁴⁶ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan, available at <https://en.president.az/articles/50798> (5 March, 2021).



“It is completely unfounded to call Armenia an independent country.”

*Because the absolute majority of the features of an independent country are not present in the Armenian state. The reason is **their policy of aggression**.*⁴⁷



*(...) They even sold tombstones. They erased the inscriptions on the graves of Azerbaijanis and sold them in Armenia. They made tombstones from them for their own dead. The scale of such vandalism is simply off scale. If they also dug up the dead, pulled out their gold teeth, melted down and sold them. Who would ever think of that? This is who we were faced with and who we defeated. I said: we have not only restored territorial integrity, **we have defeated a huge evil. I do hope that this evil never raises its head again. In any case, we will not allow this to its head.***⁴⁸



*I used the expression **“Iron Fist”** several times during my appeals to the Azerbaijani people, when I reported on the liberated cities and villages. **I used this term several times and said that our “Iron Fist” would smash the enemy's head if they do not voluntarily leave all the occupied territories. And, as it were, this term was received well in our society,** and then I decided to formalize it, if I may say so, and give the operation this name. But again, this happened during the course of military operations.*⁴⁹

⁴⁷ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan in the Absheron district (26 August, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/52845>.

⁴⁸ Excerpts from the interview of the president of Azerbaijan to Russian influential “Natsionalnaya oborona” magazine (24 September, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/53199>

⁴⁹ Excerpts from the interview of the president of Azerbaijan to Russian influential “Natsionalnaya oborona” magazine (24 September, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/53199>



“If they are not savages, then who are they? **Savage is perhaps too soft of a word to describe them.** The whole world saw what their ideology was.”⁵⁰



“**Armenian soldiers are deserters and cowards.** (...) They were saying that there were prominent generals and commanders in Armenia capable of fulfilling any military task. We saw that **their generals are thieves, sellers of soldier’s stew and traitors. Their commanders are also cowards and deserters.**” “ (...) **We have defeated the savages.** We have saved the region from **savages and fascists.**”⁵¹



“**The hated enemy** was building the so-called parliament of the self-styled “Nagorno-Karabakh Republic” there. This was intended to annoy us. There is no concept of a “Nagorno-Karabakh Republic”. The foundation of that building had already been laid and stonework had already been completed. **By my order, this devil's lair was destroyed.**”⁵²

⁵⁰ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan in Baku (April 12, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/51083>

⁵¹ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan (16 August, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/52742>

⁵² Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan in Shushi (30 August, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/52881>



The fist, a symbol of our victory, is not only a symbol of strength, it is also a symbol of our unity. Nobody talks about the “invincible Armenian army” any more. There is no Armenian army. We have crushed it. We have destroyed it from the bottom up. We have destroyed all the equipment they had been collecting for 30 years. Part of it is displayed in the Military Trophy Park. We have destroyed their troops. The Azerbaijani people did it and showed their superiority.”⁵³



(...) Over the past years, in my speeches I have repeatedly raised the issue of Armenian fascists. I raised the issue before international organizations and countries that fascists should not be allowed to become heroes. I raised the issue of the executioner Nzhdeh in my speech during one of the CIS summits. I said that the monument to Nzhdeh in the capital of Armenia is propaganda of fascism.”⁵⁴



(...) We defeated Armenian fascism, but we did not destroy it. We will continue trying to eradicate all manifestations of Armenian fascism, and we can do it. But other countries and the international community must be united in this issue.”⁵⁵

⁵³ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan (5 October, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/53343>

⁵⁴ Excerpts from the interview of the President of Azerbaijan (31 January, 2022) <https://marja.az/82738/ilham-eliyev-musahibe-verib-tam-metn>

⁵⁵ Excerpts from the interview of the President of Azerbaijan (31 January, 2022) <https://marja.az/82738/ilham-eliyev-musahibe-verib-tam-metn>



“(…) The 44-day second Karabakh war led to a **complete destruction of the Armenian army. There is no Armenian army now. If Armenia tries to become a source of danger for us again, their end will be the same as in the second Karabakh war.** We can never allow any threat to be posed to our people, our state and our territorial integrity. Even if it is outside the country and if we see it as a threat, **no-one can stop us.**”⁵⁶



“(…) They [Armenians] must give up the dream of a Great Armenia. They must give up the mythical Armenian fantasy from sea to sea. They must and will give up their territorial claims against Azerbaijan and Turkey. There is no other way. **We will force them to do that.**”⁵⁷



“(…) After the war, the whole world saw **the predatory face of Armenian savagery.** Because during the years of occupation before the war, **the Armenian side did not let anyone into the occupied territories.**”⁵⁸

⁵⁶ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan (24 December, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/54888>

⁵⁷ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan (5 October, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/53343>

⁵⁸ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan (26 August, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/54888>



*“(...) They [Armenians] cannot understand that the problem is within themselves. There is the biggest threat to Armenia. **The biggest threat to Armenia is now the Armenian psychology. They need to change.**”⁵⁹*

⁵⁹ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan (13 April, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/51088>

III. HATRED AND ANIMOSITY TOWARDS ARMENIANS AS A POLITICAL TOOL AND ITS INFLUENCE IN THE SOCIETY

Long-standing studies of the Human Rights Defender's Office in cooperation with independent experts and scholars clearly show that the policy of spreading and sponsoring hatred and animosity towards ethnic Armenians or people of Armenian origin are an internal and external political tool for the authorities of Azerbaijan. This also includes public encouragement of atrocities against Armenians. As mentioned below, this is the guarantee for the legacy of authorities.

The main purpose of this policy is to the redirecting of internal grievances of the population of Azerbaijan against internal human rights (social, civil, etc.) and other problems that the authorities face.

Having a figure of 'an eternal enemy' in the face of its neighboring country and population is a way to have someone from which authorities "protect" their people. The message is also that authorities have to concentrate on this mission and nothing should destruct them from this mission. There is another message in this policy: if the Government is criticized, this will reveal problems which in their turn might be used by the "enemy".

The Office of the Human Rights Defender carried out studies and monitoring related to this phenomenon. For example, the opposition that had been criticizing the Azerbaijani government on the basis of socio-economic policies carried out by the Aliyev regime have been subjected to repressions, intimidation and torture from the state and the security forces that culminated in the manner in which the July 2020 protests had been brutally crushed by the police⁶⁰. *In the post 2020 war context, the media outlets had been previously condemning the regime had started referring to the president as the "Victorious Supreme Commander in Chief". In a statement given to RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty in relation to the September-November 2020 War, the former U.S. ambassador to Azerbaijan who had co-chaired over negotiations between the two countries in the OSCE's Minsk Group stated that the results*

⁶⁰ Available at: <https://www.rferl.org/a/azerbaijan-s-despotic-ruler-throws-tantrum-in-unprecedented-crackdown-on-pro-democracy-rivals/30757480.html> (21 December, 2021)

*of the war were “probably the greatest military and diplomatic victory in Azerbaijan’s history... Clearly the presidency wants to highlight that. And, of course, that’s popular. This is his legacy now”.*⁶¹

The Human Rights Defender of Armenia by only using the words of the publication below quotes: opposition parties have been cornered into a position where it has become difficult to criticize the government and its policies. Aliiev’s tactics during the war have been largely perceived as a just and victorious war. Whilst before the conflict he had been perceived as being ‘distant’ from the population, Aliyev’s public appearances and rhetoric both during and after the war have shifted his hegemonic authoritarianist rule into something resembling that of an “authoritarian populism”⁶².

