

Положить убитыми в военный госпиталь в
пос. Ганджа в/ч 230 с 05.09.93 г. 27 (двадцать
семь) мурхаведов на Талмохерное поселение
основание: Районит нах. м/о Бабага.

" Герань " 19.08.1993 года.
3. Об исполнении данного распоряжения доложить в
Оргисбууправление Генерального Штаба Вооруженных Сил Азербай-
джанской Республики 20.08.93 года.

26. августа 1993 г.
КОНТАКТЫ ВОЕННОВОЙ ЧАСТИ 160
ст. Герань

Положить убитыми с огнестрельными ранениями
в военный госпиталь в/ч 230 в пос. Ганджа
3 (три) мурхаведов, связь с командованием
отсутствует.

в количестве 322 (триста
1993 года арестовать в количестве
на 100 люди доподозрели.



SPONSORED TO KILL MERCENARIES AND TERRORIST NETWORKS IN AZERBAIJAN



Ioannis Charalampidis

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MERCENARIES AND TERRORIST
NETWORKS IN AZERBAIJAN**

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Moscow
2013

This research is based on original testimonies, articles of reliable journals and newspapers and research of authoritative experts in the field. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh for providing copies of previously classified documents seized from the battlefield, which are published for the first time here.

Ioannis Charalampidis
Brussels, December 2012



INTRODUCTION

In 1988-1994 Azerbaijan responded to the legitimate assertion of Nagorno-Karabakh's right to self-determination by perpetrating mass violence against its own citizens. First, in the cities of Sumgait, Baku, Kirovabad and elsewhere, Azerbaijan carried out pogroms against and deportation of Armenians; then, the country launched a full-scale war against the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, resulting in the loss of 30,000 lives.

In this war waged against Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan seriously violated the international norms of human rights time and again, including the use of mercenaries and terrorists in its armed forces, – a practice outlawed by international conventions.

In 1992-1994 thousands of Chechen and Afghan mercenaries and terrorists took part in military actions launched by the Azerbaijani army against Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Azerbaijani state policy of employing terrorists in the aggression unleashed against Nagorno-Karabakh created a seedbed for terrorist networks in Azerbaijan after the war, allowing them to take root and benefit from official Baku's desire for mutual support.

The experience gained by the terrorists while serving in the Azerbaijani army was later applied against the USA, various European cities, Russia (Chechnya, Dagestan, etc.) and Africa.

Today, Azerbaijan remains a veiled hive of Islamic extremism and state-sponsored terrorism, a threat which should be appropriately addressed by the international community.

MERCENARIES AND TERRORISTS AS PART OF THE AZERI ARMY IN THE KARABAKH WAR

Although the Azerbaijani government attempts to conceal and deny the involvement of Chechen and Afghan terrorists in the war in Karabakh, a great deal of official, intelligence, media and documentary evidence testifies to the contrary – as the following examples make clear.

The first official relations between Baku and Chechnya can be traced back to the early 1990s, when the head of the Azerbaijani National Front, Abulfaz Elchibey, along with a delegation of Islamic leaders, visited Chechnya. There, Jahar Dudayev approved the enlisting and transportation of Chechen fighters to the Karabakh front. In return, Azerbaijan agreed to transport arms and military equipment to Chechnya after the war.¹

The enrolment of Chechen fighters took place on the territory of a former military base, located on Butirin street in Grozny. The Chechen mercenaries were paid 600-1000 Russian Rubles (\$1000-\$1700 USD) per month.² By June 1992, Chechen fighters at the Karabakh front numbered 300.³

¹“Express Khronika”, Newspaper, (Russia) #28, 1992.

²“Spravedlivost”, Newspaper, (Russia) #16, 1992.

³“Ichkeriya”, Newspaper, (Russia) #8, 25 June 1992.



Shamil Basayev (1965-2006) – international terrorist, field commander of the so-called “Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.” He was included in the terrorists’ list by the UN, EU and the US Department of State. Basayev has organized dozens of terrorist acts on the territory of the Russian Federation, particularly: a hospital in Budyonovsk was captured (130 killed); hostages in the Moscow theatre center were taken (129 killed); truck bombing near the Government building in Grozny in 2002 took 72 lives; 2 Russian TU-134 airlines bombing in 2004 resulted in 89 deaths. One of the most horrible terrorist acts in history was the capture of the Beslan school N1 in North Osetia (September 1-3, 2004), which resulted in 330 deaths, including 182 children.

The first group of enlisted fighters arrived in Azerbaijan under the leadership of the infamous terrorist Shamil Basayev (photo 1). Basayev himself took part in Azerbaijan’s attacks launched from Shushi and was one of the last to leave the city, which was liberated by Armenian forces on 8 May 1992. On 14 July 2000, in an interview with the Azerbaijani ANS TV channel, Basayev spoke of the military action in Shushi and relayed some details as to why they were defeated.



