



**The Council on State Support to NGOs
under the auspices of the President of
the Republic of Azerbaijan**



**Citizens' Labour Rights Protection
League**

Ecological terror policy of Armenia in the occupied Azerbaijani territories and its consequences

BAKU-2019

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Brief chronicle of occupation of Azerbaijani territories by Armenia.....	3
Brief information on the nature and natural resources of the occupied territories.....	4
Environmental situation in the occupied territories and international law requirements.....	5
Destruction of flora in the occupied territories.....	6
Destruction of fauna in the occupied territories.....	9
Exploitation of natural resources in the occupied territories and its negative consequence.....	11
Water sources in the occupied territories.....	13
Illegal disposal of nuclear waste in the occupied territories.....	15
Destruction of natural landscape and natural monuments in the occupied territories.....	16

Brief chronicle of occupation of Azerbaijani territories by Armenia

As a result of aggression by Armenia from 1988 up to the late 1993, 20 percent of Azerbaijani lands, including the administrative territory of the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, as well as 7 adjacent regions - Aghdam (62.8 percent of the territory is under occupation), Jabrayil, Fuzuli (79.3% of the territory is under occupation), Kalbajar, Gubadli, Lachin, Zangilan and a number of settlements bordering with Armenia which includes 1 village of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (Kerki), 13 villages of Tartar region (Chardakhli, Umudlu, Ortakend, Talysh, Hasangaya, Shikharkh, Chanyatag, Chayli, Aghdere, Kichikgarabey, Giziloba, Aghabeyyali, Ulugarabey) and 7 villages of Gazakh region (Yukhari Askipara, Ahaghi Askipara, Baganis Ayrum, Kheyrimli, Barkhudarli, Soflu, Gizilhajili) were occupied. Armenia has created a toylike regime in the occupied territories. Administration over the occupied territories, destructions in the territories, demolition and plundering of settlements, non-rational and brutal exploitation of natural resources, disposal of nuclear fuel residues in a manner contrary to the rules established by UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and others have been and still are being carried out by the Republic of Armenia.

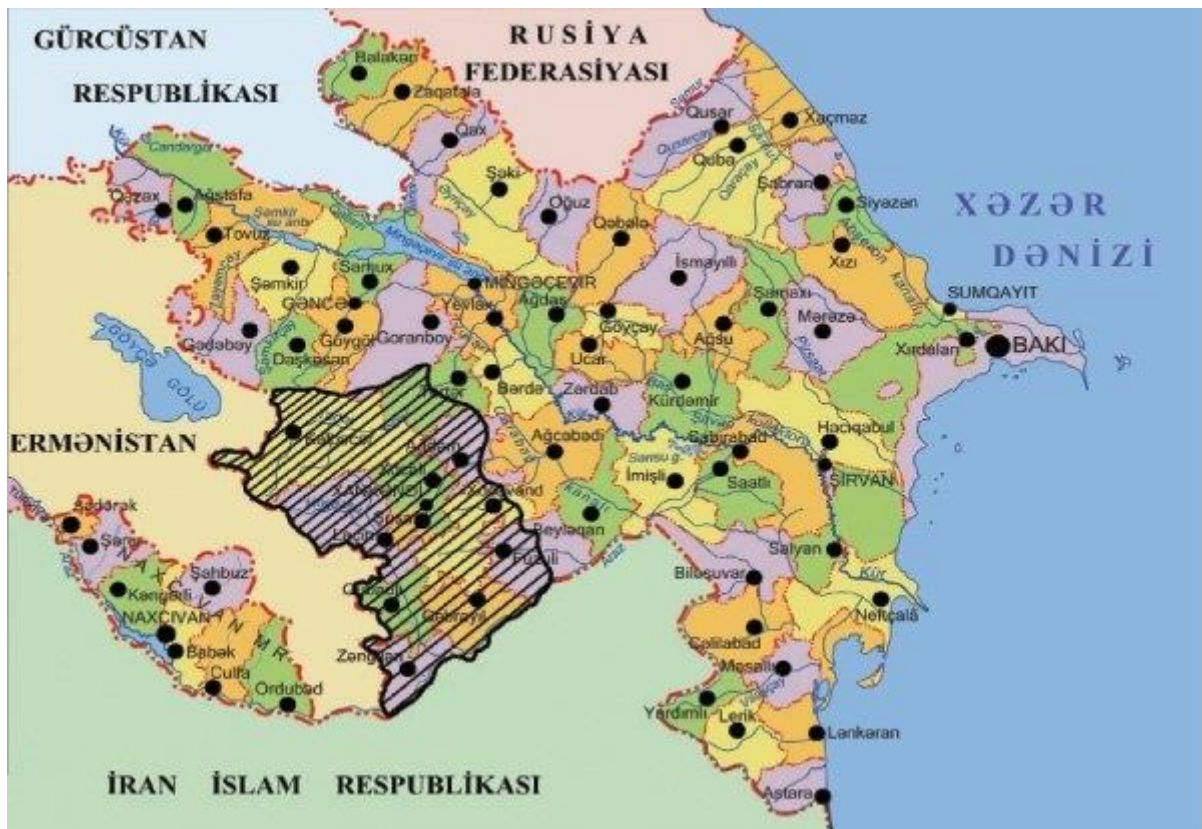
Aggression has led to occupation of 17,000 sq km of the most productive lands, destruction of 900 settlements, 150,000 private houses, 7,000 public buildings, 693 schools, 855 pre-schools, 695 medical facilities, 927 libraries, 44 temples, 9 mosques, 473 historical monuments, palaces and museums, 40,000 museum exhibits, 6,000 industrial and agricultural facilities, 2,670 km of highways, 160 bridges, 2,300 km of water and 2,000 km of gas communications, 15,000 km of power lines, 280,000 ha of forests, 1,000,000 ha of land suitable for agricultural use and 1,200 km of irrigation systems.

