

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

On April 2, 2016 Armenia targeting civilians densely residing in the territories adjacent to the frontline area opened intensive heavy weapons fire at the positions of Azerbaijan's armed forces along the line of contact. As a result of artillery attacks of Armenian armed forces a number of civilians were killed and seriously wounded. Substantial damages were also inflicted upon the private and public properties.

The armed forces of Azerbaijan have taken the necessary counter measures within its internationally recognized borders to ensure the safety of civilian population, to stop the provocations of Armenia and to deter it from further acts of aggression. Currently, the situation remains tense. Shelling of Azerbaijan's positions along the contact line with heavy weapons, including with artillery continues.

Armenia in an attempt to reinforce its heavy artillery in the occupied territories deploys additional rocket and artillery forces and its military helicopters conduct intensive shuttle flights between occupied territories and Armenia.

Over the past years such violations and armed provocations of Armenia by attacking and killing Azerbaijani military personnel as well as civilians with the use of mortars and large-caliber machine guns and artillery have become more frequent and violent.

Armenia's desperate attempts to blame Azerbaijan for the escalation of the situation in the frontline aimed at misleading its own people and the wider international community.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly brought to the attention of the international community that the illegal presence of Armenian armed forces in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan remains a main cause for the escalation of situation and continues to pose threat to the regional peace and stability. Armenia, by consistent provocations and escalation of the situation, strengthening of its military build-up in the occupied territories, illegally changing the demographic, cultural and physical character of the seized lands, engaging in unlawful economic and other activities, including transfer of Armenian population into these territories pursues an apparent goal of annexation of Azerbaijan's territories and consolidating the status-quo, which is unacceptable and unsustainable as it was also stated by the Heads of States of OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs. It is Armenia that also blocks all initiatives of OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, including the recent proposals of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to derail the negotiation process. It once again proves that the official Yerevan is not genuinely interested in seeking a political settlement of the armed conflict.

The fundamental basis for the settlement of the conflict is laid down in the United Nations Security Council resolutions 822(1993), 853(1993), 874(1993) and 884(1993) and the U.N. General Assembly resolution 62/243 (2008), which condemn the use of force against Azerbaijan and occupation of its territories and reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its internationally recognized borders. In those resolutions, the United Nations reaffirmed that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan and demanded immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The military occupation of the territory of Azerbaijan does not represent a solution and

will never produce a political outcome desired by Armenia. The sooner Armenia reconciles with this reality, the earlier the conflict will be resolved and the countries and peoples in the region will benefit from the prospects of cooperation and economic development.

Azerbaijan calls the international community to demand from Armenia to cease the illegal occupation of Azerbaijan's territories, to withdraw its troops from all seized lands and to engage constructively in the conflict settlement process in accordance with the requirements of relevant resolutions of the UNSC and the norms and principles of international law.

Hikmat Hajiyev, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
02/04/2016

As reported by the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan, over the night of April 2, Armenian side by using heavy weapons fired the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan and conducted sabotage and attacks along the line of contact. Armenian armed forces also shelled densely populated areas in the vicinity of the contact line. As a result of irresponsible deliberate actions of Armenia there is information about killed and injured civilians. Serious damage was also inflicted upon the private properties.

Armenia's actions of shelling civilian objects in flagrant violation of its obligations under the international humanitarian law have to be strongly condemned by the international community.

All responsibility lies on Armenia as a state which conducted occupation and aggression.

The actions of Armenian armed forces to escalate the situation are coinciding with the occupation of Kalbajar region of Azerbaijan on April 2, 1993. The UN Security Council has adopted resolution 822 (1993) in regards with the occupation of Kalbajar.

The UNSC Resolutions 822(1993), 853(1993), 874(1993) and 884(1993) demand complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan. However, Armenia continues occupation of Azerbaijan's territories, its deliberate actions to escalate the situation and to target the civilians.

Azerbaijan has repeatedly stated that the illegal presence of Armenian troops in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan remains a major obstacle in resolution of the conflict and causes for the escalation of the situation and occurrence of incidents.

In order to achieve progress in the resolution of the conflict and to ensure the lasting peace in the region the international community, first and foremost, has to demand firmly from the official Yerevan to withdraw its armed forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan in accordance with the relevant resolutions of UNSC.

The Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of
the Republic of Azerbaijan

Joint Press Release

In the recent days by flagrantly violating the ceasefire regime and the requirements of international law, the Armenian armed forces have set to fire with large-caliber weapons, mortars, grenade launchers and artillery towards the frontline position of Azerbaijan as well as the non-residential areas and civilian facilities away from the contact line.

As the result of recent provocative and subversive acts which took place on April 2, attempts to murder and intentional destruction of citizens private property in large amounts, the murder civilian population with the intention of ethnic hatred cases were recorded. 2 civilians lost their lives while 10 persons sustained various wounds. The citizens faced large amounts of financial loss and received serious mental harm. One primary school, numerous houses, facilities and manufacturing plants were shot by artillery and many vehicles and high voltage power lines were damaged.