Photo 1: Shamil Basayev.

Azer Rustamov, a commander of the Azerbaijani Military, confessed the following in an interview in 2005: “The support of about a hundred Chechen volunteers under the leadership of Shamil Basayev and Salman Raduyev in those wars was invaluable. However, they had to leave the battlefield too because of heavy losses.”⁴

Heavy losses from Armenians’ defensive military action over a number of months, alongside Chechen-Russian tensions within Chechnya itself, led to a large number of Chechen fighters returning to Chechnya at the beginning of 1993. That same year, Grozny authorities sent a representative to Stepanakert to negotiate with the authorities of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic over an agreement to return Chechen fighters taken captive.

The fact that the Azerbaijani government’s first attempts at recruiting mercenaries went unpunished – despite being prohibited by international law – created a precedent; the Azeri authorities enlisted new mercenaries – this time Afghan fighters.

In June 1993, an agreement was achieved between Rovshan Javadov, the Deputy Minister of the Interior of Azerbaijan and Gulbeddin Hekmatyar, the Prime Minister of Afghanistan, the head of the Islamic organisation Hezbi Islami, to send large groups of fighters to the Karabakh front. The first one of these groups arrived in Baku under the direct leadership of Javadov.⁵

Different independent sources – expert, intelligence and official – estimated that the number of Afghan fighters during the period of 1993-1994 fluctuated between 1500-3000.

⁴ “Obozrevatel.net” Online newspaper, (Azerbaijan), 7-14 January, 2005.

⁵ “Azerbaijan Enlists Afghan Mercenaries”, RFE/RL Records, 8 November, 1993.



On 10 November 1993, the Daily Telegraph reported about the presence of the 1000 Afghan fighters in the Azerbaijani Armed forces.

According to Washington Post (with reference to Western diplomats) the number of mercenaries at some point was 1000-1500. Mark A. Uhlig, in his article entitled “The Karabakh War” writes about 1500 mujahideen fighting against Armenians.⁶

It is noteworthy that in his testimony on 17 March 1999, the Earl of Shannon of the UK House of Lords said the following: “The West wrings its hands over the sanctity of Helsinki. We may wish to consider the sanctity of the existing Karabakh at the time, before Helsinki. Perhaps that is a matter for the lawyers to consider. In any event, the net result was the invasion of the Karabakh by Azerbaijan, helped greatly by the armaments provided by the Soviet Fourth Army, which had quietly demobilized itself at Baku, leaving all its kit behind. Hence the theoretically overwhelming might of Azerbaijan; its large population; Turkish officers in uniform commanding troops; and the mujahideen, whom I interviewed through interpreters, being paid 500 dollars per month to come to fight for Azeris. The infinitely smaller Karabakh population threw out that overwhelming might and drew a cordon sanitaire around its country to stop it being shelled over the border.”⁷

⁶ Quoted by Michael Taarnby, “The Mujahedin in Nagorno-Karabakh: A Case Study in the Evolution of Global Jihad” WP 20/2008 - 9/5/2008.

⁷ House of Lords Hansard, “House of Lords Sitting of Wednesday, 17th March 1999”, Fifth Series, Volume 598, Debate on Nagorno-Karabakh, cc. 797-820, c. 804, http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199899/ldhansrd/vo990317/text/90317-08.htm#90317-08_head0

In a report on 23 May 1994, the Women’s Revolutionary Organization of Afghanistan said that Hezbi Islami had intensified the recruitment for Azerbaijan and that about 500 Afghans had been sent to Baku in the last draft alone.⁸

Azeri sources also acknowledge the involvement of Afghan fighters. Specifically, Leila Yunusova (Yunus), spokesperson for the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defence in 1992-1993, admitted in her article published in the newspaper Zerkalo (Baku) that “about 2,500 Afghan mercenaries fought for Azerbaijan.”⁹

Canadian Muslims expressed concerns to the Afghan government about the involvement of their fighters in the Karabakh war and called for an end to such recruitment.¹⁰

In his speech of 9 May 2011, the representative of Iran’s spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini, Seyid Hassan Ameli, testified that Iran was in support of Azerbaijan in organizational matters, including the transportation of thousands of Afghan fighters to the frontline.¹¹

In 1993-1994, the Security Services in Nagorno-Karabakh reported the presence of 1,500 Afghan fighters, with the number reaching 3,000 at certain times. This information was based on intelligence activity, as well as various pieces of evidence that came to light during direct military action.

In the spring and summer of 1993, during battles towards the south-west of Karabakh in the direction of Horadis and Zangelan, various belongings of Afghan fighters

⁸ “Women’s Revolutionary Organization of Afghanistan”, “Hekmatyar sending troops to Azerbaijan”, <http://www.rawa.org/reports3.html#Hek>

⁹ “The future is for the professional army”, Newspaper “Zerkalo”, (Azerbaijan,) 10 August 2002.