During the military aggression by Armenia, all the principles of international humanitarian law were crudely violated and as a result, 20,000 Azerbaijanis were killed, 100,000 people were injured, 50,000 people sustained injuries of varying degrees and became disabled and 4,011 people went missing.

The United Nations Security Council has adopted four resolutions on the prevention of Armenian aggression and the liberation of the occupied territories¹. Armenia not only failed to comply with these resolutions, but, on the contrary continued to expand its occupational plans, built strong fortifications in those occupied territories, and placed there heavy weapons, banned mines and chemical weapons.

Along with the other crimes committed in the occupied territories, including destruction of monuments, devastation of settlements and religious facilities, Armenia also committed ecological crimes which poses a serious threat not only for the occupied territories but also for the entire region.

¹ [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/822\(1993\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/822(1993))
[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/853\(1993\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/853(1993))
[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/874\(1993\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/874(1993))
[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/884\(1993\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/884(1993))



20% of Azerbaijani lands occupied by the Republic of Armenia.

Brief information about the nature and natural resources of the occupied territories

The occupied Karabakh region is situated in the Lesser Caucasus, which is one of the geomorphologic units of Azerbaijan. The territory of Karabakh also gradually lowers from the northwest to the southwest. The most important geomorphologic units of Azerbaijan's occupied mountains are Shahdag, Murovdag, Goycha and Karabakh ridges and Karabakh volcanic plateau².

The former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region and its surrounding 7 administrative regions occupied by Armenian armed units are mainly located in the territories of the Lesser Caucasus Mountain System, including Karabagh volcanic plateau. The natural landscape of the area is quite diverse. The occupied territories cover the territories of Karabagh region and Kalbajar-Lachin and Upper Karabagh economic regions.

Upper Karabakh economic region covers Agdam, Tartar, Khojavand, Khojali, Shusha, Jabrayil, Fuzuli regions and Khankendi city. Khojavand, Khojali, Shusha, Jabrayil regions and Khankendi city of the economic region are completely under Armenian occupation, whereas Aghdam and Fuzuli regions are partially³. Kalbajar-Lachin economic region covers Kalbajar, Lachin, Zangilan and Gubadli regions and all of them are completely under occupation.

The occupied territories are the most unique lands of the world both due to its nature and rich natural resources. The lands are rich in both forest resources and minerals, including construction

² Source: http://garabagh.net/content_81_az.html

³ Source: http://garabagh.net/content_81_az.html

materials and non-ferrous metals. There are numerous thermal waters in the areas, including world-famed thermal therapeutic waters and mineral springs.

The Republic of Armenia misuses the natural resources of the lands, causes non-recoverable harms to the nature, and thus, ignores and violates the norms of international law.

