



Armenian National Committee of America

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Destabilizing the Caucasus: Azerbaijan's Escalating Attacks

* April 27, 2012	Three Armenian soldiers and one Azerbaijani army officer are shot dead in separate incidents along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border. http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/24562491.html
April 25, 2012	Armenian kindergarten along the border with Azerbaijan was reportedly shot at and evacuated a day after the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Minsk Group monitors visit the site to investigate. http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/24565475.html
March 14, 2012	State Department Spokesman reacts to Azerbaijani Defense Minister's call to resolve conflict through war by stating, "There is no military solution to this conflict. We urge the sides to prepare their populations for peace, not war, and to refrain from any provocative rhetoric or actions on the ground." http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/03/185830.htm
March 13, 2012	Azerbaijan's Defense Minister states that Azerbaijan is ready for war. http://tert.am/en/news/2012/03/13/abiev/
February 28, 2012	Azerbaijani President Aliyev states in a national address, "First, our main enemies are Armenians of the world." http://en.president.az/articles/4423
*Feb 23, 2012	Armenian soldier Albert Adibekyan was shot dead by an Azerbaijani sniper near the village of Chinari in the Tavush region of Armenia. http://www.armradio.am/eng/news/?part=pol&id=22133
Jan 16, 2012	President Aliyev announces that Azerbaijan is buying up modern weaponry to be able to occupy the Nagorno Karabakh Republic quickly. Aliyev warns on state television, " It's not a frozen conflict, and it's not going to be one. " http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-01-16/azerbaijan-amassing-arms-for-possible-karabakh-war-aliyev-says.html

Dec 3, 2011	<p>The Nagorno Karabakh Defense Ministry reports over 220 instances of ceasefire violation by Azerbaijani armed forces at the contact line over the past week, with 1700 shots fired from various caliber weapons.</p> <p>http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/85609/</p>
Nov 22, 2011	<p>Newly appointed US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern condemns the weekend Azerbaijani sniper attacks which killed two Karabakh soldiers. “Any manifestation of violence is deplorable, and we wish to contribute to the problem’s peaceful settlement through the [OSCE] Minsk Group process,” said Amb. Heffern.</p> <p>http://asbarez.com/99511/heffern-condemns-azeri-sniper-attacks/</p>
*Nov 21, 2011	<p>Two Armenian soldiers are killed by Azerbaijani forces near Nagorno- Karabakh. Bloomberg news reports that earlier this month, President Aliyev boasted that Azerbaijan may use military force to regain control of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding Azeri regions.</p> <p>http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-11-21/armenian-soldiers-killed-in-disputed-region-arminfo-reports.html</p>
*Oct 6, 2011	<p>One Armenian and two Azerbaijani soldiers are killed by sniper fire on the Karabakh-Azerbaijan border. Two Armenian soldiers are wounded on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border, a sign of an escalation of fighting to a new front.</p> <p>http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/24350911.html</p>
Sept 14, 2011	<p>Azerbaijan violates the ceasefire by flying an unmanned drone into Nagorno Karabakh’s airspace, which is shot down by Karabakh forces, who now have physical evidence of Azerbaijan’s ceasefire violation. This is the first time, since the ceasefire that any party has violated the airspace, markedly increasing tensions.</p>
Aug 26, 2011	<p>The head of Azerbaijan’s Presidential Administration’s Political Analysis Department Elnur Aslanov told a gathering of hundreds of Azerbaijani students, who were studying abroad, that Ramil Safarov, who was convicted of murdering an Armenian with an axe while he was sleeping in his dorm room in Hungary, is an inspiration and “give[s] special spirit to Azerbaijani youth.”</p> <p>http://news.az/articles/politics/43269 http://en.trend.az/news/politics/1923332.html</p>
Jul 27, 2011	<p>Azerbaijan’s President Aliyev vows to occupy Nagorno Karabakh “by peaceful or military means.”</p> <p>http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/24279704.html</p>

