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**The Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman)  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan**



**REPORT**

*on the facts of torture, other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of Azerbaijani  
prisoners of war and civilians by Armenia during hostage taking and captivity*

**Baku -2021**

*This report was prepared based on the facts of torture and ill-treatment committed against the Azerbaijani prisoners of war and civilian hostages during the captivity of Armenia.*

*The POWs in this document refers to those, who have been taken captive during the counterattack operations took place between 27 September to 9 November 2020. Whereas the civilians refer to persons, who were under the detention of Armenia since 2014.*

*The reason of the report is to draw attention of relevant international human rights organizations to these facts and for bringing the perpetrators to criminal liability.*

*Note: POWs and liberated from the captivity in the text are referred as the repatriated persons.*

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## **Introduction**

The Armed Forces of Armenia have once again started to attack on civilian objects in Azerbaijan since 27 September 2020.

The areas far from the zone of active hostilities were subjected to deliberate and indiscriminate attacks with the use of missile and heavy artillery, targeting civilians in Azerbaijan in gross violation of international law, including 1949 Geneva Convention (IV), United Nations Security Council (UNSC) decisions and resolutions, and the humanitarian ceasefire.

These operations have been ceased with the joint statement signed between the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia and the Prime Minister of Armenia on 10 November 2020. The Statement also reflects the provision (clause 8) concerning the exchange of POWs, hostages and other persons in captivity, as well as exchange of dead bodies.<sup>1</sup>

As a result of discussions about the implementation of the issues stemming from the Statement in question, according to the principle literally “all for all” concerning the exchange of the Azerbaijani prisoners and hostages agreed with the Armenian side, the exchange process of the POWs and hostages have been carried out since 14 December 2020.

12 prisoners taken captive during the period of active hostilities, as well as Dilgam Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev, held hostage since 2014, whose matter was regularly delivered to the world community by the Azerbaijani Ombudsman, have been repatriated to Baku on 14 December 2020.

It must be noted that in contrary to Armenia, none of civilians, who hid or lost their ways in the liberated areas of Azerbaijan or found in houses belonging to Azerbaijanis, have been taken hostage, but were returned to their country in line with international humanitarian law (IHL) and ensuring their safety.

In accordance with her mandate, the Ombudsman visited the health facility in Azerbaijan, in which the repatriated prisoners and hostages, having been medically examined and treated on 15 December 2020, and conducted monitoring of their health and psychological state, situation of ensuring their rights, and treatment standards during their captivity.

The Ombudsman personally visited and heard the testimonies of the repatriated persons. The facts obtained during the face-to-face meeting of the Ombudsman acting as an independent and impartial intermediary, prove that persons, during their hostage-taking and detention were subjected to torture, inhuman, degrading and ill-treatment.

This Report is based on the testimonies taken during the confidential meetings between the repatriated and the Ombudsman, on the opinion of a doctor, participated in those meetings as an expert, as well as on the verified videos and photo materials taken from the social media platforms.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://en.president.az/articles/45923>

## The activity of Azerbaijani Ombudsman in the liberation of servicemen and hostages taken captive by Armenia

The Republic of Armenia has blatantly violated the IHL norms, particularly the requirements of Geneva Conventions (1949) in relation to the Azerbaijani POWs and hostages. They were not provided with primary and necessary medical services, were subjected to torture and inhuman treatment along with being deprived of food.

The Ombudsman of Azerbaijan, as a national human rights institution has sent specifically addressed appeals to the United Nations, Council of Europe, ICRC and other competent regional and international institutions with regard to these facts.<sup>2</sup>

Those appeals reflected the facts of the continued war crimes and barbarian acts in relation not only to civilians, but also to the other non-combatants, *hors de combat*, prisoners, especially to the wounded and dead bodies by the Armenian armed forces in serious violation of the norms of IHL, including Geneva Conventions (1949).

