

## ARMENIAN TERRORISM

Armenian terrorism, in the absence of sufficient political and military strength, has been used from its early inception as an effective tool for acquiring resources and territory to create a sole living space for Armenians scattered across the world. The early Armenian political institutions of Armenikan (1885), Hunchak (1887) and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Dashnaksutyun/ARFD (1890) recognized and utilized terror as a necessary means of struggle against perceived enemies and a way to consolidate the Armenian ethnicity in its transformation from an ethno-religious sect of the Armenian Gregorian Church into a mono-ethnic nation with statehood.

The first manifestation of Armenian terrorism occurred on 26 August 1896 when 28 armed members of the ARFD, commanded by its leading member Karekin Pastermadjian, seized the Ottoman Central Bank in Istanbul, taking 156 civilians - mainly European nationals - hostages. The 14-hour armed takeover incited the involvement of European embassies and yielded positive political results for the ARFD: Pastermadjian gained a seat at the Ottoman Parliament as a representative of the Armenian community and was later appointed as Armenian Ambassador to the United States, thus testifying to the effectiveness of using terror to advance Armenian nationalistic interests.

This initial success of Armenian terrorism inspired a series of assassinations of high level officials at the end of XIX and the beginning of XX centuries by members and supporters of the Hunchak and ARFD (A non-exhaustive chronology of Armenian terrorism is provided in the Annex).

Generating wide support within the larger Armenian community, Armenian terrorism became remarkable in its severe hatred against anyone who stood on its way, including members of its own and other ethnicities.

A grim example of this was the brutal massacre against Azerbaijanis in March 1918. While Azerbaijanis were celebrating their most cherished national holiday - Novruz, armed terrorists of the ARFD began raiding cities and villages all over Azerbaijan and slaughtering Azerbaijanis with unprecedented cruelty. As a result, more than 50,000 Azerbaijanis perished in those days.

A year later, ARFD initiated the secret operation "Nemesis" seeking "to take revenge" for the events of 1915 in Ottoman Turkey. In the 1920s under the "Nemesis" operation a number of terror acts and assassinations were committed against Turkish officials in several foreign countries, expanding the scope and geography of Armenian terrorism across the world.

In this period, terror acts were also committed against founders and officials of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. In 1920, the Armenian terrorists assassinated Fatali Khan Khoyski and Hasan bey Aghayev.

In the middle of XX century Armenian terrorism laid dormant, being institutionalized within Armenian terrorist organizations secretly operating in Armenian-populated regions of the Middle East and Europe. Terrorists from the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia - ASALA (1975), the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide – JCAG (1975), New Armenian Resistance – NAR (1977) and other

extremist groups attacked Turkish officials in France, Switzerland, Italy, US, Lebanon, Turkey, Iran, and the UK, thus killing more than 30 Turkish diplomats, including ambassadors. Between the 1970s and 1990s Armenian terror organizations committed hundreds of terror acts in various countries, killing over 70 people, prompting the adoption of several international legal acts to suppress terrorism, including the Protocol on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence in Airports Servicing Civil Aviation by the United Nations in February 1988.

With occurrence of Armenia's unlawful and groundless territorial claims towards Karabakh region of Azerbaijan in 1980s, the activities of Armenian terror organizations were diverted to Azerbaijan. The second half of 1980s was marked by terror acts by Armenian terrorists, mainly involving bombings of public buses and metro trains in the territory of Azerbaijan. These terror acts committed at the end of 1980s – beginning of 1990s resulted in death of over 2000 people.

Since gaining its independence in 1991, the Republic of Armenia has resorted to terror to advance its territorial claims against Azerbaijan, culminating in the occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Funded and staffed by the Armenian diaspora and the special security services of Armenia over 6000 Armenians living in Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Russia, Ukraine, Greece, Bulgaria, France and the US took an active part in military occupation of internationally recognized territories of the Azerbaijan Republic, forcing over one million Azerbaijanis out of their homes. Among them were such notorious terrorists like Monte Melkonian, Vazgen Sislyan and Grant Markaryan.

The terror tactics was also widely used during the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan to terrorize the population at large. The fate of Khojaly town is one among many, where 613 Azerbaijanis, including 106 women and 63 children were brutally murdered on the night of 25-26 February, 1992.

Notably, two of Armenia's previous presidents, Serzh Sargsyan and Robert Kocharian, were warlords of the illegal regime created by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan who led massacres of the civilian population. The following words by S.Sargsyan in his interview to British journalist Thomas de Waal leave no doubt about Armenia's planned and systemic violence against civilians: "Before Khojaly, Azerbaijanis thought that Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population. We needed to put a stop to all that. We were able to break that [stereotype]."

After 1994, terror acts against civilians continued in the form of sniper attacks or explosive toys dropped in nearby rivers and its main victims were women, children and the elderly. For instance, Fariz Badalov (born in 2003) killed by a sniper shot in the Aghdam district in 2011, Aygun Shahmaliyeva (1998) killed as a result of the blast of an explosive device built in a toy found by her in the Tovuz River in 2011 and Zahra Guliyeva (2015) killed in the Fizuli district as a result of shelling in 2017 are among the children who became the victims of the Armenian terrorism.

