

Collection of war threat statements by the President Ilham Aliyev and other Azerbaijani officials

Excerpts from Azerbaijani and international news reports from
January 2010 until now

December 21, 2017

Speech by Ilham Aliyev at the opening ceremony of the conference on "2017-Year of Islamic Solidarity: Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue"

Source <http://en.president.az/articles/26557>

"Azerbaijan, which has lived as an independent state for 26 years, stands firmly on its feet. Of course, our main problem is the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. As you know, Armenia has occupied 20 per cent of our lands recognized by the international community for more than 20 years. More than one million of our citizens were expelled from these lands and became refugees and internally displaced persons. A policy of ethnic cleansing was carried out against our people. The Armenians have committed a bloody crime – the Khojaly genocide. More than 600 innocent civilians were killed by Armenian bandits, including more than 100 women and over 60 children. More than 10 countries have already recognized the Khojaly tragedy as an act of genocide.

The UN has adopted four resolutions in connection with the conflict. These resolutions explicitly state that the Armenian armed forces must immediately and unconditionally vacate the occupied lands. However, these resolutions remain on paper. Those who adopted these resolutions are indifferent to this issue. Taking advantage of that, Armenia continues its policy of occupation. All buildings have been destroyed on our occupied lands. Our historical and religious monuments and mosques have been destroyed by the Armenians. There are sufficient photos of these destroyed mosques and everyone can see them on the Internet. The entire infrastructure has been destroyed. The OSCE has sent two fact-finding missions to the occupied lands. These missions observed the picture I have outlined and reflected this in their reports.

The position of the Azerbaijani state on the conflict is fully based on international law. First of all, Nagorno-Karabakh is native and historical land of Azerbaijan. On the other hand, from the point of view of international law, it is an integral part of Azerbaijan. The whole world recognizes Nagorno-Karabakh as an integral part of Azerbaijan. This being the case, the conflict must be resolved only and only on the basis of norms and principles of international law. The resolutions of the UN Security Council – there are no documents superior to these in the world – must be fully implemented and the

territorial integrity of our country must be restored. The Azerbaijani state and the people of Azerbaijan will never tolerate the creation of a second Armenian state on our lands”.

November 28, 2017

Ilham Aliyev: “Last year, the Azerbaijani army inflicted a crushing blow to the enemy and freed thousands of hectares of land from it”

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/26248>

Speech by Ilham Aliyev at the meeting with representatives of the general public in Tartar: “At the same time, the restoration of Jojug Marjanli was made possible by the successful results of the April battles. Last year, the Azerbaijani army inflicted a crushing blow to the enemy and freed thousands of hectares of land from it. After that, it became possible to live in Jojug Marjanli. The April fights are a glorious and historic victory for us, a victory of Azerbaijani soldiers and the Azerbaijani state. We have once again proved to the whole world that the Azerbaijani army is among the strongest armies on a world scale. This is also acknowledged by international ratings. We have once again proved that Azerbaijan will never reconcile itself with the current situation and will restore its territorial integrity.

The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is recognized and supported by the whole world. All international organizations have expressed their position on this issue. The most influential organization among them is the UN. The UN Security Council has adopted four resolutions demanding an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from our occupied lands. So the international community has expressed its stance on the issue. Historical justice is also on our side. We are all well aware and the whole world knows today that Nagorno-Karabakh is ancient Azerbaijani land and the Armenians were resettled to these territories in the 19th century. There are numerous historical documents confirming this. Some of these documents and exhibits reflecting this event are demonstrated in the Tartar Museum of History and Regional Studies which opened today. This is also reflected in science books. This is confirmed by a monument erected in 1978 and reflecting the resettlement of Armenians from Iran to Nagorno-Karabakh. At that time, the 150th anniversary of the resettlement of Armenians to Nagorno-Karabakh was marked and even a monument was erected to reflect this. Immediately after the conflict began, the Armenians destroyed this monument. But they failed to destroy it to the very end. Fragments of the monument were found, restored and are already stored as visual proof. This shows to the whole world that the Armenians are alien to this territory. They were resettled here. We know perfectly well who resettled them and how, and history confirms this.

Therefore, when I always said that Nagorno-Karabakh is our ancestral and historic land, I relied on historical truth. Our common cause is to inform the whole world about this, and we already see that today. As a result of our efforts and tireless activities in the world, an unequivocal opinion has shaped in the world about the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. As I have already mentioned, all influential international organizations recognize Nagorno-Karabakh as an integral part of Azerbaijan and adopted numerous resolutions confirming this. We provide the whole world

information about the historical past of Nagorno-Karabakh. The final Declaration adopted by the recent Eastern Partnership Summit of the European Union once again confirms and support the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Eastern Partnership member-countries. This is a great diplomatic achievement for us. Therefore, ways of resolving the conflict should be based on this historical truth, justice and international law. I am sure that this will be the case. Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity. We can never allow a second Armenian state to be created on our lands.

This year, as a result of the April fighting, Azerbaijani citizens have returned to the once occupied and completely destroyed village of Jojug Marjanli. At the same time, this beautiful settlement has been built on this territory which was once under occupation. This once again shows that we live on our own land. The former Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region is the territory and land belonging to Azerbaijan. We are meeting on this land, the land liberated from invaders. Citizens of Azerbaijan will live and the Azerbaijani flag will fly here...

Today I will also visit the opening of a newly-built military unit. Azerbaijan's military power is growing with every passing day. As I have already mentioned, our army is among the strongest armies according to international rankings. All the needs of our army are provided for. State-of-the-art weaponry and equipment are being purchased, settlements built, infrastructure and military bases established. Of course, I want to note once again that Tartar and the people of Tartar stand face-to-face with the enemy on the frontline".

November 14, 2017

Ilham Aliyev: "Our military power will also play and is already playing a role in the liberation of our lands and the restoration of the territorial integrity of our country"

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/25881>

Speech by Ilham Aliyev at the ceremony on 25th anniversary of the founding of New Azerbaijan Party: "There will be no change in our principled position on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict must be resolved within the territorial integrity of our country. There is no other option. We will never allow the creation of a second Armenian state on our historical lands. The norms of international law must be fully applied, the resolutions of the UN Security Council must be fully implemented, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be restored. This is a principled position. It is based on history and international law. Nagorno-Karabakh is our historical and ancestral land, the whole world, all countries recognize and respect the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Nagorno-Karabakh is an integral part of Azerbaijan. There was another event confirming that this year. Again, the illegal referendum held in Nagorno-Karabakh due to Armenia's stupidity was rejected by the world community. Neighboring countries, co-chair countries of the Minsk Group, the European Union and other organizations did not recognize the results of this referendum. And by not recognizing them, they once again confirmed that Nagorno-Karabakh is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan.

In parallel, we will increase our military power. We have managed to achieve this to a great extent. According to international ratings, the Azerbaijani army is among the strongest armies on a global scale today. Our army will continue to receive as much money and hardware as necessary. There will be no restrictions. Our military power will also play and is already playing a role in the liberation of our lands and the restoration of the territorial integrity of our country. The April battles, the liberation of a part of our lands from the invaders, in particular, parts of Agdara, Fizuli and Jabrayil districts, demonstrated the strength of our army to the whole world.

Armenia is again trying to present a distorted version of the April battles to the world public, but these attempts look ridiculous. Suffice it to say that we currently hold the trenches they once dug in the occupied lands and control a large territory from these trenches. The April battles are our glorious military victory which demonstrated the strength of the Azerbaijani people and our soldiers. They showed that the Azerbaijani state and people will never put up with this occupation and will restore their territorial integrity at any cost”.

October 20, 2017

Speech by Ilham Aliyev at the Summit of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/25697>

“Dear participants of the meeting, I want to draw your attention to the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Armenia has occupied the historical lands of Azerbaijan for over 25 years – Nagorno-Karabakh and seven districts adjacent to it. A policy of ethnic cleansing has been carried out on these territories, more than a million of our compatriots have found themselves in the position of refugees and internally displaced persons. In 1992, Armenia committed the Khojaly genocide. As a result of this war crime, 613 peaceful Azerbaijanis were killed, 106 of them were women and 63 children. Thousands of people went missing and were injured. The UN Security Council has adopted four resolutions in connection with the conflict. These resolutions demand an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from Azerbaijani lands. Similar decisions and resolutions have also been adopted by the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the OSCE and other organizations. However, the occupying state of Armenia flouts these decisions and continues war crimes against the civilian Azerbaijani population.

In April of last year, as a result of an armed attack on the part of Armenia, civilians and servicemen died on the contact line. Hundreds of houses were destroyed. Azerbaijan resolutely stopped this Armenian provocation as our army liberated some of our lands from Armenian occupiers. After that, the completely destroyed village of Jojug Marjanli was completely rebuilt. A school, a medical center and a mosque were built in this village of 150 houses. This mosque is reminiscent of the Shusha mosque destroyed by the Armenians.

Nagorno-Karabakh is historical land of Azerbaijan. The Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict should be resolved on the basis of the resolutions of the UN Security Council within the framework of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani state and people will never allow

the creation of a second contrived Armenian state on our ancestral lands. The territorial integrity of our country is not and never will be the subject of negotiations...”

October 4, 2017

Ilham Aliyev: “We must and we will return to these lands”

Source:

https://azertag.az/en/xeber/President_Ilham_Aliyev_chaired_meeting_of_Cabinet_of_Ministers_on_results_of_socio_economic_development_in_nine_months_of_2017_and_future_objectives_VIDEO-1100781

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has chaired a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers dedicated to results of socio-economic development in the nine months of 2017 and objectives for the future. The head of state made an opening speech: “Our position related to the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains unchanged. This position has been openly declared from the highest platforms of the world. Nagorno-Karabakh is our historical and ancestral land. We must and we will return to these lands. The territorial integrity of our country is not and will never be negotiable. We will never allow the creation of a second Armenian state on our lands, and the restoration of our territorial integrity is our main priority.

You know that there has been no progress in the negotiations of late. Armenia tried to disrupt the talks broken and believed that it would achieve that. In other words, it accused us under various pretexts, tried not to resume the negotiations, and in order to achieve this put forward several conditions. Of course, I stated from the very beginning that no conditions would be accepted. By putting forward these conditions, they put themselves in a very stupid position and will be forced to give up this policy. Life and reality show again that, as always, our analysis and policy fully reflect reality.

Today, the process of talks is being restored without any preconditions. Armenia has once again disgraced itself in the eyes of the world community and the resumption of talks is not a favor to us. Their hysterical statements and fearful appeals to other countries actually represent an open recognition that they will not be able to withstand us on the battlefield. The April events showed that. The situation on the line of contact indicates that we fully possess dominant positions on the contact line today. Of course, Armenia should be the one more interested in the talks resuming because otherwise they will have to face bitter implications. The mediators dealing with this issue are trying to restore the talks. Of course, we support this. Therefore, I want to say again that although no tangible results have been achieved in this direction this year, Armenia has presented again itself in the eyes of the world community as a miserable, powerless and dependent country...”

September 20, 2017

Ilham Aliyev: “Armenian leadership should not forget this lesson. Otherwise, the result of the next Armenian provocation will be more painful for them”

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/25289>

President Ilham Aliyev delivered speech at the opening of 72nd Session of UN General Assembly: “Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For more than 25 years Armenia occupies 20% of the territory of Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh and 7 other regions of our country.

Nagorno-Karabakh is an ancient and historical part of Azerbaijan. As a result of Armenian aggression almost 20% of the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan is under Armenian occupation. More than one million of Azerbaijanis became refugees and internally displaced persons. Armenia conducted the policy of ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis in Armenia, in Nagorno-Karabakh and 7 other regions of Azerbaijan.