Jul 7, 2011	<p>Azerbaijan’s Civil Aviation Administration Director reiterates earlier terror warnings to shoot down civilian planes flying to Karabakh. “This is the right of the Azerbaijani side, according to the law on aviation,” he said. “Whether this right will be implemented or not, it is for the government to decide.”</p> <p>http://www.armenianow.com/karabakh/30877/karabakh_civilian_planes_azerbaijan_shoot_down</p>
Jun 26, 2011	<p>During Azerbaijan’s largest military parade since 1991, President Aliyev vows to avenge the deaths of Azerbaijani soldiers, who died during the Karabakh war, before stating, “The war is not over yet, only its first stage is . . .” Aliyev notes that Azerbaijan’s military budget of \$3,300,000,000 was 20 times larger than only 8 years ago and was more than what Armenia spends on its entire budget.</p> <p>http://en.president.az/articles/2537</p>
Jun 14, 2011	<p>“Eventually, Azerbaijani soldiers will meet the expectations of the people, the government, and the supreme commander-in-chief and will liberate the occupied land from the enemy,” Azeri Defense Ministry Spokesman Eldar Sabiroglu told a news conference.</p> <p>Reuters: http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCATRE7531V420110604</p>
May 26, 2011	<p>Joint statement of the Presidents of the United States, France and Russia emphasizes, “only a negotiated settlement can lead to peace, stability, and reconciliation The use of force created the current situation of confrontation and instability. Its use again would only bring more suffering and devastation”</p> <p>http://www.osce.org/mg/78195</p>
*Mar 24, 2011	<p>Nagorono Karabakh Republic’s Army reports Azerbaijani soldiers fired around 1,300 bullets at Karabakh Armenian positions since March 21. Azerbaijan reports two casualties.</p> <p>http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/2349095.html</p>
Mar 18, 2011	<p>Both the Armenian and Nagorno Karabakh governments support the Minsk Group Co Chairs’ call to pull back snipers from the border between Azerbaijan and the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, but Azerbaijan has opposed it.</p> <p>RFE/RL: http://www.azatutyun.am/content/article/2343004.html</p>
*Mar 17, 2011	<p>Another Armenian soldier Aharon Hayrapetyan is shot dead by Azerbaijani snipers just an hour after a Red Cross prisoner exchange with Armenia.</p> <p>http://www.armradio.am/news/?part=pol&id=19494</p>

Mar 16, 2011	<p>Azerbaijan announces its intention to commit a terrorist act and shoot down any civilian planes flying from Armenia to the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.</p> <p>http://www.rferl.org/content/azerbaijan_threatens_to_shoot_down_karabakh_flights/2340659.html</p>
*Mar 10, 2011	<p>Another Armenian soldier Artur Aghababyan is shot dead by Azerbaijani snipers.</p> <p>http://armenianow.com/karabakh/28165/karabakh_soldier_killed</p>
Mar 7, 2011	<p>Aliyev's chief foreign policy aide, Novruz Mammadov said that although the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents signed an agreement in Sochi on March 5 to seek to resolve all contentious issues by peaceful means, "the statement does not and cannot contain any peace guarantees on the part of Azerbaijan."</p> <p>RFE/RL: http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/2330373.html</p>
Mar 7, 2011	<p>A Turkish official states that Turkey "could back Azerbaijan" if war breaks out in Karabakh, creating the alarming prospect of a NATO member engaging in warfare against a U.S. ally and stoking an already volatile and unstable ceasefire.</p> <p>RFE/RL: http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/2330736.html</p>
*Mar 4, 2011	<p>Armenian soldier Grigor Shakhkyan is shot dead by Azerbaijani snipers a day before Armenia and Azerbaijan meet for peace talks in Sochi.</p> <p>RFE/RL: http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/2328401.html</p>
Feb 11, 2011	<p>Azerbaijan's Defense Minister Safar Abiyev boasts "Azerbaijan is seriously preparing to liberate its territories."</p> <p>"Azerbaijan has repeatedly threatened to use force to win back Karabakh."</p> <p>http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=5685278&c=EUR&s=LAN</p>
*Jan 20, 2011	<p>Armenian soldier Hovik Sukiasian was shot dead, yet another violation of the "line of contact" between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan.</p> <p>The Armenian Defense Minister spokesman Davit Karapetian stressed that "This incident once again shows that Azerbaijan's authorities either do not control the frontline behavior of their armed forces or themselves organize such provocations."</p> <p>http://www.rferl.org/content/armenian_soldier_killed_karabakh/2283750.html</p>

