

HIGH ALERT - Looming Genocide

Hate Speech and The Aliyev Regime

Stoking Hatred, Violence and

Ethnic Cleansing

In Violation of ICJ's Provisional Orders of December 7, 2021

(as of April 2023)



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Focus of Report

This Report outlines the Aliyev Administration's violations of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) provisional orders made on December 7, 2021 regarding hate speech against Armenians as a means to further incite fighting, ethnic cleansing, and war. The Report includes examples of actual statements by President Ilham Aliyev and other members of the Azerbaijani government, how children are taught in school to learn to hate Armenians, and the Azerbaijani government's anti-Armenian propaganda machine that promotes hatred and ethnic cleansing in mass and social media. While it is not possible to capture every single speech made by Ilham Aliyev and various leaders in the Azerbaijani leadership, this report highlights some key statements made by Ilham Aliyev and government officials.

The purpose of this report is to provide factual evidence of the Aliyev regime's policy of ethnic cleansing and aggressive policy towards Armenia and Armenians. All indicators point in one direction: the looming genocide of Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh. Unless the Aliyev administration's policies are curbed, Azerbaijan is actively sanctioned, and the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act¹ is applied, the Armenian people in Nagorno Karabakh, which has now become an open prison due to the Lachin Corridor blockade², are in grave physical danger and the sovereignty of Armenia is in jeopardy.

This report is a warning to the international community, specifically to the European Union and the US. All hate speech spouted by Ilham Aliyev and his administration have two goals in sight: to remove all Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh – by force, by starvation or by killing – and to use war and violence against the Republic of Armenia to further invade and occupy land.

Introduction

The ICJ issued its *Armenia v. Azerbaijan* provisional order on December 7, 2021, in an effort “to prevent the incitement and promotion of racial hatred and discrimination, including by its officials and public institutions, targeted at persons of Armenian national or ethnic origin.”³ Since then, however, Azerbaijan's policy of hate speech has continued in further violation of the ICJ order. Its state-sponsored hateful rhetoric continues to demonize Armenians by characterizing them as inherently malicious, dishonest, and threatening. Scholars have studied how dangerous speech can make mass atrocities and genocide seem permissible and necessary

¹ S.230 - Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act (Introduced 01/13/1995), Congress, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/104th-congress/senate-bill/230?s=1&r=38>.

² *Azerbaijan: Blockade of Lachin corridor putting thousands of lives in peril must be immediately lifted*, Amnesty (Feb. 9, 2023), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/02/azerbaijan-blockade-of-lachin-corridor-putting-thousands-of-lives-in-peril-must-be-immediately-lifted/>.

³ Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (*Armenia v. Azerbaijan*), Request for the Indication of Provisional Measures, 2023, I.C.J. No. 180, ¶ 10 (Feb. 22).

by disrespecting and demonizing an ethnic race, attributing guilt for alleged crimes, and depicting them a future threat to create the normative belief that violence is inevitable⁴. As this report documents, Azerbaijan's policy of hatred dehumanizes Armenians by comparing them to dogs or parasites⁵, falsely blaming Armenia for current developments, and manufacturing future threats by portraying Armenia as a danger to itself, its neighbors, the region, and the world. This is how the Aliyev regime justifies its own policy to use violence against Armenians, torture prisoners of war, mutilate bodies, publish heinous crimes on social media, and award those who vilify Armenians and Armenia.

International Court of Justice: December 7, 2021 Provisional Order

In the case of Armenia v. Azerbaijan, on December 7, 2021, the International Court of Justice ("ICJ") issued three provisional measures in its Armenia v. Azerbaijan case. In the Order, which has binding effect, the Court indicated the following provisional measures⁶:

“(1) The Republic of Azerbaijan shall, in accordance with its obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

- (a) Protect from violence and bodily harm all persons captured in relation to the 2020 Conflict who remain in detention, and ensure their security and equality before the law;
- (b) Take all necessary measures to prevent the incitement and promotion of racial hatred and discrimination, including by its officials and public institutions, targeted at persons of Armenian national or ethnic origin;
- (c) Take all necessary measures to prevent and punish acts of vandalism and desecration affecting Armenian cultural heritage, including but not limited to churches and other places of worship, monuments, landmarks, cemeteries and artifacts;

(2) Both Parties shall refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve.”

On February 22, 2023, in response to the ongoing blockade of the Lachin Corridor, ICJ issued another provisional measure, with binding effect:

“The Republic of Azerbaijan shall, pending the final decision in the case and in accordance with its obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial

⁴ Leader Maynard, Jonathan, and Susan Benesch. "Dangerous speech and dangerous ideology: An integrated model for monitoring and prevention." *Genocide Studies and Prevention* 9.3 (2016).

⁵De La Torre, Lucia (Jan 12, 2021). *Azerbaijani postal stamps accused of spreading anti-Armenian propaganda*. The Calvert Journal, [Stamps showing the extermination of Armenians like insects](#).

⁶Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan), Provisional Measures, Order of December 7 2021, I.C.J. Reports 2021, p. 361.

Discrimination, take all measures at its disposal to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions.”

This paper will focus on provisional measure 1(b) which seeks to prevent the incitement of racial hatred targeting Armenians. This report will highlight how the Aliyev regime violates the Court’s order and continues to spur tension and violence.

Background: Azerbaijan’s State-Sponsored Hate Speech

Azerbaijan's state-sponsored hate speech against Armenians has been continuously promoted by the leadership of the country, namely by President Ilham Aliyev and his Administration. The main source of hate speech is the President in his speeches and addresses to the nation, or in international public forums. His messaging has been clear for years: Armenia is the aggressor, Armenia is weak, Armenians are fascists and terrorists, and therefore all military actions against Armenia and Armenians are justified. In Ilham Aliyev’s speeches between 2016 and 2020, the regime created the ‘enemy image’ in the context of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Narrative and discourse analysis of his speeches uncover three main components: 1) blaming Armenians as the sole culprit for the country’s problems, 2) demonization of Armenians as non-human and barbaric, and 3) stressing the superiority of Azerbaijan to justify eliminating the threat.⁷

More recently, on December 5, 2022, Ilham Aliyev began to openly make claims to the lands of the Republic of Armenia during a meeting with a group representing ‘Western Azerbaijan’.⁸ On his 61st birthday, on December 24, 2022, in a wide-ranging speech, Ilham Aliyev stated, “[Armenia] is our historical land, this is confirmed by many historical documents, historical maps, and our history”.⁹ These false narratives have three main goals: to deliberately stoke ethnic tension, to denigrate Armenia as a lesser nation, and to justify the regime's ultimate goals of ethnic cleansing in the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh and further occupation of additional territories of the Republic of Armenia.