In essence, this rhetoric is echoed in many social-media discussions amongst the population who feel to have been misled by the government that is trying to divert its attention from enduring internal socio-political predicaments facing the Azerbaijani public at large⁶³.

As mentioned above, Azerbaijani state officials at the highest level have frequently been involved in fueling anti-Armenian xenophobia and hatred, glorifying murderers of Armenians. This also had its influence on other areas of the country’s life (sport, culture, etc.), which is obvious from speeches and interviews of public and influential figures.

An important example is the case of Ramil Safarov, being a member of the Azerbaijani army, had brutally murdered an Armenian officer – Gurgen Margaryan – while he was asleep by decapitating him with sixteen blows of an axe during the night of February 19, 2004 in Budapest, Hungary⁶⁴ as they had been attending an event under the framework of a NATO-sponsored “Partnership for Peace” program. An agreement was reached by the governments of Azerbaijan and Hungary (where he was sentenced to a life term in prison) regarding Safarov’s extradition to Azerbaijan, with assurances given by Baku that Safarov would continue serving his term.

Upon his arrival in 2012, Safarov was granted a hero’s welcome and pardoned by the Azerbaijani president. He was promoted in rank and his salary was compensated for the years he had spent in the Hungarian prison. Other high-ranked state officials of Azerbaijan had also reinvigorated Rafarov’s

⁶¹ Available at: <https://www.rferl.org/a/nagorno-karabakh-legacy-azerbaijani-president-aliyev/31006302.html> (21 December, 2021)

⁶² Available at: <https://www.boell.de/en/2020/12/10/azerbaijan-update-covid-19-new-war-nagorno-karabakh?dimension1=startseite> (22 December, 2021)

⁶³ See for example: <https://t.me/hebmun>, an opposition public page on Telegram

⁶⁴ Artsakh ombudsman: “Interim public report on atrocities committed by Azerbaijani military forces against the civilian population of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and servicemen of the Nagorno Karabakh Defence Army on 2-5 April 2016, <https://artsakhombuds.am/ru/document/560>

status as a national hero. The Ombudsman of the Republic of Azerbaijan – Elmira Suleymanova – had expressed gratitude to the President of Azerbaijan for the efforts in extradition and pardoning of a criminal. Notably, Ms. Suleymanova had subsequently stated in 2004: “*Safarov must become an example of patriotism for the Azerbaijani youth.*”⁶⁵

This is a classical case illustrating glorification of an ethnically based crime and the criminal by the high authorities of Azerbaijan.

The lionization of criminals and murderers of Armenians by the Azerbaijani government has long become a standard practice. After the September-November war, it was reported that President Aliyev’s administration had awarded a medal to Kamil Zeynalli, who had participated in the beheading of an elderly Armenian civilian during the war.^{66,67} This individual was also one of the organizers of attacks on Armenians in Moscow in July 2020. He called for the spilling of Armenian blood, saying “*President [Aliyev] is with us*”, “*even if you're deported, you'll return as heroes.*”⁶⁸

In another incident, Dilham Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev, who had been involved in the cold-hearted assassination of two Armenian citizens (including a minor) and wounding another, had been requested as a part of prisoner exchange after the September-November war by the Azerbaijani government⁶⁹. This was exercise of the Azerbaijani President’s public promise to bring these persons by all means. Naturally, upon their return to Azerbaijan they were reportedly freed from continuing to serve their sentences for the committed murders.

These are just some of the examples when Azerbaijani military servicemen brutally tortured and killed Armenian servicemen and civilians, while doing so with their faces in the open and demonstrating exceptional levels of cynicism, with no consideration for responsibilities of their actions, and having full confidence that they would only be praised and glorified by their state and also by their society.

As a matter of fact, the Azerbaijani systematic policy of Armenophobia has been an integral part of the system of large-scale torture and atrocities, cruelties during the September-November 2020 war that had gone beyond the encouragement of public authorities, high-ranking officials and public figures (cultural, sports representatives) of Azerbaijan. It has had a detrimental effect on the general population of

⁶⁵ See the documented words available at: <https://artsakhombuds.am/hy/document/570>. These words are also documented in the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Makuchyan and Minasyan v. Azerbaijan and Hungary (Application no. 17247/13) delivered on 26 May, 2020. This case the court discusses as an ethnically based crime.

⁶⁶ <https://zartonkmedia.com/2021/02/06/kamil-zeynalli-who-participated-in-the-beheading-of-an-old-man-during-the-war-awarded-a-medal-in-azerbaijan/?fbclid=IwAR0McnHZoxE6s74ZrwOpsZUHsRJ9PVoBVm5ArrBW-09186yhqggsQLShpnU>

⁶⁷ The video is available at: <https://twitter.com/ArtsakhEng/status/1357620450038173698>

⁶⁸ The video is available at: <https://twitter.com/517design/status/1286678575400341504>

⁶⁹ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/2-azerbaijanis-released-after-6-years-of-captivity/2076979>

Azerbaijan, many of whom had projected the general sense of hatred and animosity originating and orchestrated by their government and its officials.

This deeply rooted phenomenon of externalizing hatred is in a closed chain in Azerbaijan being generated through state policy; encouraged by cultural, religious and other public figures that has been seeded in the Azerbaijani society at large.

A renowned Azerbaijani poet Vahid Aziz had proclaimed: “Armenians are an immoral nation. Those prostitutes will not rest until they leave a hundred thousand heads on the road. “(...)” Saboteurs trying to cross our border should be shot on the spot.”⁷⁰

“For nearly thirty years we had been living with our heads drooped... I had announced to our President that I was prepared to go to the frontlines with weapons in my hands to fight for our land. I knew that thousands of people stood behind my words, thousands were capable of bearing arms, were prepared to destroy the Armeno-fascist abomination, wipe it from the face of the earth.”⁷¹ – Azerbaijani national writer, Natig Rusalzade speaking of his address to the President of Azerbaijan during the 2020 Artsakh War.