¹⁰ “Azg” Newspaper (Armenia), 18 January 1994.

¹¹ “Иран снабжал оружием Азербайджан и доставлял в Карабах бойцов из Афганистана” (Iran provided weapons to Azerbaijan and delivered fighters from Afghanistan to Karabakh) <http://regnum.ru/news/fd-abroad/azeri/1402476.html>



Photo 2: Photo of Afghan mercenaries with Azeri fighters.

were discovered – literature printed in Afghanistan, notebooks, maps and charts, letters with Pakistani and Afghan addresses, photographs of Afghan fighters sightseeing in Baku. The documents were in the Dari and Pashto languages and some had been printed on forms for the Islamic Scientific Union of Afghanistan.

The captured documents (see below photo 3), which were the first hard evidence of Afghan troops hired by Azerbaijan, were shown to the Christian Science Monitor by the security authorities of Nagorno-Karabakh.

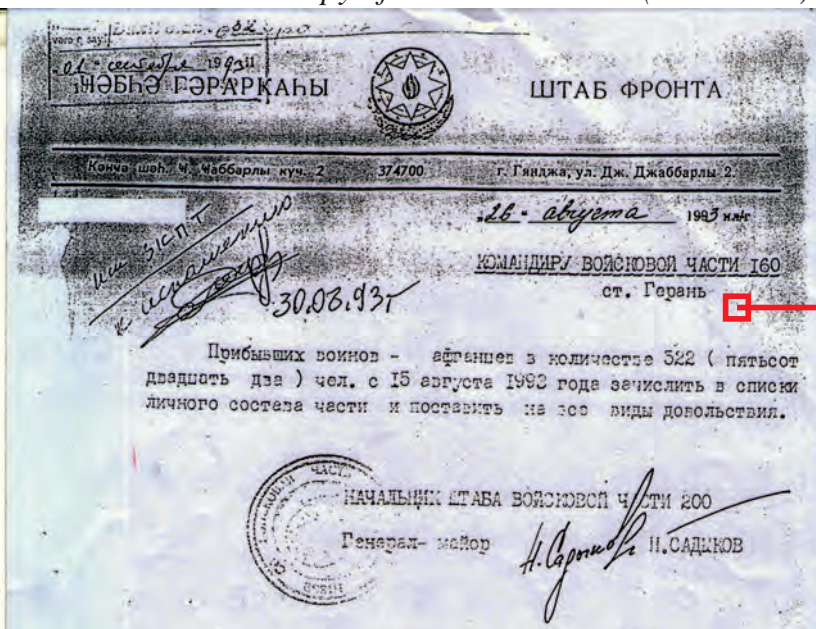


Photo 3.

The same magazine interviewed Kamo Abrahamian, the head of the NK National Security Department, a man, who was the first to intercept radio signals in Dari, which indicated the presence of Afghans in the region. The Armenian officer provided the Monitor with the several religious pamphlets in Pashto and Dari, Dari-Azeri vocabulary, Afghan weapons manuals, and photos of mujahideen with the Azeri licensed cars in the background-all seized during the Armenian counteroffensive.¹²

Substantiated evidence is also found in edicts and documents of military units that were seized from the defeated military unions of Azerbaijani army. In one, the Chief of HQ of Military Unit 200, General Sadikov orders Lyatifov, the Commander of Military Unit 160:

Below the copy of the document N1 (in Russian)



“to add the 522 Afghan fighters, arrived on 15 August 1993, to the lists of members of the military unit and treat them as such.”

¹² “Afghan Fighters Join Azeri-Armenian War”, “Christian Science Monitor”, 16 November 1993, <http://www.csmonitor.com/1993/11/16/16071.html>

In another official note, the Joint Staff of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces orders the military recruitment office:

Below is the copy of the document N2 (in Russian)

И.И. на контракт по фридитуно деловити
21.08.93

21 августа 1993
160 №-11 НƏРВІ НISSƏ
АЗƏРБАЙДЖАН-РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫ
МУДАФИЭ НАЗИРЛИГИ

АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКАЯ РЕСПУБЛИКА
МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБОРОНЫ

Баку ш.п. Азизбеков проспекти, 3 370601 г. Баку, проспект Азизбекова, 3

№ 21 августа 1993 г. № 11

ВОЕННОМУ КОМИССАРУ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ
г. БАКУ

КОМАНДИРУ ВОЙСКОВОЙ ЧАСТИ 160
п. Герань

КОМАНДИРУ ВОЙСКОВОЙ ЧАСТИ 200
г. ГЯНДЖА

1. Призвать из запаса 50 (пятьдесят) военнообязанных-переводчиков со знанием персидского языка и направить в распоряжение командира войсковой части 160 уч.центр "Герань" к 19.08.1993 года.

