BREAKING NEWS: AZERI AGGRESSION ON SOVEREIGN TERRITORIES OF REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

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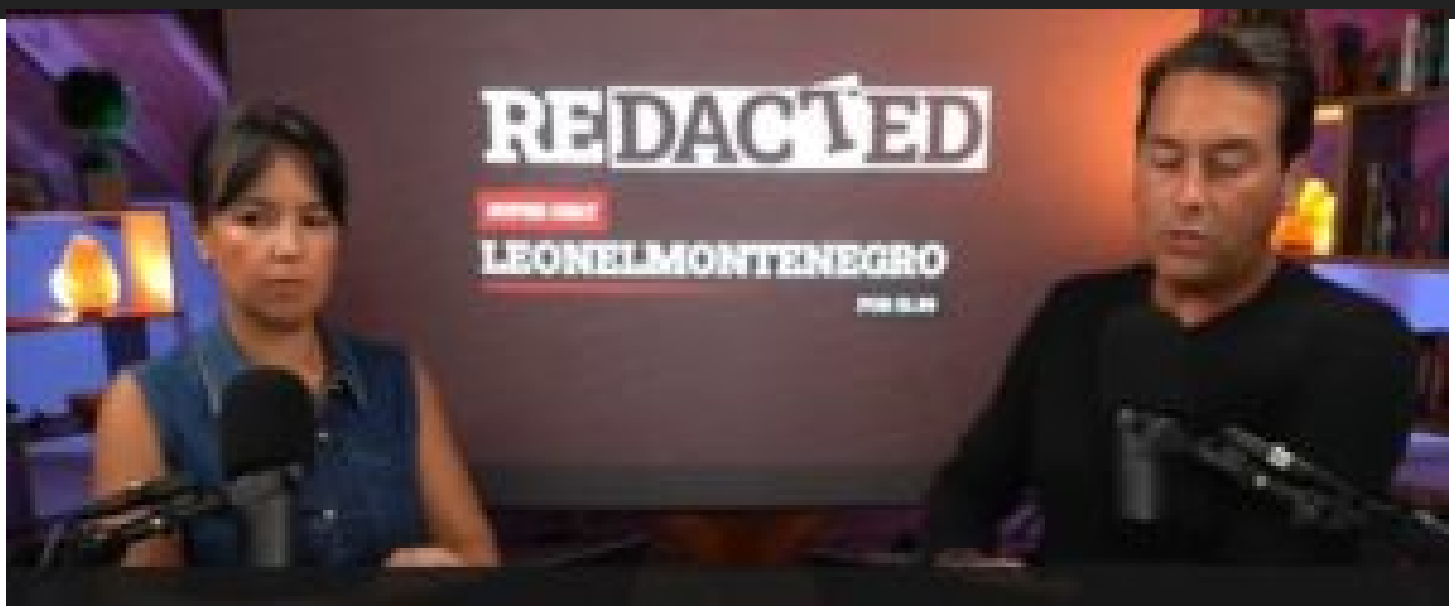
Category: Opinions



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Azerbaijan Launches Assaults across Armenian Border

By Raffi Elliot, The Armenian Mirror Spectator, 13 September 2022
YEGHEGNADZOR – Azerbaijani forces launched assaults into the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, on Tuesday, September 13. According to the Armenian Ministry of Defense, Azerbaijani artillery opened up with a massive artillery barrage just after midnight on Tuesday morning, hitting both military and civilian targets along a long section of the international border. Artillery and combat drone strikes have been reported from Sotk, Vardenis and Kut on the banks of Lake Sevan all the way down to Goris and Kapan, closer to the Iranian border. Read more
Armenian Human Rights Defender Kristinne Grigoryan cited credible evidence that Azerbaijan had targeted civilian infrastructure, including private homes, vehicles and even marked ambulances in settlements near the border area throughout the night. At least three civilians are reported to have suffered injuries. According to the Ministry of Defense, 49 Armenian service members have been confirmed killed in action since hostilities began on Tuesday morning, but this number is expected to rise as fighting continues along the line of contact. Azerbaijan has officially announced 50 KIA, though open source investigations have revealed dozens more.