Environmental situation in the occupied territories and international law requirements

On 5 November 2001 the United Nations (UN) General Assembly declared 6 November of each year as an International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict⁴. The resolution adopted by the initiative of several states, including the Republic of Azerbaijan, states that:

“Measures on environmental protection should be taken in order to safeguard the nature for the sake of future generations. The resolution also states that damage to environment in times of armed conflict causes continuous and long-term impairment of ecosystems and natural resources long beyond the period of conflict. At the same time, the damage to environment in the territories of armed conflict extends beyond the limits of national territories and has a global negative impact on environment”.

In this regard, a special day has been set up to direct the attention of the world community to this growing problem.

Historically, during the wars statistics of human casualties, including of people who injured and became disable, as well as statistics of destructed cities, other settlements, facilities, cultural monuments, religious facilities, and etc. have been proclaimed mainly. The damage to nature caused by the occupation of lands in times of wars, the constant deterioration of the ecological situation, destruction of water sources and of fauna and flora have not been considered as to be important information.

The UN Environment Programme has found that over the last 60 years, at least 40 percent of entire internal conflicts have been linked to the exploitation of natural resources, including high-value resources such as diamonds, gold, oil, timber or scarce resources such as fertile land and water⁵.

According to the protocols supplementing 1949 Geneva Conventions, deliberate damage to environment in areas of war, including disruption of the water sources providing population with water and the irrigation systems, as well as the acts which cause damages to the food supply of population and the nature (greenery, crop areas) is considered violation of humanitarian law principles. According to Article 14 of the second Protocol (adopted on June 8, 1977) Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 *“Starvation of civilians as a method of combat is prohibited. It is therefore prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless, for that purpose, objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas for the production of foodstuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and supplies and irrigation works.”*⁶.

⁴ <http://www.un.org/en/events/environmentconflictday/>

⁵ <http://www.un.org/en/events/environmentconflictday/>

⁶ <https://www.icrc.org/ru/doc/resources/documents/misc/6lkb3l.htm>

According to Article 55 of the first Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 is entitled "Protection of the natural environment". The article states that, "*Care shall be taken in warfare to protect the natural environment against widespread, long-term and severe damage. This protection includes a prohibition of the use of methods or means of warfare which are intended or may be expected to cause such damage to the natural environment and thereby to prejudice the health or survival of the population. Attacks against the natural environment by way of reprisals are prohibited*"⁷.

Article 11 of the **Global Framework Convention on Right to Water** is entitled "Water Rights in Armed Conflicts". The article states that "*1. The right to water of communities subjected to expulsion by occupying country will be ensured in accordance with the principles and rules of international law on armed conflicts. 2. The right to water will not be violated in the event of an international or non-international conflict. 3. Water will not be used as a weapon for warfare or as a target in armed conflicts. Any violation of this rule will be declared a crime against humanity*"⁸.

Referring to the relevant provisions of this convention, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a Resolution on "**Inhabitants of frontier regions of Azerbaijan are deliberately deprived of water**" on January 26, 2016⁹.

The resolution condemns the deliberate restrictions on use of water resources by inhabitants of frontier regions of the occupied by Armenia Azerbaijani territories.

In view of this urgent humanitarian problem, the Assembly requests immediate withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from the region concerned, thus allowing access by independent engineers and hydrologists to carry out a detailed on-the-spot survey¹⁰.

Some other international instruments also prohibit damage to natural environment, plunder and destruction of natural resources in war zones and occupied territories and use of such acts as war methods and means. Nevertheless, the Republic of Armenia grossly violates requirements of international humanitarian law, relevant UN conventions, conventions of UNESCO which is specialized Agency of the United Nations on Educational, Scientific and Cultural issues, as well as exploits natural resources in the occupied territories, plunders forest resources, either makes water sources useless, or restricts water use for inhabitants of frontier regions, causes non-recoverable damages to fauna and flora, and contaminates the soil and the surface of the earth with nuclear waste. The negative regional impact of the committed cruel violations become more obvious. Nevertheless, neglected attitude of the Republic of Armenia towards the documents adopted by international organizations still continues.

Destruction of flora in the occupied territories

According to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, **261,000 hectares** of forest area, including 13,197 hectares of precious forest areas, **215** natural monuments, 5 geological-

⁷ https://www.icrc.org/ru/doc/assets/files/2013/ap_i_rus.pdf

⁸ http://www.cawater-info.net/bk/water_law/pdf/water_right_global.pdf

⁹ <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=22429&lang=en>

¹⁰ Source: <http://eco.gov.az/az/111-isgal-olunmus-erazilerin-ekoloji-veziyeti>

paleontological sites, **145** passportized eastern pine trees with the height of 45 meters and diameter of up to 6-8 meters, and with an ages from 120 to 2,000 years and other natural monuments were plundered and most of them were destroyed.



