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**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 10:19 AM  
**To:** Tavlarides, Mark <[mtavlarides@bgrdc.com](mailto:mtavlarides@bgrdc.com)>  
**Subject:** Azerbaijan Update

Good morning,

I wanted to share a few more resources with you regarding the current situation between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

1. The United States-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce is hosting an online press briefing on the current escalation of the situation in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The briefing will take place tomorrow, **Wednesday, October 7 at 11:00 am EST**. Please RSVP to [events@usacc.org](mailto:events@usacc.org). An invitation with more information is attached.
2. The Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) published a piece titled "[Iran at Risk From Spillover of Armenia-Azerbaijan Clashes](#)." The author argued that Iran "may face the greatest risk" from the fighting than any other neighboring country because the war "has resulted in vocal domestic opposition" to Iran's support for Armenia. She noted, "The current protests demand that Tehran stop Russian convoys to supply Armenia via Iran, as confirmed by Iranian state television."
3. Catherine Norris-Trent, a senior reporter for France24, [reported](#) from Barda, a town in Azerbaijan hit by an Armenian rocket attack. She said, "Another rocket attack in Azerbaijan, this time in Barda around 20km away from the frontline of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. Heavy shelling continues in the area."
4. The National Interest published a piece titled "[Can America Stop a Wider War Between Armenia and Azerbaijan?](#)" The author noted Armenia's shift to a revisionist approach to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and negotiations since the 2018 Velvet Revolution. He further wrote, "*The fact that Russia and Iran have cooperated in supplying Armenia with weaponry in the midst of the fighting should also give western leaders pause about the structure of power relationships in the region, and the interest of those powers in destabilizing the east-west corridor connecting Europe with Central Asia.*"
5. The National Interest published another piece titled "[Armenia Needs to Sue for Peace Now: The Alternative is Even Worse](#)." The author wrote, "*There is no serious dispute that these lands are occupied illegally and that they need to be returned: four UN Security Council resolutions and various OSCE documents directly related to the conflict make this clear, as do the formal positions of all the major powers, not to mention the rest of the world.*" He added that "*irrespective of ancient grievances, a convoluted historical record, and whatever other vagarious claims have been put forward, the situation is, at the end of the day, unambiguous: the outcome to the conflict requires the end of Yerevan's military occupation of these lands and the return of hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijani civilians to their homes.*"

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Mark

Mark J. Tavlarides  
*Principal, International*  
BGR Government Affairs, LLC

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## **ONLINE PRESS BRIEFING ON THE SITUATION IN THE ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN CONFLICT ZONE**

The United States-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce is cordially inviting you to an online press briefing on the current escalation of the situation in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On September 27, 2020, the fragile ceasefire regime along the Line of Contact of armed forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan was violated with military attacks against Azerbaijani positions, as well as residential areas located in the vicinity of the LoC. Targeted artillery fires against Azerbaijani civilian settlements have so far claimed 24 innocent lives, injured 121 civilians, and caused significant damage to civilian infrastructure. In the first days of attacks, in Naftalan alone, five members of a family were killed. Two of them were 13- and 14-years old minors.

Armenia is now aggressively expanding the geography of military attacks beyond the conflict zone, targeting Azerbaijani towns and settlements, as well as critical infrastructure in hundred miles away from the line of contact. On October 4 – the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the escalation, Armenia launched mid-range and cluster missiles, hitting Ganja (26 miles), Mingachevir (33 miles) and Khizi (125 miles) towns in Azerbaijan. Ganja, the second-largest city in Azerbaijan with half a million residents, is key to European energy security as the major oil and gas pipelines from the Caspian Sea to Europe are running through this city.



**Elin Suleymanov**

Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the United States



**Richard Morningstar**

Former Ambassador of the United States to the  
Republic of Azerbaijan

### **WHERE & WHEN?**

WEBEX

Wednesday | October 7 | 11 a.m. EST

### **REGISTRATION**

Please confirm your attendance at [events@usacc.org](mailto:events@usacc.org)