

AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI VƏKİLLƏR KOLLEGİYASININ RƏYASƏT HEYƏTİ

BOARD OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Ceyhun Hacıbəyli küç. 100, AZ1007, Bakı, Azərbaycan. Tel: 012 594 14 95, E-mail: office@barassociation.az

"01" December 2020

№ 1124

THE CALL OF THE AZERBAIJANI
BAR ASSOCIATION TO ITS
INTERNATIONAL COLLEAGUES



Dear Colleagues,

Shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union in late 1991 and the recognition of the independence of Armenia and Azerbaijan in the international arena, military operations and attacks by Armenia against Azerbaijan intensified. Armenia started a war against Azerbaijan, occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent regions by force, expelled up to a million people from their ancestral lands¹, pursued a policy of ethnic cleansing in the occupied territories, committed other serious crimes during the conflict and established a separatist organization in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Over the past 27 years, the ceasefire has been repeatedly violated by the Armenian armed forces, and dozens of civilians and children, including a two-year-old toddler, have been killed as a result of the shots fired from the occupied territories².

After Nikol Pashinyan became a prime minister, Armenia became more aggressive in resolving the conflict; statements such as "Nagorno-Karabakh is Armenia", organisation and participation in military exercises in Nagorno-Karabakh and other occupied territories by him and his wife have dealt a serious blow to the negotiation process³.

¹ <u>I-42864.pdf (anl.az)</u>

² https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-40504373

³ https://jam-news.net/nagorno-karabakh-protest-inauguration-president-armenian-leadership/

On September 27, 2020, the Armenian armed forces violated the ceasefire and tried to occupy new territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as a result of which military clashes broke out between the armed forces of the two countries. With the signing of a tripartite statement⁴ between the parties to the conflict and the Russian Federation on November 10, 2020, the military operations between the parties ended in a victory for the Azerbaijani Army.

I would also like to inform you that the Armenian nationalists, who have historically dreamed of realizing territorial claims against neighbouring countries and creating a "Greater Armenia", have pursued a policy of genocide and terrorism against humanity and committed hideous crimes. They committed not only crimes against people and crimes of special cruelty, but also a "genocide" against ancient and historical monuments.

The museums of the region looted by the Armenian invaders collected valuable items related to the history and the culture of the Azerbaijani people, works of art and culture, world-famous carpets, memorabilia of prominent Azerbaijani personalities and other treasured materials. Cultural objects that make up the cultural heritage of Azerbaijan in the occupied territories were destroyed with special cruelty. 12 museums, 6 art galleries, 9 palaces of historical significance were looted and burned in the occupied territories. 40,000 museum treasures and exhibits of unique historical significance were looted. The remaining 152 places of worship, temples, as well as 62 mosques in the occupied territories became victims of Armenian aggression. 4.6 million books and unprecedented manuscripts were destroyed in 927 libraries which were razed and burned⁵ 6.

The Armenization of some architectural monuments in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan and the vandalism of others is a matter of serious concern. As a result of these illegal actions of Armenia, the Islamic religious monuments, gardens, parks and architectural ensembles left in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan have long been destroyed by the Armenians and become history. Islamic religious monuments, i.e. mosques, tombs, shrines and other places of worship were the most destroyed and ruined by the Armenians. One of the reasons for the particularly ruthless destruction of historical Islamic monuments in the occupied territories is the presence of inscriptions with Muslim epigraphy on them. That is because it is impossible to Armenize these monuments and present them as non-Azerbaijani relics. Thus, 63 of the 67 mosques officially operating in Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas were completely and 4 were partially destroyed. Only as a result of pressure from international organizations, the walls of the Aghdam Juma Mosque, Ashagi Govhar Agha, Yukhari Govhar Agha and Saatli mosques in Shusha were preserved.

Demonstrating another example of vandalism and immorality, Armenians exhibited their hatred and insults against Azerbaijanis and the Islamic world in general by keeping pets, including pigs, inside mosques in Agdam, Zangilan and Gubadli⁸.

President Ilham Aliyev mentioned this issue in an interview with France 24 television channel, saying that "they keep pigs there and thus insult the feelings of not only us, but all Muslims." ⁹.