On the same day at 08:00 one of the missiles launched in direction of Qaraghaci village of Tartar region made an impact on the vehicle, model "VAZ 2107" driven by the settler Rahimov Jalal Saday which resulted in the death by blood loss of the passenger Rahimov Orkhan Valeh born 1993, who also was Qaraghaci village settler, from loss of both legs and various shrapnel wounds. The driver of the vehicle Jalal Rahimov and Ahmadov Ramin Rafiq, born 1990, who was nearby the vehicle during the impact received numerous shrapnel wounds.

In addition, on the same day at 12:00 as the result of Armenian side's artillery shots one of the missiles impacted the house of Ahmadov Isa Ali, located in the same village. As a result I.Ahmadov was checked in at the Barda Central region hospital with numerous shrapnel wound all over his body.

At 19:20 one of the missiles launched in direction of Shikharkh village made an impact on the vehicle, model "Niva-2121" driven by the settler Aliyev Sadig Natig, born 1987. At the result the passenger of the vehicle Asadli Farman Elchin,

born 1992, passed away from blood loss caused by the numerous shrapnel wounds. Driver and the other passenger Rahimov Mubariz Vagif, born 1982 received numerous shrapnel wounds.

At 20:00 Aghdam region, Efetli village settler Huseynov Jumshud Islam, born 1953, was wounded on his back by the result of an explosion near his house caused by missile shot from a cannon by Armenian armed forces. He was immediately checked in to hospital.

In the time lapse of 21:00 as the result of enemy artillery shots in the direction of Seydimli village one of the missiles made an impact on the house of the village settler Valiyev Vahid Vali, born 1951 wounding him and his grandson Sanan Valizade born 2003, very badly.

On 2nd of April the inhabitant of the Garaguchag village of Goranboy region Ibrahimov Abdulazim Mursal, born 1938 and Allahverdiyev Abbas Shiraslan, born 1974, inhabitant of Tapgaragoyunlu village were badly wounded as the result of missiles launched by the Armenian side.

One of the missiles launched by the Armenian Armed Forces completely destroyed the house of Terter city settler Kruglova Olga Ivanova born 1949.

In regards with all the cases mentioned above, criminal cases were filed in accordance with the relevant Articles of the Criminal Code and necessary investigations are being carried out.

The tasks put forward by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev at the meeting of the Security Council to protect the public order in combat areas, to ensure the safety of civilians is carried out accordingly by the relevant law enforcement bodies and the operational situation is held under control.

In the recent days by violating the ceasefire and the international law, the Armenian Armed Forces were firing large-caliber weapons, mine and grandee launchers and artillery missiles in the direction of Azerbaijan frontline as well as non-residential areas and civilian facilities far from the contact line.

As the result of recent provocative and subversive act which took place on 2nd of April, attempts to murder and intentional destruction of citizens personal property in large amounts, murder civilian population with the intention of ethnic hatred cases were recorded. 2 civilians lost their lives while 10 people received various wounds. The citizens faced large amounts of financial loss and received serious mental harm. One primary school, numerous houses, facilities and manufacturing plants were shot by enemy artillery and many vehicles and high voltage power lines were damaged.

Aghdam

On the 2nd of April 2016, at 08:00 PM, as a result of the explosion of a cannon-ball fired by the Armenian armed forces which was dropped near the house of Huseynov Jumshud Islam born in 1953, living in Afatli village of Aghdam region, his spine got injured.

Jumshud Huseynov was immediately taken to the military hospital number 056 locating in Sarijali village of Aghjabedi district and thanks to doctors' good medical care; his condition is satisfactory at present.

In connection of the fact that Huseynov Jumshud Islam got injured, according to the Article 29,120.2.12 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a criminal case has been launched.

On the 2nd of April 2016, starting from 03:00 AM, as a result of intensive shelling from the large-caliber weapons, artillery and grenade launchers by the Armenian armed forces along the frontline of the occupied territories of Aghdam district, the roofs of the cow stable of the farm belonging to Khalilov Elshad Tosu living in Garadaghli village of Aghdam region were destroyed and a horned cattle which was in the stable was slaughtered.

In connection of that fact, according to the Article 29,120.2.12 and 186.2.2 of the Criminal Code, a criminal case has been launched.

On the 2nd of April 2016, starting from 03:00 AM, as a result of intensive shelling from the large-caliber weapons, artillery and grenade launchers by the Armenian armed forces along the frontline of the occupied territories of Aghdam district, the cow stable of the farm belonging to Rahimov Ikhtiyar Muhammed living in Evoghlu village of Aghdam region was destroyed.