<p>*Jan 14, 2011</p>	<p>Two Karabakh Armenian soldiers were wounded along two different front-line sections. Both men required hospitalization.</p> <p>http://www.rferl.org/content/nagorno-karabakh_azerbaijan_armenia_skirmish/2279329.html</p>
<p>Jan 1, 2011</p>	<p>President Aliyev lays claims to Armenia itself in his New Year’s Eve address to the nation.</p> <p>http://www.president.az/articles/1374?locale=en</p>
<p>Nov 8, 2010</p>	<p>President Aliyev threatens to “use the military option” to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.</p> <p>http://www.armenianow.com/karabakh/25684/azerbaijan_aliyev_karabakh_war_threat</p>
<p>Oct 16, 2010</p>	<p>President Aliyev claims that Armenia and its capital belong to Azerbaijan, repeating the same claim he made during an official foreign visit to Estonia.</p> <p>http://www.armenianow.com/commentary/analysis/25429/azerbaijan_aliyev_lays_claims_on_yerevan</p>
<p>*Oct 14, 2010</p>	<p>Vitaly Igitian, a 22-year-old Armenian soldier, was shot dead by sniper fire from Azerbaijani army positions.</p> <p>RFE/RL: http://www.azatutyun.am/content/article/2191899.html</p>
<p>Oct 11, 2010</p>	<p>OSCE Minsk Group Russian Co-Chair Igor Popov expressed “shock” at the death of Armenian shepherd Manvel Saribekian in Azerbaijani captivity and urged that the incident be thoroughly examined with the participation of international organizations, in particular the Red Cross.</p> <p>http://news.am/eng/news/34146.html</p>
<p>Oct 5, 2010</p>	<p>RFE reports Manvel Saribekian, a 20-year-old Armenian shepherd, who had wandered across the line of contact and was imprisoned by Azerbaijan, was found dead in his prison cell less than a month after his arrest. Before his death, the International Committee of the Red Cross was not allowed to visit him and a forced confession was broadcast on state run television against international law. Dismissing Azerbaijani claims of suicide, Armenian Government officials stated that “Saribekian was tortured to death or ‘driven to suicide’.”</p> <p>RFE/RL: http://www.azatutyun.am/content/article/2182797.html</p>

Sept 24, 2010	<p>President Obama speaks with Azerbaijani President Aliyev, “emphasizing the importance of maintaining the ceasefire along the Line of Contact and stressing the need to find a peaceful solution based on the Helsinki principles of non-use of force or threat of force, territorial integrity, and the equal rights and self-determination of peoples.”</p> <p>http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/09/24/read-out-president-obamas-meeting-with-azerbaijani-president-ilham-aliyev</p>
*Sept 4, 2010	<p>“Karabakh soldiers repelled an assault by an Azerbaijani ‘sabotage’ unit at the northeastern section of the front line, which forced Azerbaijanis to drive back and leave two bodies.”</p> <p>http://www.rferl.org/content/NagornoKarabakh_Says_One_Azeri_Soldier_Killed_In_Clash/2148142.html</p>
*Aug 31, 2010	<p>Less than three months after their June 18 attack, Azerbaijan attacks the Nagorno Karabakh Republic again, claiming the lives of at least two soldiers.</p> <p>http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijan_Claims_Five_Killed_In_Clash_On_NagornoKarabakh_Border_/2145292.html</p>
Aug 26, 2010	<p>Eldar Sabiroglu, head of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry press service declared that "The Armenian separatists must be driven out of [Nagorno Karabakh] at all cost."</p> <p>http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijani_Defense_Ministry_Rejects_Laug_hable_Armenian_Statement/2139321.html</p>
Aug 10, 2010	<p>President Aliyev warns again, “The war is not over yet, only its first stage is.”</p> <p>http://www.president.az/articles/561?locale=en</p>
Jun 24, 2010	<p>Congressmen condemn Azerbaijan’s attacks with Congressman Mark Kirk (R-IL) stating, “I condemn the unprovoked attacks by Azerbaijan’s armed forces on NKR troops I am concerned that such destabilizing actions by the Azeri side . . . gravely undermine the OSCE-led Minsk Process.”</p> <p>Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) emphasizing, “The fact that these attacks were unprovoked and came just hours after a meeting between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan with Russian President Medvedev as part of ongoing efforts to bring the conflict to a final peace settlement, makes the attacks that much more egregious.”</p> <p>http://www.armenianweekly.com/2010/06/24/kirk-pallone-condemn-attacks-by-azerbaijan/</p>

Jun 23, 2010	<p>Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov states that the June 18 attack is a "message to the entire world that such incidents will repeat unless Armenia liberates Azerbaijani lands." He goes on to state that Azerbaijan's threats to attack "will not end before the settlement of the conflict."</p> <p>http://www.news.az/articles/17954</p>
*Jun 18, 2010	<p>Within hours of a meeting between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to negotiate a peace settlement, Azerbaijan attacks Karabakh in one of the worst ceasefires, since March 2008, when Azerbaijan also attacked Karabakh. Four Armenian and one Azerbaijani soldier are killed.</p> <p>http://www.reuters.com/article/2010/06/19/us-azerbaijan-karabakh-idUSTRE65I1VC20100619</p>
Jun 7, 2010	<p>U.S. Defense Secretary Gates delivers letter from President Obama, which warns against use of force to resolve the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.</p> <p>http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6550XE20100607</p>
Apr 23, 2010	<p>"The war is not over. Only the first stage of the war is over. We have to act in a way so we can free our lands any time by force," Aliyev said in a meeting attended by the country's top military officials state-owned news agency Azartac reported. BBC Monitoring Trans Caucasus Unit</p>
Apr 23, 2010	<p>On the eve of the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Aliyev warned Armenia against normalizing relations with Turkey and alluded to a possible attack on Armenia itself. Azeri Defense Minister Safar Abiyev informed Aliyev that "The Azerbaijan army has all the capabilities to hit any target on the territory of Armenia if necessary."</p> <p>http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2010/04/23/world/international-uk-armenia-turkey-azerbaijan.html</p>
Feb 25, 2010	<p>Azeri Defense Minister Safar Abiyev states that Azeri military action is becoming "more imminent" and "inevitable."</p> <p>http://www.upi.com/Top_News/International/2010/02/25/Azerbaijan-threatens-end-to-cess-fire/UPI-25821267105427/</p>
Nov 23, 2009	<p>RFE reports yet another Aliyev threat: "Azerbaijan is spending billions on buying new weapons, hardware, strengthening its position on the line of contact We have the full right to liberate our land by military means."</p>