At the same time through those appeals, which provided the facts of mistreatment of the Azerbaijani prisoners by the armed forces of Armenia, international organizations were demanded to conduct appropriate investigation, to take necessary steps consistent with international law in order to put an end to these violations towards the Azerbaijani prisoners, also to repatriate them to Azerbaijan in accordance with the norms of international law, as to make legal assessment to the war crimes, and severely violating the human rights and freedoms, committed by the military and political leadership of Armenia.

The Azerbaijani Ombudsman also closely cooperates with the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons in relation to the issues of prisoners and hostages and carries out the exchange of information in the context of the appeals addressed to the Ombudsman concerning the prisoners and hostages. During the videoconference with the Head of the ICRC Baku Delegation, held at the discretion of the Ombudsman of Azerbaijan, the participation of the parents of the Azerbaijani POWs, being in detention, in the meeting has been provided, as well as an opportunity has been created for them to appeal in person.<sup>3</sup>

### Ombudsman Sabina Aliyeva raised the issue of prisoners of war (POWs) before international organizations

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Since September 27, 2020, as a result of the military aggression of the Armenian armed forces on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, many civilians were killed, educational and health facilities, social, cultural, historical and religious facilities were destroyed using heavy artillery and prohibited weapons. Many civilians became victims as a result of these war crimes against peace and humanity.

The Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Sabina Aliyeva addressed an appeal to the UN, the Council of Europe, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other authorized international and regional organizations.

In the individual applications it was stated the military of Armenia committed its crimes not only against civilians, but also against other protected persons under international humanitarian law, including non-combatants, hors de combat, prisoners of war (POWs) in flagrant violation of 1949 Geneva Conventions. Barbarian acts against prisoners of war (POWs), especially the wounded and the dead persons, have been brought to the attention based on the facts.

Thus, Sabina Aliyeva urged international organizations that the facts of war crimes committed by the Armenian armed forces to be investigated based on special procedures, and drastic measures to be taken in order to establish international legal responsibility.



<sup>2</sup> <https://ombudsman.az/en/view/news/2228/ombudsman-sabina-aliyeva-raised-the-issue-of-prisoners-of-war-pows-before-international-organizations->

<sup>3</sup> <https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/karabakh/3338534.html>

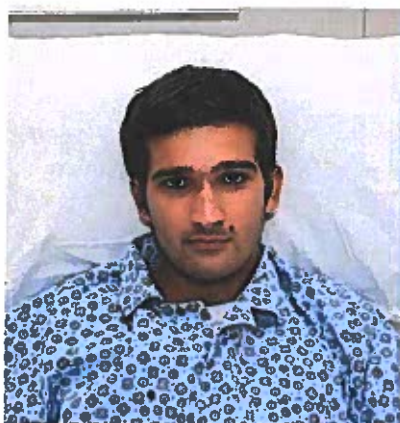
## **The Azerbaijani Ombudsman's investigation of the facts of inhuman treatment of Azerbaijani prisoners of war and civilians in Armenian captivity and hostage taking**

On 15 December 2020, in the course of the visit conducted to the health facility, where the repatriated prisoners and civilians (hostages) were being treated, the Azerbaijani Ombudsman investigated the facts of inhuman treatment of them during captivity in Armenia. During the meeting, the POWs and hostages gave detailed information about their health state, situation of ensuring their rights, and the facts of torture and other inhuman treatment against them.<sup>4</sup>

### ***Facts of inhuman treatment of Azerbaijani prisoners by Armenia during their captivity***

The information given by 12 Azerbaijani POWs repatriated from Armenia, to the Ombudsman during the meeting with them concerning the various acts of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment committed against them during their captivity, is provided below with their own consent:

#### **Yahya Abdinov (b. 30.12.1999), serviceman**



The serviceman of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, Yahya Abdinov has been taken captive with severe injuries to his leg got during these hostilities. He was repeatedly beaten and inhumanely treated by the members of Armenian armed forces despite his critical health condition. First, he was taken to Khankandi, which was under occupation at that period, and he underwent the surgery being under pressure in a place where there were no proper medical conditions and, afterwards, placed to the hospital in Armenia. He has not been given a chance to call his family despite his repeated requests. From the very first days of the captivity, he was beaten and subjected to torture for many times in order to obtain information.

