

# THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



### AD HOC PUBLIC REPORT



A PARK OF KILLED

ARMENIAN SOLDIERS AND
CHAINED PRISONERS OF
WAR OPENED IN BAKU:

A MUSEUM OF HUMAN
SUFFERINGS AND
PROMOTION OF RACISM



YEREVAN 2021



# THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



#### **AD HOC PUBLIC REPORT**

# A PARK OF KILLED ARMENIAN SOLDIERS AND CHAINED PRISONERS OF WAR OPENED IN BAKU: A MUSEUM OF HUMAN SUFFERINGS AND PROMOTION OF RACISM

YEREVAN 2021

## **CONTENT**

INTRODUCTION	3
I.THE STATEMENT OF ARMENIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER ON THE	PARK-MUSEUM OF
HUMAN SUFFERINGS IN BAKU	4
II.MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT OF AZERBAIJAN SPREADING HATRED AN	D ARMENOPHOBIA
(RECENT EXAMPLES)	6
III. INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND MEDIA WITH REGARD TO THE PARK	9
IV. THE WAX FIGURES OF THE ARMENIAN MILITARY SERVICEMEN, INCL	LUDING PRISONERS
OF WAR DISPLAYED IN THE PARK (PHOTO-EVIDENCE)	12
V. PRAISING OF THE PARK IN AZERBAIJANI SOCIAL MEDIA	24

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This report discusses the so-called Trophy Park, an "exhibition-park" related to the September-November 2020 war in Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) which was opened in Baku on April 12, 2021. The "Park" demonstrates wax figures of the Armenian military servicemen. All of them are presented in a degrading manner to humiliate dignity, in a way openly violating human dignity.

The Human Rights Defender of Armenia received numerous complaints and alarms from parents and relatives of Armenian prisoners of war held captive in Azerbaijan, as well as missing persons.

The monitoring of the Armenia's Human Rights Defender's Staff revealed posts in Azerbaijani social media about the exhibition which only welcomed and encouraged the initiative of the Azerbaijani authorities and the comments illustrating its impact on the state of hatred and hostility towards Armenians.

The mentioned materials were disseminated and still continue to be spread through Facebook, Twitter and other social media networks. The analyzed data shows a worrying trend of deepening Armenophobia in Azerbaijan.

The current report presents the monitoring results of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia on perception of the fact of existence of the "park-museum" of human sufferings in Baku.

# I. THE STATEMENT OF ARMENIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER ON THE PARK-MUSEUM OF HUMAN SUFFERINGS IN BAKU

An "exhibition-park", called a Trophy park, dedicated to the September-November 2020 war was opened in Baku today, on April 12, 2021.

In the "Park", along with the Armenian military equipment, wax figures of the Armenian military servicemen have been displayed, all of which presented in a degrading manner, in a manner violating human dignity. This is done to ensure the widest possible publicity.

It is obvious from the published videos and photos of the "Park" that the exhibition was designed to increase and encourage hatred and animosity towards the population of Armenia and Artsakh, the citizens of Armenia. Exhibitions are with cynicism to publicly humiliate the memory of the victims of the war, the rights of missing persons and captives, to violate the rights and dignity of their families.

Personal belongings of the soldiers of Armenia and Artsakh are displayed with the same cynicism, and the helmets of the killed soldiers are displayed knowing that it will cause additional suffering to their families, to the Armenian and Artsakh society, and will generate new hatred in the Azerbaijani society.

The Azerbaijani authorities also showed scenes of Armenian prisoners in the opened "park". This step is especially reprehensible against the background that in Azerbaijan, prisoners of war and civilians continue to be held illegally, in gross violation of international human rights requirements.

The "park" is a clear manifestation of racism and related violence representing a serious immediate danger for Armenian prisoners of war.

It is obvious to the Azerbaijani authorities that this sensitive issue would cause mental pain and suffering to the families of the missing persons and captives, as well as to the Armenian society in general.

It should be mentioned that there are long queues to visit the "park". Moreover, a "park-museum" of human sufferings is also open for children, even under 6 years old.

The opening of such a "park" clearly confirms the fact of institutional hatred towards Armenians in Azerbaijan and existence of a state policy of propaganda of animosity. This policy has been consistently implemented for years, confirmed by concrete evidence.

4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJJCsvsPg9o

The consequences of this policy are the atrocities and torture, killings of Armenian military servicemen and civilians by Azerbaijani Armed Forces in the 2020 September-November war; the 2016 April war or other Azerbaijani armed attacks on the.

