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Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:31 AM
To: Tavlarides, Mark <mtavlarides@bgrdc.com>
Subject: Armenia's Border Incursion Against Azerbaijan

Good morning,

On July 12th, the Armed Forces of Armenia launched a cross-border attack against Azerbaijan in the region of Tovuz, killing 3 and wounding 4 Azerbaijani servicemen. The situation remains tense as Armenia continues artillery fire on Azerbaijani civilian villages. During the continuing attacks on the night of July 13th, an Azerbaijani senior lieutenant was also killed by the Armenian Armed Forces.

Importantly, this attack occurred along the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the area where Azerbaijan does not conduct military operations and has for some time replaced its army with border guard units to deescalate potential tensions.

Mr. Hikmat Hajiyev, Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, issued statements on this violent incursion ([here](#) and [here](#)).

At a time when the international community, including Azerbaijan, is focused on addressing the challenge of COVID-19, Armenia's attack follows the pattern of inflammatory statements and actions by Armenian leaders:

- Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has repeatedly challenged the elements and fundamental principles of the OSCE Minsk Group-led peace process.
- The July 12th attack broke out two days after Armenia adopted its new National Security Strategy, which reiterated its policy of annexation and increasing tensions in the region.
- The artillery fire on July 12th followed the July 8th artillery subdivision exercises of the third army formation of Armenia that controls the Tovuz border section. The report on exercises by the Armenian Ministry of Defense ([here](#)) clarified how the control posts of the artillery brigades were set up and brought to combat readiness and how targets were specified. This is a clear indication of Armenia's deliberate preparations for the latest attacks.

Armenia, by launching an attack across international borders against a lightly armed border protection force, has proven the inter-state nature of the conflict, including Armenia's illegal occupation of

Azerbaijani territories. Armenia's continued illegal use of force remains both a major threat to regional peace and security and another blow to the negotiation process.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Mark

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