Armenia committed genocide against Azerbaijanis in Khojaly. Khojaly genocide is already officially recognized by more than 10 countries. On February 26, 1992 Armenia committed war crime killing 613 peaceful residents of Khojaly, among them 106 women and 63 children. **One of those war criminals who committed that terrible crime against humanity is current Armenian President.**

Leading international organizations adopted resolutions demanding withdrawal of Armenian troops from the territory of Azerbaijan. In 1993, United Nations Security Council adopted 4 resolutions demanding immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from the territory of Azerbaijan.

Other international organizations, such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Non-Alignment Movement, OSCE, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and European Parliament adopted similar decisions and resolutions. Armenia doesn't implement them. Armenia for 24 years ignores UN Security Council resolutions and unfortunately is not punished for that. In some cases, UN Security Council resolutions are implemented within days. In our case it's 24 years that resolutions are not implemented. This is a double standards approach. This approach is unacceptable. International sanctions must be imposed on Armenia. One of the important reforms of the United Nations must be the creation of the mechanism of implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council.

Armenia does everything to keep status-quo unchanged, blocks substantive negotiations. Co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group –France, Russia, USA – on several occasions stated that status-quo is unacceptable.

The question is how can this corrupt, failed state ruled by despotic, medieval regime afford to violate international law for so many years and ignore the resolutions of UN Security Council and statements of the leading countries of the world? And the answer is double standards. There is no international pressure on aggressor, no international sanctions imposed on Armenian dictatorship. This policy must be stopped.

Such policy towards aggressor is not only demonstration of injustice, it also creates an illusion that Armenian dictatorship can continue their policy of terror.

Last April Armenia committed another war crime on the line of contact attacking our cities and villages. As a result of this attack, 6 Azerbaijani civilians were killed, among them one child and 26 civilians were wounded. Hundreds of our houses were destroyed.

Azerbaijan had to defend its citizens. As a result of successful counter-attack, Azerbaijan liberated some territories in the 3 occupied regions - Agdere, Fuzuli and Jabrayil and installed its national flag on the liberated territories. Armenian leadership should not forget this lesson. Otherwise, the result of the next Armenian provocation will be more painful for them.

Losing on the battlefield Armenia uses its mean policy of attacking our cities and villages. On July 4, 2017 a targeted attack on Alkhanli village in Fuzuli district by Armenia with 82 and 120 mm mortars and grenade launchers killed 2 civilians – 2 years old Zahra Guliyeva and her grandmother.

On August 7, 2017, a 13 years old boy in Tovuz region bordering with Armenia was wounded by Armenian soldiers. International community must stop Armenian fascism and terror. Azerbaijan is committed to peaceful resolution of the conflict but at the same time will defend its citizens in line with UN charter if Armenian military provocations continue and if necessary will punish once again the aggressor as it was done in April, 2016...

Unlike Armenia where there are almost no national minorities, which is a mono ethnic country and where xenophobia is a state policy, Azerbaijan is a multiethnic country, cultural, ethnic and religious diversity of our society is our big asset. Armenia, where Islamophobia reached its peak, committed many acts of vandalism destroying all our mosques on the occupied territories..."

July 13, 2017

Zakir Hasanov: "Talks on Karabakh conflict settlement bear no fruit"

Source: <https://www.azernews.az/karabakh/116172.html>

Talks on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement are not bearing fruit while tensions are growing in the zone of military operations, Azerbaijan's Defense Minister Zakir Hasanov said in an interview with RIA Novosti.

"The tensions have grown in recent years in the zone of military operations where Armenian troops are deployed against the Azerbaijani armed forces. The single reason for this is the occupation of Azerbaijani lands," Hasanov said.

"All the rest is a consequence. The occupied territories are not liberated, and negotiations are not bringing any results."

The minister went on to say that Azerbaijani Armed Forces have anti-missile weapons capable of shooting down missiles of Iskander systems deployed in Armenia.

"We have 50 times more missiles. I take full responsibility for these words. Imagine what the retaliation on infrastructure and military targets will be if they will use them!?" Hasanov stressed.

He said that there are several types of tactics for using troops. "However, a few questions arise. First, what type of Iskander missile system is it? There are many types of them. Second, in what condition is this Iskander missile system? Third, who manages this system? The fourth question is whether they [Armenian Armed Forces] will be able to use this system," he added.

"We, as military people, always consider the worst option, and we are ready for it," he said.

Zakir Hasanov added that though the missiles he was speaking about were purchased not in the Russian Federation, their quality is not worse.

He noted that Azerbaijan's Armed Forces held military drills and combat shooting, adding that the result was excellent.

"To date, we are confident that we will be able to protect our settlements and armed forces," he said.

Financing of Azerbaijan's Armed Forces increased by 17-20 percent in 2017, said Hasanov.

"Although there is a crisis in the whole world and it didn't bypass us, but didn't hit hard. As the Minister of Defense, I am interested in financing the army – last year, it only increased," said Hasanov.

Therefore, the leadership of Azerbaijan, headed by President and Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, pays big attention to strengthening the army, equipping it with modern weapons, noted the minister.

"We have moved to a new qualitative level. In recent years, the task has been set to modernize the army, to strengthen it," added Hasanov.

The skills and combat readiness of the Azerbaijani army are growing year by year, as the country's Armed Forces regularly conduct military exercises. The Azerbaijani army is supplied with modern weapons and technical equipment for maintaining a high level of combat capability.

The army building process is of particular importance for Azerbaijan, as twenty percent of the country's territory is under Armenian occupation and the country is in a state of war with Armenia.

Azerbaijan was ranked the 59th among 132 countries in the 2017 Military Strength Ranking compiled by a U.S.-based Global Firepower survey center.

Azerbaijan left behind many CIS and regional countries, including Georgia, Armenia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, as well as other countries such as Portugal, Hungary, Belgium, Croatia to take its place among the first 59 strongest armies of the world.

July 13, 2017

Zakir Hasanov: "Armenia is threat for the whole region"

Source: <https://en.azvision.az/news/69120/armenia-is-threat-for-the-whole-region-zakir-hasanov.html>

Azerbaijani Defense Minister, Colonel-General Zakir Hasanov met with US Ambassador Robert Cekuta. Touching upon the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Hasanov said that Armenia is a source of separatism, terrorism and extremism. Stressing that this is a threat not only for Azerbaijan, but also for the region, the minister said that the joint work of international organizations is required to prevent this threat.

July 12, 2017

Ilham Aliyev: "We answered them, killed the invaders, punished them, and then went to negotiations"

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/24725>

Opening speech by Ilham Aliyev at the meeting of Cabinet meeting on results of socio-economic development in first half of 2017 and future objectives.

"At the end of March 2016, the President of Armenia and I participated in the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington. Then the Armenian president came under pressured to resolve the issue as soon as possible. To disrupt the talks, the April events occurred and yet another provocation was committed against us. The Azerbaijani army gave the enemy a fitting response, as a result of which our flag today flies on the territories liberated from occupation in Agdara, Fizuli and Jabrayil Districts.

No negotiations had been conducted since that time, and pressure on Armenia kept growing. In order not to start negotiations, they committed another provocation last month. Our soldier was killed. The Azerbaijani army punished them again. As a result of a strike on the part of the Azerbaijani army, many invaders were killed. Another provocation occurred in the village of Alkhanli of Fizuli District on 4 July. This is a war crime. This is a manifestation of Armenian fascism, and Armenia received a response for this crime. This is unprecedented atrocity. The murder of small Zahra and her grandmother demonstrated to the whole world the ugly face of Armenian fascism.

This crime did not remain unanswered. The Azerbaijani public is aware of this although Armenia always tries to conceal its losses. However, it can't hide all of its losses. The Azerbaijani army inflicted crushing blows on the enemy. As a result of these attacks, many invaders were killed. The blood of small Zahra and her grandmother did not remain unavenged. This will always be the case. What was this crime calculated for? First of all, this characterizes the nature of the political leadership of Armenia. It is impossible to expect anything else from the killer of the people of Khojaly, the killer of children and women. This is Armenian fascism, and the whole world should take it this way. This is in the first place.

Secondly, a meeting of foreign ministers was scheduled for 11 July. This date was known, but it was announced only in recent days. By committing this provocation, they were hoping that Azerbaijan

would refuse to negotiate. We could have refused if we hadn't given them a fitting rebuff. We answered them, killed the invaders, punished them, and then went to negotiations.

These are the key issues related to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This is why I am saying that the positions of Azerbaijan have become even stronger this year. The war crime committed in the village of Alkhanli reverberated extensively in the world. Armenia saw that Azerbaijan has tremendous international support. All our bodies have worked very hard and promptly to communicate this information to the world community. State agencies, embassies, Diaspora organizations, public associations and our friends abroad raised their voices, and the hatred for Armenia and the fascist nature of its political leadership in the world increased even more.

As for the prospects for the talks, I want to say again that the negotiations are resuming, which is a positive development. The main goal is to resolve the issue as soon as possible, so that the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan could be restored. I am sure that it will be so. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan has never been and never will be a topic of negotiations.

This year, as always, we have paid great attention to strengthening our military capacity. New weaponry and latest technology have been bought. In fact, we are buy hardware, weaponry and the latest equipment from various countries. Some have already been delivered, while the rest will be delivered in the future. This will further enhance our military potential. We can now destroy any target on occupied territories, but we must further strengthen our military potential. This is necessary and we have enough capacity to do that. Unlike poor Armenia, we are buying our military equipment at our own expense and also produce it in Azerbaijan. This year, two new military plants started operating in Azerbaijan. Today Azerbaijan largely provides itself with arms and ammunition, and also exports them to foreign countries".

June 26, 2017

Zakir Hasanov: "Azerbaijani soldiers proved to whole world that they are able to liberate native lands"

Source: <http://en.apa.az/azerbaijan-military/azerbaijan-army-azerbaijani-armed-forces/zakir-hasanov-azerbaijani-soldiers-proved-to-whole-world-that-they-are-able-to-liberate-native-lands.html>

Defense Minister Zakir Hasanov congratulated the staff of the Azerbaijani Army on the occasion of June 26 - the Day of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan and Eid-al-Fitr.

"Dear officers, ensigns, warrant officers, cadets, sergeants, soldiers, and seamen!

I congratulate you on the occasion of June 26 - the Day of the Armed Forces and Ramadan holiday and wish each of you successes in your sacred and glorious service for the sake of the Motherland", said the minister.

“As Supreme Commander-in-Chief, President Ilham Aliyev noted, the professionalism and fighting capacity of the Azerbaijani Army are exhilarated, Azerbaijani soldiers and officers serve their Homeland with dignity being committed to it.

The Azerbaijani Army, as before, decently prevented the enemy’s provocations in April 2016 too. Azerbaijani soldiers proved to the whole world that they are able to liberate native lands, fight to the last drop of blood and they are superior to the enemy”, Zakir Hasanov said.

The minister expressed confidence that the staff of the Azerbaijani Army will further justify the trust of the people and state with honor.

At the end, the defense minister wished the officers robust health, long life, happiness and success in their honorable service.

June 23, 2017

Zakir Hasanov: “Thanks to the work done, the Azerbaijani army gained victory over the enemy in April 2016, liberated part of our occupied territories”

Source: <http://en.apa.az/azerbaijan-military/azerbaijan-army-azerbaijani-armed-forces/azerbaijani-armed-forces-capable-of-fulfilling-all-tasks-defense-minister.html>

The Azerbaijani Armed Forces are capable of fulfilling all tasks, Defense Minister Zakir Hasanov said on Friday.