2. Призвать из народного хозяйства легковые автомобили с водителями марки УАЗ-469; Нива - в количестве 5 единиц и направить в распоряжение командира войсковой части 160 уч.це "Герань" 19.08.1993 года.

3. Об исполнении данного распоряжения доложить в Оргмобуправление Генерального Штаба Вооруженных Сил Азербайджанской Республики 20.08.93 года.

И.О. ЗАМЕСТИТЕЛЯ НАЧАЛЬНИКА ГЕНЕРАЛЬНОГО ШТАБА
ВООРУЖЕННЫХ СИЛ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

ПОЛКОВНИК И.АСЛАНОВ

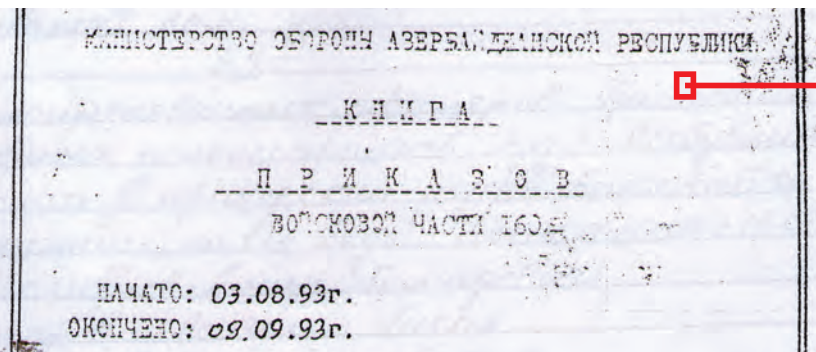
ПОЛКОВНИК НАЧАЛЬНИК ОРГАНИЗАЦИОННО-МОБИЛИЗАЦИОННОГО
УПРАВЛЕНИЯ ГЕНЕРАЛЬНОГО ШТАБА ВООРУЖЕННЫХ
СИЛ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ

ПОЛКОВНИК Н.КУЛАНОВ

“to draft
50 reserve
translators with
a knowledge
of Farsi to the
military unit
160.”

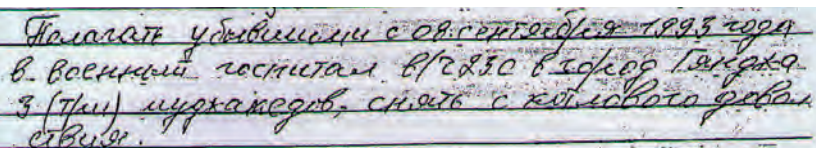
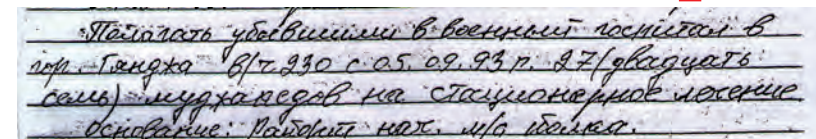
The Register of Orders of the Azerbaijani military unit N160 acknowledges losses of the Afghan mujahideen in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Below the copy of the document N3 (in Russian)



Ministry of Defense of the Azerbaijani Republic Register of Orders of the Military Unit 160 from 08/03/1993-09/09/1993.

“Consider the 27 mujahideen as departed since 05/09/1993 from the hospital of the military base no. 230 in the the Gyanja city, who had been admitted to the hospital for basic treatment...”



“Consider the three mujahideen as departed since 09/08/1993 from the hospital of the military base no. 230 in the Gyanja city, discard them from the meals’ serving”.

On 20 April 1994, in a zone south-east of the front line, an Afghan mercenary named Bakhtiyar Verbollah Baberzai (born in 1974 in Mozari Sharif, photo 4) was taken captive. Questioning revealed that this Afghan fighter of war was the commander of a 20-person subdivision. He confessed that he had come to Azerbaijan on the promise that he would receive 5,000 US dollars. The mercenary Baberzai gave detailed information on the conditions of Afghan fighters in the Azerbaijani army and the relationship between numerous Afghans and Azeris.



Photo 4:
Bakhtiyar
Verbollah
Baberzai.