⁴ https://president.az/articles/45924

⁵ Damage to cultural heritage (mfa.gov.az)

⁶ https://www.armenianvandalism.az/az_general.html

⁷https://azertag.az/xeber/Dunya ictimaiyyeti Ermenistanin tarixi ve dini abidelerimizin mehvine yonelmis terror siyasetini keskin sekilde pislem elidir-1651089

⁸ http://azeridaily.com/reality/59123

⁹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUhXEJ0RLu4

The protection of cultural property during wartime is mainly regulated by a special international agreement, the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, to which more than 60 countries are party. Destruction and intentional damage of our historical and cultural monuments by the Armenian occupiers in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan is a violation of this Convention, as well as the 1992 European Convention for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage¹⁰ and to the 1972 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage¹¹.

Acts of vandalism are unequivocally prohibited under international law and conventions. The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, adopted in The Hague in 1954, is the first international treaty on the protection of cultural property during wartime. Under this Convention, the attacking party has an obligation not only to respect and protect cultural property, but also to take constructive steps to prevent the theft of such property in the occupied territories. It should be noted that Armenia's acts of vandalism during the armed conflict are a gross violation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of the Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the Second Protocol annexed to this convention in 1999. Article 9¹² of this Protocol obliges the occupying party to prevent trade of cultural property and antiques in the occupied territories, to prevent their smuggling, and to prohibit the systematic or intentional alteration of cultural, historical, as well as scientific monuments and features. 13 The Convention binds parties with the protection and defense of movable and immovable cultural values, such as architecture, art, historical monuments, archeological excavations, located in the territory of each state and in the territory of the opponent during military conflicts. Executive regulation defining the rules of application of the Convention and a protocol prohibiting the exportation of cultural values from the occupied territories was adopted for the Hague Convention.

The member states of the Convention agree to "prohibit, prevent and, if necessary, put an end to acts of vandalism against cultural property, theft, robbery and misappropriation of cultural property¹⁴."

The Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954, adopted in 1999, further expanded the scope of protection of cultural property during armed conflicts. In particular, in the context of the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenia, Article 9 of the Protocol prohibits the occupying party from illegal trade in cultural property, any archeological excavations, their removal, alteration or destruction of cultural, historical and scientific evidence, as well as the prevention of cultural property "in relation to the occupied territories".

Simultaneously, according to the established provisions of the Paris Convention of 1970 on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and the 1995 Convention on the Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, illegal acts against cultural property and cultural heritage during armed conflicts are considered a war crime under international criminal law. As a member of international institutions, Armenia is responsible for acts of vandalism against the religious and cultural heritage of Azerbaijan in the occupied territories.

I would like to note that in addition to the "terror" committed by Armenians against our cultural monuments, they also committed environmental terrorism in the territories of

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL ID=15207&URL DO=DO TOPIC&URL SECTION=201.html

¹⁰ https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/rms/090000168007bd25

¹¹ https://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/

¹³ http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13637&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

¹⁴ http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13637&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Azerbaijan. Thus, according to the tripartite statement signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia on November 10, the Armenians undertook to return the Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachin regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan¹⁵.

Armenians who settled illegally in Aghdam set shops and houses on fire as they left¹⁶ ¹⁷. By this, they have once again proved their barbarism.

Furthermore, while Azerbaijan extended the deadline for the withdrawal of Armenians from the Kalbajar region, which was supposed to be November 15, by 10 days, the Armenians committed ecological terror by burning houses and forests here as well.¹⁸ ¹⁹ ²⁰ ²¹ This, in turn, contradicts to a number of UN conventions.



Smoke rises from a burning house as cars and trucks stuck in a huge traffic jam climbing along the road from Kalbajar leaving the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia. AP

Ecological terror': Azerbaijan delays takeover, Armenians torch homes²²

¹⁵ http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64384

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvI0mSLpzGI&feature=emb_title

¹⁷ Villagers burn Karabakh houses ahead of Azerbaijan takeover (opoyi.com)

¹⁸ Azerbaijan delays takeover, denounces fleeing Armenians (smh.com.au)

¹⁹ Azerbaijan delays takeover of Nagorno-Karabakh, denounces fleeing Armenians for burning houses | FR24 News English