State-sponsored hostility was the reason why the Azerbaijani military brutally tortured and killed Armenian servicemen and civilians, being with open faces and with exceptional cynicism, without even thinking about responsibility, and being confident that they would only be praised for that.

Therefore, the demonstrations in the "park" dedicated to the September-November 2020 war clearly reaffirm existence of the Azerbaijani genocidal policy towards the entire population of Armenia and Artsakh.

The park is yet another phenomenon which only enreaches root causes of torture and cruelties; undermines peace and solidarity in the region.

# II. MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT OF AZERBAIJAN SPREADING HATRED AND ARMENOPHOBIA (RECENT EXAMPLES)

The opening of the Trophy park in Baku is a clear evidence of the state policy of Armenophobia, animosity, and racism amounting to fascism.

In his public speeches and messages, the president of Azerbaijan continues to insult, spew ethnic hatred and Armenophobia at the highest state level, and carry out public propaganda of animosity against Armenians.

The atrocities and the torture committed by servicemen of the Azerbaijani armed forces are the results of the mentionned policy.

The root causes of all these are substantiated by the evidence of the joint ad hoc public report of the Human Rights Defenders of Armenia and 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"<sup>2</sup>.

Below are some examples of messages of the President of Azerbaijan. These messages also emphasize advantages of the Azerbaijani people (morality, intellectual abilities, etc.) compared to and toward the entire population of Armenia and Artsakh, the entire Armenian people, at the expense of public humiliation of dignity, and open distortion of historical facts.

At the opening of the park, the president of Azerbaijan stated: "An Armenian is a barbarian who digs graves, digs and removes the golden teeth of the dead." 3

In his nationwide address, he stated: "Azerbaijani soldiers expel them (Armenians) like dogs".4

Nationwide address of Ilham Aliyev: "We will continue to expel these (Armenians) liars. They see who is who now. They see that we were teaching them a lesson they will never forget. (...) They have neither conscience nor morality. They don't even have the brain."5

"Yerevan is our historical land we, the Azerbaijanis will go back to these historical lands. It is our political and strategic goal, and we gradually reach it".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The ad hoc public report is available at https://ombuds.am/images/files/2032f021fe81176414a649d588ad0e86.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://president.az/articles/51067

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The video is available in Russian at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eAVs7fjUFM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eAVs7fjUFM</a> // https://www.voltairenet.org/article211050.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Nationwide address of President Ilham Aliyev (20 October 2020) <a href="https://defence.az/en/news/147408/azerbaijani-president-ilham-aliyev-addresses-nation-on-tv-%C2%A0live">https://defence.az/en/news/147408/azerbaijani-president-ilham-aliyev-addresses-nation-on-tv-%C2%A0live</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://president.az/articles/51067

"For 30 years, it (meaning Artsakh and Fizuli (Varanda), in particular) was in the hands of wild beasts, in the hands of predators, in the hands of jackals. The remains of the city of Fuzuli are a manifestation of Armenian fascism and a witness to Armenian fascism".

Armenia as a country is of no value. It is actually a colony, an outpost run from abroad, a territory artificially created on ancient Azerbaijani lands".<sup>8</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> President Ilham Aliyev addresses the nation (17 October 2020) <a href="https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3318553.html">https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3318553.html</a>; the video is available at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVdWkPPlle4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVdWkPPlle4</a>

<sup>8</sup> https://twitter.com/presidentaz/status/270827003521929216

# III. INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND MEDIA WITH REGARD TO THE PARK

(EXAMPLES)

Ms. Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights: "(...) It shows dehumanising scenes, including wax mannequins depicting dead and dying Armenians soldiers. I consider such images highly disturbing and humiliating. This kind of display can only further intensify and strengthen long-standing hostile sentiments and hate speech, and multiply and promote manifestations of intolerance. Even more so, such developments significantly hamper any chance of genuine reconciliation among the communities affected by the conflict"<sup>9</sup>.

Ms. Heidi Hautala, Vice-President of the European Parliament: "This theme park in Azerbaijan is beyond disgusting. Primary school-age kids on the opening day exposed to such warmongering." 10

Mr. Loucas Fourlas, a member of the European Parliament: "I submitted an urgent written question to the European Commission. I demanded actions on the unacceptable "park of trophies" featuring helmets of Armenian soldiers killed in action, created by the Azerbaijani authorities. Those actions do not promote peace and trust in the region."

