

Armenia hits second largest city of Azerbaijan, killing 9 civilians

On October 10, 2020 following its breach of the temporary ceasefire reached a day before between Armenia and Azerbaijan with the Russian mediation, Armenia hit Ganja, the second largest city in Azerbaijan. ¹Armenian forces fired Tochka-U ballistic missile ²at a residential building killing at least nine people and injuring thirty-four others, ³including minors.⁴

Despite the ceasefire was announced, Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan reported that Armenian forces did not observe the truce and continued shelling civilian settlements. Azerbaijani districts of Goranboy, Tartar, Agdam, Aghjabadi and Fizuli regions came under heavy fire. A medical worker was seriously injured as a result of the shooting of a sanitary medical vehicle, clearly marked with a white flag, retrieving the bodies of Armenian soldiers in the area of Sugovushan.⁵

Frustrated by loss of part of the Azerbaijani occupied territories, Armenia, by these missile attacks, mostly fired from Armenia's territory, aims to provoke Azerbaijan into retaliation and consequently expand scope of the conflict by involving third countries (Russia and other CSTO members). Azerbaijan

repeatedly stated that its current operations only cover the occupied territories and it does not have military objectives in the territory of Armenia. There are serious questions about continued delivery of weapons systems to Armenia under the guise of humanitarian assistance including from Russia.

Over the last two weeks 41 Azerbaijani civilians were killed and over 200 people wounded. Deliberate shelling of civilians is a gross violation of international humanitarian law, including the principles of Geneva Conventions. Azerbaijan calls upon the international community to take decisive steps to force Armenia to comply with international law and its international obligations.



¹https://www.azernews.az/karabakh/170459.html?_cf_chl_jschl_tk_=5ed7d1f6616de4bf6eecd8a01a190c5c9a4ff239-1602426165-0-AWd-lPrLteKbmGW49Shp458EJL-zqA3-sOpU26DrnnY4_p0cdeXkQe34eXGyf9Lq24BilWxqdLdZ6Mh7uk-FpVf7pgwX9EI06pTt2lAnuH_60M67FvCzV1HucdbEuFmc0wbONoagG3GZu-CTWQN0ctTZ2y-ceTurO113Qr9wglYg7f7IXxDfx4rYEDBC_nDqW1Ujc1zHczuxqrR5bgxoguiWVr49472_9lbkIb90BShMQjgv9js311Mj4yjNzxtAU1ZX8IP1N1HWkIpkDS1EdpLr3redYPQVdLNVlKixKz7xbwBTZovkErlqU6los-EwklrgOEdcNndg_SUMFFzkq2cuAApNn8wd6UAvRZjIRVWf

² <https://twitter.com/HikmetHajiyev/status/1315283689513852928>

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zopcVDbBXE4&feature=youtu.be>

⁴ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/azerbaijan-front-line/azerbaijan-9-die-34-injured-in-armenian-attack-on-civilians/2002551>

⁵ <https://mfa.gov.az/en/news/6943/view>