⁷⁰ Available at: [https://m.facebook.com/KANAL24AZ/photos/a.609728659104909/3973779199366488/?type=3#_ =](https://m.facebook.com/KANAL24AZ/photos/a.609728659104909/3973779199366488/?type=3#_=)

⁷¹ Available at: <https://www.trend.az/life/socium/3490101.html>

Nurlan Ibrahimov, a PR and media manager of the Azerbaijani football club “Qarabag” wrote on his Facebook page: *“We must kill the Armenians. It does not matter whether a woman, a child, an old man. We must kill everyone we can and whoever happens. We should not feel sorry; we should not feel pity. If we do not kill (them), our children will be killed.” He also justified the fact of Armenian genocide committed by Turkey.*⁷²



Nurlan Ibrahimov
2d • 🌐

Erməniləri öldürməliyik. Uşağını, qadınını, yaşlısını fərqi yoxdu necə bacarırsansa, kimi gəldi öldürməliyik. Yazığımız gəlməməlidir, acımamalıyıq. Öldürməsək bizi və övladlarımızı öldürəcəklər. Necə ki, 120 ildən çoxdu bunu edirlər. Difaini bərpa etmək, hətta killer dəstəsi yaratmaq lazımdır. Abdullah çatlılar yetişdirməliyik, israil kimi yerin dəşiyindən tapıb çıxardıb cəzalandırmalıyıq. Bunlarla qanunla danışmaq alınmayacaq. Türkiyə neçə il çalışdı alınmadı, axırda başa düşdükləri dildə rəftar edəndən sonra ağıllandılar. Elə öldürməliyik ki, Bərdəyə, Gəncəyə hansısa mülkimizə atmağa cəsarət etməsinlər. Bilsinlər ki, 1-mizi vursalar 100-nü vuracağıq-vurmalıyıq. Kimsə mənə humanizmdən, onlara bənzəməkdən danışmasın. Od düşdüyü yeri yandırır. Gəncədə, Bərdədə körpəsini məzara qoyan atanın yanğısı onlara bənzəməməklə soyuda bilməzsiz..Sonuncusuna qədər öldürməliyik..sonuncusuna qədər..

⁷² Available at: <https://www.ffa.am/en/1604159474/page/3>

People's Artist of Azerbaijan, Fikret Verdiev stated: **“Karabakh will be cleared of the devilish rabble of Armenian fascism”, “These Armenian fascists have no honor, and they are fairly destroyed, and let those who remain, flee from our native land...”**⁷³.

Гянджинцы – потомки Джавад хана. Карабах будет очищен от дьявольского отребья армянского фашизма - народный артист Фикрет Вердиев

СОЦИУМ • 19 октября 2020 15:04 (UTC+04:00)



БАКУ /Trend Life/ - Гянджинцы – потомки Джавад хана, который вместе с сыном с саблей в руках погиб за честь страны, отражая превосходящие силы генерала Цицианова. Нас никогда не испугаешь! А неоднократные ракетные обстрелы Гянджи и других городов и сел страны, многочисленные жертвы среди мирного населения, в том числе дети, старики и женщины, показывают истинное лицо армянских фашистов, которые ответят за свои военные преступления, сказал сегодня Trend Life создатель ансамбля "Гей-гэль" и Гянджинской государственной филармонии, тарист, народный артист Азербайджана Фикрет Вердиев.

"30 лет мы ждали этих счастливых дней, когда на главе с Верховным главнокомандующим, Президентом Азербайджана Ильхамом Алиевым наша славная армия освобождает оккупированные земли от армянских агрессоров. Знаете, и враг тоже должен быть достойным, а не такой, который свое поражение на фронте вымещает на мирных жителях. Армянские головорезы показывают свою "силу" мирным жителями, как это было во время Ходжалинского геноцида, во время ночных ударов баллистическими ракетами по спящим жителям Гянджи. А против наших солдат и офицеров у них духа не хватает, бегут с поля боя, бросая технику. В былые времена, когда между собой враждовали гочу, зайдя в дом и увидев детей и женщин, они никогда не убивали своего врага, оставляя на потом. Даже враги имели честь и достоинство! У этих армянских фашистов нет чести, и они справедливо уничтожаются, и пусть те, кто остался, бежит с нашей родной земли. Мы ничего не забудем! А души наши невинных детей, матерей и отцов, мирных жителей, шахидов пусть покоятся с миром. Их кровь не остается безнаказанной, так как преступников всегда надо наказывать и самым жестким образом: по-человечески ничего не понимают, только силу. Пусть Всевышний хранит Азербайджан и поможет в очищении нашей священной земли Карабаха от дьявольского отребья армянского фашизма", - сказал Фикрет Вердиев.

С 27 сентября в результате агрессии ВС Армении и бомбардировки мирных городов и сел Азербайджана, находящихся вне зоны боевых действий, погибло более 60 человек, среди которых восемь детей, около 300 ранены.

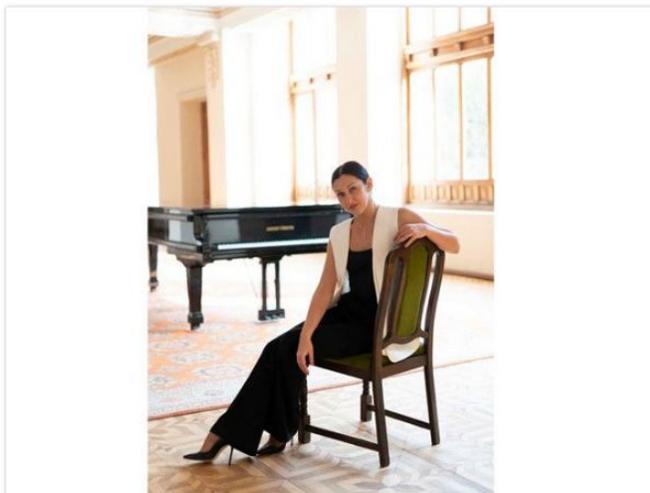
На протяжении около 30 лет Армения оккупировала 20 процентов территории Азербайджана - Нагорный Карабах и семь прилегающих к нему районов. В стране около миллиона беженцев и вынужденных переселенцев. Принятые Советом безопасности ООН четыре резолюции по освобождению оккупированного Нагорного Карабаха и прилегающих к нему территорий до сих пор не выполняются Арменией. Армия Азербайджана ведет героическую борьбу с армянскими фашистами, освободив часть оккупированной территории от агрессоров.

⁷³ “Карабах будет очищен от дьявольского отребья армянского фашизма. У этих армянских фашистов нет чести, и они справедливо уничтожаются, и пусть те, кто остался, бежит с нашей родной земли.”- народный артист Фикрет Вердиев (19 October 2020) <https://www.trend.az/life/socium/3319702.html>

People's Artist of Azerbaijan Kamilla Huseynova stated: “Our enemy - the occupier of our Motherland - is *dishonorable, deceitful and unworthy*. It is incapable of a fair fight – *they are barbarians, terrorists, guided by fascist ideas about their own superiority*”.⁷⁴

Создается впечатление, что над землей Карабаха издевались для того, чтобы причинить как можно больше боли нашему народу – народная артистка Азербайджана Камилла Гусейнова

ИНТЕРВЬЮ • 3 ноября 2020 13:53 (UTC+04.00)



БАКУ /Trend Life/ - В Азербайджане больше месяца идет священная освободительная война за родную землю. Сегодня мы страдаем, переживаем, радуемся победам и молимся за всех азербайджанских солдат – наших героев. Об этом Trend Life сказала народная артистка Азербайджана, художественный руководитель балетной труппы Государственного академического театра оперы и балета Камилла Гусейнова.

