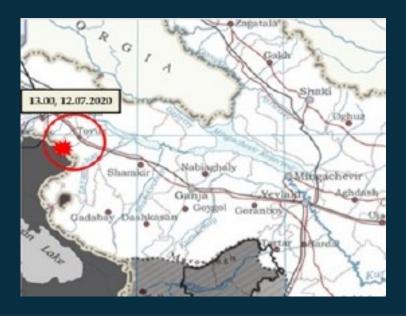
Offensive by Armenia against Azerbaijan in July 2020









WHAT HAPPENED IN TOVUZ ON JULY 12-16, 2020?

On July 12, Azerbaijan for yet another time became subject to Armenia's armed attacks along the Armenia-Azerbaijan international border. During four consecutive days, Armenia subjected Azerbaijani military positions and nearby residential areas to heavy artillery shelling.

As a result of the attacks of Armenia, twelve servicemen of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were killed and numerous others were wounded. A 76-year-old civilian Aziz Azizov, a resident of Aghdam village was also among those killed by the armed forces of Armenia. Serious damage was inflicted upon civilian infrastructure, including private houses and hospitals in the villages of Aghdam and Dondar Gushchu of the Tovuz district of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The offensive by Armenia on 12-16 July was by no means a spontaneous military incident, but yet another deliberate act of aggression, being the latest manifestation of Armenia's illegal use of force against the Republic of Azerbaijan, and pursued the goal of seizing new territories of Azerbaijan. This offensive was planned well in advance on the basis of aggressive military doctrine, which according to the then Minister of Defense of Armenia David Tonoyan envisages "preemptive strikes aiming at creating more favorable security situation" and "new war for new territories".



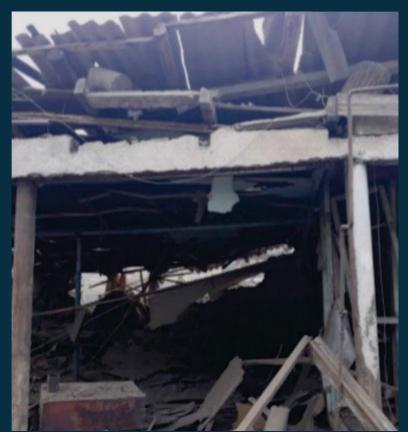


Serious damage was inflicted upon the civilian infrastructure in the area.

The property of 40 villagers in 6 civilian settlements in the Tovuz district were damaged.

A 30-square-meter ancillary building in the yard belonging to Abdullayeva Roza Asif, a resident of Dondar Gushchu village







A shell fell onto the yard of Mammadov Arif Ali (1960), a resident of Vahidli village





The house of Guliyev Aziz Ali (1948)

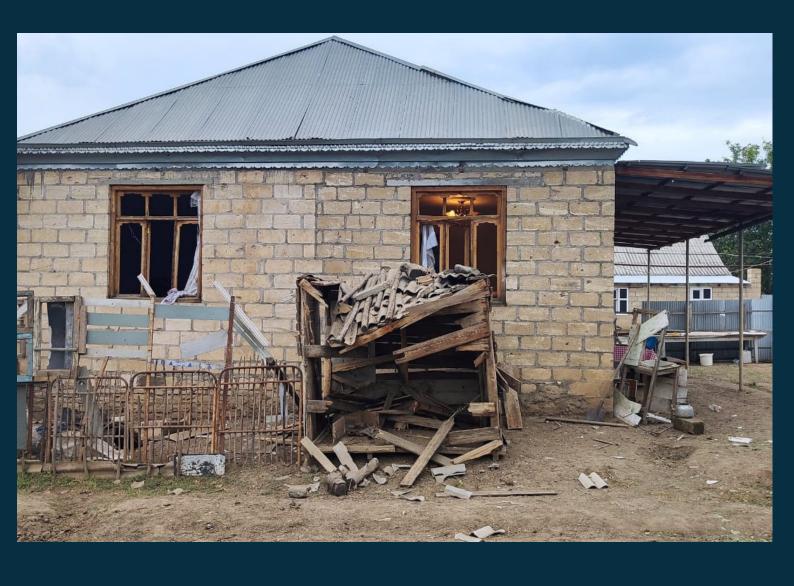


Alibeyli village, the courtyard area of 40 square meters auxiliary building













Acting upon such an aggressive military doctrine, the July 12 offensive was deliberately carried out along the international border on the basis of several military and political calculations:

The border was seen by Armenia as the most favorable place to conduct a "surprise strike" on Azerbaijan, in light of Azerbaijan's decision to gradually de-militarize the non-occupied part of the border and put it under control of the State Border Service.

The attacks were carried out in the region through which, critical energy and transport infrastructure of Azerbaijan is running, thus, threatening the energy resources supplies from Azerbaijan.

Armenia's well-organized propaganda accompanying the attacks along the border pursued the aim of creating an opinion that the Republic of Azerbaijan was allegedly committing attacks on the territory of Armenia thus attempting to involve third parties in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

Referring to the military escalation on the international border between Armenia and Azerbaijan in July 2020, Prime-Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan stated that "July 2020 showed that we are ready for war with Azerbaijan" and "we decided to try to fight and get more favorable conditions as a result" (https://news.am/eng/news/613673.html). Thus, after the July offensive the Armenian side continued its military provocations, which were manifested, inter alia, in infiltration of the sabotage-reconnaissance group of the armed forces of Armenia in the direction of the Goranboy district of Azerbaijan in August, 2020, and offensive against Azerbaijan in September, 2020.