Levon Ter-Petrosyan, former President of Armenia, expressed his concern about the unacceptable and unprecedented involvement of Afghan fighters and citizens of Afghanistan in the war against Karabakh in an official letter to Burhanuddin Rabbani, President of Afghanistan, and Prime Minister Heqmatyar. In reply Rabbani wrote: "...Regretfully I must indeed say that certain adventurous groups, endangering the socio-political stability of Afghanistan and in the meantime pursuing personal financial gain, are worsening the relationship between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Afghanistan is making every effort to prevent the inhumane activity of the extremists; the financial gain from these activities also feeds instability in Afghanistan."¹³

On 21 December 1994, Armenia's Foreign Ministry addressed the UN Human Rights Committee's "Special Rapporteur on the matter of merceneries" about the issue of the unacceptable involvement of mercenaries in the conflict. The letter expressed deep concern about the presence of a large number of mercenaries on the Azerbaijani side in the war in Karabakh and credibly presented in detail the facts that had been gathered.¹⁴

¹³ "Afghan Wild Goose in a Karabakh Cage", Moscow News, #23, 5-12 June 1994.

¹⁴ "Letter from the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia addressed to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of the use of mercenaries", dated 21 December 1994, <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/50/plenary/a50-390add1.htm>

GEORGIA



Azerbaijani terrorists' bombing attacks on Vladikavkaz-Tbilisi-Yerevan natural gas pipeline 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994

Terrorist training center in Kazax

Terrorist pilot training center in Belokany

Terrorist training center in Seifuli

Gray Wolves neo-fascists' training camp in Ganja

ARMENIA

NKR

TURKEY

AZ.

Gray Wolves neo-fascists' training camp in Nakhijevan

Azerbaijani terror Yerevan-Nakhije

IRAN

RUSSIA

ist training
s in Zaqatala,
any, Shaki

AZERBAIJAN

Camp of Afghan mercenaries
(Hezbi Islami)
at Ali-Bairami, Yevlax
1993-1994

Camp of Afghan mercenaries
(Hezbi Islami)
at Doliburun
1993-1994

Attack of Afghan mercenaries
against Nagorno-Karabakh
in 1993-1994

Gray Wolves
neo-fascists'
training camp
in Shikh

Office of
"Islamic Jihad"

rists' bombing attacks on
van-Meghri railway



STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AND NAGORNO-KARABAKH


On numerous occasions the special forces of Azerbaijan also carried out terrorist explosions with the personal involvement of mercenaries beyond the battle front – in Armenia, in the Marneuli region of Georgia, and along communication lines entering Armenia.

A former employee of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Alekper Heydar Oglu Ismayilov, admitted in a letter sent to the Azerbaijani website www.realazer.com that between 1991 and 1995 he had planned and implemented counter-intelligence activities and explosions – he mentioned road bridges in Stepanavan (Armenia) and the Imir region of Marneuli (Georgia) and the gas pipeline into Armenia. Indeed, there were 13 explosions on the Russia-Armenia gas pipeline in Georgia during 1993-1994.

Ismayilov admitted that he managed to place 30kg of explosives in Yerevan's Erebuni hotel (1993); it only failed to detonate due to a fault in the circuitry.

The ex-agent also stated in his letter that he carried out explosions on two local Armenian offices in Kuban and Stavropol under the name of Kazaks, while later, on behalf of Armenians, he set off bombs at the editorial offices of "The messenger of Kuban" newspaper.





According to Ismayilov, preparations were made in 1994 to blow up the complex of government buildings in the centre of Yerevan – 3 tonnes of explosives were to be used for this purpose.

In May 2004, Ismayilov was arrested in Azerbaijan on charges of treason.

In 1994, 1995 and 1996 terrorist attacks were carried out in the Bagratashen village of Tavush Region of Armenia near the border with Georgia on passenger trains and railway bridges. As a result of these explosions dozens of people died and many became handicapped.

Particularly, on September 4, 1994 there was a bomb explosion in a market in the village of Bagratashen, which killed 10 people and injured 26. This act of terror was prepared and carried out by Imran Huseinov, a resident of Baku and Turkmen Jafarov, resident of Bula village of Georgian Marneuli region.

Another explosion was carried on the Tbilisi-Yerevan passenger train by an Azeri national, Ali oglu Aliev, resident of the Sadakhlo village.

In 1995, a bomb explosion was carried out in the market of Bagratashen village, by Rashid Kurbanov, an officer of Azerbaijani Ministry of Interior with the active participation of brothers Ramiz and Rustam Ibrahim Isaev, residents of the Sadakhlo village.

The railway bridge in Sadakhlo was blown up by Nabi Karajev, an officer of the Defense Ministry of Azerbaijan and Genady Amirshah Eiubov, terrorist group leader the same year.

Terrorist acts against Armenians sponsored by Baku on the top level continued even after the ceasefire. Particularly, some elements of terrorism were adopted in the comprehensive anti-Armenian ideology, propaganda and military policy in Baku. This was accompanied by twentyfold increase of Azerbaijan's military budget, permanent violations along the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan and on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and by the Azerbaijani government's high appreciation of killing Armenians.