“Наш враг – оккупант нашей Родины - бесчестный, лживый и недостойный. Он неспособен вести честную борьбу – это варвары, террористы, ведомые фашистскими идеями о собственном превосходстве. Они нападают на мирных жителей, бомбят дома

⁷⁴ Народная артистка Азербайджана Камилла Гусейнова: “Наш враг – оккупант нашей Родины - бесчестный, лживый и недостойный. Он неспособен вести честную борьбу – это варвары, террористы, ведомые фашистскими идеями о собственном превосходстве.” (3 November 2020) <https://www.trend.az/life/interview/3328564.html>

People's Artist Rafiq Azimov stated: “The Armenian junta acts *like fascists* in the forties ... *They are the accomplices of the devil!* - which includes criminals and terrorists. And how does the earth only tolerate them?”⁷⁵

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Армянская хунта действует как фашисты в сороковых... Это пособники дьявола! – народный артист Рафи́г Азимов

СОЦИУМ • 8 октября 2020 16:18 (UTC+04:00)



БАКУ /Trend Life/ - Армянская хунта действует как фашисты в сороковых годах, обстреливая города и села, убивая мирных жителей, сказал сегодня Trend Life известный азербайджанский актер, кавалер ордена “Шохрат”, народный артист Рафи́г Азимов.

“Начиная с 27 сентября в результате армянской агрессии погиб 31 и ранены 154 мирных жителя. Это военное преступление, которое вновь показало истинное лицо армянской воениции. Есть создания Всевышнего, а есть пособники дьявола, к которым относятся преступники и террористы. И как их только земля терпит? Ведь это же преступление не только против азербайджанского народа, но и всего человечества. Все ученые, творческие и общественные деятели неоднократно высказывались о зверствах армянских оккупантов, которые не только убивают мирных жителей, но и разрушают многие памятники архитектуры. Армянская хунта действует как фашисты в 1941-1945 годах, и даже хуже. Я сам жил в годы Великой Отечественной войны, мой отец воевал на фронте и возвратившись в 1947 году, рассказывал о зверствах фашистов. Но эта война, развязанная Арменией, уже перешла все границы. Они даже подвергли обстрелу наше водохранилище в Мингячевире, нефтяной трубопровод Баку-Тбилиси-Джейхан, чтобы топливо не дошло до Европы. И что самое ужасное, мировое сообщество, вместо введения санкций против Армении, закрывает на это глаза. Что происходит с миром? Куда делись человеческие ценности? Где эти разделы прав человека и демократических ценностей, когда на протяжении около 30 лет 20 процентов нашей земли оккупировано армянами, около миллиона беженцев, тысяч сломленных судеб?”, - с негодованием вопрошает 82-летний Рафи́г Азимов.

Народный артист отметил, что во главе с Верховным главнокомандующим, Президентом Азербайджана Ильхамом Алиевым наша армия и народ обязательно добьются освобождения страны от армянских агрессоров.

“Мы терпели на протяжении около 30 лет, старались решить мирным путем, но если враг не понимает человеческого языка, то приходится говорить с ним с позиции силы. Весь народ от мала до велика участвует в Отечественной войне против армянских фашистов. У меня на глазах наворачиваются слезы счастья, когда слышу об освобождении смирной деревни, города, горной высоты, пидь за пидько, с большим героизмом и кровью наших шахидов мы освобождаем родные земли Карабаха и примыкающих семи оккупированных районов. Я всецело горжусь своим Президентом, армией и народом, и уверен, что флаг Азербайджана будет развеваться на всех освобожденных территориях. Я восхищаюсь нашей молодежью, которая добровольно уходит на фронт и жертвует своими жизнями за имя свободы страны. И в эти дни, когда идет освободительная война, я говорю себе – Рафи́г, как хорошо, что ты не умер и видишь эти дни. Пусть Всевышний хранит Азербайджан и дарует скорую победу!”, - добавил Рафи́г Азимов

(Автор: Вугар Иманов)

Теги: Карабах Рафи́г Азимов

⁷⁵ Армянская хунта действует как фашисты в сороковых.. Это пособники дьявола! – народный артист Рафи́г Азимов. “Есть создания Всевышнего, а есть пособники дьявола, к которым относятся преступники и террористы. И как их только земля терпит?” (8 October 2020) <https://www.trend.az/life/socium/3313109.html>

Social media post on Twitter: “*Let history play out properly this time*”.



Social media user posted on Twitter: “Ah, that's one of the symptoms of **Armenian schizophrenia**. This is the “nonsense fiction” symptom of Armenian schizophrenia. **This nation needs to be treated immediately**. Otherwise, the situation may become even worse.”⁷⁶.

⁷⁶ Available at: <https://twitter.com/nailgulmammadov/status/1455996426303987721> (4 November, 2021)



Social media user posted on Twitter: “Think about it, *there is a disease specific to only Armenians*. However, they can get away with it. Do you necessarily need the “Bayraktar”, “Iti Govan” or “Harop” vaccine? I would also like to state that these vaccines are administered as part of the *“Iron fist” treatment*⁷⁷.



Social media user posted on Twitter: “Ah, that's one of the symptoms of *Armenian schizophrenia*. This is the “nonsense fiction” symptom of Armenian schizophrenia. *This nation needs to be treated immediately*. Otherwise, the situation may become even worse.⁷⁸”

⁷⁷ Available at: <https://twitter.com/nailgulmammadov/status/1455996426303987721> (4 November, 2021)

⁷⁸ Available at: <https://twitter.com/nailgulmammadov/status/1455996426303987721> (4 November, 2021)

IV. INCITEMENT OF HATRED TOWARDS ARMENIANS ON RELIGIOUS GROUND

A trend of Azerbaijani hatred policy has been attempting to create animosity between the two peoples: Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the religious realm. This is another factor that undermines peace in the region and destroys normal life of people.

These efforts have been aggravated as a consequence of the 2020 September-November Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) war. While violating the religious rights of Armenians, Azerbaijani authorities, well-known people and other public figures have been engaging in victim-blaming at the same time groundlessly accusing Armenia and its citizens of Islamophobia. The same goes for Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) and more aggressively.

The Human Rights Defender of Armenia highlights that the Armenia and Armenians have never had hatred towards Islam and, moreover, have always had true respect and tolerance towards Islam and everyone who believes in Islam.

Armenians have always had flexible and respectful integration in all Muslim societies (e.g. Arab countries). Armenian Church has been always respected in these countries and this attitude has always been reciprocal.

We want to bring to the attention of the International community a very interesting fact related to written communication between the Prophet Muhammad and the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

There has been a fascinating article published in the Armenian newspaper *Aztag* in Beirut, Lebanon, by Dr. Garbis Harboyan of Montreal, Canada, who had uncovered the details of the communication between Prophet Muhammad and the then Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem and their successors.

Dr. Harboyan mentioned his sources as: Gregory Krikorian's, "Through the eye of an Armenian needle," published by the Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia in 2002. Krikorian had stated that his book was the summary and English translation of "History of Jerusalem," a two-volume, 1385-page book by Dikran Sayalanians, published by the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem in 1931. Dr. Harboyan also mentioned that he had recently seen the book, "Armenian Art Treasures of Jerusalem," by Bezalel Narkiss, Michael E. Stone, and Avedis Sanjian, published in New York, in 1979, which included a copy of Prophet Muhammad's decree to the Armenian Patriarchate.

The Armenian Patriarchate was established in Jerusalem almost 2,000 years ago. Many Armenians had gone on pilgrimage to Jerusalem after converting to Christianity in 301 AD. They had built a part of Sourp Hagop Convent in 420 AD. By the sixth Century, Armenians had constructed 66 religious institutions in Jerusalem.

