

## Information Circular

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### Communication dated 23 July 2020 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan

1. The Secretariat has received a Note Verbale dated 23 July 2020 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Agency.
2. At the request of the Permanent Mission, the Note Verbale and its attachment are circulated herewith for information of all Member States.

AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ  
VYANADAKI BEYNƏLXALQ  
TƏŞKİLATLAR YANINDA  
DAİMİ NÜMAYƏNDƏLİYİ



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
IN VIENNA

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and with reference to the Note Verbale No. M/042, dated 17 July 2020 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia and has the honour to inform the Agency of the following.

The Republic of Azerbaijan resolutely rejects the speculations of the Armenian side as yet another attempt of the Republic of Armenia to mislead the international community with the obvious purpose of diverting the attention from its continued military occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan, which was achieved by the unlawful use of force condemned by the UN Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993).

The remarks from the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan should be viewed in its proper context of the armed attack of Armenia against Azerbaijan on 12 July 2020 and deliberate targeting by the Armed Forces of this country of the civilian population and civilian objects in the border districts of Azerbaijan, including by using indiscriminately artillery fire, which caused serious damage to the civilian infrastructure, including residential buildings, and resulted in death and injuries among the civilians. According to the media reports the Armenian side considered the Mingachevir Dam in Azerbaijan as military target.

The Office of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has provided official clarifications that Azerbaijan has never planned attacks on civilian objects. The Republic of Azerbaijan underlines that its Armed Forces never target civilians or civilian infrastructure and use force only against Armenia's military in response to the armed attack in exercise of the right of self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Speculations of the Armenian side are curious insofar as it persistently threatens to use force against the Azerbaijani civilian infrastructure (see annexed factsheet) and has solid track record of attacks on civilians and bombardment of inhabited areas in Azerbaijan, condemned by the UN Security Council, which testify to the systematic policy of the use of force against Azerbaijani civilian objects.

***Secretariat of the  
International Atomic Energy Agency  
Vienna***

Armenia's direct and deliberate attacks against the Azerbaijani civilian population and civilian objects constitute a serious violation of international humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the 1949 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I thereto.

The Republic of Azerbaijan calls upon the International Atomic Energy Agency to condemn in strongest terms Armenia's irresponsible and provocative policy and aggressive actions that threaten regional peace and security.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to request the IAEA to circulate this Note Verbale among Member States of the Agency.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl.: As stated.



Vienna, 23 July 2020

## Factsheet

In his interview, former President of Armenia Serzh Sargsyan threatened to unleash short-range ballistic missiles against major cities in Azerbaijan by saying that “the Azerbaijani leadership knows very well what resources the Armenian armed forces have in stock. They are very well aware that we have ballistic missiles with an effective range of over 300 km, and that they are capable of turning into ruins any flourishing settlement in a glimpse, like the ruins of Aghdam.”<sup>1</sup>

The former Deputy Chief of General Staff of Armenia Lieutenant General Levon Mnatsakanyan who was in charge of the Armenian occupying forces threatened Azerbaijan with missile strikes against civilian infrastructure. He is quoted to have told a news conference that “That is definitely part of our tactical plans”. “In general, the art of warfare requires strikes on these facilities as well as military targets in case of a resumption of hostilities, which will damage the [enemy] economy and won’t allow appropriate supplies to the armed forces.” “I see no need for that yet ... But if there is a need to strike [those targets] we will not hesitate for a second,” he said.<sup>2</sup>

Such irresponsible statements are made against the background of continued territorial claims and preparations for offensive operations against Azerbaijan by Armenia. Back in 2013, asked whether the Armenian armed forces could strike first, the then Armenia’s Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan is quoted to have said that “I don’t exclude anything because the doctrine of using our armed forces for the country’s defense envisages numerous measures that can be not only defensive but also preemptive.”<sup>3</sup>

The current Defense Minister of Armenia Davit Tonoyan was more outspoken, saying that “As the minister of defense, I announce that this format, territories for peace, I have re-phrased it. We are doing the opposite – a new war for new territories”.<sup>4</sup> He also did not hide that Armenia’s armed forces were preparing for offensive operations, saying that “We will rid of this trench condition, the constant defensive state, and will add the units which may shift the military actions to the territory of the enemy”.

Armenia’s former Chief of General Staff Lieutenant-General Movses Hakobyan spoke in similar terms, confessing that “We actually need more territory to better guarantee our republic’s security”.<sup>5</sup>

Armenian President Armen Sarkissian is quoted to have said that “This war will have extremely serious consequences. Do not think that after that Azerbaijan will continue selling oil as usual... military operations will be tragic for Azerbaijan as well”.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> President Serzh Sargsyan’s interview to Armnews TV, 11 August 2014, <<https://www.president.am/en/interviews-and-press-conferences/item/2014/08/11/President-Serzh-Sargsyan-interview-Armnews-Sochi/>>.

<sup>2</sup> “Karabakh Army Chief Warns of Missile Strikes on Azerbaijan”, 24 July 2018 <<https://www.azatutyun.am/a/29388040.html>>.

<sup>3</sup> “Armenian ‘Preemptive Strike’ In Karabakh Not Ruled Out”, 9 May 2013, <<https://www.azatutyun.am/a/24981715.html>>.

<sup>4</sup> “We Do the Opposite – New War for New Territories: Minister Tonoyan’s Tough Statement”, 30 March 2019, <<https://www.iragir.am/en/2019/03/30/71511>>.

<sup>5</sup> “Armenian Army Chief Opposes Territorial Concessions to Baku”, 21 September 2017, <<https://www.azatutyun.am/a/28748921.html>>.

<sup>6</sup> “War to be tragic also for Azerbaijan’: Armenian President Armen Sarkissian”, 8 July 2018, <<https://www.aravot-en.am/2018/07/08/215369/>>.