Over 460 types of wild plants and shrubs grow in the occupied territories of which 70 are of endemic type and can not be grown naturally in any other place of the world. Garachohre, bearnut, Araz oak, false nut, eastern pine, pomegranate, wood grape, pine -tree, date, willow-leaf pear, and other types of plants have been decimated and are being rubbed off from the list of world fauna treasure. ¹¹



¹¹ <http://eco.gov.az/az/111-iscal-olunmus-erazilerin-ekoloji-veziyyeti>



One of the main types of fuel used by population of Armenia is firewood due to high natural gas prices in the country. In this regard, the forests in the occupied Azerbaijani territories have been cut off and used as fuel. Particularly, the forests of 7 regions located out of the administrative territory of former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region have been completely destroyed. Numerous wood-supply points have been set up in these areas, and forest trees have been cut off

and transported to different places. Rare and precious trees have been cut off and illegally exported to other countries to produce wooden products.

The occupying party destroys the flora of the territories by setting regularly deliberate fires in frontier regions of occupied territories, especially in the occupied 7 regions surrounding the administrative territory of the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region.

Destruction of fauna in the occupied territories

The occupied lands biologically are very diverse sites and has a very rich fauna. Presently, however, massive destruction of forests and deliberate fires set in these lands have led to a complete or severe disruption of a number of species, including rodents, reptiles, mammals.

“In addition, 4 species of mammals, 8 species of birds, 1 specie of fishes, 3 species of amphibians and reptiles, 8 species of insects and 27 plant species which are included in Red Book of the Republic of Azerbaijan were preserved in these lands prior to occupation and after occupation many of them were destroyed.¹²”

Every year the Armenian armed forces set fires in frontier line of occupied lands which are impossible to be extinguished as the areas are under constant fire. As a result, the fauna species of these areas are being destroyed.

"In the occupied by Armenians territories the wild animals - boars, foxes, jackals, wolves, lynxes, badgers, wildcat, rabbits, hedgehogs and porcupines, water birds, pheasants, partridge and other species either starved to death or went missing from their natural habitat"¹³ .

Since 2006, intentional fires have been set on a regular basis. The fires cover tens of thousands of hectares of land. The scale of fires has been determined through monitoring carried out by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, as well as via satellite images.

The most fascinating lands of Azerbaijan with mysterious nature and rich natural resources - Aghdam, Tartar, Fuzuli, Jabrayil and Khojavand regions have been ruthlessly set on fire and as a result, the most precious trees such as oak, chestnut, nut, plane, iron tree, fruit trees, shrubs, as well as precious medicinal herbs (hawthorn, chamomile, liquorice, camelthorn, hips, thyme, elecampane, clover, acanthus, etc.), crops, pastures have been brutally destroyed. In the occupied by Armenians territories the wild animals - boars, foxes, jackals, wolves, lynxes, badgers, wildcat, rabbits, hedgehogs and porcupines, water birds, pheasants, partridge and other species either starved to death or went missing from their natural habitat.

In recent years, fires set by Armenian aggressors acquired a mass character and frontier villages of Agdam, Fuzuli, Jabrail, and Khojavend regions such as Yusifjanli, Novruzlu, Baghbanlar, Saybali, Sarijali and Bash Garvand have been completely destroyed¹⁴. The affected from fire areas are not limited to the above and cover larger areas.

¹² <http://eco.gov.az/az/111-igsaw-olunmus-erazilerin-ekoloji-veziyyeti>

¹³ <http://unec.edu.az/application/uploads/2018/12/L-ZAD-ELSEV-R-R-HMAN-O-LU.pdf>. Alizade Elsevar Rahman "Global ecological crises, anthropogenic impacts on biosphere and protection measures"

¹⁴ <http://unec.edu.az/application/uploads/2018/12/L-ZAD-ELSEV-R-R-HMAN-O-LU.pdf>

Alizade Elsevar Rahman "Global ecological crises, anthropogenic impacts on biosphere and protection measures"



70, 388.6 hectares of specially protected natural areas - Basitchay and Karagol state nature reserves, Arazboyu, Lachin, Gubadli, Dashalty state nature preserves and the precious trees and other rare biodiversity patterns of these preserves are being destroyed by occupying army currently¹⁵.