Born out of extreme nationalist sentiments envisioning creation of a mythical "Greater Armenia" Armenian terrorism has continuously adapted to meet the changing objectives of the Armenian cause. Emerged at the end of XIX century and growing rapidly in mid-XX century, Armenian terrorism became a major threat to countries in the region and beyond, with more than 200 terrorist attacks committed on four different continents, including Europe, Asia, America, and even Australia. Given that every

wave of heightened Armenian nationalism has been accompanied by terror and violence, proper and timely measures must be taken to eradicate this phenomenon for the purpose of ensuring peace, security and stability both at the regional and international levels.

## Chronology of Armenian terrorism

26 August 1896	Two killed, four injured and 156 held hostages during an armed takeover of the International Ottoman Bank in Istanbul, Ottoman Empire. Armenian Revolutionary Federation Dashnaksityun - ARFD claimed responsibility.
1 May 1905	Assassination of M.Driagin, Governor General of the Batum Region Major General in Batum, Russian Empire. Hunchak claimed responsibility.
11 May 1905	Assassination of Knyaz Mikhail Nakashidze, Governor of the Baku Gubernia in Baku. Hunchak claimed responsibility.
21 July 1905	Assassination attempt on Sultan Abdul-Hamid II at the Yıldız Mosque in Istanbul by means of a mined car, killing 20 bystanders. ARFD claimed responsibility.
20 August 1905	Assassination of Lieutenant-General Nikolay Lutsau, Governor General of the Elizavetpol Gubernia in Elizavetpol, Russian Empire. AFRD claimed responsibility.
27 January 1973	Assassination of Mehmet Baydar, Consul-General of the Republic of Turkey and Vice Consul Bahadır Demir by lone terrorist Karekin Yanikian in Los Angeles, U.S.
22 October 1975	Assassination of Danish Tunaligil, Turkey's Ambassador to Austria in Vienna, Austria. The Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia - ASALA and the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide - JCAG claimed responsibility.
24 October 1975	Assassination of İsmail Erez, Turkey's Ambassador to France in Paris. ASALA and JCAG claimed responsibility.
16 February 1976	Assassination of Oktar Cirit, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Beirut, Lebanon. ASALA claimed responsibility.
17 May 1976	Explosion at the Consulates General of the Republic of Turkey in the cities of Frankfurt, Cologne and Essen, Germany. ASALA claimed responsibility.
28 May 1976	Explosions at the Swiss branch of the Turkish Garanti Bank and the office of the Turkey's Labor Attaché in Zurich, Switzerland. JCAG claimed responsibility.
8 January 1977	Explosion in a subway train in Moscow, killing 7 and injuring 37. The National United Party of Armenia - NUPA claimed responsibility.
29 May 1977	Explosion at Yeşilköy Airport in Istanbul, killing 5 and injuring 42. ASALA claimed responsibility.
9 June 1977	Assassination of Taha Carım, Turkey's Ambassador to the Vatican in the St. Paul's Cathedral. JCAG claimed responsibility.
2 June 1978	Assassination attempt on Zeki Kunalalp, Turkey's Ambassador to Spain, in Madrid, killing his wife Necla, her brother, and retired ambassador Beşir Balcıoğlu. ASALA and JCAG claimed responsibility.
12 October 1979	Assassination of the son of Turkey's Ambassador to the Netherlands Ahmet Benler in the Hague. JCAG claimed responsibility.
22 December 1979	Assassination of Turkey's Tourism Attaché Yılmaz Cholpan in Paris. JCAG claimed responsibility.
31 July 1980	Armed attack on the family of Galip Özmen, Administrative Attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Athens, Greece, killing Ozmen and his fourteen-year-old daughter and injuring his wife and son. ASALA claimed responsibility.
26 September 1980	Assassination of Selchuk Bakkalbashi, Press Attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey to France in Paris. ASALA claimed responsibility.
17 December 1980	Assassination of Turkey's Consul General Şarik Arıyak and security guard, Engin Sever in Sydney, Australia. JCAG claimed responsibility.
9 June 1981	Assassination of Mehmet Savash Yerguz, Secretary of the Turkish Consulate in Geneva, Switzerland. ASALA claimed responsibility.
15 September 1981	Explosion in front of the Turkish Airlines office in Copenhagen, Denmark. ASALA claimed responsibility.
28 January 1982	Assassination of Kemal Arıkan, Turkey's Consul General in Los Angeles, U.S. JCAG claimed responsibility.