In 2016, Aliyev called for the destruction of Armenia’s “existing military-political regime” and said that Azerbaijan should “use all its resources” to do so. He publicly expressed his desire to achieve a “final and irreversible victory” against Armenians by military means, claiming that

⁷ Sahakyan, Naira, *The rhetorical face of enmity: the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the dehumanization of Armenians in the speeches by Ilham Aliyev* (2022),

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14683857.2022.2153402?journalCode=fbss20>.

⁸ *President Ilham Aliyev: We should also work on the Concept of Return to Western Azerbaijan with joint efforts*, AZERTAC (Dec 24, 2022),

https://azertag.az/xeber/Prezident_Ilham_Aliyev_Biz_birge_seylerle_Qerbi_Azərbaycana_Qayidis_Konsepsiyasını_da_islemeliyik-2423867.

⁹ *Aliyev says Yerevan ‘historically’ Azerbaijani*, OC Media (Dec 25, 2022),

<https://oc-media.org/aliyev-says-yerevan-historically-azerbaijani/>.

“we will restore our historic lands in Nagorno-Karabakh.”¹⁰ In this particular speech, Aliyev also laid claim to cities in Armenia, including Yerevan, the capital city of Armenia, which has never been under Azerbaijan’s control.

President Aliyev and his regime’s false narrative has no limits and is not constrained by any international laws, including the ICJ’s most recent rulings. In fact, the Aliyev regime feels emboldened due to the fact that there have not been any consequences of its hate speech and propagation of violence against Armenians. Rather, Azerbaijan's government has escalated its campaign of hate speech aimed at Armenians using a variety of nationalistic narratives. These messages paint Armenians as subhuman and "other" people worthy only of destruction.

Media and the education system in Azerbaijan are also being weaponized by the Azerbaijani government to spread xenophobic and anti-Armenian messages. This includes promoting a climate of fear, denying that Armenians are an indigenous population in the Caucasus region, and blaming Armenians for the region's problems, including war.

The Aliyev regime uses hate speech and racism against Armenians as a way to engineer and legitimize the hatred of all things Armenian and blame Armenians for violence instigated and carried out by the Azerbaijani regime. By fueling populist rage in Azerbaijan against Armenia and Armenians, this strategy is designed to divide Armenians and Azerbaijanis, break down their ability to peacefully coexist, and push for a one-sided vision of what it means to be Azerbaijani – in essence, to hate and kill Armenians.

This use of hate speech by the Azerbaijani government dates as far back as 2004. Today, it uses all state-sponsored outlets of news, social media, conferences, delegations, speeches, and education to spread dehumanizing messages, denigrate Armenians due to their ethnic background, and instill fear to legitimize violence and war. In the media and in public discourse, they have used hate speech to portray Armenians as being inferior, deviant, or dangerous. During the 44-Day War in September of 2020, and in its aftermath, to justify violence, extrajudicial killings, torture, forced displacement, forced disappearances, destruction of Armenian cultural monuments, and attacks on the peaceful Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan continued its diatribe against all things Armenian.

President Aliyev’s Role in Azerbaijan’s State-Sponsored Hate Speech

President Ilham Aliyev plays a major role in inciting racial hatred targeting Armenians. After the Second Nagorno Karabakh war, on October 4, 2020, President Aliyev stated in a televised

¹⁰ Asbarez Staff, *Armenia Urges Artsakh Recognition as Aliyev Calls for ‘Reclaiming’ Yerevan, Meghri*, Asbarez (Dec. 6, 2016), <https://asbarez.com/armenia-urges-artsakh-recognition-as-aliyev-calls-for-reclaiming-yerevan-meghri/>.

speech, “We are driving them away like dogs! Azerbaijani soldiers drive them away like dogs.”¹¹ In Islamic tradition, dogs are associated with something impure.¹² This statement set the tone for President Aliyev’s racist hate speech targeting Armenians and continues today despite peace-building efforts, such as the ICJ December 7, 2021, provisional measures.

As early as January 30, 2022, less than two months after the ICJ provisional order, President Aliyev made the following statements as part of an interview with the Azerbaijan State News Agency, AZERTAG:

“We must never forget the Armenian savagery and Armenian fascism... We have defeated Armenian fascism. We must ensure that Armenian fascism never arises again.

In previous years, I have repeatedly raised the issue of Armenian fascists in my speeches. I raised the issue with international organizations and countries and said that Nazis should not be allowed to become heroes...

This shows that Armenian fascism is still alive. Yes, we defeated Armenian fascism in the second Karabakh war, in the Patriotic War. I can say that Armenian fascists are not as active now as they were in previous years. But we can see that fascism is on the rise in Armenia. Former fascist leaders of Armenia, child murderers Sargsyan and Kocharyan are rising up and trying to challenge us again. We have defeated them. We brought them to their knees. They will go down in history as deserters.

We have defeated Armenian fascism, but it is not over with yet. We will continue to try to wipe out all manifestations of Armenian fascism, and we are capable of doing that. We have not only liberated our lands, we have cleansed the region, the South Caucasus, of these savage forces. I repeat that they are in a humiliated state now, but no-one can guarantee that they will not rise again. We will never allow Armenian fascism to rise in our region. We can never allow Armenia to become a potential threat to Azerbaijan again. If we see that, we will destroy it on the spot.”¹³

In this interview with AZERTAC, President Aliyev not only utterly disregards the ICJ provisional order, he also specifically calls on the international community to join him in his mission to incite hatred and glorify violence against Armenians. By referring to Armenia’s side in the conflict as “fascist” and “savage,” Aliyev attempts to portray Azerbaijan’s attacks on

¹¹ *President Aliyev: Azerbaijani soldiers drive them away like dogs*, Defence.az (Oct. 4, 2020), <https://defence.az/en/news/146240/president-aliyev-azerbaijani-soldiers-drive-them-away-like-dogs>.

¹² Tatoyan Foundation and Center for Law and Justice, *Azerbaijani Ongoing Hatred Policy Towards Armenians: A State Sponsored Motivation for Atrocities* 9 (2022).

¹³ President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by AZERTAC VIDEO, Azertac (Jan. 31), <https://azertag.az/en/xeber/1994012>.

Armenia as justified and necessary and proudly supports the ethnic cleansing of Armenians. Notably, he further utilizes the historical memory of the Soviet Union and the Second World War to support his image of Armenia as “fascist” and “savage.” As Aliyev describes the Armenian people, land, and monuments as fascist, he justifies both past and future attacks, including the occupation of Armenian lands and the destruction of Armenian monuments which is a direct violation of the ICJ order provisional measure 1(c).

In April 2022, President Aliyev reiterated his stance on Armenia, accusing them of “treason” and “occupation” and calling for their expulsion from what he claimed to be “historically Azeri territories.” He declared that those who support Armenia and “occupation by Armenians” are “enemies of the Azeri people” and must be brought to justice.