In June 2010, Mubariz Ibrahimov, an Azeri soldier, committed an act of subversion by crossing the line of contact between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, killing four and wounding three Karabakhi soldiers. This violator of ceasefire and the killer was awarded with the status of a National Hero by President Ilham Aliev. A secondary school in Bilesuvar, a hometown for Ibrahimov, was named after him and accompanied by a state-sponsored tall statue of the hero-killer. He received the "Man of the Year-2011" award by one of the state-controlled broadcasting companies, and was documented in a "patriotic" film.

"There are thousands and ten thousands heroes in our army like Mubariz waiting for the order of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief", said Ilham Aliev, President of Azerbaijan, confirming again that the terrorist-



style subversive acts like that one of Ibrahimov were approved by the presidential order.¹⁵

In the early morning of February 19th 2004, Ramil Safarov, a Lieutenant of Azerbaijani army, beheaded a sleeping Lieutenant of the Armenian Army, Gurgen Margaryan, at the NATO courses of Partnership for Peace program in Budapest, Hungary. The Hungarian court sentenced Safarov to life imprisonment without a right for pardon during the initial 30 years. Despite the international condemnation, Ramil Safarov was announced as the Man of the Year in Azerbaijan. On August 31, 2012, as a result of an Azerbaijani-Hungarian deal, Ramil Safarov was secretly transferred to Azerbaijan and immediately pardoned by a Decree of President Aliyev. Evidently, this was not a simple pardon, but an act of state-approval and heroization of the murder and its perpetrator.

The following day, Safarov was promoted to the rank of major and provided with a luxurious apartment and the salary for 8 years previously spent in prison. Such a treatment proved that by killing the sleeping Armenian officer the axe-murderer had executed a state-order. Though the international community strongly condemns this action of the Azerbaijani government, Ramil Safarov and his crime continue to be praised publicly by each and every representative of the tyrannical regime headed by Ilham Aliev.

¹⁵ From the speech of Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan, during the farewell ceremony for National Hero Mubariz Ibrahimov and Farid Ahmadov, <http://www.president.az/articles/1011/print?locale=en>

AZERBAIJAN: A CELL OF THE INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST NETWORK

The involvement of Chechen and Afghan terrorist mercenaries in war against Karabakh is noteworthy for another reason: extremists from the two sides met up for the first time in Baku and on the battlefield – this is where the infamous terrorists Khattab and Basayev met and joined forces. Later these men set off for Afghanistan and from there they moved to Chechnya and Dagestan, becoming one of the key cells of al-Qaeda.¹⁶



Photo 5: Khattab.

Amir Ibn al-Khattab (1969-2002) was a citizen of Saudi Arabia, an international terrorist and preacher of Wahhabism. Khattab organized dozens of terrorist acts in Afghanistan and on the territory of the Russian Federation: six doctor-missionaries of the Red Cross were shot in 1996; in 1999 three civilian buildings were bombed in Budyonovsk, Moscow and Bolgodonsk, resulting in 307 killed and hundreds injured; explosions in Mineralnie Vodi, Cherkessk and Esentuki in 2001 took 24 lives. Dozens of attacks were organized on the internal forces and the armed forces of the Russian Federation.

¹⁶ “Khattab and the Central Asia...”, “Moskovskie Novosti” (Russia), 12 September 2000.

With the signing of the ceasefire in 1994 some of the Afghan mercenaries that had been in the war in Karabakh, following the example of Khattab and Basayev, left for Chechnya and joined the Chechen fighters, while others returned to Afghanistan. There were also some who stayed in Baku and founded various terrorist groups in the South Caucasus, including branches of al-Qaeda.

Thus, the illegal involvement of Chechen and Afghan mercenaries in the war against Karabakh, and the good will and obligation of official Baku towards them, one year later, led to the creation of various terrorist networks in Azerbaijan.

Indeed, al-Qaeda's first cells on post-soviet territory came into existence in Azerbaijan with the founding of the first representative body in Baku – an office was founded and active from August 1995, with Ibrahim Eidarus from Egypt as its chief. Probably due to his “successful career”, Eidarus was then transferred to London in 1997, where he headed the Egyptian Islamic Jihad cell.^{17/18}

In 1998, right after the bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, the CIA registered 60 phone calls of Osama bin Laden to the Baku branch of the Organization of the Islamic Jihad. Three hours before the bombings a fax was sent from Baku to London by al-Qaeda testifying its responsibility for the bombings. The fax was sent to the same Ibrahim Eidarus.^{19/20}

¹⁷ Peter Bergen, “Holy War Inc: Inside the Secret World of Osama bin Laden”, “Phoenix”, London, 2001.

¹⁸ “Al-Quds al-Arabi”, London, 19 December 2001.

¹⁹ “Seattle Post-Intelligencer”, (US) 13 July 1999.

²⁰ “Daily Telegraph” (UK), 19 September 2001.