<sup>4</sup> <https://bit.ly/2LFN8UU>

**Emin Bakhshaliyev (b. 22.01.1988), serviceman**

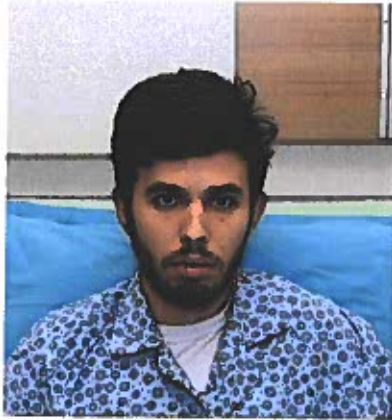


The warrant officer of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, Emin Bakhshaliyev, despite being injured to his leg during the hostilities, participated in evacuation of his wounded and besieged military comrades in taking out of the battlefield. When he returned for the next time to help the wounded soldiers, he lost his consciousness due to the worsening of his wound. According to what he saw after regaining consciousness, E. Bakhshaliyev says at that time the coming Armenian servicemen (from their footsteps he estimated them to be 10-13 persons) who thought that he was not alive, and they shot dead the other wounded Azerbaijani soldiers there with automatic weapons. He was taken a prisoner after staying at that place five days of being injured. E. Bakhshaliyev also says that Armenian servicemen wore the uniforms belonging to the Azerbaijani army (this fact was also verified during the testimonies by the prisoner-soldier of Armenian origin, Albert Mikaelian. So that he said PKK terrorists put on the Azerbaijani military uniforms to confuse Azerbaijani servicemen in this way, and that when terrorists were killed, they would be branded as mercenaries brought by the Azerbaijani army from Syria. Furthermore, the noted have been verified by the photo placed on the official website of the Ministry of Defense of Armenia. As can be seen from the photo, which was later deleted from the website, the Armenian soldiers used the uniforms of the servicemen of the State Border Service of Azerbaijan), as well as he saw the fighters from the ASALA terror organization together with the Armenian soldiers.



He was repeatedly beaten, tortured and subjected to inhuman treatment during the captivity. He has repeatedly witnessed how Armenians insulted the state flag of Azerbaijan.

**Mobil Ahmadzada (b. 22.04.1999), serviceman**



The returned serviceman of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, lieutenant Mobil Ahmadzada was severely wounded in the right leg by the fire opened from the tank belonging to the Armenian army during the active hostilities and was taken captive. After being stayed four days at the hospital, his wounded right leg has been amputated. However, according to him before taking a prisoner, his right leg was able to move and therefore, there was no need for the amputation. After waking up from the anesthesia, he was interrogated and beaten several times, as he did not answer to the questions.

Later he was transferred to the hospital and was held as prisoner until the repatriation. During the captivity period, he was tortured by squeezing his fingers with pliers, his facial hair was burned, his hand was injured, so he was subjected to the acts of torture and inhuman treatment. The signs of torture against M. Ahmadzada can be clearly seen in the photo below:



According to M. Ahmadzada, the Armenian side tried not to extradite him, as he was a military officer in order to take some information from him. But during the unannounced visit to the hospital by the ICRC representatives, M. Ahmadzada was registered as a prisoner. In addition, the former prisoner said also that the Armenian Ombudsman did not receive him in a confidential manner during his visit with the Azerbaijani prisoners.