Armenian sources also claimed that Azeri forces had launched a number of ground assaults on fortified Armenian positions along the line of contact, though it remains unclear if any success was recorded. The Armenian Army published a video showing a large formation of what appear to be Azerbaijani special forces attempting to cross open country unsupported by armor before being gunned down by fire coming from Armenian lines. However, Azerbaijani telegram channels also published footage of dead and wounded Armenians soldiers suggesting that Azeri forces did reach some positions. Armenian officials have avoided commenting on any territorial changes as combat operations are ongoing, but when asked, an MP from the governing Civil Contract party, Gurgen Arsenyan did acknowledge that positions had changed hands, without elaborating.

Tatul Hakobyan, a well-respected journalist reporting from Sotk, in Armenia's Gegharkunik province said that artillery duels and exchanges of fire were ongoing in the region but that the "Armenian army is holding its ground". He also urged followers to rally around the Army as it fulfilled its duty. However, Gegharkunik governor Karen Sargsyan was quoted in saying that at least 43 service members had been wounded in his province alone, which seems to have taken the brunt of the fighting throughout the day.



The Armenian Defense Ministry's Aram Torosyan speaking on September 13

The Azerbaijani Government claims that Tuesday's attack was a 'punitive action' against what it claims were violations of the ceasefire agreement by Armenian forces allegedly placing mines in the occupied Karvajar units. However, the Azeri MOD has not put forward any evidence of this. Analysts have warned over the previous week that Azerbaijan was ramping up for an escalation of the conflict following repeated––and virtually identical––claims that Armenia had fired on Azeri positions over the last week, which were also presented without evidence.

Analyst Laurence Broers, who specialises on conflict and security in the Caucasus surmised that Aliyev felt emboldened by Russia's distraction in Ukraine and its new-found status as an energy partner for Europe to turn outright assault on Armenian territory into a negotiation tactic in the hopes of extracting maximalist gains and force Armenia to sign a peace agreement on Azerbaijan's terms. "Even if outside powers, most likely Moscow, broker a ceasefire," the analyst warned, "such escalations will likely continue as part of a coercive bargaining dynamic, and per latest reports, over a wider area.

"Not all countries are ready to sell defensive weapons to Armenia. There are countries that are ready to sell arms," the Prime Minister announced during a speech to Parliament on Tuesday, " but there are countries that aren't ready for the fact that Armenia will buy weapons from the countries that are ready to sell weapons" prompting some analysts to interpret that Russia may have obstructed Armenian arms purchases from 3rd parties.

Pashinyan also divulged that during negotiations, Azerbaijan had demanded that Armenia recognize

Artsakh as part of Azerbaijan with no preconditions whatsoever regarding the safety of the indigenous population, as well as large swaths of Armenia-proper. Pashinyan reiterated that Armenia would not cede any corridor to Azerbaijan. This latest escalation took place less than two weeks after the two leaders met with EU President Charles Michel in Brussels, which the Europeans hailed as having "made progress".

Michel was among several international leaders to express "concern" over what he called " fighting on the Armenia–Azerbaijan border", adding that there is no alternative to peace and stability. Members of the European Parliament took more forceful action, however. Francois-Xavier Bellamy, a French member of the European Parliament, strongly condemned what he called "Azerbaijan's criminal aggression against Armenia" during a parliamentary session, saying that it was a matter of European security, and that of the Armenian people. The European Parliament discussed sanctioning Azerbaijan for this aggression. France, which chairs the UN Security Council also promised to add this invasion to the Council's agenda.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was also unusually blunt in his statement on Tuesday. Following calls with both Pashinyan and Aliyev, he announced that he called on Aliyev to cease bombing Armenia and for an immediate cessation of hostilities. India's Ministry of External Affairs also condemned the attack, calling on the "Aggressor" to immediately cease hostilities.