In 626 AD, the Armenian Patriarch Apraham of Jerusalem, seeing the looming dangers of Islamic expansion and conquest, went to the Holy Islamic city of Mecca with a delegation of 40 prominent Armenians to meet with Prophet Muhammad to secure his protection.

Dr. Harboyan reported that the Prophet had welcomed the Armenian guests with affection, respect, and kindness, and listened to Patriarch Apraham's suggestions. The Armenian delegation expressed its submission to the Prophet, readiness to cooperate with him, and sought his protection.

At the end of the meeting, Prophet Muhammad issued an decree which stated: "I, Muhammad, the son of Abdallah, prophet and servant of God, I pay my respect to Patriarch Apraham, I honor him and all archbishops, bishops, and priests in Jerusalem, Damascus, and Arab regions, in other words, those people who are subject to Jerusalem, such as Ethiopians, Copts, and Assyrians. I recognize and guarantee their monasteries, churches, educational centers, properties and lands. I, Prophet Muhammad, with the witness of God, and the 30 people around me, I grant my patronage and protection, and I dispense my mercy to the Armenian churches, wherever they may be, throughout Jerusalem, the Holy Tomb of Christ, Sourp Hagop Church, Bethlehem Church, all prayer houses, monasteries, Golgotha road, and the holy sites. I also secure and ensure that my protection also extends to Christian hills, valleys and Christian income-generating institutions. I declare all of this in my name as Prophet and in the name of my Muslim faithful."

The Prophet Muhammad instructed his successors to respect his decree and execute it in all of its details. Present at that meeting was Omar the son of Khattab who became one of the Prophet's successors and issued a similar decree confirming the Prophet's decree.

Thus, the Prophet's decree became the first official document confirming the status of the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem. Unfortunately, the original decree cannot be located in the Patriarchate's archives. However, a yellowish copy exists in the Patriarchate's Mardigian Museum.

When Omar took over as Khalif in 634 AD, he appointed Abu Obeid as the head of the army. Abu Obeid's forces attacked Damascus and Jerusalem. The Greek Patriarch Sophronius and Armenian

Patriarch Krikor met with Abu Obeid and informed him that occupying Jerusalem would enrage God, because Jerusalem is a holy city. Abu Obeid reported to Khalif Omar about his meeting with the two Patriarchs. Omar personally came to Jerusalem. The brother of the Greek Patriarch met with Omar and reminded him about the decree of Prophet Muhammad. Omar then issued his own decree and confirmed the Prophet's decree. Omar entered Jerusalem with his followers, visited the religious sites, and suggested building a Mosque in a plot of land next to the church of Christ's tomb. The Mosque was built in 935 AD and named "Al Omariye." Omar allowed freedom for Christian worship, but forbade the ringing of church bells.

Omar was succeeded by Khalif Ali who also issued a decree for Armenians in Jerusalem, confirming the previous decrees by the Prophet and Omar.

In 1097 AD, the Crusaders invaded and liberated Jerusalem. In 1187 AD, Salahuddin al Ayoubi who is Kurdish and his family originated from Dvin in Armenia, occupied Jerusalem and expelled the majority of 100,000 Christians from the city. He took over all the Latin churches in Jerusalem and forbade church services. However, he granted Armenians partial freedom.

Armenian Patriarch Apraham with a group of his clergy met with Salahuddin and showed him Prophet Muhammad's decree. Salahuddin then issued his own decree and confirmed the decrees issued by the Prophet and Khalifs Omar and Ali. Salahuddin particularly noted in his decree Armenians' jurisdiction over churches, holy places, Sourp Hagop Convent, churches of Bethlehem and Nablus, the Holy Tomb, other holy sites, and especially Armenians' freedom to worship. He also lowered the taxes on Armenian merchants and pilgrims.

In 1517 AD, Ottoman Sultan Selim occupied Jerusalem and issued his decree which confirmed the privileges bestowed upon the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem by Prophet Muhammad, Khalif Omar, and Salahuddin. Sultan Selim's successor, Sultan Suleiman, issued his own decree reconfirming the Armenian rights in Jerusalem. Subsequent Sultans also issued decrees, such as Mehmed IV in 1659 AD, Sultan Mahmud I in 1735 AD, and Sultan Abdulmejid I in 1853 AD.

The Prophet Muhammad's decree, besides being a valuable historical document, indicates that Armenian Christians and Muslims have enjoyed the most cordial relations from the ancient times to the

present. Armenians need to publicize the Prophet's crucial decree as well as those of his successors to counter the anti-Armenian propaganda spread by Turkey and Azerbaijan in the Islamic world⁷⁹.

Having provided the mentioned facts, it should be highlighted that we have revealed facts that on the contrary to what was mentioned and in breach of all the above facts spread hatred towards Armenians based on religious grounds.

For example, *Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazadeh stated: "When the Armenians became stronger, they did not manipulate the Christian-Armenian factor. Tens of thousands of our sanctuaries and mosques have been destroyed in the occupied territories. They have tried to change the nature of the Christian Orthodox Church."*⁸⁰ Back in 2008, being a highly regarded religious authority not only in Azerbaijan, but also the Caucasian region and the Islamic community in general, *Pashazadeh had made another statement: "Falsehood and betrayal are in the Armenian blood"*⁸¹.

In the meantime, during and after the September-November war Azerbaijani Armed servicemen had vandalized and desecrated Armenian cultural and religious heritage sites, including churches, tombs and khachkars amongst others – a fact that is supported by the recent ICJ decision on the case against the Republic of Azerbaijan⁸².

For example, as a consequence of the war of 2020, the Zoravor Surb Astvatsatsin Armenian Church in the Mekhakavan community was completely destroyed after it came under Azerbaijani control. The destruction of the church is confirmed by a publication from BBC World News (Nagorno Karabakh: The mystery of the missing church)⁸³.

⁷⁹ Available at: <https://armenianweekly.com/2018/09/14/prophet-muhammads-rarely-known-decree/>.

⁸⁰ Available at: <https://apa.az/az/xeber/dini-xeberler/Allahsukur-Pasazad-Gec-yarisi-usaqlari-mulki-insanlari-oldurmk-ermnilrin-xisltidir-610651> (16 October 2020)

⁸¹ Available at: <http://www.today.az/news/society/46565.html>

⁸² See the official decision available at: <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20211207-ORD-01-00-EN.pdf>

⁸³ Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-europe-56517835>



On 8 October 2020, the Azerbaijani Armed forces launched two intentional attacks at the Holy Savior Ghazanchetsots Cathedral of Artsakh(Shushi). The Cathedral is one of the most recognizable cultural and religious symbols of Artsakh. Azerbaijani forces had struck the cathedral two times within a few hours with the use of striking and manageable drones. This act of Azerbaijani forces is in line with its continuous practice of destroying Armenian cultural heritage sites in Artsakh. It also demonstrates radical disrespect towards the Christian element of Armenian identity⁸⁴.