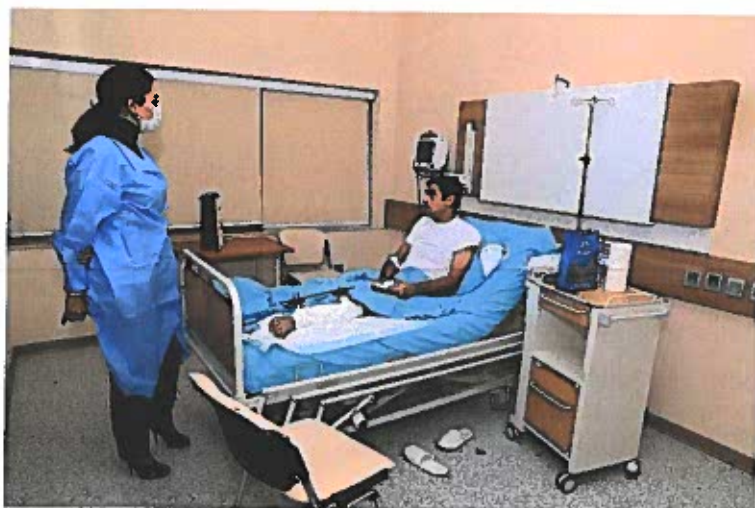


**Omar Alakbarov (b. 11.01.1985), serviceman**



The serviceman of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, the warrant officer Omar Alakbarov has been severely wounded in his left leg and right eye (a bullet entered a lower part of his eye and exit the oral cavity) as a result of a fire from a large-caliber weapon during the hostilities. That night, due to bleeding in the vein in the palate, the Armenian doctor stitched the palate for about 3 hours without using painkillers and anesthetics. In addition, in hospital, nurses injected him with an alcohol syringe and demanded that he repeat what they had said, but when he did not to do so, he continued to be subjected to further torture and other ill-treatment.

While he was in hospital, the Armenian servicemen kicked in his kidneys, livers and other parts of his body in order to damage his internal organs. In addition, they inflicted unbearable pain by touching his foot wound to the bone causing him fainting. O. Alakbarov, who was later taken to prison, was beaten by two men for about 30-40 minutes a day, sometimes for an hour. Furthermore, he also witnessed how other POWs were beaten, tortured and inhumanely treated several times like him.



**Anar Aliyev (b.28.06.1992), serviceman**



The Azerbaijani serviceman Anar Aliyev was interned as wounded as a result of hostilities. While being under captivity around one month, seriously suffered in terms of access to drinking water, food and toilet, and was subjected to repeated beating, physical, and psychological torture and other forms of inhuman treatment. Even such cruel acts have been inflicted on him by the Armenian doctor in the hospital. Furthermore, he felt a sense of moral and psychological shock, as he witnessed how Armenians insulted our martyrs.

It must be noted that one of the videos shared through social networks was a video of capturing A. Aliyev and a treatment depicted from this video must be considered as an absolute inhuman treatment. Thus, the members of the Armenian military kicked the wounded and hardly talking prisoner in his head to get information. From the videos it is clearly seen that the soldier has lost a lot of blood and that he might lose his life due to such treatment. Moreover, A. Aliyev was placed in the trunk of the of LADA NIVA car, which came for help, together with its luggage and it caused him to lose more blood.

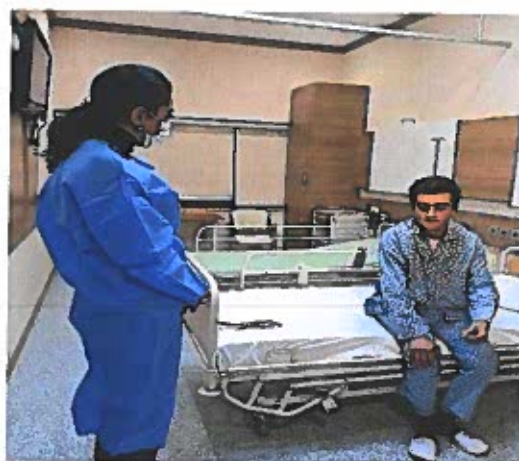


**Sharif Aliyev (b.20.12.1995), serviceman**



The serviceman Sharif Aliyev as his military comrades has been taken captive by the Armenian armed forces during the hostilities while being wounded. From the first days of his captivity, despite his war wounds, he was beaten several times, insulted, often kept hungry and thirsty, being forced to say unpleasant words against our country, and he was continued to be subjected to moral and psychological tortures and other inhuman treatment, when he did not do so.