Such fires have been set over the course of many years. As a result, beside the greeneries, thousands of species of fauna, especially reptiles, rodents, birds, rabbits, foxes, etc., have been destroyed in the frontier lines. The fauna is gradually destroyed because of habitat restrictions. Non-recoverable harms to wild nature aggravates the ecological situation in the region and cause ecological imbalance.

Exploitation of natural resources in the occupied territories and its negative consequences

Armenia plunders the occupied natural resources, as a result of the exploitation some exhaustible and unrecoverable resources have been completely exhausted. Along with the plunder of forest wealth, the use of mineral and medicinal waters, exploitation of the ore takes place in uncontrolled manner via use of primitive methods and by causing fatal damages to environment.

"Production of precious minerals and metals is one of the main activities in the occupied territories. For example, the resources of underground mine for copper mining in Gizilbulag (subsidiary company of Vallex Group CJSC owned by Armenia and registered in Liechtenstein) has almost been exhausted. The same situation is in open copper-molybdenum mines in Demirli. "GPM Gold" which is a subsidiary company of GeoProMiningLtd operating in Russia is engaged in ore extraction from the gold mine in Soyudlu village of Kalbajar region, occupied since 2007.

"In addition, Vardenis-Agdere highway was built to illegally transport natural resources from the occupied region of Azerbaijani-Armenian border. The Armenian government through its own energy ministry directly transports ore concentrate from Gizilbulag to Armenia, then processes gold-containing copper and exports it to international markets, mainly to Europe. Additionally, in order to provide a power plant located in Yerevan, Armenia extracts coal from the nearby Chardagli village of Terter region"¹⁶.

¹⁵ <http://eco.gov.az/az/111-iscal-olunmus-erazilerin-ekoloji-veziyyeti>

¹⁶ Source: <http://cssn.gov.az/news.php?id=3202&lang=az> Rustam Mammadov and Khagani Mammadov: Illegal and unlawful activities of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan from the view of contemporary international law



"Soyudlu" gold mine in Kalbajar region

It has been established, through the monitoring carried out by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, that "Natural resources of all types are being plundered and transported from the lands belonging to the Republic of Azerbaijan and are under occupation presently. These include 163 mineral deposits, including 5 gold, 7 mercury, 2 copper, 1 lead and zinc, 1 stone coal, 6 plaster-stone, 4 vermiculite, 1 raw material for soda production, 12 colorful and decorative stones, 10 sawn stone, 21 facing stone, 9 clay, 20 cement raw materials, 8 different types of construction stones, 6 lime raw materials, 10 sand-gravel, 4 construction sand, 1 perlite, 8 pumice ash, 16 underground fresh water and 11 mineral water deposits. These resources have once been important for the country's economy and have been plundered by Armenians for many years.

Industrial resources of these deposits is approved to have 205.3 tons of gold, 251.1 tons of silver, 1 788.2 tons of mercury, 37.3 thousand tons of lead, 191.6 million m³ of saw stone, 7.3 million tons of plaster-stone, 61, 4 million m³ facing stone, 18.9 million m³ clay, 46.7 million m³ of construction stone, 193.1 million m³ of sand-gravel, 18.0 million m³ of perlite, pumice ash, 129.8 million tons of soda limestone, 282.3 million tons of cement raw materials, 434.4 thousand m³ / day underground fresh water and 7,805 m³ / day mineral water and other types of mineral resources.

The territories of Agdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Tartar and Khojavend regions which are located on frontier line are deliberately set on fire by Armenian invaders. Over 110,000 hectares of fertile soils have been destroyed as a result of regular fires caused by Armenians, the environment and living nature is damaged significantly.

According to the preliminary assessment conducted by the Working Group on Evaluation of the losses and casualties caused by occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Armenian armed forces, as a result of the destruction of biodiversity, forests, deterioration of lands, restriction on use, pollution of the environment, including water sources, as well as the plunder of mineral deposits the damage to the nature during the occupation period stands at \$ 244.4 billion."¹⁷.