Furthermore, on May 3, a photo was published in social media showing the removed dome of the Holy Savior Ghazanchetsots Cathedral of Artsakh. Other parts of the 19th-century cathedral have been covered in scaffolding.⁸⁵

⁸⁴ See the publication available at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2759201674324006>

⁸⁵ See the publication available at <https://en.armradio.am/2021/05/03/azerbaijan-distorting-ghazanchetsots-cathedral-under-the-guise-of-restoration-artsakh-ombudsman/>



Shortly after Shushi was taken under control by Azerbaijan, images and a video of the partially destroyed 19th century church of Saint John the Baptist in Shushi (AKA, Kanach Zham) circulated on social media showing severe destruction to the dome and the bell tower.



Other damaged monuments in the post war period include monuments devoted to the victims of the Great Patriotic War in the villages of Avetaranots, Askeran district and Talish, Mardakert district, the Armenian cross-stone in the village of Arakel, Hadrut district of Artsakh.⁸⁶

⁸⁶ See Transparency International Anticorruption Center's Report on Xenophobia in Azerbaijan (28 February 2021), available at: <https://transparency.am/files/publications/1614692840-0-341815.pdf?v=4>

In another case, Azerbaijani military are documented to be cynically dishonoring and vandalizing the Armenian church of St. Yeghishe in the Mataghis region of Artsakh (built in the 19th century). They openly and deliberately insult the church, while knowing all too well that the church is Armenian. In the video, after entering the church they say the following: *“This belongs to the Armenians, everything here belongs to the Armenians, we have torn it.”*⁸⁷



According to reports by the Caucasus Heritage Watch, on the territories that have fallen under Azerbaijani control, multiple Armenian cemeteries have ceased to exist – often due to newly initiated construction projects. Amongst others, the Shghnakh⁸⁸, Mets Tagher and Shushi Northern⁸⁹ cemeteries have been destroyed in the past year. During and in the immediate aftermath of the 2020 war, many families fleeing Artsakh had felt the need to dig up and move the bodies of their long-buried relatives in fear of them being desecrated by the approaching Azerbaijani side⁹⁰. At the time many international pundits had questioned the urgency of these acts. However, in view of the ensuing events their fears could be deemed to have been well-grounded.

⁸⁷ https://www.ombuds.am/en_us/site/VideoGalleryView/520

⁸⁸ See the full report available at: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/73cac945-7eb0-4f25-95a0-caf2afe7964c>

⁸⁹ See the full report available at: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/29f1209a-86e5-45a6-a53e-974eda2177b6>

⁹⁰ Available at: <https://news.sky.com/story/displaced-armenians-dig-up-graves-of-loved-ones-as-they-flee-nagorno-karabakh-12137466>

It is important to note, that it is not only the Christian cultural and religious heritage sites that are in danger of destruction. *The 18th century Aygek Mosque has evanesced under the bulldozers of an Azerbaijani road construction crew in the process of widening an existing route*⁹¹.

Additionally, there is enough evidence gathered by the monitoring activities of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia, to demonstrate that in the videos depicting Azerbaijani atrocities towards Armenians, there are numerous occasions where the Azerbaijani servicemen are acting out of anti-Armenian religious fanaticism. For example, the crosses carried by several groups of Armenian captives were removed and destroyed by their captors in front of their eyes. All the evidence proves that the religious rights of captives were also violated⁹².

In a more recent case, one of the Armenian POWs who had been returned in 2021 had attested how he was being tortured and humiliated on religious grounds. In an attempt to subject him to a forced religious conversion, the captives had burnt his leg and continuously tortured the returnee. The current context of hate and animosity spread by the officials in Azerbaijan eliminates all real prospects for demilitarization and a peaceful resolution.

In addition to the state-fueled acts of violence and religious intolerance by the Azerbaijani state, the government is attempting to deflect their rhetoric by constantly blaming the Armenian side of instigating racial and religious hatred towards Azerbaijanis – actions similar to the one that the Azerbaijani government had undertaken during the 2020 Artsakh war. While being the initial instigator and constantly breaching the ceasefire agreements during the 44 days that the war had lasted, despite being in full-offense mode, the Azerbaijani army had been asserting a false narrative of ‘peace-seekers’ in front of international observers and media outlets.

The result of this policy takes new forms of ill-treatment. This statement is based on the interviews of Armenian Prisoners of war repatriated from Azerbaijan.

For example, in one case, Azerbaijani servicemen demanded that an Armenian serviceman renounce Christianity and convert to Islam, that is, to change his faith. After the Armenian soldier refused to obey, his legs were burned, and he was severely beaten and humiliated. We have not recorded a case like this before. This case is shown by the photo-evidence presented below and the photo is taken by the members of the Office of the Human Rights Defender.

⁹¹ *Ibid.*

⁹² See the report of the Human Rights Defender of Republic of Armenia “On responsibility of Azerbaijan for torture and inhuman treatment of Armenian captives: Evidence-based analysis (the 2020 Nagorno Karabakh war)” <https://ombuds.am/images/files/5c7485fdc225adfd8a35d583830dcd17.pdf>

In another case Azerbaijani servicemen burned a part of the body of a captured Armenian serviceman with a lighter, on which they noticed a tattoo in the form of a cross and severely beat him.

Crosses which were with the Armenian servicemen were either taken or destroyed. When the Armenian captives demanded the crosses back, they were severely beaten and humiliated, and the religion was mocked.

These cases are a direct consequence of the policy of Armenophobia and enmity of the Azerbaijani authorities towards the Armenians.



The monitoring of the speeches, messages and interviews of the Azerbaijani President and other high-ranked officials have revealed that do they not only pursue an aggressive line of Armenophobia, but they also accuse Armenia of Islamophobia.

For example, the President of Azerbaijan has made statements on calling the Muslim population of the world to give an appropriate response to Armenian people by falsifying facts and pursuing a policy of hostility using the religious component.

The President of Azerbaijan has stated that hatred towards Azerbaijanis is established in Armenia as an official ideology⁹³ but reality demonstrates the contrary – Armenophobia stands at the core of internal and external Azerbaijani state policy, continually exacerbated by the statements and actions of high-rank officials. As reports by the ECRI, the Office of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia and the ICJ decision demonstrate, the state of Azerbaijan is cultivating and encouraging interracial hatred through all levers of state apparatus.



In particular, blatantly falsifying facts, the President of Azerbaijan stated: *“In half-destroyed mosques, **the sinister enemy was keeping animals, cows and pigs to insult us and the entire Muslim population of the world.** I am sure that the **Muslim population of the world will give an appropriate response.** I am receiving letters in relation to this matter from various Muslim countries. We (...) will raise awareness about Armenian atrocities and **Armenian fascism** in the entire world. (...) our victory (...) is a victory against **Armenian fascism**”.*⁹⁴



*“The whole world can see **the Armenian savagery** today. They can see that Armenians have destroyed our mosques, more than 60 mosques have been destroyed. **Armenians kept cows and pigs in our mosques.** This is an insult to the entire Muslim world. **I once again turn to the leaders of all Muslim countries and say to you – never forget this, do not turn a***

⁹³ The full text of the speech is available on the official website of the President of Azerbaijan (27 september 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/53224>

⁹⁴ The full text of the speech is available on the official website of the President of Azerbaijan (27 september 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/53224>

*blind eye to this, do not ignore this. The Armenian leadership has insulted the entire Muslim world.*⁹⁵

The President of Azerbaijan also stated: ***“The Azerbaijanophobia and Islamophobia, which are rampant in Armenia, have reached the level of mental illness.”***⁹⁶

Moreover, he stated: *“(…) I was saying that the first Armenian state [meaning the current Armenia] was created on our historical lands. One of the first decisions of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1918 was to transfer Irevan to Armenia as a capital. I condemned that decision. I said that it was betrayal, treason, an unforgivable act. The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic had done a lot for the Azerbaijani people. However, we should not obscure history. We must know it. We must know that the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic existed in the 1918-1920 and our independence was half-hearted. We gave Irevan to Armenia. Representatives from Irevan objected to their pleas fell on deaf ears”.*

*“(…) The Armenian army was crushed and destroyed. An army with 10,000 deserters is a disgrace. They were chaining their soldiers in battle positions to stop them from fleeing. That is an atrocity, atrocity against their soldiers”.*⁹⁷

Meanwhile, when the Armenian Church of Baku was being converted into a ‘presidential archive’, with Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan Abulfas Garayev stating that it had been purposeful since there were not many Christians in Azerbaijan⁹⁸.