From 1995, Afghan Hezbi Islami also had an office in Baku. Through the Benevolence International Foundation, the organization actively supported Chechen fighters by using the al-Qaeda operator. The main contact for Vahid-el-Hage was the operator known as al-Islam el-Masry, who later (1998) bombed US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.²¹

The offices of other charity organizations in Baku, such as The International Organization of Islamic Salvation, Al-Ibrahim Foundation, have also been seen as parts of the conspirative infrastructure of the global terrorist hub in Azerbaijan.²²

In its corresponding announcements of 25 November 2002, the UN Security Council classified both the Benevolence International Foundation and the Global Aid Fund as organizations linked to al-Qaeda and stressed the presence of branches of these organizations in Azerbaijan.²³ It should be noted that the head of the Baku office of the Benevolence International, after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution, in one of his interviews said that “they were not exposed to any pressure by the Azerbaijani authorities.”

In 1999 Yossef Bodansky indicates a new phase in Baku’s support for Chechen-Dagestani Islamic forces, which coincided with the Second Chechen War. It was when Vafa Guluzade, an Adviser to Heydar Aliev, the former president of Azerbaijan, on State Policy

²¹ Michael Taarnby “The Mujahedin in Nagorno-Karabakh: A Case Study in the Evolution of Global Jihad” WP 20/2008 - 9/5/2008.

²² Yossef Bodansky, “The New Azerbaijan Hub: How Islamist Organizations Are Targeting Russia, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh”, “Defense & Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy”, no. 10 (1999).

²³ “Security Council names 3 new entities subject to sanctions against Al-Qaida operatives”, UN News Centre, 25 November 2002, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/storyAr.asp?NewsID=5460&Cr=iraq&Cr1=>

issues, declared that “Chechen and Dagestani fighting should be regarded as a national liberation struggle, not as terrorism as the Russian authorities are trying to present.”²⁴ New facilities and mechanisms were carried out by Baku for transporting hundreds of mujahideen and weaponry from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Dagestan and Chechnya.

It was not until 1998, but only after the explosions at the US embassies in Africa – that the international community intensified its pressure on Baku and the Azerbaijani authorities were accused of harbouring terrorism.

In its 1999 Annual Report on Global Terrorism, the US State Department stated that Azerbaijan served as a logistical network location for international mujahideen with ties to terrorist groups.²⁵

Just one day before the tragedy of 11 September 2001, the US Congress Research Service published a report stating that specific individuals, including Bin Laden, and groups with ties to al-Qaeda used the territory of Azerbaijan as a base for the terrorist network.²⁶

²⁴ Yossef Bodansky, “The New Azerbaijan Hub: How Islamist Organizations Are Targeting Russia, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh”, “Defense & Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy”, no. 10 (1999).

²⁵ “Patterns of Global Terrorism, Eurasia Overview”, US Department of State, 1999
<http://www.state.gov/www/global/terrorism/1999report/eurasia.html#Azerbaijan>

²⁶ “Terrorism: Near Eastern Groups and State Sponsors”, CRS Report for Congress, 2002,
<http://www.fas.org/irp/crs/RL31119.pdf>

In October 2002, the UK Foreign Office included Azerbaijan among its list of countries in which terrorist organizations are active and, accordingly, advised British citizens against visiting Azerbaijan. For a number of years, the Russian Federation's Security Council of the State Duma has pointed out that Azerbaijan is a country with close links to Chechen and Afghan terrorists. In the context of terrorism, Canada has also included Azerbaijan in its list of volatile countries.

To create an impression of fighting terrorism, Azerbaijani authorities ordered the detention of a few individuals after the 9/11 attacks and have used this as a show ever since. Facts, however, point to a different reality.

The key figures of the Islamic Jihad's Baku branch, such as Hafiz Mabrouk and Yassir al-Sirri, were arrested in Azerbaijan by the security services of the United States and Israel. Some terrorists arrested by the Azerbaijani authorities were simply sent to their homeland or passed to a third state in the Middle East.²⁷ For example, Ahmed Salaam Mabrouk, the head of al-Jihad military operations, was extradited from Azerbaijan to Egypt.²⁸

Moreover, a non-independent judiciary of Azerbaijan and the closed trials of the alleged Islamic terrorists have led local and international observers to question the true extent of the process and the outcome.²⁹

²⁷ Marwa Abdel Rahim, "Egyptians' Role in Al-Qaeda Again Highlighting by Purported Zawahiri Tape", "Agence France-Presse", 22 May 2003.

²⁸ "Azerbaijan: Independent Islam and the State", International Crisis Group. ER N°191, 25 March 2008.

²⁹ Ibid.



Actions, carried out by official Baku in the aftermath of 9/11, were a simple imitation of a “fight against terrorism.”

