

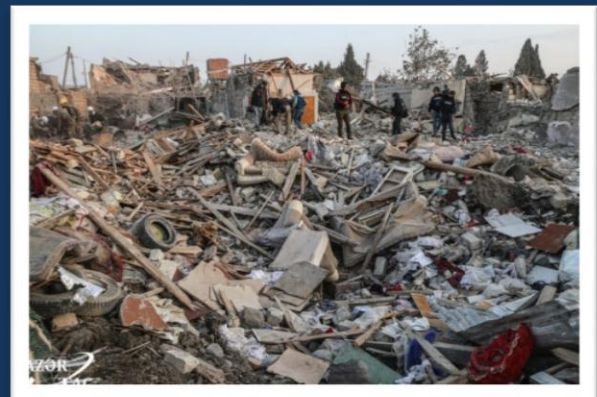
# Offensive by Armenia against Azerbaijan in September 2020 and counter-offensive operation by Azerbaijan

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On September 27, 2020 the armed forces of Armenia blatantly violating the ceasefire regime launched yet another act of aggression against Azerbaijan, by intensively attacking the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the frontline, as well as the villages of Gapanli of Tartar district, Chiragli and Orta Garavend of Aghdam district, Alkhanli and Shukurbeyli of Fuzuli district and Jojuq Merjanli of Jabrayil district, using large-caliber weapons, mortar launchers and artillery. The attack led to casualties among the civilians and military servicemen of Azerbaijan. Extensive damage was inflicted on many homes and other civilian infrastructure. The combat actions that followed have lasted for 44 days.

The attack by Armenia against Azerbaijan was yet another blatant violation of fundamental norms and principles of international law, international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and its Additional Protocols, as well as the United Nations Security Council resolutions 822, 853, 874, 884 of 1993 demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The September 27 attack was the continuation of the latest provocations of Armenia, including its armed attack in the direction of Tovuz region on the state border between Armenia and Azerbaijan on 12-16 July, 2020, planned on the basis of the aggressive military doctrine, which according to the then Minister of Defence of Armenia envisaged “new war for new territories”. Also, one should recall the provocation by an Armenia’s sabotage-reconnaissance group in the direction of the Goranboy district of Azerbaijan on August 23, 2020, which was prevented by the armed forces of Azerbaijan.



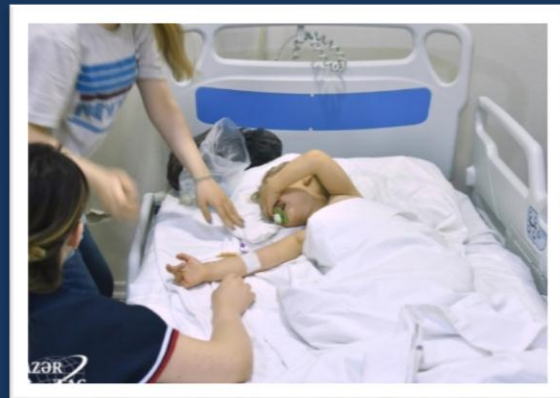
*Ganja after missile attacks (17-October-2020)*

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In order to repel military aggression by Armenia and ensure the security of civilians and densely populated residential areas deep inside the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan undertook counter-offensive measures within the right of self-defence and in full compliance with the international humanitarian law.

Azerbaijan acted on its sovereign soil and took adequate and proportionate measures necessary to repulse the imminent threat to its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and security of its civilian population. The armed forces of Azerbaijan used force exclusively against legitimate military targets strictly complying with international humanitarian law. As a result of the counteroffensive operation, more than 300 cities, towns and villages in Azerbaijan were liberated from Armenia's occupation and Armenia was enforced to withdraw its armed forces from the remaining occupied territories.

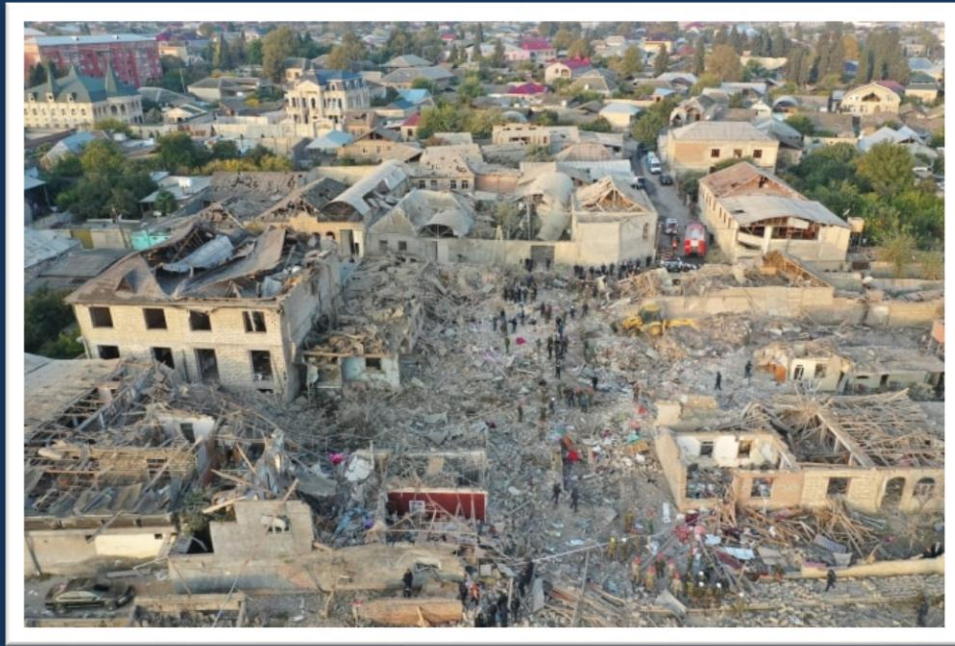
As a result of Armenia's attacks 101 Azerbaijani civilians, including 12 children, were killed, 423 civilians were wounded, almost 84,000 people were forced to leave their homes and over 4,300 private houses and apartment buildings and 548 other civilian objects were either destroyed or damaged. Majority of the killed and injured civilians became victims of Armenia's attacks far away from the zone of military operations, including such cities as Ganja and Barda. During only one attack on Barda banned cluster munitions used by Armenia claimed lives of 21 people and injured 105.



*Children wounded as a result of the missile attack on the city of Ganja (17-October-2020)*

The range and consistency of the attacks as well as the statements of the Armenian side before and during the combat operations proved once again that the attacks on Azerbaijani civilians and civilian infrastructure had been preplanned and executed as a part of Armenia's criminal war strategy. These actions of Armenia constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity and an act of state terror.

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*Destroyed residential area in Ganja*



*Consequences of the attack of the armed forces of Armenia on the city of Barda*

The military activities ended on November 10 with the signing of a Trilateral Statement by the leaders of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation and Armenia. The Statement put an end to the almost three-decade-long armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and envisaged a series of measures to establish peace, security and stability, such as the withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from the remaining occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the return of the displaced population to their places of origin and restoration of all transport communications, including through re-establishing connections between the western regions of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of the Republic of Azerbaijan.