The army is experiencing a period of rapid development, said the minister addressing the opening ceremony of a new defense industry plant in country’s Shirvan city on Friday, APA reported.

Hasanov underlined the importance of the ongoing reforms in all types of troops in terms of further strengthening the Azerbaijani army’s strength.

The Azerbaijani army is well-equipped with weapons, combat vehicles and various types of military products, said the defense minister, adding that measures are being taken to improve the military education system.

"In recent years, the housing conditions of thousands of servicemen have been improved and new military units have been created. Thanks to the work done, the Azerbaijani army gained victory over the enemy in April 2016, liberated part of our occupied territories," he said.

June 16, 2017

Zakir Hasanov: "The only task of the army is to be ready for war and ensure the territorial integrity by liberating the occupied lands"

Source: <http://en.apa.az/azerbaijan-military/azerbaijan-army-azerbaijani-armed-forces/azerbaijani-defense-minister-meets-graduates-of-higher-military-school.html>

The Defense Ministry leadership held a meeting with graduates of the Azerbaijan Higher Military School named after Heydar Aliyev at the Training and Education Center of the Armed Forces.

Defense Minister Colonel General Zakir Hasanov made a speech before the graduates and congratulated them on them being granted their first military ranks, the ministry told APA.

He noted that the Azerbaijani army is being equipped with the most advanced combat hardware, missile and artillery systems, and other pieces of equipment, large-scale exercises of varying level are being held and new firing grounds are being constructed, specialist are being prepared, etc.

The minister noted that each officer of the Azerbaijani army should be faithful to state and should serve with a sense of love to homeland.

"You should be superior to the enemy to increase your professionalism, knowledge and skills in order to justify the trust of our government and our people. The only task of the army is to be ready for war and ensure the territorial integrity by liberating the occupied lands," Hasanov added.

June 16, 2017

Zakir Hasanov: "The enemy should know that Nakhchivan is defended by the most professional army"

Source: <http://en.apa.az/azerbaijan-military/azerbaijan-army-azerbaijani-armed-forces/defense-minister-enemy-should-know-that-nakhchivan-is-defended-by-most-professional-army.html>

Under the leadership of the Azerbaijani President, Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, consistent army-building measures are being taken in the country, said the country's Defense Minister, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov.

The minister made the remarks at an event held in Nakhchivan June 16 on the results of the joint tactical exercises of the Azerbaijani and Turkish Armed Forces, APA reported.

The minister congratulated the personnel of the Azerbaijani and Turkish Armed Forces for successful accomplishment of the tasks set during the exercises.

“As part of the army-building measures taken in the country, special attention is paid to strengthening the defensive potential of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. The Separate Combined-Arms Army has high combat capabilities being able to adequately respond to the enemy. The enemy should know that Nakhchivan is defended by the most professional army”, he added.

May 26, 2017

Ilham Aliyev: “Azerbaijan will never allow the creation of a second contrived Armenian state on our historical lands”

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/23951>

Speech by Ilham Aliyev at official reception on the occasion of Azerbaijan's Republic Day: [“Azerbaijan will never allow the creation of a second contrived Armenian state on our historical lands. Even the existing Armenian state was created on our lands. We are well aware that Erivan was presented to Armenia in 1918. Therefore, it is impossible to create a second contrived Armenian state on our lands. The resolutions of the UN Security Council must be implemented and the occupying forces must unconditionally withdraw from our lands..”]

May 10, 2017

Ilham Aliyev: “We are proud of our army and won’t allow anyone to cast a shadow over its successes”

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/23618>

Speech by Ilham Aliyev at solemn ceremony to mark 94th anniversary of national leader Heydar Aliyev and 13th anniversary of the establishment of Heydar Aliyev Foundation:

[“Army building was a priority issue for Heydar Aliyev because we did not have a regular army when he came to power. And this was our main problem. The process of army construction is associated with the name of Heydar Aliyev. Today the process of army building is going well. The Azerbaijani army is among the strongest armies on a global scale. This is confirmed by all international ratings. The Azerbaijani army is among the strongest armies in terms of logistical support, equipment, combat capability and patriotic spirit. This was also manifested by the clashes that took place in April last year

when heroic Azerbaijani soldiers and officers liberated a part of occupied lands from the invaders – Agdara, a part of the former Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region, the lands of Fizuli and Jabrayil districts where the Azerbaijani flag was raised. This is what the present-day Azerbaijani army is about. We are proud of our army and won't allow anyone to cast a shadow over its successes...”].

May 3, 2017

Source: <http://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/karabakh/2749660.html>

Elchin Guliyev: “Azerbaijan has enough power to liberate its lands from occupation”

Armenia will get an even stronger blow, if it doesn't draw conclusions from the April battles, Head of Azerbaijan's State Border Service Colonel General Elchin Guliyev told reporters in Baku May 3.

Guliyev noted that Azerbaijan has enough power to liberate its lands from the Armenian occupation.

“Azerbaijan's Armed Forces are always ready to liberate their lands from the occupation. However, Azerbaijan supports the peaceful resolution of the conflict. If Armenia deviates from this process, we will liberate our lands through military means,” he said. “If Armenia doesn't draw conclusions from the April battles, it will get an even stronger blow.”

April 15, 2017

Source: <http://news.az/articles/karabakh/120787>

Zakir Hasanov: “The enemy has not recovered itself yet after Azerbaijani Army's strikes”

A ceremony under the motto of “April battles are our glorious victory” devoted to April victories of Azerbaijani Army was held, APA reports.

According to Ministry of Defence, firstly memory Heydar Aliyev and martyrs perished heroically while fulfilling the service duties for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country was remembered with a one minute silence, the state anthem was sounded.

Giving a speech Minister of Defence, Colonel-General Zakir Hasanov said that the enemy has not recovered itself yet after Azerbaijani Army's strikes. He noted that as a result of special care and attention of Azerbaijani president, complex reform was conducted in Azerbaijani army and new and modern combat vehicles have been included in armament. Practical steps have been taken to increase the professionalism of personnel, relevant measures have been taken to improve the servicemen's social condition. Hasanov stressed that Azerbaijani army is ready and able to fulfil any task given by the head of state to liberate our lands.

Azerbaijani President's Assistant for Public and Political Affairs Ali Hasanov said that April battles drew international attention to the conflict. He stressed that the incident demonstrated that Azerbaijani

soldier has higher fighting and moral and psychological readiness, will of victory. These battles showed power of state and army, unity, solidarity, patriotism of the people. It also proved that Azerbaijan will never accept the occupation of its lands and is ready to restore territorial integrity at all costs.

March 31, 2017

Source:

http://azertag.az/en/xeber/President_Ilham_Aliyev_received_group_of_servicemen_on_anniversary_of_April_victories_of_Azerbaijani_army_VIDEO-1046923

Ilham Aliyev: The April battles are our glorious military victory

On March 31, 2017 President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has received a group of servicemen on the anniversary of the April victories of the Azerbaijani army.

"The April battles are our glorious military victory, a victory that demonstrates the might of our state, people and army. The Azerbaijani flag flies on the territories of Fizuli, Jabrayil and Agdara districts which have been liberated from occupation as a result of the April battles. These battles testify that the Azerbaijani people and state will never put up with the occupation and will restore the territorial integrity of our country at any cost.

The April fighting also demonstrated the professionalism of our army. After a counteroffensive operation launched from an unfavourable position, our army took over strategic positions. Today, these strategic heights and positions liberated from occupation allow us the opportunity to fully control the situation on the contact line and take the necessary measures.

The contact line has moved forward. Today, the Azerbaijani army retains full advantage on the line of contact. The April fighting, as I said earlier, should be included in military textbooks. Both from the point of view of professionalism and the patriotic spirit, the April fighting showed again that the Azerbaijanis are a heroic people. They have once again demonstrated that we will not accept this situation. They have shown that the unity of the people and government is provided in Azerbaijan at a high level and is getting ever stronger. The settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is, as always, a priority issue for us.

Today, the Azerbaijani people are united around a common goal: we must strengthen our country even more, strengthen our independence and increase the strength of our army in order to restore our territorial integrity. I am sure that we will achieve that. Nagorno-Karabakh is native Azerbaijani land. Our people have lived, created and built on this land for centuries. We know the history of the Nagorno-Karabakh region very well. Great scientific works are being created now about how the Armenians were moved there in the 19th century. Suffice it to look at the maps published in tsarist Russia in the early 20th century to see that the majority of place-names not only in Nagorno-Karabakh but also in the present Republic of Armenia are of Azerbaijani origin. It is no secret either – the international community already knows this – that today's Armenia appeared on historically Azerbaijani lands. Erivan, Zangezur and Geycha are our historical lands. We lost these lands as a result of injustice and policies of large states. Of course, we should know this history. We must know that the far-fetched "Nagorno-Karabakh entity" has no future. We have no claims to the lands of other states. We do not set our eyes on the lands of other countries. But we will never allow a second contrived Armenian state to be created on our lands.

During the April battles, we demonstrated only a small fraction of our capabilities. This once again shows that the April battles were a provocation from Armenia. Today, some people are putting

forward different theories and assumptions that Azerbaijan planned to conduct an operation that was subsequently suspended and so on. First, we did what we wanted to do. We achieved the goals we faced in a counteroffensive operation. Today, military and international experts know that the strategic positions we won have completely changed the situation. If we had intended to conduct a large-scale operation during the April battles, we would have used our military potential. This is no secret. Everything is open to international monitoring. The strength of our long-range missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles is well known. We practically did not use them. If we do, not a stone will be left standing in the occupied lands. Let them know this, and let the political leadership of Armenia which has disgraced itself yet again watch its language and not test our patience.

We will return to the occupied lands. This is our main task. The flag of Azerbaijan will fly in all our occupied lands, just as it does today on the territories liberated last year”.

March 18, 2017

Source: <http://azertag.az/en/xeber/1044656>

Speech by Ilham Aliyev at the nationwide festivities on the occasion of Novruz holiday

Nationwide festivities on the occasion of the national holiday of the people of Azerbaijan, Novruz, have been held in Baku. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, first lady Mehriban Aliyeva and vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Leyla Aliyeva joined the Novruz festivities.

“The Fifth Global Forum is taking place in Baku these days. More than 40 current and former heads of state and government are taking part in the forum. Azerbaijan has become an important country not only in the region, but also on a global scale. Armenia is a country that has lost all hope and lives in depression. The reason for this is the regime of the criminal junta which has illegally seized Armenia. The biggest threat to the Armenian people is posed by the current leadership of Armenia.

We will continue our efforts. I have repeatedly said this and I want to repeat: the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan has never been and never will be a topic of negotiations. Nagorno-Karabakh is native Azerbaijani land. We must restore our territorial integrity. International law also favours our position. The situation in the region works in our favour. Obviously, the economic and military potential is on our side. The events of April of last year showed this again. Therefore, we must become even stronger. We must increase our strength, and we are doing that.

Armenia cannot live without foreign aid. Whereas before the April fighting they somewhat succeeded in their mythological activities, the April battles inflicted a serious blow to their propaganda and shocked Armenian society. The repercussions of this shock are still felt there. The April events led to a deep military and political crisis in this country. And that was short-term fighting. Therefore, they should draw the right conclusions and understand that we will never accept this situation. We will

restore our territorial integrity at any cost. For this, of course, we are pursuing a successful policy, and every day and year brings this day closer. As you know, the Azerbaijani flag flies in Lalatapa and Agdara today, and it will also fly in both Shusha and Khankandi”.