⁹⁵ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan in Absheron district (26 August, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/52845>

⁹⁶ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan (27 September, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/53224>

⁹⁷ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan in Baku (12 April, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/51083>

⁹⁸ Available at: <https://asbarez.com/armenian-church-in-baku-may-be-converted-to-library/>



Fazail Agamali, a member of the Parliament of Azerbaijan stated: “Speaking of Muslim solidarity, why did Iran not point a finger at Armenia, which had invaded and razed to the ground Azerbaijani lands and insulted mosques? This means that there is an insidious purpose behind it. During the occupation, Iran also provided comprehensive assistance to Armenia and turned a blind eye to the insult of Islamic values by **Armenian vandals**. By being indifferent to such cases, Iran has not only been indifferent to Islamic values, but has also betrayed them. The fact that Iran has turned a blind eye to the destruction and insult of our mosques by the **Armenian fascists reveals its complete face and hypocrisy**”.⁹⁹

There is a significant amount of history proving that a policy of tolerance and respect for other religions, including Islam, has always been pursued in Armenia. As a matter of fact, a relationship of mutual respect, acceptance and toleration has been long established between the Armenian Apostolic Church and Islam¹⁰⁰. Many armenian enterprenerus, scientists, as well as cultural, political and religious figures have made remarkable contributions to Islamic communities throughout histroy.

To this day, there are multiple example of Armenia’s toleration and respect towards peoples of Islamic tradition – there is a beautiful functioning mosque in the center of Yerevan, the Upper and Lower Govhar Agha Mosques of Shushi had been well-preserved before their capture by Azerbaijani armed forces, and just recently the Upper Mosque and the building of the Madrasa were renovated with a park built next to it. Armenians have been living shoulder-to-shoulder with numerous populations practicing Islam over many centuries.¹⁰¹

⁹⁹ Available at: <https://www.azerbaycan24.com/en/azerbaijani-mp-chides-iran-for-hypocrisy-backing-armenia/> (5 O2021)

¹⁰⁰ As an example, see: <https://armenianweekly.com/2018/09/14/prophet-muhammads-rarely-known-decree/>

¹⁰¹ See the statement of the Human Rights Defender https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1935



Social media user posted on Twitter: “The Armenians themselves do not know where they came from, how they came from, *they are born illegally, with dirty blood. They are unbelievers, they are not Christians, they have stolen everything, they are children of the devil*¹⁰².”

¹⁰² <https://twitter.com/Miraa54222600/status/1352339879313764353>

V. STATE-PERPETRATED POLICY OF RACISM THAT HAS RESULTED IN ACTS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL AND CIVILIANS

The constantly reinforced paradigm of hatred by the Azerbaijani government has been having long-lasting and deep effects on the general population, including the military servicemen of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The consequences of the animosity amongst the general population were largely evident during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War.

Previous reporting by the Armenian Human Rights Defenders' Office shows that, during the torture of Armenians, live beheadings, mutilating the bodies of the victims, cutting ears, and committing other atrocities¹⁰³, the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Armed forces use identical rhetoric and expressions to the ones used by the President of Azerbaijan, high-level officials and other Azerbaijani public figures.

For example, in the video, the Azerbaijani military tortures and humiliates a civilian solely because of his ethnic background. "Anyway, we will kill everyone, your lousy jackal. We are Azerbaijanis, we are Turks, we will kill all of you, jackals. Anyway, you live like dogs and we will expel you like dogs. You are jackals, not humans"¹⁰⁴.

In the context of post-war activities, further monitoring demonstrates that on multiple occasions, after speeches or statements of the President of Azerbaijan, shootings ensue on the border villages of Armenia and on the Armenian positions located in their immediate vicinity; the tensions on the border increase, as a result of which Armenian civilians and servicemen on both sides are injured and killed.

For example, on 14 August, 2021 during the interview of the President of Azerbaijan to "CNN Türk" TV channel, he had stated: "***I have said this and I want to say again that if Armenian fascism tries to raise its head ever again, we will crush it again. The defeat in the second Karabakh war should be a lesson for them***"¹⁰⁵. The day after, in the early morning of 15 August, 2021 the Human Rights Defender

¹⁰³ The Human Rights Defender's Office of Armenia has collected over 400 visual and audio materials of evidence on the atrocities committed by Azerbaijani soldiers against Armenians

¹⁰⁴ Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljdYziDKVfw&t=2s>

¹⁰⁵ Excerpts from the interview of the president of Azerbaijan to "CNN Türk" TV channel (14 August, 2021) <https://president.az/articles/52736>

received alarming calls that the Azerbaijani Armed Forces began shooting towards Aravus village of Syunik province¹⁰⁶.

Then, on 16 August, 2021 the President of Azerbaijan stated: ***“I request that the name Basarkechar, not Vardenis, be restored to our general lexicon when reports are prepared from this region of Azerbaijan. All other ancient Azerbaijani settlements located in the territory of present-day Armenia should be called by their real names”, “We have driven the enemy out of our lands, crushed the enemy army”, “Armenian soldiers are deserters and cowards”, “Like barbarians, savages and vandals, they demolished the bricks and stones of houses one by one and built huts for themselves”.***¹⁰⁷ On the same day, on 16 August, the Azerbaijani armed forces opened targeted fire towards the village of Kut in the Gegharkunik province. There were also direct shootings at Norabak village¹⁰⁸. As a result of these shootings, the Azerbaijani armed forces killed 2 Armenian servicemen in Yeraskh and Gegharkunik¹⁰⁹.

Thus, a clear link can be established between the Azerbaijani policies of state sponsored hatred and the gross violations of the rights of border residents of the Republic of Armenia. Incidents of human rights violations include threatening innocent Armenian citizens by constantly having their weapons on display of innocent civilians¹¹⁰; pelting an Armenian civilian car with stones on the road from Goris to Kapan¹¹¹; dragging the shepherd of Aravus and punching him in the eye¹¹²; people having been deprived of access to their lands, pastures; periodic shootings near the border villages of Armenia¹¹³ and many other incidents of similar character.