4 May 1982	Assassination of Orhan Gunduz, Turkey's Honorary Consul General in Boston, U.S. JCAG claimed responsibility.
7 June 1982	Assassination of Erkut Akbay, Administrative Attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey to Portugal and his wife in Lisbon. JCAG claimed responsibility.
7 August 1982	Hostage crisis at Esenboga Airport in Ankara, killing 10 and injuring 82. ASALA claimed responsibility.
27 August 1982	Assassination of Colonel Atilla Altikat, Military Attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey to Canada in Ottawa. JCAG claimed responsibility.
9 September 1982	Assassination of Burgaz Bora Suelkan, Administrative Attaché of the Turkish Consulate General in Burgaz, Bulgaria. JCAG claimed responsibility.
9 March 1983	Assassination of Galip Balkar, Turkey's Ambassador to Yugoslavia in Belgrade. JCAG claimed responsibility.
14 July 1983	Assassination of Dursun Aksoy, Administrative Attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey to Belgium in Brussels. ASALA, JCAG and the Armenian Revolutionary Army - ARA claimed responsibility.
15 July 1983	Explosion at the Turkish Airlines office at Orly airport in Paris, killing 8, and injuring 55. ASALA claimed responsibility.
27 July 1983	Kidnapping of the family of Yurtsev Mihchioglu, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey to Portugal in Lisbon. The terrorists killed his wife and a security officer and injured his son. ARA claimed responsibility.
1 October 1983	Explosion at an international trade fair in Marseilles, France, killing one and injuring 26. ASALA claimed responsibility.
28 April 1984	Assassination attempt on Sadiye Yonder, secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey to Iran in Tehran, killing her husband. ASALA claimed responsibility.
20 June 1984	Assassination of Erdogan Ozen, Assistant Labor and Social Affairs Counselor of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey to Austria in Vienna, killing him and injuring five. ARA claimed responsibility.
8 September 1984	Bombing of a public bus by lone terrorist Gehrikh Vartanov in Baku, Azerbaijan, killing 1 and injuring 6.
19 November 1984	Assassination of Enver Ergun, Deputy Director of the Center for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations in Vienna, Austria. ARA claimed responsibility.
23 November 1986	Explosion in front of the Consulate-General of the Republic of Turkey in Melbourne, Australia, killing one and injuring another. ASALA claimed responsibility.
12 December 1988	Downing of a passenger aircraft in Khankandi, Azerbaijan, killing two crew members.
16 September 1989	Bombing of a Tbilisi-Baku passenger bus, killing five and injuring 25.
13 February 1990	Bombing of a passenger bus of the Shusha-Baku line, injuring 13 people.
11 July 1990	A submachine gun attack on a bus carrying passengers from Tartar to Kalbajar, Azerbaijan, killing eight and injuring 23.
10 August 1990	Bombing of a passenger bus in Khanlar, Azerbaijan, killing 17, and injuring 16.
10 August 1990	Bombing of a Tbilisi-Aghdam passenger bus, killing 20 and injuring 30.
30 November 1990	Bombing of a passenger bus carrying employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan from Shusha to Khankandi, Azerbaijan, injuring 2 people.
14 March 1991	Bombing of a passenger bus in Aghdam, Azerbaijan, killing 3 and injuring 4.
30 May 1991	Bombing of a Moscow-Baku passenger train, killing 11 and injuring 22.
31 July 1991	Bombing of a Moscow-Baku passenger train, killing 16 and injuring 20.
8 September 1991	Bombing of a passenger bus in Aghdam, Azerbaijan, killing 6 and injuring 36.
7 October 1991	Assassination of Chetin Gorgu, Turkey's Press Attaché in Athens, Greece. ASALA claimed responsibility.
20 November 1991	Downing of a passenger helicopter with high-level Azerbaijani officials as well as representatives of Kazakhstan and Russia in Khojavand region of Azerbaijan, killing 22 people.

8 January 1992	Bombing of a Krasnovodsk-Baku sea ferry, killing 25 and injuring 88.
28 January 1992	Downing of a passenger helicopter in Shusha, Azerbaijan killing 44 people.
28 February 1993	Bombing of a Kislovodsk-Baku passenger train, killing 11 and injuring 8.
11 December 1993	Assassination of Chaglar Yucel, Administrative Attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey to Iran in Tehran. ASALA claimed responsibility.
1 February 1994	Bombing of a passenger train in Baku, killing 3 and injuring 20.
13 April 1994	Explosion on a Moscow-Baku passenger train, killing 6 and injuring 3.
31 July, 1994	Explosion on a Baku subway train, killing 13 and injuring 42.
7 July 1994	Assassination of Haluk Sipahioglu, Counselor of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey to Greece in Athens. ASALA claimed responsibility.
8 March 2011	Firing on a group of children in Aghdam region of Azerbaijan, killing 9-year-old Azerbaijani boy.
14 July 2011	A toy with explosives dropped in a river running from Armenia to Azerbaijan, killing 13-year-old Azerbaijani girl and seriously wounded her 32-year-old mother in Tovuz region of Azerbaijan.
4 July 2017	Firing on civilians in Fizuli, Azerbaijan, killing 2-year-old Azerbaijani girl and her 51-year-old grandmother, and injuring another 52-year-old woman.