On August 12, 2022, Ilham Aliyev delivered a long [propaganda statement](#) on AzTV.¹⁴ He stated,

"There is no Karabakh issue in the normalization process between Armenia and Azerbaijan today. There have been such attempts, but I have never agreed to it. What does Armenia have to do with it? This is our internal matter."

"Armenians living in Karabakh should take the right step. They should understand that their future only depends on their integration into Azerbaijani society. It is not possible otherwise. I mean this is reality."

"If someone in Karabakh still talks about some status or independence for the sake of populism or because s/he is afraid of someone, you should know that s/he is the first enemy of the Armenian people. Because the Armenians living in Karabakh will have no status, no independence and no special privileges. They are the same as the citizens of Azerbaijan. As the rights of Azerbaijani citizens are protected, so are theirs. As the rights of the ethnicities living in Azerbaijan are protected, so should theirs. This is the only way."

"And Armenia is simply still engaged in sedition. And they should understand that delaying will not do them any good. If they think that after a year or a year and a half something will change in their favor, they are wrong. Something may change, but in our favor."

¹⁴Presidentaz, YouTube (Aug 12, 2022), *İlham Əliyevin Azərbaycan Televiziyasına müsahibəsi*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4gkIv5hSCCM>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r5irjdux9am84z0/AAAPx-w6qsVdXsgCwRNOvUNVa?dl=0>.

"Because the geopolitical situation in the world and in the region is obvious. You don't have to be a big politician so that everyone can see it. The growing power of Azerbaijan, both military, economic and political power, the actual isolation of Armenia...

...if it is possible to say so. Why isolation? Because they are wrong. They are doing wrong."

"However, I told them directly, in an official manner. 'Let go of territorial claims', I said. If you don't let it go, then we can raise a territorial claim against Armenia too."

"Armenians living in Karabakh also saw that only good things can come to them from Azerbaijan. I am optimistic about the future. We always achieve what we want."

"Operation "Revenge" once again showed Armenia that no one and nothing can stop us. Not a declaration from someone, not a statement from someone, not some phone call. Nothing and nobody. The people of Azerbaijan know this well. The second Karabakh war has shown this."

"I am sure that the other party [Armenia] also knows this. It just forgets sometimes. That's why these tragic events happen. Why should our children die after the war? Why should one be killed by Armenians? We cannot allow that."

"I want to say again if a provocation like this is repeated again, the response will be harsher, they will be more sorry, they will cry for help louder. But I say again, our intention is not to start a new war. It's enough. We have achieved what we wanted."

"Perhaps that's why we hear some news coming from there, one or two say 'I won't leave'. It is up to them. They are war criminals. Let them not try our patience again. Let them leave as they please. We don't care where they go afterwards."

In stating that the Azerbaijani government does not care where Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh go, Aliyev made it clear that his true intent is ethnic cleansing. To justify these threatening statements, he employs a strategy of portraying Armenia as the seditious side and Azerbaijan as the peace-loving and heroic country. If Armenians do not submit to the rule of Azerbaijan, Aliyev made it clear that the Republic of Armenia is at risk of violence by Azerbaijan. It is important to note that within a month of this statement Azerbaijan attacked and invaded Armenia and, to date, continues to occupy parts of the Southern borders of Armenia.¹⁵

¹⁵ Maghakyan, Simon, *The U.S. Might Be the Surprising Determining Factor in the Future of Armenia*, TIME (Oct 6 2022), <https://time.com/6219263/armenia-azerbaijan-us-involvement/>.

On September 13, 2022, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces launched an unprovoked intensive artillery and large caliber firearm shelling and targeting the cities of Goris, Sotk, and Jermuk, all heavily inhabited by civilian population, within the borders of the Republic of Armenia.¹⁶ At the onset of the attacks, President Aliyev [posted on Telegram](#) stating,

“Learn to think with your head. We are here. Didn't go anywhere. And don't piss us off. Behave yourselves. If you behave well, then you can live in peace. If you commit any provocation against us or make a statement again, we will smash your heads. Regardless of anyone. No one will help you.”¹⁷

Through continuous statements like these, President Aliyev simultaneously incites fear and hatred as murders and inhumane treatment of Armenians by Azerbaijan are encouraged and rewarded. In August 2022, he awarded Gardashkhan Abishov, who, after the Second Nagorno Karabakh war in 2020, was investigated for the inhumane treatment of Armenian soldiers and for spreading a video of the mutilation of a female Armenian soldier's body on the internet, for “protecting the borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan.”¹⁸ In January 2023, President Aliyev again spoke of expelling Armenians from “Azerbaijani territories,” accusing them of perpetrating “ethnic cleansing” and committing “war crimes.” He maintained that Armenians are “the cause of the war” and declared that the Azeris must “defend their right to their lands.” He labeled Armenians trying to enter the region as “invaders” and affirmed his support for taking “all necessary diplomatic and military measures” to protect Azeri borders. President Aliyev is responsible for facilitating racial hatred targeting Armenians in Azerbaijan through direct racial comments, including labeling as “fascist” and “savage,” and encouragement of violence, murder, and inhumane treatment.

Indoctrinating Children With Hatred

Azerbaijan’s state-sponsored hate speech targeting Armenians is taught in its educational institutions. Azerbaijani children are taught to hate Armenians from a very young age - as early as five years old. In February 2023, an event called [“Khojali through the eyes of children”](#) was held at a kindergarten in Hadrut, which is currently occupied by Azerbaijan.¹⁹ As part of the event, five-year-old children wore military uniforms. Indoctrination like this demonstrates how Azerbaijan brings historic tensions into the future as today's generation of children grow up

¹⁶ *Release*, Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia (Sept. 13, 2022), <https://www.mil.am/en/news/11007>.

¹⁷ @MaidenTower, Telegram (Sept. 13, 2022), <https://t.me/MaidenTower/27716>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9clm8mdh3bwzxdl/AABHJ8U19AFOUxEv6DkhQNYUa?dl=0>.

¹⁸ Ani Avetisyan, *Aliyev Awarded the Mutilator of the Killed Armenian Soldier's Body in August*, Fact Investigator Platform (Sept. 19, 2022), https://fip.am/en/20460?doing_wp_cron=1677797975.9089000225067138671875.