More instances of Azerbaijani policy of organized hatred and animosity against Armenians as a root cause of human rights violations and ethnically motivated crimes is reflected in the report of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia “On urgent necessity for a demilitarized security zone in the areas of contact with the Azerbaijani military forces as a fundamental safeguard to protect the rights of population in Armenia: Evidence-based analysis in the context of ongoing situation in Gegharkunik and

¹⁰⁶ See the statement of the Human Rights Defender:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=909541612978378&id=100017676420633

¹⁰⁷ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan (16 August, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/52742>

¹⁰⁸ See the statement of the Human Rights Defender:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=910163012916238&id=100017676420633

¹⁰⁹ See the statement of the Human Rights Defender: https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1854

¹¹⁰ See the statement of the Human Rights Defender https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1694

¹¹¹ See the statement of the Human Rights Defender https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1700

¹¹² See the statement of the Human Rights Defender https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1653

¹¹³ See the statement of the Human Rights Defender https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1806

Syunik provinces”.¹¹⁴ The report goes further, by providing substantiated evidence for the argument that Azerbaijani state policies of hatred for Armenians and everything Armenian have necessitated the creation of demilitarized security zone between the borders of Armenia and Azerbaijan in order to eliminate the potential risk of conflict aggravation.

The ardency of this animosity goes so deep that armed forces had demonstratively destroyed the statues, memorials and plaques of Armenian marshals and generals in Artsakh, who had heroically fought against fascism and Nazism in the Second World War (WWII)¹¹⁵. Amongst most notable figures are Marshal Hovhannes Baghramyan, double hero of the USSR, a USSR marshal, Marshal Hamazasp Babajanyan, the hero of the USSR, the main marshal of military troops, Nelson Stepanyan, USSR double hero from the Leningrad Defenders, pilot¹¹⁶.

¹¹⁴ Ad hoc public report is available at <https://ombuds.am/images/files/4f4d3319548889e2900530457ae24bad.pdf>

¹¹⁵ <https://en.armradio.am/2021/08/20/azerbajjanis-destroy-statue-of-soviet-armenian-marshal-armenak-khanperyants/>

¹¹⁶ See the Human Rights Defender’s statement: https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1609

VI. THE SPILL OVER OF RACIAL HATRED PURSUED BY THE AZERBAIJANI GOVERNMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL SPHERE

While pursuing the internal politics of hatred towards Armenians, such policies have been replicated on the international stage.

Actions of Azerbaijani officials, conveying messages of hatred and discrimination against Armenians, have spilled over into affecting the internal well-being of nations across the world.

In the past year, multiple incidents of violence and hate crimes in Western states have occurred involving individuals with Azerbaijani affiliation. The potential for the conflict between two ethnicities to spill over and escalate in other countries has already seen life on several occasions, with the most vivid example having taken place in the Russian Federation¹¹⁷. Due to the fact that both nations have large diasporic representations across the globe, the potential effects of state-sponsored ethnic hatred are even more alarming. This policy develops atmosphere of animosity between the two people.

From the first day of the Azerbaijani military attacks, the dissemination of hatred and calls for cruel treatment and killings had become more coordinated – culminating into excessively dangerous volumes. This was already confirmed by the Human Rights Defender’s ad hoc public reports published during and after the war. Large numbers of ordinary Azerbaijanis regularly espouse hate speech against Armenians both online and offline. This has all been confirmed by the evidence collected within the framework of the independent monitoring¹¹⁸. The consequences of the State’s policy were on clear display in the summer of 2020, when at a mass gathering in Baku, thousands of Azerbaijanis called for war with Armenia and chanted: “*Death to Armenians.*”¹¹⁹

The phrase “**Throw Like Dogs**” has become a mobilizing motto and a hashtag among Azerbaijanis worldwide.

¹¹⁷ Available at: <https://eurasianet.org/fighting-between-armenians-and-azerbaijanis-spills-beyond-caucasus>

¹¹⁸ Available at: <https://ombuds.am/images/files/2bb83fd52ae0011eeaa6e77f42210cd3.pdf>

¹¹⁹ See the documented words available at: <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20210916-APP-01-00-EN.pdf>



The state-sponsored nature of hatred and animosity propaganda against Armenians have taken extremist forms in different European cities after the start of Azerbaijan's aggression in September 2020.

The President of Azerbaijan stated: *"They (meaning Armenians) need good doctors. I said many times, they are poisoned with poison. This poison mainly comes from their diaspora which sits in a very quiet and nice places in Southern France, in California, in Krasnodar Krai, in some other capitals and enjoy their life."*¹²⁰

During the war, in the town of Décines-Charpieu (France) a memorial center dedicated to the Armenian Genocide was defaced with pro-Turkish slogans including "Grey Wolves" and "RTE" in reference to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan¹²¹.

Moreover, Laurence Fautra, mayor of Décines-Charpieu, stated that a procession of about 250 people marched through the city centre waving Turkish flags, yelling violent threats like: "We are going to kill the Armenians."¹²²

¹²⁰ Excerpts from the speech of the President of Azerbaijan within the framework of the event entitled "A New Look at the South Caucasus. Development and Cooperation after the Conflict", which was held at ADA University (University of the Diplomatic Academy of Azerbaijan) (April 13, 2021) <https://en.president.az/articles/51088>

¹²¹ Available at: <https://mirrorspectator.com/2020/11/05/france-to-ban-turkish-grey-wolves-after-defacement-of-armenian-memorial/>

¹²² Available at: <https://www.vice.com/en/article/epddna/turkey-france-armenia-grey-wolves-lyon>



After that incident, the French government banned the Grey Wolves, a far-right nationalist group accused of violent actions and inciting hate speech in France. France accused the group of “extremely violent actions,” spreading “extremely violent threats” and creating “incitement to hatred against authorities and Armenians”¹²³.

During the war, it was also reported that nearly 20 Azerbaijanis attacked Armenian peaceful protesters with sticks and stones in Israel who were holding a motor march with the flags of Armenia and Artsakh against the military cooperation between Israel and Azerbaijan.¹²⁴

Such incident was also reported in France. During the demonstration three men armed with knives and hammers attacked the peaceful Armenian protest. One of the protesters lost consciousness after being hit in the head.¹²⁵

¹²³ Available at: <https://www.dw.com/en/france-bans-turkish-ultra-nationalist-grey-wolves-group/a-55503469>

¹²⁴ Available at: <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1031915.html>

¹²⁵ Available at: <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1033007.html>

On November 19, 2021 the Human Rights Defender of Armenia visited St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church and the Krouzian-Zakarian-Vasbouragan Armenian School in San Francisco, which last year were subjected to attacks by Azerbaijani criminal groups¹²⁶.

In particular, the church had been set on fire in September 2020; and earlier, in July of 2020, the school was vandalized, riddled with graffiti and words of Azerbaijani hatred and enmity against Armenians on its walls. Thereafter, in on September 21, 2020 they shot at the school. Moreover, the school is attended by students from Kindergarten to 8th grade¹²⁷.



¹²⁶ See the video available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhcJRCI4K6k>

¹²⁷ See the statement of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia: https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/2023





These types of Azerbaijani policies are full of dangers of perpetuating hostility not only for the people of the two countries, but also for the countries where Armenians and Azerbaijanis live which is in stark contrast to the foundations of peace, human rights and democracy pursued by the ICCPR and the ICERD.