¹⁷ Source: <http://eco.gov.az/az/111-isgal-olunmus-erazilerin-ekoloji-veziyyeti>

Water sources in the occupied territories

The occupied by Armenia territories cover mainly the Lesser Caucasus mountainous regions and Karabagh volcanic plateau, and these areas are relatively high above the sea level. The occupied territories also have a relative altitude difference with the areas located in frontier region and its surroundings. All the water sources in these areas, including rivers flow toward east from its watering point. The main water sources of the region are therefore fall on the occupied territories. **Armenia, however, misuse water sources since it has control over them and use it as a mean of war.** Armenia blocks water sources flow, and, if blocking is not possible, pollutes extensively water sources. Pollution is made deliberately and water sources are polluted with harmful chemicals. As a result, use of these waters become impossible not only for drinking, but also for irrigation purposes. According to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, "Natural sources of water running through the occupied territories are exposed to excessive pollution by Armenia. As a result of extensive pollution of Oxchuchay and Agstafachay which are branches of Araz and Kura Rivers, a living environment of the rivers is under a serious threat.

Most of lakes with ecologically important significance which are now in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan are subjected to considerable anthropogenic impact. In these areas, seven relict lakes: fresh water sources such as Boyuk Alagol, Kichik Alagol, Zalkhagol, Garagol, Djanligol, Ishigli, Garagol in pastures of Kalbajar and Lachin regions and Garagol (in Toraghachay which is branch of Tartar River) in Aghdere region are polluted and destroyed, and as a result, unique lands has reached environmental disaster level.

Hydrometeorological observations in 17 hydrological stations located in the occupied territories were stopped and hydrometeorological observation base was put out of action. In the occupied by Armenia lands of Azerbaijan 10 water reservoirs with a total capacity of 631 million m³, including Sarsang water reservoir with a capacity of 560 million m³ of water, built on Tartar River and calculated for irrigation of over 100,000 hectares of land, is put out of action as a result of negligence by invaders. The lack of regular maintenance of technical facilities, poses a danger for 400,000 people living downside the Sarsang reservoir, in foothills and lowlands. The water of the reservoir is released to the villages the population of which is consisted of azerbaijanis mostly, regardless of the seasonal needs of the area, and as a result, agricultural lands and communication lines are left under water in winter season, whereas in hot summer season, only 10-15% of the annual water norm is released, which causes acute shortage of water, creates problems with irrigation of planting areas, and the greeneries is destroyed due to drying

¹⁸.

The Resolution of Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on "**Inhabitants of frontier regions of Azerbaijan are deliberately deprived of water**" adopted on January 26, 2016 states that: *"The Parliamentary Assembly reminds all its member States that the right to water is essential to life and health, in accordance with the 1966 Helsinki Rules on the Uses of the Waters of International Rivers and the 2004 Berlin Rules on Water Resources, and thus constitutes a prior condition for the enjoyment of other human rights. The Assembly emphasises*

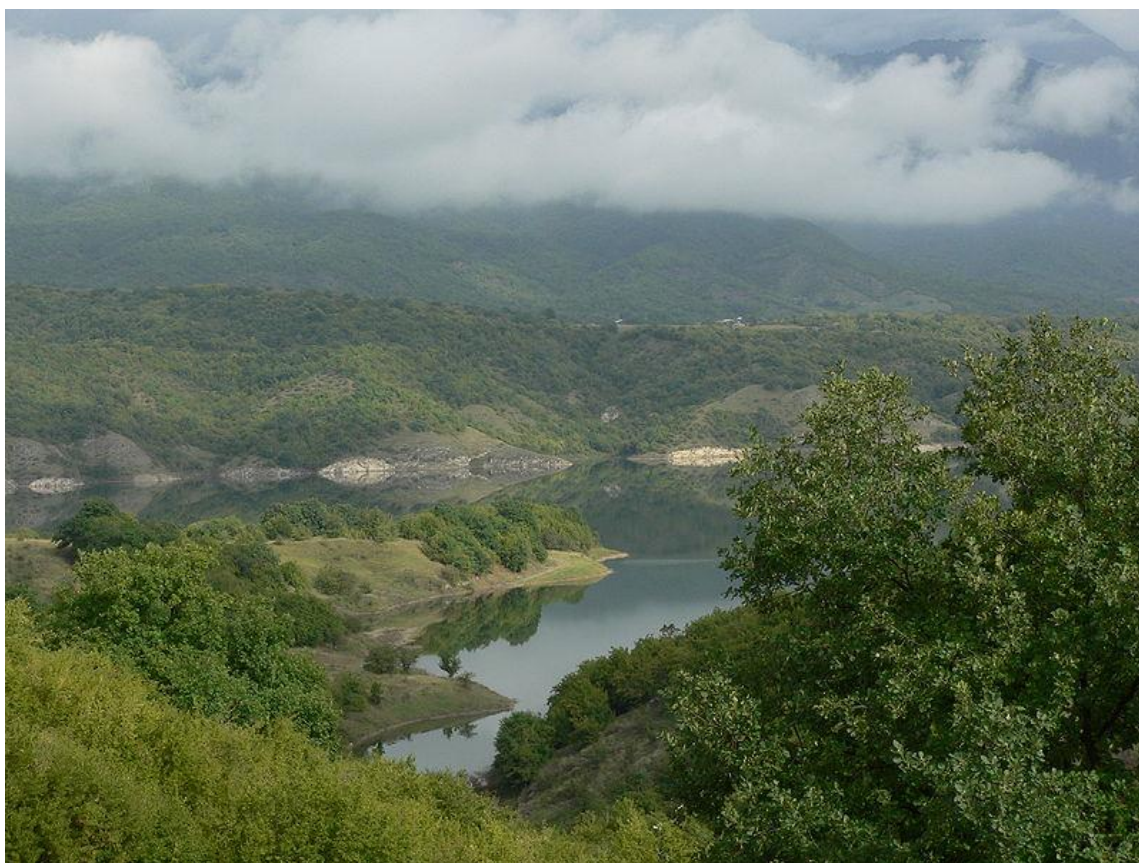
¹⁸ Source: <http://eco.gov.az/az/111-isgal-olunmus-erazilerin-ekoloji-veziiyeti>