¹⁹ @theusarmenias, Instagram (Feb. 24, 2023), <https://www.instagram.com/p/CpDJEAyKP8j/>. CFTJ backup: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r3bdvyr2fo0m7ia/AAAkfuAeuU_9sHW3uwEsuA5Ja?dl=0.

learning the tensions and hatred sparked by the grievances of past events in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

On September 23, 2022, a [video](#) circulated on social media showing Azerbaijani children being taught to repeat a famous Azerbaijani anti-Armenian slogan: “Serving the Motherland! Loyalty to the people! Death, death, death to the enemy!”²⁰ Similarly, [another video](#) shows a group of Azerbaijani children dancing with a whiteboard in the background that reads “Karabakh is Azerbaijan.”²¹

Indoctrinating children with hatred similarly happens through literature. Bahrim Barizada wrote “Irevan for Children” and [“The Azerbaijani Armed Forces: For children.”](#)²² The books are available from the Azerbaijani government-funded Baku Book Center. “Irevan” refers to Yerevan, the capital of Armenia. In this way, the Barizada teaches children to believe that Irevan is an ancient city of Azerbaijan and therefore a territory that needs to be reclaimed. Outside of books like these that are specifically made to teach Azerbaijani children historic grievances, military customs, and racial hatred towards Armenians, there is also evidence of the prevalence of racial hatred in books used in Azerbaijani schools. On January 28, 2022, there was a [Tweet](#) about an Azerbaijani school book where an Armenian orders an Azerbaijani mother to kill her son and the Azerbaijani mother kills the Armenian instead.²³ Similarly, while the timeline of publication and implementation is unknown, there is another school book in Azerbaijan of an Azerbaijani girl killing an Armenian soldier with an ax to his head. Books and military events for children play a critical role in indoctrinating children with hatred toward Armenians. In this way, racial hatred becomes embedded in the Azerbaijani national ideology for generations to come, making state-sponsored hate speech a tremendous barrier to peace.

Social Media and the Spread of State-Sponsored Hate Speech Condoning Violence

Social media, particularly Telegram, has become a breeding ground for racial hatred targeting Armenians. The use of Telegram surged during the Second Nagorno-Karabakh war in 2020.²⁴ When the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, on September 13, 2022, launched an artillery and large

²⁰ @theusarmenias, Instagram (Sept. 23 2022), https://www.instagram.com/reel/Ci4E9UMK_RN/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y%3D. CFTJ backup: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uobtb3o9titfkic/AADvnP_vfyRo8JKFd49sK-n2a?dl=0.

²¹ @super_armenia, Instagram (Sept. 20, 2022), <https://www.instagram.com/reel/CiuNL6Ko0Ob/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y%3D>.

²² Azərbaycan silahlı güvvələri, Baku Book Center (n.d.), <https://bakubookcenter.az/en/product/55593>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cvhjqf7n4ud1f/AADokOKNZA3PzLM3HXmJi0zca?dl=0>.

²³ @arzdreamwish, Twitter (Jan 29, 2022), <https://twitter.com/arzdreamwish/status/1487114651796230146?s=21>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bflh3iq8rxnmwau/AAAIdu4zKJeVVAh1YUYM02Cxa?dl=0>.

²⁴ Arzu Geybulla and Bahruz Samadov, How Azerbaijan’s Telegram Channels Fuel Intimidation, Institute for War and Peace Reporting (Oct. 25, 2022), <https://iwpr.net/global-voices/how-azerbaijans-telegram-channels-fuel-intimidation>.

caliber firearm shelling²⁵ targeting Armenian towns of Goris, Sotk, and Jermuk, the platform was, again, used to share gruesome content of atrocities, such as videos mocking extrajudicial killings of Armenians, often with racist captions.

A [Telegram post](#) shows an Azerbaijani soldier raising the Azerbaijani flag, then cuts to a video of multiple extrajudicial killings.²⁶ In another Telegram post an Armenian soldier that suffered extrajudicial killing is shared with celebratory music in the background.²⁷

An article posted on September 19, 2022, explains that Azerbaijani Telegram channels made stickers from the photos of 119 dead Armenians and sold them online.²⁸ One of those soldiers was Aren Malakyan, whose photo was shared in a Telegram post, with a lip emoji edited onto his face. The caption reads,

“Aren Malakyan died at the age of 19, he knew that fighting in a foreign land would result in his death, so he prematurely wrote a letter to his mother. Let's all wish him a nice day with Mr. Astvats (the Armenian word for God). Let the earth be shit to you Aren Jaan!! Amen.”²⁹

A deleted Telegram post shows a female Armenian soldier, who was captured, mutilated, and disrobed, edited with a veil on her head with Armenian music playing in the background.³⁰

Another Telegram post reveals a photo of an Armenian female soldier's face after an extrajudicial killing as an iPhone lock screen. The caption says,

“So that you can understand how much the admin (the Azerbaijani government) gets high from the Armenian corpses, every day I put new photos on the wallpaper.”³¹

On September 17, 2022, an [illustration](#) shows two Armenian female soldiers with their fingers and legs cut off and their fingers placed in their mouths.³²

²⁵ Release, Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia (13 Sept. 2022), <https://www.mil.am/en/news/11007>.

²⁶ @MaidenTower, Telegram (Sept. 13, 2022), <https://t.me/MaidenTower/27781>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5sk29006upxokc0/AABGEISmugOPdqVhOufK2YIRa?dl=0>.

²⁷ @aze_patriotlar, Telegram (Sept. 23, 2022), https://t.me/aze_patriotlar/2528.

²⁸ Arman Tatoyan, *The mutilated and dismembered bodies of the Armenians were photographed and made into stickers*, hetq (Sept. 19, 2022), <https://hetq.am/en/article/148458>.

²⁹ CFTJ backup of @aze_patriotlar, Telegram (Sept 15, 2022), https://drive.google.com/file/d/1whPRvGNF_a_qpJU9XGihHgRGJG3cm9d/view.

³⁰ @aze_patriotlar, Telegram (Sept. 13, 2022), https://t.me/aze_patriotlar/2530; CFTJ backup of @aze_patriotlar Telegram (Sept 13, 2022), <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18G4PBEDlirDcNnTnLtkyvK0hTjj9tywm/view>.

³¹ CFTJ backup of @aze_patriotlar Telegram (Sept. 13, 2022), https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QBoDFHt7LQfQvZHgmE4au38tcfmQTli_/view.

³² CFTJ backup of @zloy_mamed Telegram (Sept 17, 2022), <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9mp7vp2owv1na6q/AABHu0AuSbVIP4YK02jOAFVFfa?dl=0>.