According to the Armenian MOD, fighting across the border seems to have greatly subsided in the afternoon. The Armenian military has yet to fully ascertain losses of lives and equipment. This latest round of fighting, the bloodiest in two years, comes less than two weeks before the two-year anniversary of the 2020 44-Day War.

Comments



Boghos L. Artinian – 2023-09-17 13:55:22
Could she be Kamala Harris?



h – 2022-09-30 20:30:40
Mr Tutunjian, thank you for even attempting to bring sense, accuracy to falsified "reporting", and clarity to this. Who is Kamala in the first place. A "ghost reporter", he, she, or? Obviously Kamala has been tasked, like pseudo-historians, and pseudo-journalists to spread revised and reversed history of the perpetrated genocides of the Armenians by the turkic tribes. Kamala is another hired mouthpiece. She/he/it needs to be taught about the Genocides perpetrated by turks since the 1800s when there was no Azerbaijan on earth. And since the 1920s by turkic tribes of current turkey and current azerbaijan . Armenia and Armenian civilization on the other hand have existed for centuries producing world renowned philosophers, scientists, composers, and more. The only credit the turkic tribes like present turkey and present azerbaijan can boast is inundating the Armenian lands and nation with murderers, destroying lives and everything Armenian. It is waste of time to educate you and other hired ghosts about real, accurate, documented history of turkic attacks on Armenians.



Jirair Tutunjian – 2022-09-25 14.13.02

Despite facts and logic, Kamala wants us to believe Armenia is the aggressor. although ground and satellite reports clearly show that Azerbaijan attacked without provocation. Armenia has no reason to attack Azerbaijan. The below reasons prove my assertion. 1. For years, Azerbaijan's "defense" budget has been larger than Armenia's state budget, thanks to Azeri petrodollars. 2. Azerbaijan has received not only high tech (for example, drones) weaponry from Israel and Turkey but also training, war-planning, co-ordination, and intelligence. There are also credible reports that Turkish officers were in charge of the Azeri army two years ago when Azerbaijan attacked Armenia. 3. Azerbaijan (pop. 10 million plus) has an army larger than that of Armenia (pop. under 3 million). 4. Azerbaijan is so brazen in its aggression that it did not even bother to hide Silk airline's (owned by one of Aliyev's issues) delivery of the latest Israeli weapons to Azerbaijan a day before Baku attacked. The Aliyev family owned planes flew over Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus, Turkey, and Turkish-vassal Georgia. Much poorer, with a weaker army than Azerbaijan's, in political and military disarray and denied Russian military and diplomatic support, it would have been the apex of lunacy for Armenia to provoke war. As well, why provoke a genocidal country whose leader has claimed more than once that Armenia's capital and various other Armenian territories are "historic Azeri lands." This last claim is particularly bizarre when one considers that Azerbaijan came into existence only in 1918, and later thanks to Stalin's manipulations Nakhichevan and Nagorno-Karabakh were added to its territories, whereas Armenia has been in existence since 8th century B.C. As an aside, I would like to mention that famous Roman commander and historian Pliny the Elder in his 10-volume "Historia Naturalis", published in 77 AD. reported that Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) was an Armenian territory. Kamala's last sentence is particularly hilarious, insane, and egregious. She says the world should condemn Armenian aggression in the name of democratic and humanitarian values. She has the temerity to defend the Aliyev dictatorship whose blood-thirsty soldiers cut the bodies of dead Armenians into pieces, beheaded Armenian civilians and celebrated their barbarism... like a Merry-Go-Round. Kamala, we know your people (Turkbeijan) are committed to the elimination of Armenia and the accompanied genocide. After all, your people have an impressive and long expertise in genocide. A bit of advice: next time you write to a publication, have your letter checked by someone who has some familiarity with the English language.



Kamala – 2022-09-16 09:07:20

We encourage every single one of readers to stand up for facts. This is very shameful. The fact is Armenian forces launched assaults into the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has been a victim of aggression and provocation over 30 years Ongoing massive military attack by Armenia on Azerbaijan's internationally recognized territory must be condemned in the strongest term by the international law. Otherwise it will violate our democratic and humanitarian values and lose the trust