Mr. Costas Mavrides, a member of the European Parliament: "The opening of a "park" by Azerbaijan exhibiting helmets of the slain Armenian soldiers and other "war trophies" is a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> https://rm.coe.int/letter-to-mr-ilham-aliyev-president-of-the-republic-of-azerbaijan-by-m/1680a2364c

https://twitter.com/HeidiHautala/status/1384176944229486599

<sup>11</sup> https://twitter.com/loucas fourlas/status/1382264003779571713

disgrace to humanity and promotes hatred towards Armenians. I asked EU to take a clear stand and exert its influence to end this immediately."<sup>12</sup>

Mr. Nikos Androulakis, a member of the European Parliament: "A memorial of barbarism with "trophies" from the recent Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, such as helmets and figures of dead Armenian soldiers, insulting their memory in a heinous way. International organisations cannot remain silent to these medieval practices that shame humanity". <sup>13</sup>

H.E. Mr. Jonathan Lacôte, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Armenia: "I fully understand and share the feelings of Armenian society with respect to the opening of the so-called 'park' in Baku. I recently visited the Yerablur Military Pantheon. We see that there are a lot of victims and casualties and that the families are suffering, but it is also a place where there is dignity. War is not something to be staged. Now the priority is to find a solution to the conflict."<sup>14</sup>

Mr. Gabrielius Landsbergis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania: "(...) It is not normal to witness a "War trophy park" in the 21st century. I am going to visit Baku and express the same opinion. Disrespect toward any victim is unacceptable, and no violence should be glorified. This is a principle I believe."<sup>15</sup>

<sup>12</sup> https://twitter.com/MayridesCostas/status/1383074522656555008

<sup>13</sup> https://www.facebook.com/androulakisnikosgr/posts/1922089294633297

<sup>14</sup> https://news.am/arm/news/638702.html

<sup>15</sup> https://mediamax.am/en/news/foreignpolicy/42941/

Mr. John Marshall Evans, former US ambassador to Armenia: "This is totally beyond the Pale. Racist, degrading, indeed, redolent of genocidal intent. Condemn it at OSCE!" <sup>16</sup>

Mr. Neil Hauer, contributor to CNN and the Guardian: "Basically this is example #364,486 from the postwar period alone why it's just foolish to think there will ever be Armenian-Azerbaijan reconciliation while Aliyev is in power".

"(...) Casually brainwashing the next generation with hatred, just a Tuesday in Azerbaijan." <sup>18</sup>

Ms. Lindsey Snell, an American journalist: "It's not surprising that so many AZ soldiers recorded themselves committing brutal war crimes. This kind of depravity is encouraged and celebrated at a state level." <sup>19</sup>

Mr. Jake Hanrahan, a British journalist: "This is hideous. The Azerbaijan regime has created what is essentially a war crimes theme park for Aliyev. Unbelievable. See this thread. Barbaric. No other word for it." 20

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> https://twitter.com/EvansinAmerica/status/1381852467684642816

<sup>17</sup> https://jam-news.net/war-trophies-park-in-baku-sparks-controversy-domestically-and-abroad/

<sup>18</sup> https://twitter.com/NeilPHauer/status/1382425337628332039

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> https://twitter.com/LindseySnell/status/1381602041429102596

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> https://twitter.com/Jake Hanrahan/status/1382449204967133185

# IV. THE WAX FIGURES OF THE ARMENIAN MILITARY SERVICEMEN, INCLUDING PRISONERS OF WAR DISPLAYED IN THE PARK (PHOTOEVIDENCE)