Captioned “More footage of the murdered Zinvorni” (Zinvorni referring to the Armenian word for soldiers), a Telegram post shows a [video](#) of Azerbaijani soldiers stepping on the dead bodies of Armenian soldiers.³³

Another Telegram post shows an Azerbaijani putting a knife to a deceased soldier's head, preparing to behead him.³⁴

On September 16, a Telegram was posted revealing a long row of dead Armenian soldiers lined up on the ground. At least two of the soldiers have had their clothes stripped. The caption reads,

“Soldiers of the Azerbaijan Army filming from a recent special operation. On the footage of a mountain of corpses of Armenians who wanted to drink tea in Baku. The feeling of Khachey according to the instructions of Uncle Mammad continues. There are no losses, I swear by Suren’s leg that the Evil Turkeri cut off.”³⁵

A Telegram post shows two Armenian soldiers that were killed, and the caption reads,

“Gondon fucket a unibrow when he got cunts. And the second one hugged him, fucking in the mouth, how cute it is. Fight, Ashot, fight Peysar!”³⁶

On September 17, an [image](#) of an Armenian soldier was posted with the caption,

“The Khachecky soldier, like a rat, hid in a kennel from our soldier. But the brave hunters have found their game, and now he is waiting for fun carousels on the Baku barbeque.”³⁷

Another Telegram [image](#) posted on September 17 depicts two beheaded Armenian soldiers with the caption,

“Another photo with killed Armenian terrorists. Interestingly, the Armenian Defense Ministry admits that they have about 400 losses in personnel?”³⁸

³³ CFTJ backup of @zloy_mamed Telegram (Sept 13, 2022),

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hb5gsy7ujikztor/AABG4qULypRbxO2shhbEgkWCa?dl=0>.

³⁴ @azerbayjanwarcimes, Telegram (Sept. 16, 2022), <https://t.me/azerbayjanwarcimes/298>.

³⁵ @Gorbagor22, Telegram (Sept. 16, 2022), <https://t.me/Gorbagor22/92656>.

³⁶ @zloy_mamed_1915, Telegram (Sept. 13, 2022), https://t.me/zloy_mamed_1915/112.

³⁷ @bizimdir_biuro, Telegram (Sept. 17, 2022), https://t.me/bizimdir_biuro/539. CFTJ backup:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/iv9sth96hbz4lh/AABKMYyfVsaFqg9-W0WqXrRa?dl=0>.

³⁸ CFTJ backup of @KHACHERUBKA_GORBAGOR Telegram (Sept 17, 2022),

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8c1gu63qadz9lnu/AACuTw-X3lYxaScxfcCP9brPa?dl=0>.

From September 13 to 15, 2022, almost two dozen Armenians were taken captive by Azerbaijan. [Telegram posts](#) show the prisoners of war (“POWs”) were blindfolded and their hands were tied.³⁹ One [post](#) shows an Azerbaijani soldier stepping on the leg of a wounded soldier and hitting a blindfolded POW over the head.⁴⁰ For more details on the torture and mistreatment of Armenian POWs, see CFTJ’s [White Paper of Torture and Mistreatment of Armenian POWS](#) and [Supplemental Report on the Disappearance of Armenian Soldier](#).

A post on Telegram was captioned, “Zangezur,” with the text, “Oh those Azerbaijanis. 12.09.2022,” that shows an illustration of the rape of an Armenian man.⁴¹ In other posts, Armenian soldiers are shown laying face down in a moving truck with their hands zip-tied and the post on Telegram is captioned, [“A small batch of Armenian prisoners are going to Baku.”](#)⁴²

On September 16, a video captioned [“New footage of new Armenian prisoners”](#) was posted showing the POWs laying face down with their hands tied behind their backs.⁴³ A [Telegram post](#) shows an Armenian serviceman that was captured with the caption,

“If relatives recognize their kid, contact the presidential administration of Azerbaijan directly. Neither Pashinyan nor anyone else will help you.”⁴⁴

These examples demonstrate how Azerbaijani soldiers and civilians use Telegram as a channel to glorify violence and war crimes against Armenians. As the captions above demonstrate, horrific atrocities including extrajudicial killings and rape are mocked and accompanied by racist commentary.

While Telegram functions as the primary platform for the spread of hate speech among Azerbaijanis, it is not the only social media platform that contributes to widespread hatred targeting Armenians. An Azerbaijani [comment on a YouTube video](#) reads,

“100 for armenian head Im ready to pay 10, fund azerbaijan we need 200 million.”⁴⁵

³⁹ @MaidenTower, Telegram (Sept. 14, 2022), <https://t.me/MaidenTower/27842>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/paztcw06kapxayf/AADJY10hQfMGDTuZC5z0opmva?dl=0>.

⁴⁰ @QarabagZengezur, Telegram (Sept. 14, 2022), <https://t.me/QarabagZengezur/1742>.

⁴¹ @Gorbagor22, Telegram (Sept. 14, 2022), <https://t.me/Gorbagor22/107876>.

⁴² @MaidenTower, Telegram (Sept. 13, 2022), <https://t.me/MaidenTower/27789>.

⁴³ @KarabakhRu, Telegram (Sept. 13, 2022), <https://t.me/KarabakhRu/25755>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ajet1tt4tbst7v5/AAB4ZWc6Ddr-2YcOAEqor0Z6a?dl=0>.

⁴⁴ @MaidenTower, Telegram (Sept. 13, 2022), <https://t.me/MaidenTower/27796>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dro81krfyxaahhi/AABLLfPvfEqNw8Jr70S1IIn8a?dl=0>.

⁴⁵ @ambassador_of_the_king, Instagram (Sept. 28, 2022), <https://www.instagram.com/p/CjDdd5uOPJ4/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y%3D>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4vjsps0qjbn9iao/AACYj1NMIYzq6IOsE4u0y-SJa?dl=0>.

Twitter is another notable platform, used both by officials like President Aliyev and ordinary Azerbaijani users. In October 2022, Azerbaijanis launched a Twitter campaign using hashtags like [#ArmenianWarCrimes](#) where thousands of users published the same tweet.⁴⁶

Moreover, prior to the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War, during the war, and today, Turkish and Azerbaijani people have also been using the hashtag [#Armenianlies](#) when disseminating content on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and Tiktok relating to Armenian suffering. This includes the Armenian Genocide, Sumgait Massacre, and the Lachin Blockade, regarding which the state-controlled News Agency [Caliber.Az also belittled the crisis](#), tweeting,

“Btw, let’s not forget that there is a ‘serious food deficit’...Look at this fruit table, it testifies to how they are ‘hungry’ & suffer ‘malnutrition’. The world’s one of a kind clownery continues 🤡 [#CaliberAz](#) [#facts](#) [#ArmenianLies](#).”⁴⁷

On Reddit, the subreddit [r/ArmenianLies](#) is also specifically dedicated to discussing

“Historical lies... 100 years of meaningless claims with no evidence, and the disclosure of lies that are tried to be believed....”⁴⁸

In discounting human tragedies by naming these events lies, these populations are societally dehumanizing Armenians among younger generations.

Social media platforms are weaponized both to spread racial hatred and footage of atrocities as well as to change the narrative surrounding the unprovoked attacks by Azerbaijan on the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh and to place the blame on Armenia.