**Nurlan Alizada (b. 02.01.1992), serviceman**



On 10 November 2020, after the joint tripartite statement signed between the parties, the Azerbaijani serviceman Nurlan Alizada together with his military comrade Nahid Hamidov lost their way while they were returning after delivering food to the military in Shusha city and they were interned by the Armenian armed forces and were taken in an unknown direction. He was kept in a windowless, airless, dark, damp, unsanitary place for several days, and suffered serious health problems due to the physical pressure, stress, and psychological strain. During his captivity, he was starved, repeatedly beaten, insulted, and thus subjected to physical and psychological torture, as well as other inhumane treatment.

**Nahid Hamidov (b. 05.01.1991), serviceman**



The serviceman of the Azerbaijani armed forces Nahid Hamidov with his comrade Nurlan Alizada was taken captive by the Armenian servicemen after the joint tripartite statement signed on 10 November 2020, lost his way in Shusha city upon returning where they went to deliver food to the military and was taken in an unknown direction.

Nurlan Alizada was also kept in a cold place and was subjected physical force and to torture regularly at the night hours. He suffered from serious health problems due to the stress and psychological strain. During his captivity, he was often starved, repeatedly beaten, and was forced to give military information.

**Note:** The Armenian Telegram Video Channels shared a video where the Azerbaijani prisoners, Nurlan Alizada and Nahid Hamidov were taken prisoners,<sup>5</sup> and one fragment of this video was placed on the Twitter account of the Ombudsman Institution of Azerbaijan and brought to the attention of international organizations.<sup>6</sup>



<sup>5</sup> <https://bit.ly/3benlKN>

<sup>6</sup> [https://twitter.com/az\\_ombudsman/status/1340580406857519105?s=21](https://twitter.com/az_ombudsman/status/1340580406857519105?s=21)

**Bayram Karimov (b. 03.02.1992), serviceman**



The serviceman of the Azerbaijani armed forces B. Karimov was captured wounded during the hostilities. First days, he was seemed a bit old in terms of age and because of the lack of his shoulder marks (the shoulder marks were removed from the uniform and were used to stop the bleeding of his wounded comrade) and he was estimated to be an officer. For that reason, the Armenian servicemen have beaten him several times with the use of heavy baton and toes were burned by connecting to the current in order to get information.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, the wounds of Bayram, who was abused by doctors, were pierced with scissors without painkillers and anesthetics, shrapnel was removed without anesthesia, his wounds were sutured, and paramedics often dipped needles into his flesh and poured hot coffee to injure him. Such cruel acts, including moral and psychological torture, inhuman treatment of B. Karimov continued until it was confirmed that he was an ordinary soldier unaware of the information of special interest.

**Amin Musayev (b. 04.07.1994), serviceman**



<sup>7</sup> <https://www.instagram.com/p/CJifYPWH02C/?igshid=s3dhenusfhpg>



The serviceman Amin Musayev was taken a prisoner wounded during the hostilities. Despite heavy war wounds to the left leg and damage to the femur as a result of gunfire opened by the Armenian military, he was repeatedly beaten, insulted, subjected to psychological torture and other inhuman treatment like his other military comrade.<sup>8</sup> Until his repatriation, he was kept in a place like hospital in Armenia but without any

proper condition. He often suffered from starving and thirst due to the long intermittent supply of food and water. He once again underwent a surgery by the Azerbaijani doctors after the repatriation due to complications of unprofessional medical surgery on his leg.

**Note:** The first video about Azerbaijani servicemen captured by Armenia B. Karimov and A. Musayev, were taken by Ukrainian journalist Alexander Kharchenko and shared on ANNA News channel on YouTube. Although videos depicted that our servicemen were provided first aid, however, it follows by another video in which it was shown how one of them being abused inside a car. Thus, at the beginning of the video, A. Musayev has no scars in his left eyebrow, but in the following seconds of the video, it has clearly visible that there are traces of blood in the area.<sup>9</sup>



At the same time, the fact of torturing B. Karimov by pressing on his wound in an ambulance was also reflected in the video footage.