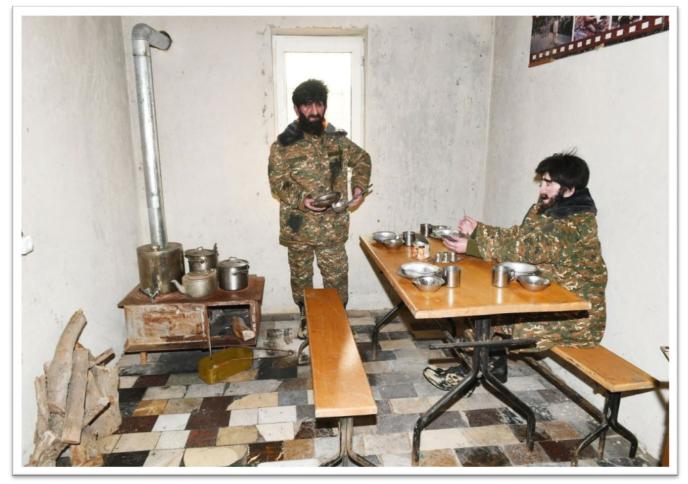




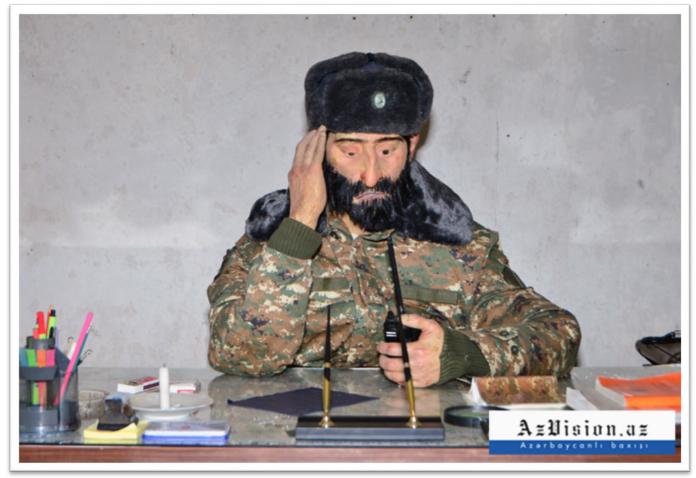














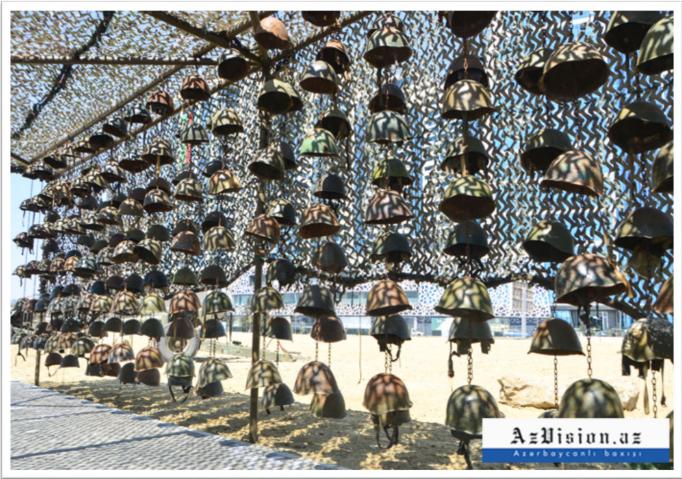
























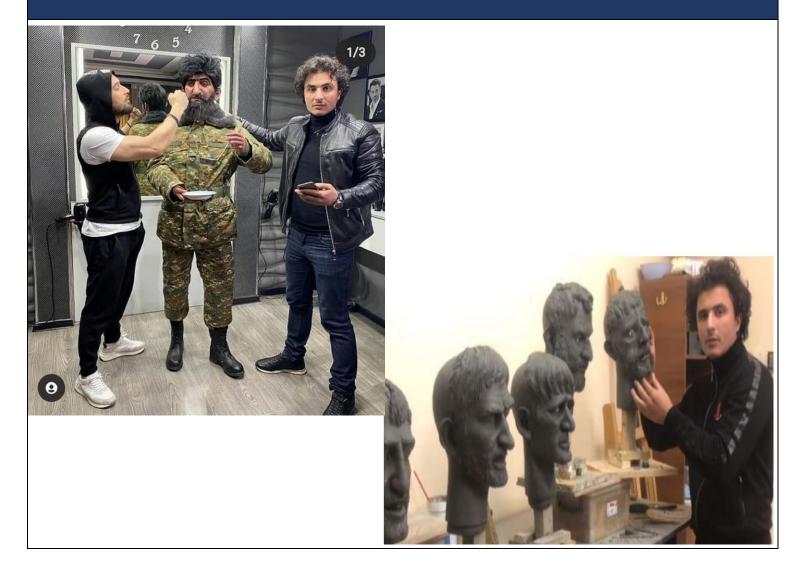
## V. PRAISING OF THE PARK IN AZERBAIJANI SOCIAL MEDIA

A question asked by a journalist: Did you create Armenian images based on any examples or is it a product of your fantasies?

The answer of creators of Armenian wax figures.

R. Maharramov: "I researched facts about Armenians in the media. Of course, this is a product of my ideas, and not images of any specific people."