The Human and Geographical Costs of Hate Speech and Implications for Future Peace-Building Efforts

The ongoing blockade of the Lachin Corridor emphasizes the tremendous human costs of Azerbaijan’s state-sponsored hate speech. Since December 12, 2022, the Lachin corridor has been blockaded by dozens of Azerbaijani protesters, widely believed to be backed by Azerbaijani authorities.⁴⁹ The road connects Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia and the blockade has left about

⁴⁶ @Lily_Ray, Twitter (Oct. 4, 2022), https://twitter.com/lily_ray/status/1577292100349091840?s=46&t=6BcVrC546n3_O3qjxbtjlw. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9frighxjenl7ov9/AACtqpc7UByi8XqMeHYOeAg9a?dl=0>.

⁴⁷ @CaliberEnglish, Twitter (March 3, 2023), <https://twitter.com/CaliberEnglish/status/1633703046646562818>. CFTJ backup: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5t6vcsv60r18k7v/AABSBUqa1t9m4tB_Zns4BgNFa?dl=0.

⁴⁸ "ArmenianLies." Reddit, www.reddit.com/r/ArmenianLies/.

⁴⁹ *Azerbaijan: Blockade of Lachin corridor putting thousands of lives in peril must be immediately lifted*, Amnesty (Feb. 9, 2023),

120,000 Armenian civilians without access to essential goods and services including health care and medication. Only the International Committee of the Red Cross and Russian peacekeeper's vehicles are allowed to travel through the corridor and their capacity is insufficient to fulfill the needs of the population stranded inside.⁵⁰ Furthermore, the territory has suffered repeated disruptions to its gas and electricity supply causing schools to close and people to lose their jobs. Shortages in food, healthcare, gas, and electricity and the closing of schools resulting from the blockade is creating a worsening humanitarian crisis and violating the population's basic human rights.

The ICJ February 22 provisional measure responding to the ongoing blockade calls on Azerbaijan to “in accordance with its obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, take all measures at its disposal to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the Lachin Corridor in both directions.”⁵¹

Responding to the provisional measure, Rahman Mustafayev, the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Netherlands, [tweeted](#) on February 23,

“74 days of eco-action. Inspired by the decision of @CIJ_ICJ, Azerbaijani activists and NGOs continue their peaceful action. Azerbaijan continues to take all measures at AT ITS DISPOSAL to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles and cargo along the #Lachin road in both directions.”⁵²

Mustafayev’s tweet highlights how Azerbaijan attempts to portray the protesters as honest brokers for environmental issues while dismissing any responsibility for the humanitarian crisis the government has created.

In further delegitimization of the humanitarian crisis, Azerbaijan’s government officials vilify those who reject their preposterous false narratives. Tural Ganjali, a Member of the Parliament of Azerbaijan, named Ruben Vardanyan, who served as the Former State Minister of Artsakh, a “Criminal crook” who “was exposed point-blank by @BBCHARDTalk for his lies & bogus fairy tales on ‘humanitarian catastrophe’ ‘blockade’ in Karabakh, Azerbaijan.” Unable to control the

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/02/azerbaijan-blockade-of-lachin-corridor-putting-thousands-of-lives-in-peril-must-be-immediately-lifted/>.

⁵⁰ *The situation in the Lachin corridor requires immediate action, PACE monitors for Armenia say*, Parliamentary Assembly (Feb. 24, 2023),

<https://pace.coe.int/en/news/8986/the-situation-in-the-lachin-corridor-requires-immediate-action-pace-monitors-for-armenia-say?fbclid=IwAR243W2cTD1KImHC5ftqn8GYsO2juCk7p5Tv160UGepJSZa2MX0bFf-yii4>.

⁵¹ Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan), Request for the Indication of Provisional Measures, 2023, I.C.J. No. 180, ¶ 10 (Feb. 22).

⁵² @rahman2609m, Twitter (Feb 23, 2023), <https://twitter.com/rahman2609m/status/1628677810469408772>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/myxjbd4u5ppwwd0/AADZGs2pS6H-mNK8IJ2a2jg6a?dl=0>.

narrative and reception of this international broadcast, Ganjali resorted to verbal insults, [continuing](#) that the “worst thing is that some MEP’s at @Europarl_EN are easily fooled & support this villain [Vardanyan].”⁵³ Placing “humanitarian catastrophe” in quotes dismisses the validity of the crisis, and, notably, targeting those who speak against the maltreatment of Armenians breeds unwillingness within the international community to speak against injustice.

Tural Ganjali also [demanded](#) that “#Armenia must stop distorting the true purpose of peaceful protest in #Lachin” and “refrain from deceiving the international community with lies about alleged “humanitarian” issues & bogus & fake stories!”⁵⁴ Ganjali in Parliament represents “Khankendi,” the Azerbaijani name for “Stepanakert,” which is the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh. Claiming further that “this neo-Armenian fascism” that “drags our region into a catastrophe” “must be stopped!” Ganjali [highlights](#) how the Azerbaijani government deflects and then dehumanizes Armenians in threatening them into submission.⁵⁵

Another prominent political figure in Azerbaijan, Hikmet Hajiyev, who serves as President Aliyev’s Foreign Policy Advisor, has made similar dismissive [comments](#) on his Twitter profile. Despite evidence of a humanitarian crisis, he insists that the “road is open for civilian/humanitarian purposes” and demands an end to “‘blockade’ propaganda.”⁵⁶ He further [tweeted](#), “Conveyed legitimate concerns of Azerbaijani civil society protesting peacefully at the intersection of Lachin-Khankandi road on illicit mineral deposit exploitation and ensuing ecological damages. Alleged claims of Armenia on ‘blockade’ is groundless, futile attempt of black propaganda.”⁵⁷

Hajiyev again falsely alleges Armenia’s use of the blockade as “propaganda.” As the foreign policy advisor in Azerbaijan, his use of words like “civil society” and “ecological damages” attempts to portray Azerbaijan as an internationally politically progressive state.

These words by Hajiyev and Ganjali, and particularly the insincere application of environmental justice, which is a major concern in global policy today, seek to green-wash the blockade by attempting to present it as a matter of environmentalism rather than Azerbaijan’s ethnic cleansing of Nagorno-Karabakh.

⁵³ @TGanjaliyev, Twitter (January 23, 2023), <https://twitter.com/TGanjaliyev/status/1617634483020386304>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4vb9w55rv8j2qnb/AAD9WkBR2XgKhkGEllfnLA81a?dl=0>.

⁵⁴ @TGanjaliyev, Twitter (January 25, 2023), <https://twitter.com/TGanjaliyev/status/1618304908515758080>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wnf0gi1auopnu41/AAD4egoTm9TUI1geKokrF4t4a?dl=0>.

⁵⁵ @TGanjaliyev, Twitter (January 26, 2023), <https://twitter.com/TGanjaliyev/status/1618751477270577152>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1egey1ysmx4bs4i/AAAw1qE0KstNhSfW7kwnlllka?dl=0>.