It should be noted that the torture of POWs, along with them, caused psychological shock and trauma to their families and relatives. Thus, Hijran Sadigova, the mother of

A. Musayev, who was wounded and taken prisoner in battle, had a stroke after those events.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twnp2Uopg0M&t=34s>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsekVB5pCMo>

**Valiahad Valiyev (b. 05.03.1998), serviceman**



A serviceman of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, V. Valiyev, like other servicemen, was taken a prisoner by the Armenian military wounded during the hostilities. After being taken to hospital, he was often starved, beaten and insulted several times. During his captivity, he was repeatedly subjected to physical and psychological torture, as well as other inhumane treatment.

**Nuraddin Yolchuyev (b.14.10.1998), serviceman**



The serviceman of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, Nuraddin Yolchuyev, like other comrades, was taken prisoner during the fighting for the liberation of the occupied territories. He was taken to hospital without first aid. During his detention, he was often kept hungry and thirsty, repeatedly beaten (even his hand was cut with a knife), subjected to moral and psychological torture, and other inhumane treatment.



## **Facts of inhuman treatment of Azerbaijani hostages by Armenia**

We would like to provide you with the information given to the Ombudsman during the meeting with the already repatriated from the Armenian captivity civilians Dilgam Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev concerning various acts of torture, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment of them during their captivity, with their consent:

### **Dilgam Asgarov (b. 30.09.1960), civilian**



An Azerbaijani civilian D. Asgarov, a citizen of the Russian Federation was taken hostage on 11 July 2014, together with his friends (Shahbaz Guliyev and Hasan Hasanov) by the Armenian armed forces while trying to visit Kalbajar city of Azerbaijan, their ancestral lands. The Armenian special forces murdered Hasan Hasanov while taking two others, Dilgam Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev as hostages. Body of Hasan Hasanov was returned and buried in Baku city. Before the burial, his body was undergone a forensic examination to check if he was tortured before being murdered. The examination reveals the fact of torture. The result of the medical examination is attached to this report.

Dilgam Asgarov, while being in captivity, was beaten several times, hence seriously damaged in his head, fingers and arms were broken, alcohol was injected into his body with a syringe. During the first year, he was kept hungry and thirsty for a long time and was forced to change his testimonies and state what was dictated to him. At the same time, he was detained in a dark basement in Khankandi, an occupied city of Azerbaijan for that period.

**Shahbaz Guliyev (b. 09.05.1968), civilian**



An Azerbaijani civilian Shahbaz Guliyev, a national of Azerbaijan was taken hostage on 11 July 2014, together with his friends (Dilgam Asgarov and Hasan Hasanov) by the Armenian armed forces while trying to visit Kalbajar city of Azerbaijan, their ancestral lands.

While being in captivity, like other Azerbaijani prisoners and hostages, he was also repeatedly subjected to beating, physical, mental and psychological torture by crushing hands, nails and other parts of the body in various forms, as well as other inhuman or degrading treatment. Shahbaz Guliyev was detained in a dark basement in the occupied Azerbaijani city of Khankandi at the time.

**Note:** During the first year of their captivity, D. Asgarov and Sh. Guliyev have been hidden from the ICRC representatives, even in later periods, their confidential meetings were hindered. Thus, the Armenian servicemen have participated in the meetings with the ICRC representatives, in violation of the norms of IHL, and psychologically influenced the hostages by attending meetings to prevent them to deliver information about the ill-treatment circumstances.

## CONCLUSION

The information obtained during the conversations with the repatriated prisoners and hostages, and the war wounds on their bodies, their psychological state prove that they were subjected to torture and ill-treatment on a regular basis at the order of the political leadership of Armenia during their detention. Thus, it was revealed the facts that they were regularly beaten until they lost consciousness, deprived of proper nutrition, inflicted unbearable pain by interfering with their wounds, and that their wounds were operated on without following sanitary rules and painkillers by the adversary side, in order to use them for their own benefit and just to keep them alive.

The facts provided in this report evidenced that in relation to the Azerbaijani prisoners and hostages, Armenia violates the norms of international law, including the prohibitive norms on not to kill, to kill under any circumstances, to cause disability, to mistreat or torture, or infringe on human dignity of the Geneva Conventions (1949) for the protection of the war victims.