²⁰ https://apnews.com/article/azerbaijan-armenia-de83aa9dae982b8bda76a4c370d8af09

 $^{^{21} \}underline{\text{https://vestikavkaza.ru/analytics/armanskij-vandalizm-v-kelbadzarskom-rajone-azerbajdzana-porazil-mir.html} \\$

²² https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/ecological-terror-azerbaijan-delays-takeover-denounces-fleeing-armenians-20201116-p56eu6.html





Armenians cutting down trees in Gubadly and Kalbajar before leaving districts ²³



Smoke rises from a burning house in an area once occupied by Armenian forces, but soon to be turned over to Azerbaijan,... MORE (Dmitry Lovetsky/AP)

Armenians burn their homes rather than turn them over to Azerbaijan²⁴

One of the terms of the tripartite statement of November 10 is the return of Lachin region to the Republic of Azerbaijan on December 1.²⁵ ²⁶ However, the Armenians commit the same vandalism that they have committed in the territory of Kalbajar here as well. They burn down houses as they leave.

²³ https://www.facebook.com/Rezaphotojournalist/posts/210832143747093

 $^{^{24}\,\}underline{\text{https://www.chicagotribune.com/nation-world/ct-nw-armenia-azerbaijan-nagorno-karabakh-20201114-ol2ospj7ujgcliqnk5piihajca-story.html}$

²⁵ https://en.president.az/articles/45924

²⁶ http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64384





Lachin region on the eve of transfer to Azerbaijan²⁷²⁸

These actions of the Armenians are called "scorched earth" tactic²⁹. Scorched earth tactics have been widely used by invaders in world history, such as the Nazis during World War II. The Wehrmacht's order to burn all the villages to destroy them in order to deprive the enemy of the roof over their head is well known (Paul Karel. Eastern Front "Burnt Earth". P. 397 - Document 4).

Three "everything" policies are also recognized in history as scorched earth tactics. The three concepts of "everything", also called "Turning to Ashes", meant "kill everything", "burn everything", "rob everything". As a result of the "scorched land" policy of the Armenian fascists, the occupied Azerbaijani settlements were also turned into ruins and deserts. In this regard, it should be noted that the tactics of "scorched land" are explicitly prohibited under Article 54 of Protocol No. 1 of the Geneva Convention of 1977, and Article 55, in turn, prohibits causing harm to the environment.

Armenian vandalism and crimes do not end there. Historically, when the Armenians occupied the territories of Azerbaijan, they inflicted a bloody blow on the local population living here. The most horrible of these is the Khojaly genocide.^{30 31}

On February 26, 1992, Armenian military units committed an act of genocide in the city of Khojaly, with a population of 7,000. Only about 3,000 people remained here when Armenian troops attacked the city. Because of the blockade for more than 4 months during the siege, a large part of the population was forced to leave the city. During the Khojaly genocide, 613 people, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people were killed, 1,000 civilians of different ages became disabled from gunshot wounds. 8 families were completely destroyed, 25 children lost both parents and 130 lost one parent. On the night of the tragedy, 1,275 civilians were taken hostage, and the fate of 150 of them is still unknown. 32 33 34

²⁷ https://ria.ru/20201126/karabakh-1586398156.html

²⁸ https://ria.ru/20201126/karabakh-1586398156.html

²⁹ Villagers burn their houses in Nagorno-Karabakh ahead of Azerbaijan takeover | Al Arabiya English

https://www.hrw.org/reports/1993/WR93/Hsw-07.htm

³¹ https://jewishjournal.com/commentary/blogs/237407/arrest-former-armenian-president-kocharyan-khojaly-genocide/

https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/-khojaly-genocide-one-of-darkest-pages-in-20th-century-/1744271

³³ https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17179904

³⁴ Bloodshed in the Caucasus, "Human Rights Watch" (formerly "Helsinki Watch") report, September, 1992, pp. 19-24



Janice Hadlow's Late Show The expanding Saturday Two £6,000 scholarships Seven pages of jobs page 25

Matthew Engel: Nigel Mansell's perfect Sunday drive page 18

A. S. Byatt: literature and libraries page 23

Super salesman of the free market: Will Hutton tracks Jeffrey Sachs as he takes his gospel to Moscow page 21



Terrorists plan to blast Ulster on to election agenda

RA threat to step up **bombings**

rer standing on the platform at White Hart Lane station.