⁵⁶ @HimketHajiyev, Twitter (Dec. 23, 2022), <https://twitter.com/HimketHajiyev/status/1606521998548557824>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pzb7ewquk3d0ald/AAC-11PjiKa7hHX1bOIZmtF4a?dl=0>.

⁵⁷ @HimketHajiyev, Twitter (Dec. 22, 2022), <https://twitter.com/HimketHajiyev/status/1605974855819464706>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/li6howe5dlkiqlu/AAAC3dbXD10PAeNDahyPgHBka?dl=0>.

The environmental rhetoric; however, stands in contrast to Azerbaijani government officials consistently parading the wealth and international support of Azerbaijan as a result of their oil, in a binary approach to contrast Armenia's lack thereof. For instance, the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Germany, Nasimi Aghayev, [Tweeted](#),

“If pro-Armenian politicians & media are unhappy about #Azerbaijan delivering large amounts of natural gas to Europe, warming countless homes & helping EU prosperity, they should then opt for ancient Armenian gas & build an ancient Armenian pipeline...Oh wait, Armenia has no gas 😞.”⁵⁸

In addition to mocking Armenians with the ‘sad’ emoji, he notably undermines Armenia's history in supposing that Armenians unjustly consider their artifacts “ancient.” Aghayev then goes on to [note](#),

“Armenian lobby & its allies sh'd ask themselves why Azerbaijani oil & gas pipelines bypassed Armenia” rather than “whining abt #Azerbaijan-EU partnership is set to become even stronger soon.”⁵⁹

In an attempt to paint Armenians as the aggressors in the region, he then concludes that an alleged lack of partnership between Armenia and the EU is “due to barbaric occupation of Azerbaijan's territories by Armenia.”

Tural Ganjali, further posted on [Twitter](#) on March 2, 2023,

“Very important public hearing is being held now at the Parl. of Azerbaijan on the topic of “Overcoming the mountains. Peaceful & just return to Western Azerbaijan.”

It is the inherent right of all Azerbaijanis to return to their homes (in today's Armenia) in a peaceful manner!⁶⁰”

“Western Azerbaijan” as used by the Azerbaijani government is an irredentist political concept that refers to the Republic of Armenia. It is a false and misleading reference that's been artificially created to claim that the territory of modern Armenia are lands that once belonged to Azerbaijanis. Since 2010, Ilham Aliyev has endorsed the concept and makes regular reference to "Irevan", which is Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, "Göyçə", Lake Sevan in Armenia and

⁵⁸ @NasimiAghayev, Twitter (January 4, 2023), <https://twitter.com/NasimiAghayev/status/1610642047895048194>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ejxcemr9urtxop/AAClwVtVrC0OKb6X52gOnHGa?dl=0>.

⁵⁹ @NasimiAghayev, Twitter (January 4, 2023), <https://twitter.com/NasimiAghayev/status/1610706852043522048>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zz0ntxk54200mu3/AAA9hmIsJ4JfaUDJa3dC6Raia?dl=0>.

⁶⁰ @TGanjaliyev, Twitter (Mar 2, 2023), <https://twitter.com/TGanjaliyev/status/1631554342921678849>. CFTJ backup: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qianpiq0hqztqlk/AAApZ_4hbwJT5XZo0PFzxf-Ha?dl=0.

“Zangezur”, which is the Southern region of Armenia, as once and future “Azerbaijani lands.” Ilham Aliyev, at his inauguration [speech](#) in December 2022, said,

“Present-day Armenia is our land. When I repeatedly said this before, they tried to object and allege that I have territorial claims. I am saying this as a historical fact. If someone can substantiate a different theory, let them come forward.”⁶¹

On March 19, 2023, Azerbaijan’s Ambassador to Germany posted a [map](#) of the Republic of Armenia falsely claiming that “Turkic place names” were erased and replaced by Armenian names.⁶²

On March 18, 2023, Ilham Aliyev, in front of a blazing fire pit, made the following threatening statement on his official Twitter feed, with his fist pumping and finger pointing, and dramatic music in the background,

“There is one condition for them to live comfortably on an area of 29,000 square kilometers – Armenia must accept our conditions...we are showing the world how treacherous and ungrateful they are. Now they are looking for a new owner, they don’t know whose feet to fall under. There is one condition for them to live comfortably on an area of 29,000 square kilometers: Armenia must accept our conditions. Officially recognize Karabakh as the territory of Azerbaijan, sign a peace treaty, and carry out delimitation work according to our conditions. Only under these circumstances can they live comfortably on the area of 29,000 square kilometers, which is all they want. If Armenia does not recognize our territorial integrity, we will not recognize their territorial integrity. Armenia and the hypocritical countries behind, it should know what the result will be. They should know that no dirty plan against us will work⁶³.”

This recent statement by President Aliyev is typical of this administration's policy of belittling, bullying and threatening Armenia, its leadership, the Armenian people, and the ICJ. The blockade of the Lachin Corridor is only one of many examples of how Azerbaijan actively carries out its policy of ethnic cleansing as well as systematically advancing within the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

As a demonstration of Azerbaijan’s policy of ethnic cleansing, the blockade of the Lachin Corridor is racially driven. In its decision, the ICJ refers to Article 5 of the International

⁶¹ Ilham Aliyev viewed conditions created at administrative building of Western Azerbaijan Community, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev (Dec 24, 2022), <https://president.az/en/articles/view/58330>.

⁶² Appendix

⁶³ *Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva visited Tartar district*, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev (March 18, 2023), <https://president.az/en/articles/view/59208>.

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (“CERD”), which Azerbaijan is a party to:

“Under Article 5, States parties undertake to guarantee the right of everyone to equality before the law in the enjoyment of a non-exhaustive list of rights, in particular the ‘right to freedom of movement and residence within the border of the State’, the “right to leave any country, including one’s own, and to return to one’s country”, and the “right to public health, medical care, social security and social services’.”⁶⁴

In its briefing, the ICJ indicates that Azerbaijan’s ongoing blockade of the Lachin Corridor is a clear violation of Article 5 of CERD. Additionally, while the blockade on its own is a failure to protect the rights of the Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh, it is important to note the unfolding humanitarian crisis did not happen in a void. In an interview with JAM news in August 2022, President Aliyev spoke about the forcibly displaced Armenians living on the Lachin Corridor and said,

“Perhaps the Armenians living there, who came from Syria, Lebanon, do not know this, but the leadership of Armenia is well aware of it. We get messages from the area that they will not leave. I hope they do not test our patience again. Let them leave of their own free will. Where they go, we don’t care.”⁶⁵

Dismissing the court’s objective nature, President Aliyev on March 16, 2023, has gone on to specifically comment,

“The tabling for discussion [by the European Parliament on March 15] in such a form reveals beyond doubt to having originated from Armenia and the Armenian Diaspora, long since a cancerous tumor of Europe.”⁶⁶

Declaring the European Parliament’s decision as a result of third-party influence diminishes its administrative validity, and in remarking that the resolution is merely a result of the Armenian community’s racket, Aliyev points to his government’s utter lack of intent to comply. More notable, however, is equating Armenians to cancer; cancer is universally feared and surgically removed, so to name the Armenian diaspora “a cancerous tumor” highlights the Aliyev regime’s

⁶⁴ *Supra* note 41, ¶ 36.