According to Azeri political analyst Rovsan Novruzoglu, between 1992 and 2001 the security services of the Russian Federation recorded 14 Wahhabite organizations, all of which had branches across wide areas of Northern Azerbaijan that bordered with the Russian Federation. Up to now Azerbaijan is a home to thousands of Wahhabites, mainly in the regions of Balakan, Qusar and Zakatala.

In 2003, Yulia Yuzik, the author of the book “Brides of Allah” and the renowned specialist of female suicide-bombers, wrote in her book: “Baku, Azerbaijan, is the centre of everything – Wahhabism, ideological trainings of Chechen female suicide bombers, foreign financing of terrorist acts. I know this from the operative sources – from people with whom I communicate during the whole year, very different people from both sides.”³⁰ The majority of the female suicide bombers, introduced in Yuzik’s work, were trained in the camps nearby Baku, or were citizens of Azerbaijan.

In 2010, Sulhaddin Akper, the ex-Deputy Minister of the National Security of Azerbaijan, commenting to the newspaper “Ekho” (Baku), testified: “There are radical organizations based and operating in Azerbaijan, which recruit young people... Nowadays, the opportunities of the radical religious structures in Azerbaijan have

³⁰ Yulia Yuzik, “Brides of Allah”, Moscow, 2003, http://reeced.ru/lib/books/nevesty_allaha/

increased compared to the situation in 1992-1993, though they do not publicize themselves yet.”³¹

In October 2012, Azerbaijani media spread a video of an explosion in a military base of international coalition forces in Afghanistan on November 21, 2008. The suicide bomber, who is speaking Azerbaijani, while declaring holy war against the US forces in front of the camera, later was found out to be Orhan Fariz oglu Nazarov, an Azerbaijani national. Hours later he drove his truck with 3 tons of explosives in the direction of a military base in Host province of Afghanistan, killing forty American servicemen. This is yet another confirmation of the fact that extremists prepared and trained in Azerbaijan replenish the number of international terrorists around the globe.³²

Eager to achieve success in its war against Nagorno-Karabakh by any means, Azerbaijan resorted to the use of mercenaries and terrorists. In this way, Azerbaijan’s direct efforts created conditions conducive to the extension of the terrorist network, the creation of new cells in Azerbaijan and the unification of two extremist groups, Chechen and Afghan. Through the Azerbaijani network, terrorist activities became increasingly targeted and led to unprecedented tragedies across the world – something that the Azerbaijani authorities must be held accountable for.

³¹ “Азербайджан выращивает террористов”, March 19, 2012, <http://lezgistan.tv/novosti/azerbajdzhan-vyrashhivaet-terroristov/>
Original source is the Azerbaijani newspaper Ekho, link to the article is <http://www.echo-az.com/obshestvo07.shtml>, but shortly after the appearance of the article, the link has been removed.

³² “Suicide bomber, who struck U.S. military base in Afghanistan, is Azerbaijani citizen”, “Apa” News Agency, (Azerbaijan), 13 October 2012, <http://en.apa.az/news/180664>

THE UNLAWFULNESS OF AZERBAIJAN'S ACTIONS AND THE SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

On international level, Azerbaijan continues to distort the nature of the Karabakh war by presenting it as a territorial conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia and attempting to give it a religious character. Speculation on the religious element is particularly vigorous in OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation) circles – they aim to introduce the previous recruits as Jihadists, fighting for faith, rather than mercenaries, whose recruitment is strongly prohibited. Official Baku also aims to strike a religious chord with new mercenaries, attracting them to fight against Nagorno-Karabakh hostilities flare up again.

The factual details, introduced in this research, clearly show that Chechen and Afghan fighters waged war as mercenaries, and not for their faith, but for their own personal gain. Indeed, the evidence above is entirely sufficient to classify the Chechen and Afghan fighters who fought for Azerbaijan as mercenaries according to all Six criteria of Part 1 of the 8 June 1977 Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.

The Azerbaijani authorities' recruitment of terrorist mercenaries to fight in the war unleashed against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh fundamentally contradicts the norms and practices of international law. By doing this, Baku seriously violated the

agreed norms of international humanitarian law – especially the Geneva Convention and the 1989 “UN International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries.”

In these codifications of international law a special emphasis is made on the inadmissibility of recruiting mercenaries to intimidate those seeking to realize their self-determination. Such cases are viewed as criminal acts of aggression. Thus, the 1989 UN “International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries” stresses that “States Parties shall not recruit, use, finance or train mercenaries for the purpose of opposing the legitimate exercise of the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination, as recognized by international law.”

Therefore, the involvement of terrorist mercenaries in the war against Karabakh extends the scope of the crimes committed against peaceful civilians by official Baku – something for which it must be held accountable at the international level and strengthens the case for the legitimate right of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh for self-defence.