



**Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the UN Office and other  
International Organizations  
GENEVA**

Ref: 0006/12/34/24

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the request of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, dated 8 December 2023, has the honor to transmit herewith the inputs by the relevant authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the report on the protection of dead persons and their human remains, including of victims of potentially unlawful killings.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: 2 pages



Geneva, 16 January 2024

Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
GENEVA

Information related to the call of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

According to the information dated 01.01.2023 available to the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons of the Republic of Azerbaijan (State Commission), as a result of the military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan, **3890** people were registered as missing persons in the I Garabagh War. **3171** of them are military personnel and **719** civilians. Among civilians, **71** are minors, **267** are women, and **326** are elderly.

Out of the total number of missing persons **872** people, including **29** children, **98** women and **112** elderly, were taken hostage or remained in the occupied territories. Armenia hides the fact of detention of these persons from international organizations and does not inform about their further fate.

Researches confirm that from 2 up to 7 members of 62 families went missing during the I Garabagh War. To this day, their whereabouts is unknown.

The most serious and irrefutable fact in this regard is related to the 54 Azerbaijanis mentioned in the letters submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 1998 and 2001 to the State Commission. According to those materials 54 Azerbaijani citizens who were taken hostage by the Armenian military during the intensive military operations were visited by the ICRC in detention facilities in the Republic of Armenia and in the Garabagh, territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan occupied by this country, and they were officially registered by the ICRC. However, later, the bodies of 17 of those 54 people were returned, the fate of 4 people was not reported, and although it was reported that 33 people died in the place of detention, but their bodies were not returned.

In the II Garabagh war, 6 servicemen went missing.

Although the liberation of occupied territories of Azerbaijan as a result of the counter-offensive operation by the Azerbaijani Army in 2020 against the military provocations of Armenia, created great hopes for the clarification of the fate of the missing persons in the I Garabagh War, currently these areas are contaminated with mines and unexploded ammunition. And Armenian side has failed to provide information about the respective grave sites of the missing persons. These elements are the main factors that hinders the work of clarifying their fate.

Despite the fact that Armenian officials have declared in mass media that they have information about the burial places of missing Azerbaijanis, this information is not presented to Azerbaijan.

It is important to note that the deputy of the ruling party of Armenian Parliament, former deputy of the Minister of Defense of Armenia, Lieutenant General Gagik Melkonyan in an interview to the Armenian mass media in December 2021 said that the corpses of hundreds of servicemen of the Azerbaijan Army who died in 1994 remained on the battlefield and he stated that Armenians buried them. Although an official appeal was made to the Armenian part through the mediation of international organizations, no response was received.

The analysis of the data collected by the State Commission, including those submitted by the ICRC, shows that there are numerous grave sites in the liberated territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In April 2008, the ICRC Representation in Azerbaijan and the State Commission signed a framework agreement on the collection and centralized management of Ante Mortem information on missing persons related to the conflict.

Since 2014, more than 10,900 biological samples have been collected from family members of more than 3,500 casualties.

The State Commission has started the exhumation of human remains from February 2021 in the territories liberated from occupation in the graves believed to belong to Azerbaijani citizens lost in the I Garabagh war.

As a result of the activity of the last three years, the remains of bodies believed to belong to more than 500 missing persons have been obtained.

211 of them were exhumed from nine mass graves and individual burial sites discovered in the liberated territories:

- in Dashalti village of Shusha district (from two mass graves) - 28 people;
- in the yard of the prison in Shusha city (from two mass graves) - belonging to 31 people;
- in Edilli village of Khojavand region (from three mass graves) - 27 people;
- in Farrukh village of Khojaly region - 12 people
- in Aghdam district (side of Agbdam-Hindarkh road) - 6 people
- in Yukhari Seyidahmadli village of Fuzuli district - belonging to 9 people;
- during construction and military works were carried out in Khojaly, Aghdam, Shusha Kalbajar, Tartar, Fuzuli and Zangilan regions liberated from occupation - 98 people.

After the signing of the Trilateral Statement, the remains of 120 persons were collected and presented in 78 bags by Armenians from the territory of Azerbaijan, where the peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation is temporarily deployed. Since these remains were exhumed by Armenians without the participation of experts, there is a serious difficulty in their identification.

183 corpses of those who died during the I Garabagh War and were buried anonymously in 21 cemeteries located in the territory of the cities and regions of Azerbaijan were exhumed from the graves.

As a result of the urgent measures taken, it was possible to identify 25 missing persons by experts. 24 of the identified remains were exhumed from mass graves discovered in the liberated territories.

State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and  
Missing Persons of the Republic of Azerbaijan