February 8, 2017

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/22858>

Ilham Aliyev: The April fighting and the tension and confrontation on the line of contact are our internal affair

Speech by Ilham Aliyev at the meeting with family members of National Hero of Azerbaijan Chingiz Gurbanov.

[“After the April fighting Armenia tried very hard to give international colour to this issue. It tried for the Collective Security Treaty Organization of which Armenia is a member to express its position on this issue although there were no legal grounds for that. We are on our own land. We do not lay claim to Armenian lands will not give our lands to anyone. Therefore, the April fighting and the tension and confrontation on the line of contact are our internal affair. Nagorno-Karabakh is an integral part of Azerbaijan. The whole world recognizes Nagorno-Karabakh as such and this conflict can be resolved only within the territorial integrity of our country”].

January 23, 2017

Source: <http://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2712345.html>

Ilham Aliyev: April battles showed whose army is invincible

The president made the remarks at the opening of the Defence Ministry’s new military town in the Absheron District.

Armenia is forced to admit its bitter defeat, said Azerbaijan’s president, Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev. The president made the remarks in the opening of the Defence Ministry’s new military town in the Absheron District. “The April battles are our big military victory,” said President Aliyev. “For many years, Armenia was creating myths about its army, disseminating fabrications that allegedly they have an invincible army. The April battles showed whose army is invincible.”

29 December 2016

Source: <https://report.az/en/military/colonel-general-zakir-hasanov-defence-power-of-azerbaijan-increases/>

Colonel General Zakir Hasanov: Defence power of Azerbaijan increases

Azerbaijan Defence Minister, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov congratulated the staff of Azerbaijani Armed Forces on the occasion of World Azerbaijanis Solidarity Day and New Year.

"Dear officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, ensigns, sergeants, soldiers and sailors! I would like to congratulate you on the occasion of World Azerbaijanis Solidarity Day and New Year", the letter reads.

"I believe that you will justify this confidence and trust with your service to the motherland, people and state, be always ready to the orders of Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev for the sake of security of our country, Defence of our lands, and will make glad our people with victory news", Azerbaijani Defence Minister states.

"Thanks to the extensive work carried out by Supreme Commander, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, the international prestige of Azerbaijan grows, economics and other areas are in the process of dynamic development, living standards in the field of Defence is improved, Azerbaijan has achieved great success, we have further strengthened our independence. Defence power of Azerbaijan increases", Zakir Hasanov says.

12 November 2016

Source:

http://azertag.az/en/xeber/President_Ilham_Aliyev_viewed_operational_conditions_in_frontline_command_control_center-1009970

Ilham Aliyev: There is not a single military target on the occupied territories and in Nagorno-Karabakh today that we would not be able to destroy

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev has got acquainted with the operational conditions in the command control center on the frontline in Fuzuli district.

[]"...This shows again that the people of Azerbaijani are a great people and that citizens of Azerbaijan are patriots. Our soldiers and officers are ready to die for their country and homeland. The April battles are a glorious victory for us. The Azerbaijani army has demonstrated its strength. For many years Armenia had been spreading lies and myths about its army, suggesting that it allegedly has an invincible army. The April fighting showed which army is actually invincible. The Azerbaijani army is invincible. The Azerbaijani army is capable of accomplishing any task. There is not a single military target on the occupied territories and in Nagorno-Karabakh today that we would not be able to destroy. At present, the Azerbaijani army is among the strongest armies. We know this, the people of Azerbaijan and the whole world know this. The Azerbaijani army is ranked highly among strongest armies. The combat readiness of our army is high and it keeps growing every day. Our army is disciplined. The logistical support of our army is at the highest level. In recent years, we have acquired the most sophisticated weaponry, ammunition and military hardware worth billions of dollars. This equipment is based on the latest technologies. The April fighting demonstrated this once again. After

the April fighting, we have taken additional measures related to the logistics of our army, allocated funds, purchased the most modern and precision-guided weapons and equipment with high destructive power. These are already at our disposal

The Lalatapa operation is a symbol of our heroism. Lalatapa has gone down in history. If the Armenian armed forces do not draw the right conclusions from the April battles, there will be many more successful operations similar to Lalatapa in the future. The political leadership of Armenia should finally understand that aggressive actions are leading them to a precipice. Azerbaijan becomes stronger and stronger with every day. We have strong potential and a strong army. We are proud of our army, soldiers and officers, and you, our sons standing face to face with the enemy. Thank you! Azerbaijan will continue to develop and we will restore our territorial integrity! Thank you!"[].

07 October 2016

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/21326>

Ilham Aliyev: In April of this year, Azerbaijan won a great military victory

On October 7, 2016 Ilham Aliyev had an opening speech at the meeting of Cabinet of Ministers dedicated to results of socio-economic development in nine months of 2016 and future objectives.

[]"In April of this year, Azerbaijan won a great military victory. The April battles are a glorious page in our history. The Azerbaijani army has liberated parts of Agdara, Fizuli and Jabrail districts from occupation and raised the Azerbaijani flag on these lands. An area of more than 2,000 hectares has been cleared from occupiers, while a territory several times bigger has come under our control. We have gained full advantage of the line of contact and can destroy any enemy target today."[].

27 September 2016

Source: <https://report.az/en/military/yavar-jamalov-zarba-drones-turned-into-a-nightmare-of-armenian-army/>

Yavar Jamalov: "Zarba" drones turned into a nightmare of Armenian army

"Zarba" unmanned aerial vehicles have turned into the nightmare of Armenian army.

Report informs, Minister of Defence Industry Yavar Jamalov told reporters.

Stating hundreds of unmanned aerial vehicles order, the minister said that relative contract will be signed with the Defence Ministry in near future.

Y. Jamalov added that experimental design works are carried out on 125 products: "Works are underway regarding air-to-ground, air-to-air, ground-to-ground missiles, which are priority projects. In addition, we hold talks with several leading companies in the world. Also, we are taking steps to bring 280-km range ballistic missile technology to Azerbaijan."

September 21 2016

Source: http://www.contact.az/index_en.html

Zakir Hasanov orders to be ready to the destruction of enemy military purposes

The Azerbaijani Defence Minister Zakir Hasanov gave the order to be prepared, if necessary, to the destruction of important strategic and military objects of the enemy, the official website of the Ministry. According to Turan, the order was given on Wednesday at a meeting of the governing Ministry of Defence staff.

The meeting drew attention to the identification of new enemy targets by enhancing all types of intelligence, evaluating the significance of the goals, and the definition of priority destruction. The need to strengthen the interaction of forces and ground connections, the air, missile and artillery troops, special forces, as well as other kinds of troops.

Defence Minister Hasanov considering possible military threat to Azerbaijan instructed to tighten control over strategic and military facilities on the territory of the enemy, and be ready, if necessary, to destroy them.

The Minister stressed that the rocket and artillery units and systems at the disposal of the Azerbaijani army, allow us to carry out these orders accurately.

12 July 2016

Source: <https://report.az/en/military/yavar-jamalov-zarba-drones-turned-into-a-nightmare-of-armenian-army/>

Azerbaijani military products used in April clashes, minister says

The military output produced in Azerbaijan played an important role in the April battles provoked by Armenia, said Azerbaijan's Defence Industry Minister Yavar Jamalov.

He made the statement at the Cabinet meeting on the Results of Socio-economic Development in the First Half of 2016 and the Upcoming Challenges chaired by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on July 10.

Jamalov mentioned a number of reforms carried out in the army building in terms of strengthening the logistics base of the Armed Forces.

"Today, the Azerbaijani army is among the strongest ones -- that was proved by the April fights. Thus, in April of this year, in reply to the provocations of Armenian army, our Armed Forces have struck hard blows to the army of the occupant-country in the frontline, and a number of settlements and

important heights were liberated. I would like to mention, that a number of local Defence products were widely used during the fighting," the minister claimed.

10 July 2016

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/20650>

Ilham Aliyev: The results of the April fighting will serve as a lesson for Armenia

Opening speech by Ilham Aliyev at the meeting of Cabinet of Ministers on results of socio-economic development in first half of 2016 and future objectives.

[]"This conflict should be resolved soon. Otherwise, no-one can guarantee that provocations will not be repeated. After all, Armenia's intention is to maintain the conflict in a frozen state. They thought that a provocation against us would end in their victory. But they suffered a bitter defeat. The Azerbaijani state won a major military victory.

The April fighting showed once again the need for a speediest change of the status quo. This has repeatedly been stated by mediators dealing with the matter. Changing the status quo would mean liberation of the occupied lands. I am confident that the results of the April fighting will serve as a lesson for Armenia, that it will draw proper conclusions and act constructively in the negotiations. There are such hopes, because, I want to say once again, the negotiations have been very active in the last few months"[].

17 June 2016

Source:

http://azertag.az/en/xeber/President_Ilham_Aliyev_attended_Iftar_ceremony_on_the_occasion_of_holy_month_of_Ramadan_UPDATED_-963215

Ilham Aliyev: Only a small fraction of our military capacity was demonstrated during the April fighting

On June 17, 2016 Chairman of the Clerical Office of Caucasus Muslims Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade hosted the Iftar ceremony on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan at his residency. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev attended the Iftar ceremony. The head of state addressed the event.

"At the same time, it is no secret that the balance of forces in the region, especially between Armenia and Azerbaijan, has changed dramatically. Azerbaijan has achieved a huge advantage in all areas and will never miss it. The difference between Armenia and Azerbaijan will increase in all fields because we are on the path of development. We have very clear and precise views and programs for the future. Armenia, in turn, can't survive without foreign donations and support. This is already shown by their economic situation. This is shown by the April events. So we know our strength and rely on it. As I mentioned, we are also aware of our military power. Only a small fraction of our military capacity was demonstrated during the April fighting.

I think that this was a good lesson for the Armenian leadership. At the same time, it was a signal for the mediators and the world community that it is not a frozen conflict. If someone believes that we will continue to conduct meaningless talks for the next 20 years, they are mistaken. We do not intend to conduct meaningless negotiations. We will not imitate negotiations”.

May 25, 2016

Source: http://m.apa.az/en/azerbaijan-politics/nagorno_karabakh/azerbaijani-president-disclosed-details-of-the-st-petersburg-meeting

Ilham Aliyev: “We need to know when the process will begin the liberation of our territories”

At the meeting with servicemen the opening of a new administrative building of General Staff of Armed Forces President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev said: “Hopefully, the process will continue at an accelerated pace. Once again, we are going to these talks without accepting any conditions. Negotiations should be substantive, meaningful and should not be carried out for the species, for the sake of imitation. Following the meeting adopted a joint statement, which was also presented to the public. The declaration set out everything, including ways to resolve the issue. At the same time, we discussed the issue of enlargement of the office workers of the personal representative of the OSCE chairman. True, there is not specified the number, but I can say that if today 6 people working there, this figure may be increased up to 2 - 2,5 times. That is, there we are not talking about large mission. If we consider that the contact line is measured in tens of kilometres - should not look here for some other meaning. The mandate is also in place - no it does not change. Simply, instead of 6 are 12, 13 or 14 employees, that's all. As for the Armenians put forward as a condition for the issue of application of the mechanism to investigate incidents, I believe that at this stage there is no need. Firstly, these arrangements do not exist. No one specifically says us what these will consist of. In this case, consider this question today would be wrong. Secondly, what is its meaning? If it is meant "freezing" of the conflict and the adoption of any additional measures in the line of contact, Azerbaijan, of course, will not do it. This can be in the continuation of positive dynamics in the negotiation process, so that we see concrete results, so we know the terms of liberation of our territories - in this case can be developed various mechanisms, only in that case this issue can be considered”.

