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## **FACT SHEET**

### **ARMENIA'S LATEST ATTACKS ON AZERBAIJAN**

#### *Armenia Escalates Violence, Targets Civilians & Key Infrastructure*

- **Armenia's forces continue to shell populated residential areas of Azerbaijan grossly violating its obligations under international humanitarian law.** On October 10, 2020, Armenian forces fired on several regions of Azerbaijan immediately after the humanitarian ceasefire was established to exchange prisoners of war and bodies of the dead. Less than 24 hours later, Armenian forces launched a missile attack on Ganja that leveled an apartment building.<sup>1</sup> The attack on Ganja, Azerbaijan's second-largest city located 40 km away from military operations, reportedly killed 9 civilians and wounded more than 30 others.<sup>2</sup>
- **Over the last two weeks, 41 Azerbaijani civilians have been killed and over 200 people wounded.**<sup>3</sup> On October 4, 2020 Armenia ramped up the scale and intensity of its attacks by firing missiles at residential areas deep inside Azerbaijan. It fired at least four Smerch multiple-launch rocket systems at the second largest city of Azerbaijan – Ganja, subjected Mingachevir<sup>4</sup>, Terter and Horadiz<sup>5</sup> regions to rocket fire. Armenia also fired two 300-km-range missiles at Khizi/Absheron region which includes the capital Baku. Extensive damage has been inflicted on many homes and other civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools.<sup>6</sup>
- **Armenian forces are also targeting energy infrastructure critical to American allies.** Armenia's military recently used internationally prohibited cluster munitions to hit the strategic Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline located nearly 50 kilometers away from the area of military operations.<sup>7</sup>
- Azerbaijan has stated that it has no military objectives on the territory of Armenia and that **all operations are taking place within the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan.**
- **Armenian leaders appear to be trying to provoke an Azerbaijani response against the territory of the Republic of Armenia hoping to invoke treaty obligations of Russia within the Collective Security Treaty Organization.** These actions display Armenia's intent to expand the scope of this conflict by dragging in Russia directly into this confrontation. **Prime**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8828119/Heavy-shelling-dash-hopes-Russian-backed-ceasefire-Armenia-Azerbaijan.html>;

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/azerbaijan-armenia-report-shelling-of-cities-despite-truce/2020/10/11/f620184e-0bb2-11eb-b404-8d1e675ec701\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/azerbaijan-armenia-report-shelling-of-cities-despite-truce/2020/10/11/f620184e-0bb2-11eb-b404-8d1e675ec701_story.html)

<sup>3</sup> <https://genprosecutor.gov.az/az/post/2989#gallery>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2020-10-04/azerbaijan-says-armenia-launched-missile-attack-against-azeri-city-of-mingachevir>

<sup>5</sup> <https://mfa.gov.az/en/news/6920/view>

<sup>6</sup> <https://photo.azertag.az/post/-qurbanovlar-ailesi-ermeni-texribatinin-qurbani-oldu-aile-uzvlerinden-ikisi-mektebli-idi--dunya-ermeni-fasizmini-gorsun-foto--22842>; <https://photo.azertag.az/post/ermenistanin-dinc-ehaliye-xain-hucumlari-terterlileri-qorxutmur--azertacin-terterden-fotoreportaji-22830>; <https://photo.azertag.az/post/ermenistan-fasizminin-eybecer-sifeti-dusmen-mulki-sexsleri-hedefe-almagda-davam-edir-%E2%80%93-azertac-hadise-yerinden-xeber-verir--22836>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.caspianpolicy.org/short-lived-ceasefire-in-karabakh-conflict-rockets-fired-at-ganja-and-other-civilian-centers/>

**Minister Nikol Pashinyan raised the possibility of inviting Russian peacekeepers in a recent interview.<sup>8</sup>**

- The Nagorno-Karabakh region and surrounding districts are not a "disputed territory" but an internationally recognized part of the Republic of Azerbaijan. **In 1993, The U.N. adopted four security resolutions calling for Armenian troops to leave the occupied territories.<sup>9</sup>**
- On September 27, 2020 the armed forces of Armenia escalated the violence, using large-caliber weapons, mortar launchers and artillery, by launching attacks against positions of Azerbaijan causing human casualties and raising the tensions to a new dangerous level.<sup>10</sup>
- The latest provocation by Armenia follows the 12-14 July attacks against Azerbaijan across the international border in the Tovuz region, where Azerbaijan lost military servicemen, including one general, and a 76-year-old civilian.<sup>11</sup> Importantly, the area of the July attacks in Tovuz is in the vicinity of regional oil and gas pipelines, a vital part of Europe's energy security.<sup>12</sup> Similarly, the transportation infrastructure and the air corridor connecting Europe and Asia, including NATO transit to Afghanistan, pass through the same territory.
- The ongoing large-scale deliveries of suspected weapons from Russia over the Iranian territory have intensified over the last several months and further contribute to the rising tensions.<sup>13</sup>
- Armenia's leaders promote a misleading narrative of Turkey's involvement in the conflict. Azerbaijan has welcomed Turkey's diplomatic support as well as its clear demand to end Armenia's illegal occupation in full accordance with the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and its membership in the Minsk Group.
- Armenia's leaders have actively undermined the ongoing peace process led by the OSCE Minsk Group co-chaired by France, Russia and the U.S., and continue to ignore international calls for substantive peace talks.<sup>14</sup> **It is clear that Armenia is already pursuing the realization of its Defense Minister's pledge in early 2019 to wage "new wars for new territories" and to "prepare for new offensive operations."<sup>15</sup>**
- **Azerbaijan has been consistent in urging substantive and result-oriented negotiations to achieve a breakthrough in the conflict for the benefit of the whole region.**

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<sup>8</sup> <https://tass.com/world/1208265>

<sup>9</sup> <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/10/09/russia-aid-armenia-azerbaijan-putin-nagorno-karabakh/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://mfa.gov.az/en/news/6876/view>; <https://mod.gov.az/en/news/armenian-armed-forces-committed-large-scale-provocations-along-the-entire-length-of-the-front-32311.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/azerbaijan-covid-pompeo/2020/08/05/id/980732/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2020/07/17/armenia-azerbaijan-conflict-energy-security/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://eurasianet.org/aliyev-airs-grievances-to-putin-over-arms-shipments-to-armenia>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/may/19/pandemic-highlights-the-protracted-azerbaijan-arme/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://mediamax.am/en/news/armypolice/38503/>