As the crime of intentionally destruction of and damage to property by exploding is seen in the occurred incident, in connection of the fact, according to the Article 186.2.2 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a criminal case must be launched and the conduction of preliminary investigation on that case must be charged on Najafov Shamil Rovshan, police senior lieutenant and the investigator of the investigation group of the Aghdam district police department.

In connection of that fact, according to the Article 29,120.2.12 and 186.2.2 of the Criminal Code, a criminal case has been launched.

On the 2nd of April 2016, starting from 03:00 as a result of intensive shelling from the large-caliber weapons, artillery and grenade launchers by the Armenian armed forces along the frontline of the occupied territories of Aghdam district, in the explosion of a cannon-ball dropped on the roof of the Sarijali village secondary school of Aghdam district, the roof of the building was collapsed, the shell splinters hit the side of the car «VAZ-2107» with plate number 14-BD-146 belonging to Khalilov Nizami Hatem living in Baharli village of Aghdam region which was passing by that area through the asphalt road at that moment and damaged the car.

In connection of that fact, according to the Article 29,120.2.12 and 186.2.2 of the Criminal Code, a criminal case has been launched.

On the 2nd of April 2016, starting from 03:00 as a result of intensive shelling from the large-caliber weapons, artillery and grenade launchers by the Armenian armed forces along the frontline of the occupied territories of Aghdam district, a cannon-ball was dropped into the cow stable locating in the yard of Naibov Shirazi Tofiq living in Banovshalar village of Aghdam region, as the result some short-horned domestic animals-40 sheep belonging to him were slaughtered.

In connection of that fact, according to the Article 29, 120.2.12 and 186.2.2 of the Criminal Code, a criminal case has been launched.

On the 2nd of April 2016, starting from 03:00 as a result of intensive shelling from the large-caliber weapons, artillery and grenade launchers by the Armenian armed forces along the frontline of the occupied territories of Aghdam district, a cannon-ball was dropped in the yard of Shukurov Mukhtar Mehdigulu living in the house 199 in Baharli village of Aghdam region, as the result the vintage attic and iron fence of the yard were destroyed.

In connection of that fact, according to the Article 29,120.2.12 and 186.2.2 of the Criminal Code, a criminal case has been launched.

Goranboy

On the night of April 1-2, 2016, frontier positions of Goranboy district and several settlements densely populated with civilians close to the line of contact, including Tap-Garagoyunlu village of Goranboy district were under intensive fire by Armenian military forces with extensive dangerous methods using large-calibre weapons, mortars, grenade-launchers and artillery (units). As a result on April 3, 2016, separate criminal cases launched by the prosecutor's office of Goranboy district under the articles of 29, 120.2.12, 186.2.2 for (deliberately of first-degree) attempted murder and (intentional) destruction of properties of residents Allahverdiyev Abbas Shiraslan, Mustafayev Gulalem Fakhraddin, Teymurov Jeyhun Baylar, Mustafayev Zabit Mustafa, Yagubov Rahman Bahman and their families by Armenian armed forces with intention of national (ethnic) hostility.

On 2nd of April the inhabitant of the Garaguchag village of Goranboy region Ibrahimov Abdulazim Mursal, born 1938 and Allahverdiyev Abbas Shiraslan, born 1974, inhabitant of Tapgaragoyunlu village were badly wounded as the result of missiles launched by the enemy.

Tertter

On the same day at 08:00 one of the missiles launched in direction of Qaraghaci village of Tartar region made an impact on the vehicle, model "VAZ 2107" driven by the settler Rahimov Jalal Saday which resulted in the death by blood loss of the passenger Rahimov Orkhan Valeh born 1993, who also was Qaraghaci village settler, from loss of

both legs and various shrapnel wounds. The driver of the vehicle Jalal Rahimov and Ahmadov Ramin Rafiq, born 1990, who was nearby the vehicle during the impact received numerous shrapnel wounds.

In addition, on the same day at 12:00 as the result of enemy artillery shots one of the missiles impacted the house of Ahmadov Isa Ali, located in the same village. As a result I.Ahmadov was checked in at the Barda Central region hospital with numerous shrapnel wound all over his body.

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In the time lapse of 21:00 as the result of enemy artillery shots in the direction of Seydimli village one of the missiles made an impact on the house of the village settler Valiyev Vahid Vali, born 1951 wounding him and his grandson Sanan Valizade born 2003, very badly.

One of the missiles launched by the Armenian Armed Forces completely destroyed the house of Terter city settler Kruglova Olga Ivanova born 1949.

In regards with all the cases mention above, criminal cases were opened in accordance with the relevant Articles of the Criminal Code and necessary investigations and operational measures are carried out.

The tasks put forward by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev at the meeting of the Security Council to protect the public order in combat areas, to ensure the safety of civilians is carried out accordingly by the relevant law enforcement bodies and the operation is held under control.