⁶⁵ “*Armenians living in Karabakh will have neither special status nor independence*” - Ilham Aliyev, JAM news (Aug 13, 2022),

<https://jam-news.net/armenians-living-in-karabakh-will-have-neither-special-status-nor-independence-ilham-aliyev/>.

⁶⁶ “Azerbaijani Parliament issues protest statement regarding European Parliament’s resolution”, Apa.az (March 16, 2023),

<https://apa.az/en/domestic-policy/azerbaijani-parliament-issues-protest-statement-regarding-european-parliaments-resolution-398952>

intention to remove this decaying mass called “Armenians” and to ethnically-cleanse under the cover of Azerbaijani self-preservation.

These statements demonstrate President Aliyev’s and Azerbaijan’s plans to drive Armenians living in this area away leading up to the blockade. The political ideology of racial hatred motivates continued action that endangers the livelihoods and basic human rights of Armenians. In forcefully stating that “once integrated, the Armenians living in #Azerbaijan’s Karabakh region will enjoy the same rights & freedoms as all other Azerbaijani citizens,” Azerbaijan’s government officials [imply](#) Armenians have no option but to cower, for their ability to govern is only a farce.⁶⁷

As racial hatred is being taught to Azerbaijani children from a very young age, Azerbaijan’s state-sponsored hate speech targeting Armenians is a significant barrier to current and future peace-building efforts. Azerbaijan has shown no indication that they will follow ICJ’s provisional orders or curb hate-speech. On the contrary, they are escalating tensions through the spread of state-sponsored hate speech for generations to come and threatening the existence of Armenia and Armenians.

Conclusion - HIGH ALERT

Hate speech spouted by the Aliyev regime must be recognized and condemned for what it is: an attempt to promote a culture of extreme racial and ethnic intolerance and violence in the region. A unified and effective response from the international community is needed in order to condemn and stop state-sponsored hate speech.

Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, who have been targeted, bombed, shelled, mutilated and murdered, are now imprisoned on their own land, unable to travel anywhere, and have no lifeline to the outside world. The region has a civilian population of 120,000 without any army or weapons to defend themselves. In a matter of days, Azerbaijan’s military can eliminate the Armenians from their indigenous land. This is not a secret and must be emphasized.

The Republic of Armenia is under threat of full invasion. Since September 2022, when Azerbaijan launched a massive attack on Armenia and militarily crossed its borders,⁶⁸ the Azerbaijani military has continued to amass troops and push further into Armenia proper. Armenia’s borders have already been penetrated and its sovereignty is at stake.

⁶⁷ @NasimiAghayev, Twitter (January 5, 2023), <https://twitter.com/NasimiAghayev/status/1611010334244089857>. CFTJ backup: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yzp2yi1qo9mfu3p/AACVRyPw7asANx17C8YWLtdAa?dl=0>.

⁶⁸ Maghakyan, Simon, *The U.S. Might Be the Surprising Determining Factor in the Future of Armenia*, TIME (Oct 6 2022), <https://time.com/6219263/armenia-azerbaijan-us-involvement/>.

Despite the ICJ order, President Aliyev's rhetoric of hate and intolerance persists. Unless the international community takes practical steps to hold the Aliyev regime accountable, the Azerbaijani government will continue carrying out its policy of hate, violence and blockades. This report urges the United States and European Union to use sanctions, such as the Global Magnitsky sanctions as well as impose the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act, to send a clear signal to Azerbaijan and the rest of the international community that the actions of the Aliyev regime cannot and will not be tolerated. It is time to act before the looming genocide becomes a reality.

Appendix

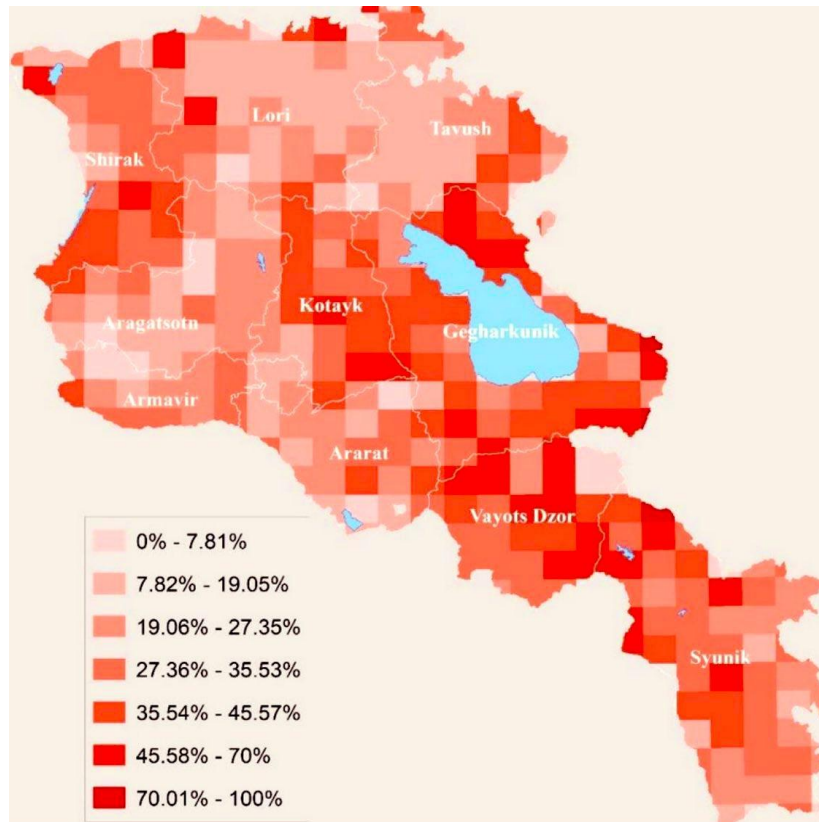


Image 2. Geographical distribution of Turkic toponyms (percentage of all names)

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⁶⁹ @NasimiAghayev, Twitter (March 19, 2023),
<https://twitter.com/NasimiAghayev/status/1637518247724449794?s=20>. CFTJ backup:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4s0fly3acod7py5/AACmw03-Ipx5g8if_XBiy4ga?dl=0