Jul 14, 2009	<p>Just four days after Presidents Obama, Sarkozy, and Medvedev announced support for certain Basic Principles to resolve the conflict, including the non-use of force, President Aliyev threatened, “Unfortunately, I cannot totally rule out a military solution, as we have the total and based on international laws right to restore our territorial integrity”</p> <p>http://en.apa.az/news.php?id=105053</p>
Jun 25, 2009	<p>Aliyev threatens, “We live in a state of war, thus our primary goal is and should be the strengthening of our army. . . . With the war still going on and only its first stage over, we are continuing our efforts to be ready to free our motherland from the enemy by military means at any time.”</p> <p>http://www.asbarez.com/2009/06/25/azeri-president-says-nation-must-prepare-for-war/ and http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/82404/ilham-aliyev-declared-azerbaijan-is-ready-to-go-to-war-with-armenia-.html</p>
Nov 27, 2008	<p><i>RFE/RL</i> reports that Azeri President Aliyev refuses to exclude attacking Karabakh militarily, despite signing a declaration less than a month earlier to seek a political solution. Aliyev declares, “There is not a single commitment [in the declaration] that would keep Azerbaijan from resorting to a military option.”</p>
Nov 6, 2008	<p>During a visit from Turkey’s Commander of the Armed Forces General Staff, Azerbaijan’s Defense Minister threatened, “If the peace talks will not give results, Azerbaijan will use of all the possible ways to restore its territorial integrity” contradicting a declaration signed between Armenia and Azerbaijan only days before vowing to seek a political solution to the conflict.</p> <p>http://news.trendaz.com/index.shtml?show=news&newsid=1339074&lang=EN</p>
Aug 9, 2008	<p>Azerbaijan’s Foreign Minister declares that like the Georgians’ recent move against South Ossetia, Azerbaijan has the right to militarily impose its rule over Nagorno Karabakh and reserves the right to resolve the conflict militarily, setting the stage to further destabilize the volatile region.</p> <p>http://www.azernews.az/site/shownews.php?news_id=5942</p>
Apr 15, 2008	<p><i>Reuters</i> reports that Azerbaijan has increased its military budget from \$150 million five years ago to \$1,300,000,000.</p> <p>http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSL1597375</p>

Mar 6, 2008	Azerbaijan violates the ceasefire for a second time in a week.
Mar 5, 2008	Nagorno Karabakh urges OSCE mediators to immediately investigate the attacks of the night before. Azerbaijan will not guarantee the mediators' safety. As a result, the OSCE is prevented from beginning an investigation.
*Mar 4, 2008	Azerbaijan attacks Karabakh in worst ceasefire violation in over a decade. Nagorno Karabakh forces immediately call OSCE peacekeepers to report the violation. At least 8 soldiers are killed.
Mar 3, 2008	<i>Reuters</i> reports that Azerbaijan's President Aliyev has said that it is ready to take Nagorno Karabakh by force and is buying the military equipment to do so.
Jan 17, 2008	President Aliyev proclaims that capital of Armenia is actually Azerbaijani territory and that Armenians living there are "guests." Aliyev also declares that the war with Armenia was not over, but that "it was just the first stage of the war," which was completed. www.regnum.ru/english/943595.html
Jan 4, 2008	<i>RFE/RL</i> reports that Aliyev has told Armenians in Karabakh to accept Azeri rule or get out. Aliyev warns, "We are reinforcing our army because we must be ready to free our lands . . . at any moment and by any means." http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/1592303.html
Nov 27, 2007	<i>AP</i> reports that the Azeri Defense Minister vows, "[T]he chance of war is close to 100 percent." The Armenian Defense Minister Mikhail Arutyunian reiterated, however, that he sees no alternative to a peaceful settlement. http://www.newsvine.com/_news/2007/11/26/1124487-azerbaijan-defense-minister-hints-at-war