The Head of State also wished to mention one important point in the statement, adopted in St. Petersburg: "It was noted that in recent times on the contact line of troops the situation has stabilized, the ceasefire restored, which is regarded as a positive phenomenon. In this case, there is no need to apply a mechanism for investigating incidents. That is, and this condition was not accepted. I want to reiterate - we should negotiate on the basis of the subject matter. Aggressive policy of Armenia should be put an end. We need to know when the process will begin the liberation of our territories. This process will certainly be. The Azerbaijani side, and I, in particular, has repeatedly pointed out that we can only step by step to resolve the conflict. Because otherwise it is impossible. Armenia is constantly trying to complicate the situation, to break the negotiation process and the option of a phased settlement. But, in our opinion, is the most appropriate way. It can lead to an early solution of the problem. The principled position of the Azerbaijani government on the issue is known. This position has never changed and will not change. The issue should be resolved within the territorial

integrity of Azerbaijan. Nagorno-Karabakh will never get independence; and second Armenian state will not be created on the historical lands of Azerbaijan. This is the main question. As for the status of Nagorno Karabakh is a matter of the future. Of course, a certain status can be granted. As a part of Azerbaijan, have the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. In Europe and other countries have a progressive experience and different statuses. However, this status should not violate the territorial integrity of our state”.

16 May 2016

Source: <http://m.apa.az/en/azerbaijan-military/azerbaijan-army-azerbaijani-armed-forces/azerbaijani-Defence-minister-meets-with-families-of-martyrs-awarded-national-hero-title-posthumously>

Zakir Hasanov: The occupied Azerbaijani lands will be certainly liberated

On May 16, the two military servicemen’s families were given the “Golden Star” medals at the Defence Ministry.

In his speech at the presentation ceremony, Azerbaijani Defence Minister, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov offered his condolences to the families of those killed in the recent fighting, praising their valor.

According to Hasanov, the martyrs, having sacrificed their souls and blood, made a new history and will be always remembered by the people.

The minister said that the martyrs have been revenged, expressing his confidence that the occupied Azerbaijani lands will certainly be liberated under President of Azerbaijan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev.

It was noted that Azerbaijani armed forces will soon liberate the occupied territories and the blood of the martyrs will not go in vain.

1 May 2016

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/19730>

Ilham Aliyev: The war is not over yet

Ilham Aliyev gave a speech at the military unit in Tartar district: [] “Army building is a priority of our policy. This is natural, because we live in a time of war. The war is not over yet. A ceasefire was established in 1994. Despite this, Armenia continuously violates it. When international pressure on them in connection with the conflict mounts, they violate the ceasefire even more often and resort to various armed provocations.

At the request of the Armenian side, we agreed to restore the ceasefire on 5 April. We do not want war. We want the issue to be resolved peacefully. But we want it to be resolved. To conduct negotiations simply for the sake of negotiations makes no sense whatsoever. Thus, on 5 April, agreement was reached on the restoration of the ceasefire. We have abided by it and still abide by it

today. But, unfortunately, Armenia behaves insincerely again, and there hasn't been a day since 5 April when Armenia did not violate the ceasefire. In the early days it tried to attack our positions and regain them. Seeing that it is impossible and that Azerbaijani soldiers and officers stand firmly on their native land, they resorted to armed provocations against the civilian population. Our villages were shelled. Civilians were killed and injured. More than 500 of our homes have been damaged, and more than 100 houses have been completely destroyed or burned. **This is the ugly face of Armenian fascism.**

The Azerbaijani army today is among the strongest armies in the world. The material and technical basis of our army has significantly strengthened and improved. We are acquiring the most modern weaponry and equipment. In terms of material and technical infrastructure, **the Azerbaijani army is one of the strongest armies in the world today.** Discipline in the army is at a high level. Combat capability is at the highest level. The April fighting showed that. The spirits are high. The moral and psychological state of our army, soldiers and officers is very positive. The feeling of patriotism is very high not only in the army but also in the whole of society. The whole society is united in the name of a common goal. For us, there is no issue more important than the **Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.** It is the top issue. We must and we will resolve this issue.

I have always had great respect for those serving in the army. Everything necessary will be done for the construction of the army. And everything is being done already. The biggest expenditure is military spending. This has been the case for many years. Sometimes pro-Armenian politicians in various countries accuse me, asking why Azerbaijan's military budget gradually increasing? Because we have been subjected to occupation! Without the occupation, then of course, there would be no need for this. But life has shown that we were right. **If we did not have strong military capabilities, the situation on the contact line would be different today.** The increasing combat capability, material and technical equipment, the acquisition of weaponry and equipment, the patriotic spirit, professionalism and skill of our troops, their bravery and heroism demonstrated in the April fighting are our greatest assets. **Today you serve here face to face with the enemy.** You are defending our lands and our people. This is a great and honourable mission"[].

9 April 2016

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/19268>

Ilham Aliyev: "The Azerbaijani army is among the strongest armies in the world both"

Closing speech by Ilham Aliyev at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers dedicated to the results of the first quarter of 2016 and objectives for the future.

"Regarding the next issues on our agenda, first of all, of course, we should pay more attention to the construction of the army.

In recent years, we have made great strides in this area. A lot has been done. **The material and technical infrastructure of our army has strengthened.** Today, the Azerbaijani army is among the strongest armies in the world both in terms of material and technical equipment, and in terms of

combat capability. We live in a time of war. Our lands are under occupation. Of course, under such circumstances, more attention should be, is and will be paid to the construction of the army”.

4 April 2016

Source: <http://vestnikkavkaza.net/news/Zakir-Hasanov-orders-preparations-for-strike-on-Khankendi.html>

Zakir Hasanov orders preparations for strike on Khankendi

The head of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan, Zakir Hasanov, has ordered to alert all forces, including missile and artillery troops, to inflict strikes on the city of Khankendi (Stepanakert) and other occupied settlements in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone from all available heavy military means.

This measure will be taken if in the near future the Armenian Armed Forces will not stop attacks on the settlements of Azerbaijan located on the contact line of troops, thus causing damage to the civilian population, Trend writes.

2 April 2016

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/19323>

Ilham Aliyev: “We have won a great military victory. I want to congratulate our army and the people of Azerbaijan on this occasion”

On April 2, 2016 Ilham Aliyev hold a meeting of the Security Council under the President of Azerbaijan on the occasion of April large scale escalation on the line of contact.

“I want to say by this that today's provocation is also a manifestation of Armenia's insidious policy against Azerbaijan. Today, the Armenian provocation received an adequate response from the Azerbaijani army. Powerful blows were dealt to the enemy. They suffered heavy losses. The Minister of Defence will provide more detailed information on this issue today. I can say the enemy has received crushing blows.

At the same time, our heroic fighters have managed not only to stop the provocation. They have also seized more favorable military positions. Today, Azerbaijan's advantage on the line of contact has been further reinforced. As a result of military operation carried out – I would also like to note that this operation was carried out in response to provocation – we have won a great military victory. I want to congratulate our army and the people of Azerbaijan on this occasion”.

17 March 2016

Source: <https://report.az/en/nagorno-karabakh/zakir-hasanov-we-take-vengeance-on-the-enemy-and-will-continue-it/>

Zakir Hasanov: 'We take vengeance on the enemy for our martyrs and will continue it'

Defence Minister, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov congratulated the staff of the Armed Forces on the occasion of Novruz holiday.

[]"The staff of our Armed Forces meets Novruz holiday in 2016 with great enthusiasm, combat and psychological preparation achievements. Azerbaijani soldiers bravely stood guard over the homeland, enemy is silenced with return fire, suffers many loss of manpower and combat techniques. We take vengeance on the enemy and will continue it.

Our people trusts in its brave fighters and looks forward to the day of liberation of our occupied territories.

I express my confidence that we will liberate our eternal lands from the occupation under leadership of our wise and decisive President, Supreme Commander-in-Chief and unity of the army and people.

I would to congratulate all of you on occasion of Novruz holiday with confidence in great victory" [].

29 January 2016

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/17701>

Ilham Aliyev: "The present-day Armenia is located on historically Azerbaijani lands"

On January 29, 2016 the president of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev made a speech at the meeting with a group of Azerbaijani youth.

"Nagorno-Karabakh is ancient Azerbaijani land. It is the land of our ancestors. The Azerbaijani people and state will never put up with this situation. I am absolutely convinced that we will restore our territorial integrity and the Azerbaijanis will return to their native lands in Nagorno-Karabakh and other historically Azerbaijani lands. The present-day Armenia is located on historically Azerbaijani lands. If we look at the maps published at the beginning of the last century, we can see that the vast majority of city names on them are of Azerbaijani origin. The Armenian-Azerbaijani war, of course, is a heinous crime committed against our statehood, our state and our people. Of course, Armenia had major patrons, and they are still there today. You are well aware of this, and the reason this issue remains unresolved is that Armenia is not alone. It has great patrons and supporters. Global forces – and I am talking not only about Armenians of the world – large states essentially precondition Armenia's policy of occupation for various reasons. But I want to say again, and you as young people need to know this: our primary goal is to restore the territorial integrity of our country, return to our historical lands. This includes the fact that the Azerbaijani population should and will return to the territory of present-day Armenia. Of course, it will take time. But it is our goal, a sacred goal. All we

have to live with this goal. Azerbaijan's successful development and our population growth today will, I am sure, lead to this. So we have to bring that closer with our hard work.

So what assessment can we give to the OSCE Minsk Group? Only negative. I have always said this to them in person. Today, I talk about this openly for the public to know. They are the biggest contributors to the issue staying unresolved. Why? Because they have double standards! What is the reason? We ask them but there is no answer. This is also a tactic. When a question is unpleasant, it is usually not answered. We know the answer – it is double standards. Of course, you need to know this, and the people of Azerbaijan need to know this. To be more exact, they already know, but I will say it nonetheless. The religious factor plays a role. We are Muslims, so we are treated with double standards, especially in the current period when Islamophobia in Europe has reached its peak”.

10 January 2016

Source:

http://azertag.az/en/xeber/President_Ilham_Aliyev_chaired_the_meeting_of_the_Cabinet_of_Ministers_dedicated_to_the_results_of_socioeconomic_development_of_2015_and_objectives_for_the_future_VID_EO-917312

Ilham Aliyev: “We will continue to isolate Armenia from all projects implemented in the region and increase our military power”.

On January 10, 2016 Ilham Aliyev made an opening speech at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers dedicated to the results of socioeconomic development of 2015 and objectives for the future.

“The Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is and should be on the agenda of all international organizations we are a member of. We raise and will continue to raise this issue through all international platforms. We will step up our diplomatic and political efforts. We will continue to isolate Armenia from all projects implemented in the region and increase our military power.

In 2015, the military potential of Azerbaijan significantly enhanced. We are seeing that on the battlefield, too. In 2015, Azerbaijan secured full advantage of the line of contact and dictated its will. Tens of occupiers were killed. The Armenian government is in panic and hysterically appeals to external forces for protection. But the question is: on whose soil are the Armenian soldiers killed? They are killed on Azerbaijani soil. Let them go away, leave our lands, and then the conflict will come to an end. No-one will be killed and peace can be restored”.