K. 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 features." <sup>21</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup>https://zartonkmedia.com/2021/04/14/creators-of-armenian-wax-figures-we-tried-to-create-the-ugliest-images/?fbclid=IwAR0nnfczWCDJol-MvKIf lTtOoROO4EwRjSSsUoDo7iSg88OOzD5X4U-J2w

The Trophy park: A scene from the battle. Vazgens were tied up like a dog so that they would not escape.



**Aynur** @Aynur04907391 · Apr 12

Hərbi qənimətlər parkı: Döyüşdən səhnə. Vazgenləri qaçmamaq üçün it kimi bağlayıblar. #Azerbaijan #Azərbaycan #Karabakh #BirMilletİkiDevlet



Evident instances of mockery, insult and hate speech towards the wax figures of the Armenian military servicemen (video)<sup>22</sup>.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Atp94-8kDus</u>

### Mr. President, please put the model of this comrade in the Trophy park.



iska @ismayilzade85 · Apr 13

Cənab Prezident, xahiş edirəm bu yoldaşın da modelini **Hərbi Qənimətlər** Parkında qoyasınız @azpresident

#HərbiQənimətlərParkı



0

29

 $\bigcirc$ 

202

1

Baku Trophy park.12.04. I would like to congratulate the people who created these models and worked hard. All the traits of the vile, the shameless, the immoral, the traitors, the cunning, the executioners were accurately depicted.



Kifayet Gence. © @Kifa... · Apr 14 ••• Bakı Hərbi Qənimətlər Parkı.12.04. ilk öncə bu maketləri ərsəyə gətirən, əməyi keçən insanlara əllərinə sağlıq deyirəm.Namərdlərin, şərəfsizlərin,qeyrətsizlərin,xainlərin, hiyləgərlərin,cəlladların bütün cizgilərini tam dürüstlüklə yerində yaradıblar!)) #KarabakhisAzerbaijan



Baku Trophy Park. Friends, let me see how big the shameless eyes are on these models. Long live the creators! They seem to be afraid of a drone coming. In the case of the second model, it is the right word of our Mr. President. "Why are you hiding here and there like a rat?"



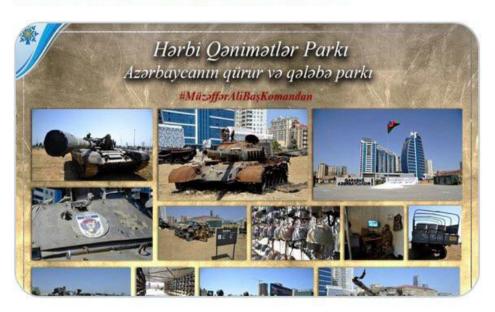
### The Trophy park is a lesson for revanchists, another "Iron Fist" warning.

Chairman of the Nizami district organization of the New Azerbaijan Party Deputy of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan



Sadagat Valiyeva @SadagatV... · 12h · · · · Hərbi Qənimətlər Parkı revanşistlər üçün ibrət dərsi, növbəti "Dəmir yumruq" xəbərdarlığıdır

facebook.com/DeputyVeliyeva...











The ammunition park is not just a park. This place is a symbol that forms the mindset and spirit of the victorious people and will be of exceptional importance in the upbringing of the victorious young generation.



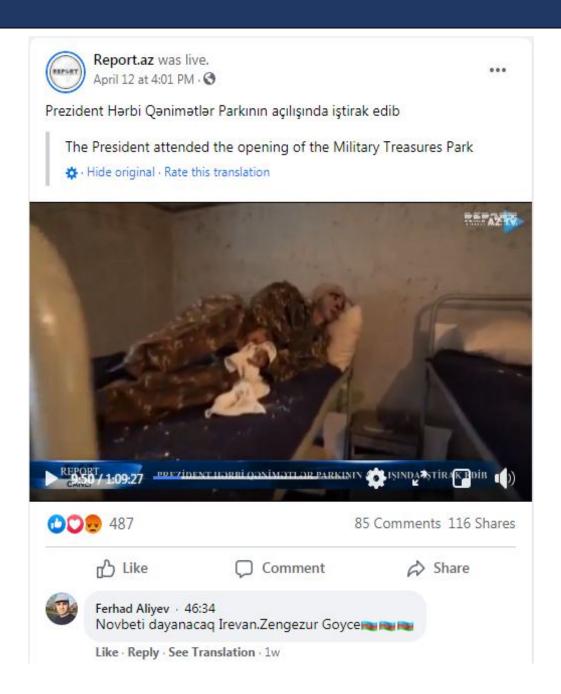


Hərbi qənimətlər parkı sadəcə park deyil. Bu məkan qalib xalq təfəkkürü və ruhunu formalaşdıran, qalib gənc nəslin yetişdirilməsində müstəsna əhəmiyyət daşıyacaq bir simvoldur Tomorrow, the most bomb park of Azerbaijan, the Trophy Park, was inaugurated. It is very well organized.