The head of Scotland Yard's callous act designed to kill".

Presbyt anti-terrorist squad, CommandThe warning, given in code to a page 5

Survivors tell of killings by Armenians in Azerbaijan enclave @karabaghtruths

New wounds . . . An Azeri refugee from the town of Khojali in Nagorno-Karabakh tears her face in grief. Her far killed in a slaughter which the survivors say was carried out by Armenians Reports, page 6.

Power leal' alk

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Car sales boost Austin and lottery on **Budget agenda**



innover their own government's involvement in the tilegal trade to finance guerrilla movements detablishing neighbouring states. In the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the state of the

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Los Angeles Times

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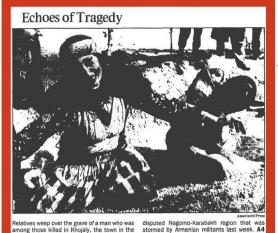
CIRCULATION: 1,242,864 DAILY / 1,576,425 SUNDAY

COLUMN ONE Vietnam's

Hold on **America**

■ Even after a generation. the emotional baggage of the war has not been set aside. The presidential race has released old demons.

var, you tell them to go After my experience, I o hate war. War settles



Algerian Court Outlaws Islamic Political Party

By KIM MURPHY TIMES STAFF WRITER

CAIRO—Algeria's experim with Islamic politics officially e ed Wednesday when an advanturative court banned the Isla Salvation Front, the first Mus fundamentalist political party e legalized in the Arab world.

The administrative tribunal Algiers accepted the new milita backed government's argum that the party had pursued "s

Kerrey Ready to End Campaign for White House

By JONATHAN PETERSON TIMES STAFF WRITER

Infertility Doctor Is Found Guilty of Fraud, Perjury

By MARLENE CIMONS

Tsongas-Clinton Rivalry Heads to

Duel in Florida

6 Drug Officers Partially Cleared

■ Scandal: Jury acquits 5 deputies, LAPD detective on 13 counts in corruption case. Jurors deadlock on other charges and more deliberations are ordered.

By VICTOR MERINA, TIMES STAFF WRITER

By VICTOR MERINA, THAN STAFF WHITE.

In a starting seback for government prosecutors, six Los Angeles County narcolics officers were acquitted Wednesday on 13 counts of civil rights and thet charges spawned by a federal corruption investigation. But the jurors told a federal judge that they remained hopeless-ly deadlocked on the remaining 14 counts against five sherriff a dequite and a Los Angeles police ming drug money, beating drug dealers and planting cocaine on suspects.

Water Flow to

State's Farmers

By GLENN F. BUNTING

Early Primaries Feature Candidate Role Reversals

By RONALD BROWNSTEIN

The Bar Association of the Republic of Azerbaijan appeals to foreign bar associations and legal societies, international organizations and embassies to condemn the criminal acts committed by the Armenian state.

Appendix: List of historical and cultural monuments located in the territories of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenians.

Sincerely,

Anar Baghirov, Ph.D.

Chairman

Appendix

Architectural monuments³⁵

Name of the monument	Date	Location
The tomb of Kutlu Musa oglu	1314	Aghdam district, Khachinderbatli village
Genceser monastery	1216-1238	Kalbajar district, Vangli village
Khudavang monastery	XIII century	Kalbajar district, Vangli village
Khudafar Bridge with 11 arches	XI—XII century	Jabrayil district, Gumlag village
Khudafar bridge with 15 arches	XIII century	Jabrayil district, Gumlag village
Shusha Historical- Architectural Reserve	XVIII-XIX centuries	Shusha city

Archaeological monuments³⁶

Name of the monument	Date	Location
Azykh cave	Paleolithic period	Khojavend district
Taglar cave	Paleolithic period	Khojavend district
Uzerliktepe residence	Bronze Age	On Aghdam-Agjabadi road, Rajab Gozalov Street
Khojaly mounds	Bronze-early Iron age	Khojaly city
Niftali mounds	Bronze age	Jabrayil district

³⁵ http://www.e-ganun.az/framework/2847 ³⁶ http://www.e-ganun.az/framework/2847