During the conversations, it was found that the members of Armenian armed forces shot dead the wounded soldiers in the battlefield with the use of automatic weapons. Article 3 of the UDHR specified that everyone has the right to life.<sup>10</sup> In that vein, para.1 of Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) guarantees that everyone's right to life is protected by law. The deliberate murder of the wounded and persons in need is the infringement of the noted above Declaration and international treaty. In addition, Article 3 of the ECHR prohibits torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The disclosed facts of torture and inhuman treatment show that the concerned provisions of this Convention were violated.

In accordance with the Convention against Torture, State Parties shall exercise criminal jurisdiction over the cases of torture committed in any territory under its jurisdiction or when the alleged offender or a victim is a citizen of that State.<sup>11</sup> The UNSC resolutions 822, 853, 874, 884 recognize the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan and demand the immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces from the occupied areas. This also shows that the occupying power – Armenia exercised its *de facto* jurisdiction over those areas before their liberation. The State of Armenia directly responsible for the violation of human rights and norms of international law in those territories.

The decision held by the Grand Chamber of the ECtHR on the case of *Chiragov and others v. Armenia* of 16 June 2015, also finds that Armenia is responsible for the occupation of the Nagorno-Karabakh<sup>12</sup> and thus by this, it confirms Armenia's *de facto* jurisdiction over those areas.

The captives and hostages were detained, tortured and ill-treated in occupied territories that were under Armenian *de facto* jurisdiction. The law violations as a result of torture of prisoners and hostages on the behest of the Armenian political and military leadership can be a basis for a criminal prosecution for non-compliance with the national legislation of the state to which they belong and international conventions for which the state is bound. However, despite being a party to the treaty, Armenia has not fulfilled its state obligations under this binding document by failing to take any steps to prevent or prosecute the above-mentioned cases of torture. The testimonies contained in this report

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.ohchr.org/en/udhr/documents/udhr\\_translations/eng.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/en/udhr/documents/udhr_translations/eng.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cat.aspx>

<sup>12</sup> Case of *Chiragov and Others v. Armenia*. (application no. [13216/05](#))

not only confirm the facts of torture and ill-treatment, but also show that Armenia has neglected its obligations to international organizations. Armenia, which has been pursuing a policy of aggression for almost 30 years without complying with the UNSC well-known resolutions, has once again shown disrespect to the international community, ignoring the norms of IHL during the armed conflict.

During the talks to the repatriated persons, it was found out that there were made attempts to hide them from ICRC representatives during their captivity and hostage-taking, and often such attempts successfully ended. Not any Armenian state agency, as well as the national human rights institution were interested in protecting their rights. However, as stated earlier, Armenia is directly responsible for the occupation of the Azerbaijani lands and for the legal regulations arising in this regard.

Hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis have been forced to leave Armenia as a result of the policy of hatred pursued by the political leadership of this State against Azerbaijanis on national grounds. The discriminative policy focused on national and ethnic grounds has made this State into a mono-ethnic one. The policy of ethnic and national hatred has become a fertile tool for military aggression against the neighboring State and thus for larger territories, with new land claims in the hands of the Armenian political leadership. This policy of hatred has also manifested itself in the treatment of captives and hostages. Thus, the horrific moments of captivity and hostage-taking of the repatriated persons during the talks are a clear example of this.

Armenia has also discriminated on the ground of nationality in relation to Article 14 of the ECHR, to which it is a party, concerning the prevention of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners and hostages. Thus, Armenia had to ensure the exercise of the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Convention without making any difference on a national and any other grounds. The facts obtained show the exact opposite. In other words, Armenia has shown its disrespect for international conventions and, consequently, the international community, by turning a blind eye not only to ensuring the rights of these persons, but also to the crimes of torture against them.