the obligation of States to secure their population's access to sufficient, safe and affordable water resources"¹⁹.

The Resolution also states that *"The Assembly regards unimpeded access to drinking water, which cannot be restricted by the existence of borders, as a basic right, a source of life and an asset of strategic importance to every State. It confirms that deliberate deprivation of water cannot be used as a means to harm innocent citizens"*.

The Assembly considers that the deliberate creation of an artificial environmental crisis must be regarded as "environmental aggression" and seen as a hostile act by one State towards another aimed at creating environmental disaster areas and making normal life impossible for the population concerned.

It deplores the fact that the occupation by Armenia of Nagorno-Karabakh and other adjacent areas of Azerbaijan creates similar humanitarian and environmental problems for the citizens of Azerbaijan living in the Lower Karabakh valley"²⁰.



Sarsang water reservoir

The Resolution considers deprivation of population from water as a humanitarian crisis *"The Assembly notes that the lack of regular maintenance work for over twenty years on the Sarsang reservoir, located in one of the areas of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia, poses a danger to the*

¹⁹Source: <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=22429&lang=en>

²⁰ Source: <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=22429&lang=en>

whole border region. The Assembly emphasises that the state of disrepair of the Sarsang dam could result in a major disaster with great loss of human life and possibly a fresh humanitarian crisis"²¹.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe also put forward claims against the aggressor Armenia under its mandate. The Assembly considering deprivation of population from water as a humanitarian crisis, requests *"The immediate withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from the region concerned, thus allowing: access by independent engineers and hydrologists to carry out a detailed on-the-spot survey; global management, throughout the catchment area, of the use and upkeep of the Sarsang water resources; international supervision of the irrigation canals, the state of the Sarsang and Madagiz dams, the schedule of water releases during the autumn and winter, and aquifer overexploitation; the Armenian authorities to cease using water resources as tools of political influence or an instrument of pressure benefiting only one of the parties to the conflict"*²².

At the end of Resolution the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe states that: *"The Assembly calls on all sides concerned to step up their efforts to co-operate closely in the joint management of the resources of the Sarsang water reservoir, as such co-operation can constitute a confidence-building measure necessary for the solution of any conflict"*²³.

However, after adoption of the Resolution Armenia became even more aggressive and began to put obstacles for water flow of other sources in the frontier regions of occupied territories. In exceptional cases, for short period of time they released polluted water, later they started to throw to the waters children toys with explosives inside it which later had many negative consequences.

Illegal disposal of nuclear waste in the occupied territories

Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) located in Armenia is built based on the world's oldest nuclear technology which makes it one of the most dangerous stations in the world. The construction of the station which is located about 40 kilometers west to the capital of Armenia - Yerevan (in the city of Metsamor) began during the Soviet Union era in 1973 and it was put into operation in 1979. Although seismic resistance of NPP was designed for 8-point, the actual seismicity of the area is 9-point. NPP always poses threat for the entire region. In recent years, in order to reduce costs the Armenian government disposes nuclear waste of NPP in the occupied territories without complying with any instructions or guidelines and thereby causing both local and global threats to the environment. Uncontrolled and unlawful disposal of nuclear wastes by Armenia in the occupied territories causes concern of many organizations and experts.