29 December 2015

Source: <http://en.apa.az/azerbaijan-military/azerbaijan-army-azerbaijani-armed-forces/2016-will-begin-under-motto-karabakh-land-will-burn-under-feet-of-armenian-invaders-azerbaijani-Defence-minister.html>

Zakir Hasanov: 2016 will begin under motto 'Karabakh land will burn under feet of Armenian invaders'

Azerbaijani Defence Minister, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov congratulated the personnel of the Armed Forces on the occasion of December 31- Solidarity Day of World Azerbaijanis and New Year.

The minister noted that 2015 was full of significant events for the Azerbaijani people and state, as well as its armed forces.

"Under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, in 2015 army material readiness reached the highest level, social problems of the military personnel were consecutively solved, the army was provided with sophisticated weapons and equipment, and training of highly qualified specialists was successfully continues," said Hasanov.

"I do believe that you – with your loyal service to the homeland, people, and state – will justify this confidence, stand ready for the order of Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and give our people glad tidings of victory in 2016 – the year we are going to start with the motto 'The Karabakh land will burn under the feet of the Armenian invaders'," said the Defence minister.

24 November 2015

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/17279>

Ilham Aliyev: "The present-day Armenia is an artificial state created on historically Azerbaijani lands"

On November 24, 2015 Ilham Aliyev made a speech at the first session of the Azerbaijani Parliament's fifth convocation.

"Nagorno-Karabakh is historically Azerbaijani land. The Azerbaijani people lived and worked on these lands for centuries. The Armenians were moved to Nagorno-Karabakh in the 19th century. We all know the story and the whole world needs to know it too. Thanks to the policies we have pursued in recent years, including the work carried out by MPs, the wider international community already knows that this is our historical land. In fact, not only Nagorno-Karabakh but also the territory of the present-day Armenia is historically Azerbaijani land. There are sufficient arguments and historical evidence to confirm this. We simply have to communicate these facts to the world community, and we will.

The present-day Armenia is an artificial state created on historically Azerbaijani lands. I want to say again that this truth should be known to the world, because historical fundamentals, of course, also play an important role in resolving the conflict. The Armenian propaganda machine has tried for many years to prove that Nagorno-Karabakh is their historical land. Through lobbying groups they were able, to some extent, to mislead public opinion. But Azerbaijan's diplomatic efforts in recent years, the activities of non-governmental organizations, public policies, of course, and will be adjusted to bring the real picture to the world's attention.

Other international organizations, as you know, including those through the efforts of MPs, have adopted similar decisions and resolutions. Among them I want to highlight the decisions of the OSCE and the resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation also support Azerbaijan's fair position.

The conflict can be resolved on this basis. The Azerbaijani people and the state will never allow a second so-called "Armenian state" to be created on the territory of Azerbaijan. All our efforts today serve this purpose. We are discussing this issue in all international organizations. It sounds and should be sounded from all high tribunes. This issue should be raised in my speeches, the speeches of MPs and all other public figures to foreign audiences.

Unfortunately, international law in the world has moved into the background. The power factor matters more today. Might is right. We must become even stronger. We are building up the power of our country. We have been conducting economic reforms for many years. Other factors also play a role here. We are also strengthening our military capabilities. We must become even stronger. Our political, economic and military power should grow.

Of course, if Armenia did not have its strong benefactors, the issue would have been resolved long ago. Armenia could not confront us alone, without foreign aid. Of course, Azerbaijan today is several times stronger than Armenia. We are ahead of it. But it is also true that the Armenian lobby and Armenian organizations working in different countries play a role. These organizations influence the governments of these countries. This factor today is the biggest obstacle to the settlement of the conflict, because Armenia alone would not be rude to violate international law so flagrantly.

Let me repeat that Azerbaijan will go its own way. No country recognizes and will ever recognize the self-styled "Nagorno-Karabakh entity." We will never allow this to happen and will step up our diplomatic and political efforts.

At the same time, our priority is to enhance our military capacity. We have achieved great success in this field in recent years. The combat capability of our army is growing. The most sophisticated equipment, weaponry and ammunition are being purchased. The Azerbaijani army today is among the strongest armies on a global scale. This process continues despite the fact that our budget revenues have declined, of course. However, military spending is a priority issue, because, let me reiterate, it is necessary for the settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and for the security of our country as a whole".

10 November 2015

Source: <http://www.azernews.az/azerbaijan/89615.html>

Defence minister: Azerbaijani army to prove its superiority over Armenia soon

The Azerbaijani army will soon prove its superiority over Armenia, Azerbaijani Defence Minister Zakir Hasanov said on November 9.

Hasanov attended a National Flag Day celebration in one of the military units on the frontline, the ministry reported.

Colonel-General Zakir Hasanov met with members of the Armed Forces serving in the trenches on the frontline and highlighted orders from President Ilham Aliyev.

"The army is being rapidly developed, thanks to President Aliyev's attention and care," he said. "Some achievements were made in this area. As a result of measures conducted on the frontline, a large number of the enemy was killed, and they were destroyed psychologically. The enthusiasm of our servicemen frightens Armenia. Azerbaijani servicemen are ready to expel Armenian forces from our territories. We have prepared all possibilities for this."

The minister also stressed the necessity to do everything possible "to hasten the day when the occupied territories will be released and the flag of Azerbaijan will fly there."

The development of the military is under special focus in Azerbaijan, a country in which twenty percent of its internationally recognized territory has been under Armenian occupation for over 20 years. Azerbaijan remains in a state of war with Armenia.

Thanks to the state's care, today the Azerbaijani Army, which consists of the Air Force, Air Defence Forces, the Navy, and Land Forces, is one of the strongest, most highly-disciplined armies in the world, and the leader in the region.

30 October 2015

Source: http://www.azernews.az/azerbaijan/89290.html?utm_medium

Azerbaijani Army to free occupied lands soon

Azerbaijan's Defence Minister Colonel-General Zakir Hasanov has stated that Azerbaijan's occupied territories will be liberated in the near future.

He made the remark at an opening ceremony of two residential buildings constructed for military officers, the Defence ministry reported.

Hasanov said the Azerbaijani army will destroy the enemy and liberate the occupied lands.

Armenia occupied over 20 percent of Azerbaijan's internationally recognized territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent regions, after laying territorial claims against its South Caucasus neighbor that had caused a lengthy war in the early 1990s.

He met with the military officers and their family members at the presentation ceremony of the serviced apartments' keys and congratulated the participants on behalf of the ministry leadership.

"You are aware of the high assessment given by the Supreme Commander to the activity of the armed forces. Make sure that you share the most part of this success. The military officers fulfilling combat mission within a short time fought for their homeland and proved to the enemy that Azerbaijani soldiers and weapons are much stronger and superior than the opposite side. Our enemies are already in panic and fear. We will continue this work. We will definitely destroy and force the enemy to withdraw from our lands and liberate the territories as soon as possible," Hasanov said.

16 October 2015

Source : <http://www.azernews.az/azerbaijan/88843.html?utm>

Azerbaijani Army able to promptly liberate occupied territories

The Azerbaijani Army is in a state of combat readiness and is able to promptly liberate the occupied territories, Fattah Heydarov, a member of the Azerbaijani Parliament, the Chairman of the Council of Elders, told Trend on October 16.

"The Armenian Army is the smallest in the region. The fact that the Azerbaijani Army is the largest in the region is a kind of message to the world that we can liberate our occupied lands at any time. Unfortunately, international organizations turn a blind eye to the aggressive policy of Armenia. However, these organizations forget that there are people in Azerbaijan who want to return to their native lands, and their rights cannot be ignored," Heydarov noted.

Azerbaijan is in a state of war, the war is not over and the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is not a frozen conflict, earlier said President Ilham Aliyev.

"We must and we will restore our territorial integrity. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict must be resolved on the principles of international law. The territorial integrity of our country is no less important than the territorial integrity of any other country. The issue must be resolved within the framework of international law and the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. We are strengthening our economy and building up our army. We will take the necessary action at any time," he noted.

Armenia continues the occupation in defiance of four UN Security Council resolutions calling for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of armed forces.

16 October 2015

Source: <http://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2444932.html>

Armenia forced to involve civilians in protection of border villages

Armenia involves armed “druzhinniks” (local police aides) in protection of its border villages, the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry told Trend Oct.16.

The Defence ministry went on to add that this fact is not new.

If earlier, Armenia used such tactics only in the occupied territories, today it is forced to attract civilians along with the army in order to protect its border villages, said the ministry.

“As we stated many times, Armenia continues deploying civilians to trenches due to the acute shortage of soldiers, chaos, fear, lack of discipline and an increase in desertions,” said the ministry.

The ministry went on to add that on the contrary, Azerbaijani armed forces with high morale and fighting spirit continue taking necessary measures to prevent all provocations of the enemy and inflict devastating retaliatory blows.

The conflict between the two South Caucasus countries began in 1988 when Armenia made territorial claims against Azerbaijan. As a result of the ensuing war, in 1992 Armenian armed forces occupied 20 percent of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts.

10 September 2015

Source: <http://www.azernews.az/azerbaijan/87725.html>

Azerbaijan’s Defence Minister, Colonel-General Zakir Hasanov has stated that if talks on the peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict fail, Azerbaijan will liberate its lands by force.

“For more than 20 years, our lands have been under occupation, and peace talks have not produced any results. The enemy must unequivocally understand that we will never reconcile with the occupation of our lands,” Hasanov said.

The Azerbaijani government’s strength is increasing day by day with constantly taken good care of its army, according to the minister.

During the meeting, Hasanov thanked the personnel of the armed forces, called up from the reserve for their readiness to defend the homeland and for responsible participation in the training exercises.

“The main purpose of the call for the military men in the reserve to join the exercises was to test the level of their combat readiness. [...] All of us should be ready for battle,” Hasanov said.

Azerbaijan's military build-up is in line with the country's legal right to liberate its occupied lands by means of war, should it be necessary. [...]

01 June 2015

Source: <http://news.az/articles/politics/98405>

Zakir Hasanov: Armenia realized that Azerbaijan is now real military power

Azerbaijan's Defence Minister, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov has held a meeting at the Central House of Officers with young officers [...]

Speaking about the tasks ahead, the minister said the country's leadership in the first place aims to liberate our occupied territories by further strengthening the combat capabilities of the Armed Forces.

"The war is not over, it continues and we should liberate our occupied territories by all means," [...]

Recalling President Ilham Aliyev's remarks [...], the minister said, "Since last summer, the Azerbaijani army has secured full advantage on the contact line, inflicting on the enemy several crushing blows. [...] We always say to them: if you do not want to die, then leave Nagorno-Karabakh and other occupied lands. Otherwise, Armenia will continue to live in constant fear, anxiety, hysteria and panic [...]". Adding that after suffering heavy losses Armenia once again realized that Azerbaijan has become a real military power.

31 March 2015

Source: <http://news.az/articles/karabakh/96679>

Zakir Hasanov: Our flag will soon be waving over Khankandi

"Azerbaijani soldiers will be ready any time".

No one should have doubt that our three-color flag will soon be waving over Khankandi, Shusha, Lachin and other occupied lands.

We will achieve this goal under the leadership of the Supreme Commander.

Oxu.Az reports with reference to the Defence Ministry that the statement came from Defence Minister, colonel-general Zakir Hasanov in his speech over the anniversary of the genocide of Azerbaijanis.

The minister said he believes that Azerbaijani soldiers will soon be ready to fulfill any instruction of the Supreme Commander at any time and achieve new results in combat and military and psychological training.

23 March 2015

Source: http://en.apa.az/xeber_azerbaijani_Defence_minister_we_ll_des_224698.html

Azerbaijani Defence Minister: "We'll destroy 70% of enemy in the first attack"

Defence Minister, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov and top officials of the ministry have visited the military units in the regions on the frontline. [...]