Super. I've been waiting for a long time. Will it be open every day?

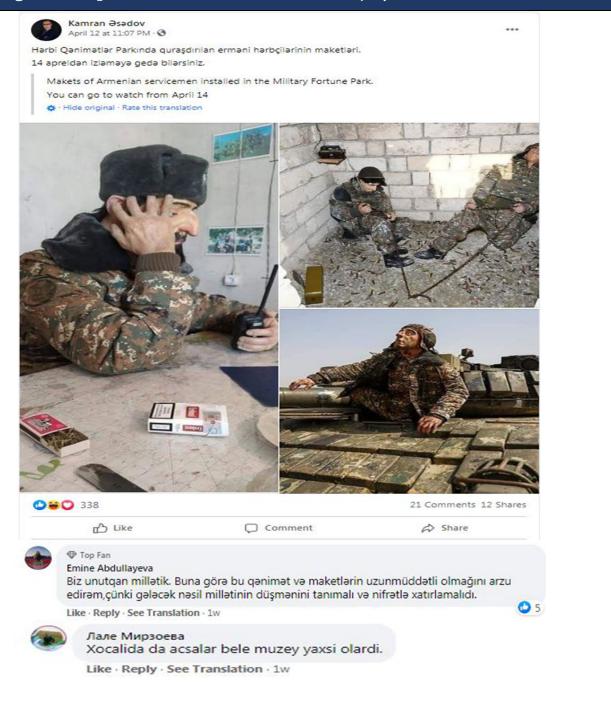


### Erevan, Zangezur, Goycha (Sevan) will be the next stop.



We are a forgetful nation. Therefore, I want the display of these spoils and models to be long-lasting, because the future generation must recognize the enemy of the nation and remember it with hatred.

It would be good to open a similar museum in Khojaly.



We crushed thoughts like "Democracy, West" with an "iron fist", crushing their heads, crushing them in the war on our own. That is why preach with your heads held high!



etdik, öz gücümüzlə! Ona görə təbliğ edin, başınızı dik

tutaraq! #KarabakhisAzerbaijan #DüşmənəGözDağı #DəmirYumruq

Translate Tweet



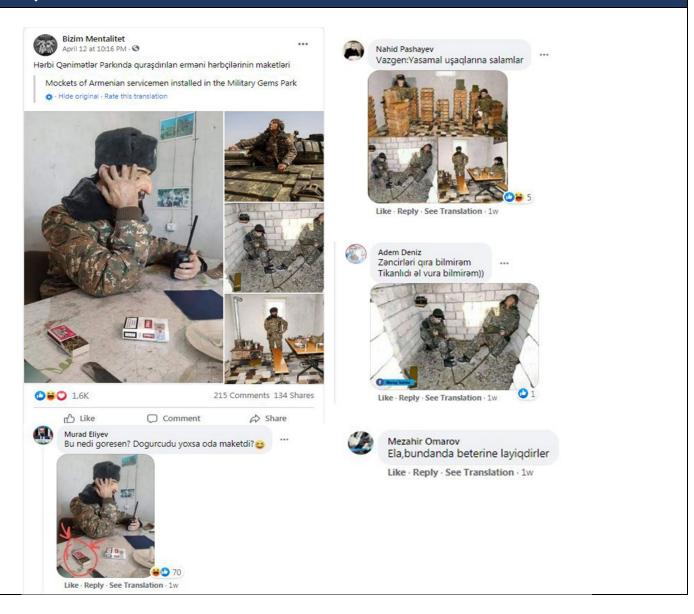
2:01 PM · Apr 13, 2021 · Twitter Web App



Head of the Youth Affairs Department of the Central Office of the New Azerbaijan

I wonder what is this? Is it true or is it a mannequin? Vazgen, greetings to Yasamal boys.

I can not break the chains. It's prickly, I can not touch. Great, they deserve worse than this.



"Very nice, very nice."

"Creating such a park is a great step."

"Very beautiful, let everyone see the power of our army."