The video footage taken by the Armenian armed forces proves that the Azerbaijani prisoners, especially the wounded, were tortured and inhumanely treated, and numerous insulting and degrading actions were committed on the bodies of Azerbaijani servicemen, killed during hostilities.<sup>13</sup>

Despite the fact that Article 13 of the Third Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War prohibits measures of reprisals against prisoners of war, the Armenian state deliberately facilitated torture and ill-treatment, and deliberately denied medical care for Azerbaijani prisoners for their maintenance and safeguard their health state.<sup>14</sup>

There are sufficient facts about the brutal killing of Azerbaijani prisoners by the Armenian armed forces by firing at their head and hearts at close distance, the pillage, dismemberment of and inhumane acts<sup>15</sup> on their bodies.<sup>16 17</sup>

The mutilation of dead bodies during armed conflicts is prohibited by the Geneva Conventions and its Additional Protocols, and in general, under the IHL.<sup>18</sup>

The information spread through the Armenian media proofs that Armenia, in gross violation of the Geneva Conventions, refused to take all possible measures to search for and to prevent despoil of

<sup>13</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b2hJQva65uKEx6WMLfLs2BIsHvFTDQ2/view>

<sup>14</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/10ftqazNeDzv0WDPevE\\_zXPA1WpTm7hg0/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10ftqazNeDzv0WDPevE_zXPA1WpTm7hg0/view)

<sup>15</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SG9QYWai47QpQMAKovapvdr0ZY-J5fkS/view>

<sup>16</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lM7oEb47yYNQcGWwR9TB5h\\_Lg47FINrP/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lM7oEb47yYNQcGWwR9TB5h_Lg47FINrP/view)

<sup>17</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10FpiX7effawBUtGCWYIIEWqx-wbnyLHL/view>

<sup>18</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/11YdcMzGGguZ\\_sSXIIHa70dvcsBEV-yoU/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11YdcMzGGguZ_sSXIIHa70dvcsBEV-yoU/view)

the dead bodies, but used the bodies of Azerbaijani servicemen as food for animals. The footage in the video also confirms this.<sup>19</sup>

It is also clear from the materials disseminated on social networks and other sources that Armenia has performed a mass burial of the bodies of Azerbaijani servicemen in inhumane forms, in gross violation of Article 17 of the Geneva Convention (I), Article 120 of the Geneva Convention (III) and other humanitarian law norms.<sup>20</sup>

For a comparative analysis, we would like to bring to your attention the experience of Azerbaijan in relation to prisoners.

The issue of ensuring the rights of the Armenian soldiers captured by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces throughout the 44-day war was in the focus of the Azerbaijani Ombudsman. Thus, from the first days of their captivity, the Ombudsman of Azerbaijan was closely interested in their health, detention conditions and ensuring their rights. During her visit, the Ombudsman explained their rights to the prisoners and presented them the ECHR translated into the Armenian language. At the same time, the prisoners were provided phone calls with their families. The related information about the visit was also disseminated to the public through the Ombudsman's website, Twitter and Facebook accounts. Based on comments made by the people, it is clear that this humane step was appreciated by the Azerbaijani public. You can visit the link below to read about the visit in detail (<https://www.ombudsman.az/en/view/news/2135/ombudsman-sabina-aliyeva-visited-prisoners-of-war>).

We are seriously concerned about the irresponsibility of the Armenian state and its institutions, disrespect for human rights and freedoms, disregard for the rule of law, which ignores international law and evades international obligations.

The mass killing of civilians during military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan, the torture and psychological suffering of our compatriots held captive and hostage in Armenia and in the other occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the cruel and degrading treatment facilitating incitement to suicide, cold-blooded killing or their death as a result of tortures confirm what we have already said.

In this regard, we present this Report prepared on the basis of the collected facts and call to condemn the facts of torture and other inhuman treatment of Azerbaijani servicemen and civilians during their captivity and hostage-taking, contained in this document, as well as to take appropriate measures for the prosecution of those, who are responsible by the relevant international organizations.

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<sup>19</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bNFSxcIAKMaq51cnOpkLEs2RHvd-rahD/view>

<sup>20</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NKvxR2bF47xui\\_f7aP7L81yPS9MEYG01/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NKvxR2bF47xui_f7aP7L81yPS9MEYG01/view)





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