Speaking about the situation on the frontline, the minister said the enemy is in the panic: "We strike such blows to them that they are afraid. They don't want to serve on the frontline and leave the trenches. They are obliged to deploy the civilians to the posts. **We must withdraw the invaders from our lands. We are able to do that and will do.**

Supreme Commander in Chief does his best to strengthen the army. Our nation is here, we have brave sons and we must liberate our lands fighting more bravely and courageous. That day is already close to us. Our Armed Forces become stronger day by day, new weapons and equipment are purchased.

I'm clearly saying that we'll destroy 70% of enemy in the first attack. We have many weapons and equipments that if we strike blow to Armenia they will not be able to revive for hundreds of years. Armenians must understand it and leave our lands voluntarily.

Every serviceman of Armed Forces must destroy enemy by seizing any occasion day and night. The enemy must not be convenient, live under fear in our occupied territories. Our lands must be liberated, revenge of our martyrs must be taken.

Now the time has come. **We'll liberate our lands in a short run.** [...]

The President said that we'll return to our historical lands. We'll return to Irevan, Zangazur, Shusha, Khankendi. **This will absolutely happen and there can be no doubt** [...]."

19 March 2015

Source:

http://www.azatutyun.am/content/article/26910370.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

Aliyev Again Vows Return Of 'Historic Azeri Lands' in Armenia

President Ilham Aliyev again declared on Thursday that Azerbaijan will eventually gain control over not only Nagorno-Karabakh but also Yerevan and other "historic Azerbaijani lands" in Armenia.

"The Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict must be settled only within the framework of Azerbaijan's internationally recognized territorial integrity," Aliyev said in a speech delivered during celebrations of Nowruz [...].

"After that we will return to our ancient lands -- to Yerevan, Geychay and Zangezur," he said. "These are our historic lands. The young generation must know that our lands are not confined to the territory of modern-day Azerbaijan."

"We must and we will return to those lands. Therefore we must work hard every day to bring that day closer," he added [...].

Aliyev has repeatedly made such public statements in the past, most recently during a March 2014 trip to Azerbaijan's second largest city of Gyanja. He said there that Armenia is a "fascist state" created on "historic Azerbaijani lands" that will eventually be won back by Azerbaijan.

11 December 2014

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/karabakh/94220>

Zakir Hasanov meets officer personnel

Azerbaijan can restore its territorial integrity in a military way. The statement came from Defence Minister, colonel-general Zakir Hasanov [...].

The minister expressed confidence that the territorial integrity of the country will be restored in a military way, informed the officers, as well as the HR employees, military lawyers and psychologists about their duties, set recommendations and instructions on raising the education and moral and psychological training of the personal staff to the level of modern requirements.

06 November 2014

Source: http://en.apa.az/xeber_zakir_hasanov_azerbajjani_state_obliged_218618.html

Zakir Hasanov: Azerbaijani state obliged to resolve conflict by military means

“Having suffered heavy losses, the enemy understood that Azerbaijan has a real military power”

Baku. Hafiz Heydarov – APA. Next graduation ceremony for the young officers, who have successfully completed the Reserve Officer course and given the military rank of lieutenant under the order of the Defence minister, has been held today at the Military Education and Training Center of the Armed Forces. [...]

The minister noted that every single serviceman must comprehend the motto “Serving our homeland, people and state is the meaning of our life”, live with this ambition and serve with honesty. The minister mentioned 20 percent of our lands have been under occupation since years ago, stressing that the main responsibility for the resolution of this problem is upon the Armed Forces’ personnel: “Our country has for years spared no efforts to resolve the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh. Unfortunately, with their double standards, officials of some influential states and international organizations turn a blind eye to the occupation of our lands, recognized within the international law, instead of exerting pressure on Armenia. In this case, Azerbaijan is obliged to resolve the conflict by military means and liberate its lands from occupation by using military force”.

Recalling the tense situation on the front line in July-August of this year, Hasanov noted that the reforms carried out by the country’s leadership on military buildup have irritated Azerbaijan’s enemies.

“Such events have once again proved that our army has necessary military power. Having suffered heavy losses, the enemy understood that Azerbaijan has a real military power,” he said.

Addressing the young officers, the minister noted that every Azerbaijani officer should be an example for his military staff.

“Your main duty is to bring up the soldier in your obedience in the spirit of devotion to the country and state. You should use all effective tools in the preparation of patriot warriors, providing them with high fighting spirit. Do not forget that it’s the soldiers that control the most modern equipment and weapons. So our soldiers should be raised in a spirit of high moral values,” he added.

7 August 2014

Source: <https://twitter.com/presidentaz>

Twitter statements coming from the official twitter channel of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

As a result of attacks launched by Armenian occupying forces, our army suffered losses. Several servicemen have become martyrs.

May Allah rest their souls in peace! However, their blood has been avenged. The Azerbaijani army has dealt a very severe blow to the enemy.

(...)

Of course, our army is capable of fulfilling any task. Relevant instructions have been issued to the military, so that Azerbaijan could restore its territorial integrity soon.

Our territorial integrity will be restored. There are several factors that enable this conclusion. Azerbaijan is getting stronger.

Nagorno-Karabakh, the occupied territories are our native lands.

From the perspective of international law, Nagorno-Karabakh is an integral part of Azerbaijan.

Nagorno-Karabakh, the occupied territories are our native lands.

The whole world recognizes Nagorno-Karabakh as an integral part of Azerbaijan and will never recognize the self-styled Nagorno-Karabakh as an independent entity. The Azerbaijani state will never tolerate a second Armenian state on its territory.

After returning to the currently occupied territories, we will restore all our cities and villages.

(...)

Azerbaijani citizens are not pleased with the activity of mediators because the main mission of mediators is to settle the conflict, not to keep it in a frozen state and conduct confidence building measures.

The biggest confidence building measure would be the withdrawal of occupying forces from our lands.

The Azerbaijani army is showing its strength, which is having an impact on the talks. The enemy is clearly seeing that it can’t cope with us.

(...)

We are not living in peace, we are living in a state of war. Everyone must know this.

The war is not over. Only the first stage of it is. But the second stage may start too.

No-one can rule that out. We don't want war, we want peace. But at the same time, we want our lands back.

Armenia wants to preserve the status quo. The main wish and essence in the activities of mediators is to prevent a resumption of war.

We don't want war either. But unlike them, we want our lands back. We want the lands of our ancestors back.

Justice and international law support our position. Therefore, the situation of neither peace nor war cannot last any longer.

The biggest problem we are faced with now is the problem of Karabakh. All our efforts are focused on that.

(...)

Armenian patrons, the circles supporting them the most, foreign circles, including the Armenian lobby, should understand that Armenia can get into serious trouble. If it doesn't observe its commitments, fails to execute the decisions of international organizations and does not vacate our lands, they will get into serious trouble.

Our positions are durable and strong, and the Azerbaijani army has established full dominance on the line of contact.

(...)

The material and technical infrastructure of the Azerbaijani army is at the highest level.

The weaponry and ammunition we have acquired in recent years suggest that we can accomplish any task.

Today, stability in the region is provided only thanks to the policy of the Azerbaijani state. Azerbaijan is a stabilizing country.

Today, by increasing our capabilities, we have an even stronger army which is capable of fulfilling any task at any time.

The enemy is in a state of panic and hysteria. We have sufficient opportunities to know what is happening on the other side.

We have completely taken over military and moral advantage. We are on our own land.

We will restore our sovereignty. The flag of Azerbaijan will fly in all the occupied territories, including Shusha and Khankandi.

This is our goal. We are moving towards this goal and should create an even stronger army to reach it.

We will restore our territorial integrity either by peaceful or military means. We are ready for both options.

The picture observed on the contact line during the last week and before that suggests that we are ready for any scenario.

Just as we have beaten the Armenians on the political and economic fronts, we are able to defeat them on the battlefield.

We have a powerful military potential. But our biggest strength is the courage and patriotism of our soldiers.

We will restore all of the occupied and destroyed cities. We will return to this land, we live and will live with this idea.

25 June 2014

Source: http://en.apa.az/xeber_azerbaijani_Defence_minister_we_can_de_213196.html

Azerbaijani Defence Minister: "We can destroy any military facility and residential settlement in Armenia"

Azerbaijani Defence Minister, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov commented on recent incidents on the contact line, APA reports.

The Minister said in his interview with Azerbaijan newspaper that today Azerbaijan is in a state of war with Armenia and though more than 20 years passed since the ceasefire was declared, the Armenian side, violating the international laws, keeps our territories under its occupation, is continuously violating the ceasefire and its reconnaissance and sabotage groups are trying to attack our posts on the frontline. "The enemy snipers are firing at our military servicemen, civilians and damaging our facilities and agricultural areas. We should respond to the enemy in the same way and we are doing it. I want you to be absolutely sure that our armed units immediately respond to them and the enemy suffers losses. Our soldiers and officers immediately take and will further take revenge of their killed fellow soldiers", he said.

The Minister said along with the constant violation of ceasefire on the contact line of troops, Armenian armed units are firing on the border regions, villages and settlements of Azerbaijan, wounding and killing civilians: "We are very concerned about it. They are mainly firing on the Azerbaijani residential settlements in Gazakh, Aghstafa, Tovuz, Gadabay and Dashkasan regions from their posts located in Ijevan, Noyemberyan, Berd and Krasnoselsk regions of Armenia. The enemy aims to expand the occupied zone and demonstrates its aggressive appearance. However, international organizations remain silent. We can also act as Armenia, destroy any military facility and residential settlement in this country. We have all the opportunities for doing it. However, the principles of humanity and our people's higher feelings of humanity keep us from doing it. What is the fault of civilians, children, women and old people?[...] "

19 March 2014

Source: <http://en.apa.az/news/208894>

Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity and sovereignty

"The military budget and readiness will play a main role in the settlement of Nagorno Karabakh conflict".

"Azerbaijan's foreign policy is independent. It relies on the national interests of the Azerbaijani people. We are defending our national interests with honor and successfully. I can say that today the influence of Azerbaijan on regional processes increases. Azerbaijan frequently becomes the initiator of international projects," said Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev addressing at nationwide festivities on occasion of Novruz holiday of Azerbaijani people. [...]

"I am absolutely convinced that the growing power of Azerbaijan, our potential and forethought foreign policy will allow us to restore our territorial integrity. No other way. The course of history, our demographic development, economic potential allow us to say that the day when the national flag of Azerbaijan will flutter in Shusha, Khankendi is not far away. We need to become even stronger to do this. In the international arena, there are double standards. We are also victims of double standards. In the settlement of international relations the power factor is coming to the foreground. We must become and are becoming even stronger, "- said President Ilham Aliyev.

22 January 2014

Source: <http://en.apa.az/news/205928>

Azerbaijani President: "The present Armenia is, in fact, the historical land of Azerbaijan"

"Over the past decade, some 170,000 immigrants were settled in the new house. But there are still people living in difficult conditions. So, of course, the construction work will continue in the future", - Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said during acquaintance with the new residential area, built in Ganja for 1500 IDP's families, on January 21, APA reports. [...]

President Ilham Aliyev expressed confidence that the day will come: "We all tried, and will try to bring that day. Azerbaijan is strengthening, increasing power, economic and military potential of the country, the population increases. In the past year were born more than 170 thousand children in Azerbaijan. That is, the natural increase for the year amounted to 120 thousand people, over time, will increase even more. Now has a population of 9 million 500 thousand people, it will increase even more. Demography, economy, military power will play an important role in solving the Karabakh problem." [...]