At the same time, In the uncontrolled areas under occupation radioactive waste from Metsamor NPP, one of the danger sources for humanity, are buried, also, narcotic plants are grown and their products are exported to foreign countries via hidden routes.²⁴

²¹ Source: <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=22429&lang=en>

²² Source: <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=22429&lang=en>

²³ Source: <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=22429&lang=en>

²⁴ Source: <http://cssn.gov.az/news.php?id=3202&lang=az> Rustam Mammadov and Khagani Mammadov: Illegal and unlawful activities of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan from the view of contemporary international law

Professor of the International Relations Institute of the Kiev National University named after Taras Shevchenko Sergei Galaka stated at a conference in Tbilisi on the "Nuclear security in the Black Sea region that "Nuclear and bacteriological weapons, as well as radioactive wastes, are threatening security of a globalizing world. Today, we are very concerned about the conflicts in the South Caucasus. On the other hand, we are also concerned about information on the burial and transportation of radioactive waste from the Metsamor NPP in the occupied territories. This is a matter that disturbs the whole world.

"I think the healthy forces should seriously study this issue and fight against these issues, which are a serious threat to human health and security" said S.Galaka²⁵.

Beside disposal of nuclear wastes in the occupied territories (in the territories of the occupied territories outside the former Nagorno-Karabakh Region territory), Armenia produces "dirty missiles" from the nuclear fuel residues.

The occupying country is interested not only in use of chemical weapons during the incidents on frontier line, but also in preparation of "dirty bombs" from Metsamor nuclear wastes. Even some of the generals represented in the Armenian military threaten in media Azerbaijan with a "dirty weapon" made of radioactive waste.²⁶

Destruction of natural landscape and natural monuments in the occupied territories

In the occupied parts of the Lesser Caucasus, as well as in some areas of the occupied Karabagh Volcanic Plateau, natural monuments dating millions of years back which were emerged as a result of geological processes, including solutional caves have been destroyed. Rare trees registered as natural monuments with the age of up to 1,000 years and above have been completely destroyed. Natural rock fragments and rocks exposed to abrasion as a result of the atmospheric, biological and morphological processes have been exploded and destroyed.

Paragraph 15 of the Commentary on Article 36 of the Conceptual Framework on "Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts" states that "Damage to such environmental values (biodiversity, amenity, etc.—sometimes referred to as "nonuse values") is, as a matter of principle, no less real and compensable than damage to property, and should be compensated by the aggressor"²⁷ .

Outcome

Despite the fact that the United Nations Security Council has four resolutions on the liberation of the occupied territories, Armenia continues to keep under occupation 20% of the lands of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In the occupied territories, all the valuables belonging to Azerbaijan, to its past history, and its local population has been destroyed. Cemeteries, religious and cultural monuments, residential settlements have been completely destroyed. Nearly one million

²⁵ <https://azertag.az/xeber/1201102>

²⁶ Source: https://azertag.az/xeber/Metsamor_Atom_Elektrik_Stansiyasi_Regionun_saatli_bombasi-955676

²⁷ Source: <http://cssn.gov.az/news.php?id=3202&lang=az> Rustam Mammadov and Khagani Mammadov: Illegal and unlawful activities of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan from the view of contemporary international law

indigenous people (excepting Armenians) were violently deported and thousands of civilians were taken hostage. A genocide act was committed against the residents of Khojaly, the settlement was erased from the ground.

As mentioned in the report, as a result of occupation, the environment has been subjected to unrecoverable or hardly recoverable damage, the forests and natural landscape have been destroyed.

The flow of waters to nearby areas which are not under occupation are blocked or waters are polluted to such an extent that use of these waters becomes impossible. Overexploitation of mineral and therapeutic waters still continues.

The natural resources, including underground resources, are being plundered, and gold and other non-ferrous metal mines are overexploited which cause a serious damage to environment.

Destruction of natural monuments, explosion and destruction of solutional caves expose intention of Armenia to strike deliberately the Azerbaijani ecosystem.

Thus, the continuous destruction and exploitation of nature and natural resources in the occupied territories has led to a violation of the ecological balance at the regional level, contamination of groundwaters with hazardous wastes, including nuclear fuel waste.

The ongoing processes give rise to global threats to the environment and impact environmental security in the long run.