10 January 2014

Source: <http://en.apa.az/news/205419>

Azerbaijani President: "Azerbaijan will never allow the establishment of the second fictitious Armenian state on its historical territory"

"Unfortunately, there is no any progress in the fundamental issue of our foreign policy - the Armenian- Azerbaijani Nagorno- Karabakh conflict. During the year, the Armenian side is re-chose delaying tactics negotiation process under various pretexts", - Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said it at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers to discuss results of the Azerbaijan's socio-economic development in 2013 and outline tasks for 2014. [...]

The head of state said that Azerbaijan will never allow that on his historic land creation of a second Armenian state: "The question should be and will be resolved within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. I do not doubt it, and to achieve this we are going to continue to negotiate, but we will increase and its power." [...]

"Sometimes the structure is not related to this issue or policy; bring grist to the mill of Armenia, trying to criticize us, they say, why Azerbaijan increases its military budget. And they say they are representatives of the country's military budget reached the heavens. It is our natural right; we raise and will improve its military capabilities. Our military power play a crucial role in a just settlement of the Nagorno -Karabakh conflict in accordance with international standards. Today we create a powerful army. Our army is one of the strongest in the world. Of course, the construction of the army will continue", - said the president.

16 November 2013

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/6667>

Speech by Ilham Aliyev at the reception to mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the "Yeni Azerbaijan Party"

[...] "The gap between Armenia and Azerbaijan is already very large and keeps expanding day by day. Azerbaijan grows stronger and more powerful by the year, while Armenia weakens and declines every year. Evidence of this is the mass exodus of people from Armenia to other countries.

We will continue our efforts to isolate Armenia. This policy is working. We see its results. We will continue to expose Armenia's aggressive policy in all international organizations. The number of our friends in the world is growing. A growing number of countries want to cooperate with us. We have started to invest in various areas in foreign countries. This is a new process. We will step it up. Thus, our political and economic relations with all countries of the world will become even stronger in the future. Three countries have already officially recognized the Khojaly genocide as an act of genocide. This process has already begun and will be continued. We must ensure that as many countries as possible recognize Khojaly as an act of genocide. So from a medium- and long-term perspective, the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity is beyond doubt. Neither we nor the mediators involved in the matter have any doubts about that. That is why we believe that international mediators have been more active in addressing the issue lately. Everyone knows that the growing political, economic

and military power of Azerbaijan will lead to a complete resolution of the issue in favor of Azerbaijan." [...]

29 October 2013

Source: <http://www.azernews.az/azerbaijan/61093.html>

Deputy PM: Azerbaijan to liberate its occupied lands by any means

We will continue our efforts to isolate Armenia. This policy is working. We see its results. We will continue to expose Armenia's aggressive policy in all international organizations. The number of our friends in the world is growing. A growing number of countries want to cooperate with us. We have started to invest in various areas in foreign countries. This is a new process. We will step it up. Thus, our political and economic relations with all countries of the world will become even stronger in the future. Three countries have already officially recognized the Khojaly genocide as an act of genocide. This process has already begun and will be continued. We must ensure that as many countries as possible recognize Khojaly as an act of genocide. So from a medium- and long-term perspective, the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity is beyond doubt. Neither we nor the mediators involved in the matter have any doubts about that. That is why we believe that international mediators have been more active in addressing the issue lately. Everyone knows that the growing political, economic and military power of Azerbaijan will lead to a complete resolution of the issue in favor of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Ali Hasanov has said the activity of the OSCE Minsk Group for more than 20 years has proved ineffective, and also made clear that Azerbaijan would liberate its Armenian-occupied territories by any means, including military action. [...]

He said Armenians must know they are temporarily living in the historical Azerbaijani lands.

"However, they continue to claim our lands and settle there. This injustice will never remain unpunished," Hasanov said.

President Aliyev said at the inauguration ceremony that not only the territory of Nagorno- Karabakh, but also the former historic lands of Azerbaijan such as Zangezur and Gokce will be freed over time, Hasanov said.

"We are sure because the latest presidential election showed once again that the Azerbaijani people support their president and this nation is united around him," Hasanov added. [...]

28 October 2013

Source: <http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/2205579.html>

Minister: Azerbaijan reserves right to liberate its occupied lands

Azerbaijan stands for the liberation of its lands peacefully, but the country also reserves the right to liberate its occupied lands, Azerbaijani Minister of Defence, Colonel-General Zakir Hasanov said at a meeting with EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus Philippe Lefort today.

He was commenting on the current situation in connection with the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Defence Ministry told Trend.

While congratulating the Defence Minister with new appointment, Lefort wished him success in his future endeavors. The Special Representative stressed that Azerbaijan is one of EU important partners.

20 October 2013

Source: <http://en.apa.az/news/201407>

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev: "Azerbaijan will never allow the establishment of the second fictitious Armenian state on its territory"

[...] Ilham Aliyev said that Azerbaijan's diplomacy on the issue and will continue to be offensive: "Since truth, justice, international law is on our side. I have no doubt that Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity. Along with this, the stronger will be Azerbaijan, the sooner the issue is to be resolved. With this purpose in Azerbaijan as economic reform and the building of the army in the last ten years is a high rate."

President Ilham Aliyev said that the military budget has grown more than 20 times: «The Azerbaijani army is one of the strongest armies in the world. Acquired over the past ten years weapons, ammunition, military equipment has broken the military balance between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Our advantage is measured times. At the same time, over the last ten years was established in Azerbaijan military- industrial complex, which was not in previous years. Today, there are dozens of factories produced military equipment 750 titles. Thus, we create a new production sites and at the same time reducing dependence on foreign arms markets. I believe that in the coming years, we will take another big step for building the army, further strengthen our army. I am confident that these factors, diplomatic efforts and, hopefully, the ratio of the big powers in this matter will lead to solving the problem." [...]

19 September 2013

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/official/82721>

Armenian fascism must receive due assessment – Ilham Aliyev

[...] Unfortunately, the norms of international law are not working. The resolutions of international organizations remain on paper, injustice continues. In such a case, certainly, the growing Azerbaijani state must rely and relies only on its power like it is reflected in the final exposition of this memorial complex. 95 years ago as a result of the activity of the Caucasus Islamic army and the fights carried here with local forces, Baku was cleared of Armenians. If the norms of international law are not

restored and Armenia continues its aggressive policy, our army will have a final say. Today we have a power to do this. [...]

That is, all these factors confirm our strength and are the result of the thorough policy. By its actions and statements Armenia openly admits that it is unable to ensure its security. We have known this long before. I think that all parties dealing with the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno Karabakh conflict know this. But today Armenia is obliged to admit it. It has to admit its helplessness, its powerlessness against us, the fear it lives with. I have once said that Armenian people should not fear us, they should fear their leadership. They should fear the blood-thirsty, predatory, bandit and criminal leadership, which commits atrocities against their own people, fires at their own people. The longer the current leadership of Armenia is at power, the sooner Armenia will collapse and the sooner the historical justice will be restored. I am absolutely convinced that Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity. This is proven by all factors-ratio of forces, international, economic and military factors. But time goes on. We merely want this to occur as soon as possible. But this must take place comprehensively and fully. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be restored in full, the state flag of Azerbaijan must be raised in Shusha and Khankandi and in the future Azerbaijanis must live on all of their historical lands. Our historical lands are the Iravan khanate, Goycha, Zangezur mahals. One day we will also live there. I believe in it and I am sure of it. In order to reach this, each of us must take efforts, each of us must make this holy day closer with his deeds. [...]

26 August 2013

Source: <http://www.azernews.az/azerbaijan/58532.html>

Azerbaijan warns will use its army if Armenian aggression continues

Azerbaijan will have to use the capabilities of its army if Armenia's aggressive policy persists, Azerbaijani Defence Minister, Colonel General Safar Abiyev has said in a meeting with a delegation headed by Japanese Vice-Minister of Defence Masahisa Sato. [...]

"If the factor related to the presence of Section 907 of the U.S. Congress is also taken into account, we will see what tension reigns in the region. If this situation continues, we will face the necessity to use the capabilities of our military," Abiyev said. [...]

18 July 2013

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/8707>

Ilham Aliyev chaired a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers dedicated to the results of socioeconomic development in the first six months of 2013 and future objectives

A meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers dedicated to the results of socioeconomic development in the first six months of 2013 and future objectives has been held under the chairmanship of President Ilham Aliyev.

The head of state made opening speech at the meeting.

Opening speech of President Ilham Aliyev

" [...] I want to mention another important event of the last quarter – the military parade held in Azerbaijan. This parade demonstrated the power of the Azerbaijani army. The weaponry, ammunition and equipment demonstrated during the parade are the latest models and the most powerful hardware. The helicopters, tanks, armored vehicles, artillery units, air Defence installations, other hardware have shown again that the Azerbaijan has one of the strongest armies in the world. At the same time, the military parade was a report on the work done in the field of army building in recent years. Of course, I am aware that the Azerbaijani people watched this parade with great interest and a sense of pride from the fact that we have such strong capabilities and such a strong army. At the same time, the parade has caused great concern in Armenia. I know that the hysteria, panic and fear they have experienced after the parade have not let up until now. And this is natural because the enemy saw firsthand the power of Azerbaijan and learned once again that we are ready for any scenario. With the aid of the acquired machinery we can destroy any enemy. As I said at the parade, we can speak to the enemy in any language. Along with all the political and diplomatic efforts, our military power will play a key role in resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

We will continue to build up our military strength and to buy the most modern equipment. As you know, there are no problems with the acquisition of this equipment. We buy equipment from different countries and at the same time produce it in Azerbaijan. A growing number of countries want to cooperate with us in the military sphere. The media have been providing figures that Azerbaijan has purchased weaponry worth \$1 billion from some countries and \$1.6 billion from others. I can say that these figures do not reflect reality. In fact, our military and technical cooperation is measured by much bigger figures.

We simply do not reveal the figures. We only comment on the information which appears in foreign media from time to time. But we can disclose the entire information because our state budget is transparent and all our costs are open.

I think that the Armenian people should not be afraid of that. The Armenian people should be afraid of their own leaders. They should be wary of their activities. They should be afraid of the bloodthirsty, insatiable and criminal government mired in corruption that has plunged them into the current situation. As a result of the activities of this government, about 100,000 Armenians leave the country forever. If it goes on like this, in five to six years there will be less than one million people there. And the blame for this falls squarely on the leadership of Armenia because its predatory and occupying policies, its bloodthirsty and voracious nature have brought Armenia to this catastrophe. We are confidently going forward. We are a strong state. Our strength will gradually increase. For this strength to grow further, we have to work even harder".

27 June 2013

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/official/80740>

Strong Azerbaijan can speak any language with powerless Armenia - Ilham Aliyev

A ceremonial military parade on occasion of the 95th anniversary of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan was held on the Azadlyg square in Baku on 26 June.

The speech of the President of Azerbaijan, Supreme Commander Ilham Aliyev:

" [...] Nagorno-Karabakh is a historical, native Azerbaijani land. Our people have lived and worked in these lands forever. Today, Nagorno-Karabakh is part of Azerbaijan, the international community recognizes and supports the territorial integrity of our country. Present-day Armenia has also been created on the historical Azerbaijani lands. The Erivan khanate, Goycha, Zangezour mahals are our historical lands. Azerbaijani state and people of Azerbaijan will never allow the creation of the second Armenian state on our territory. We will seek the speedy resolution of the matter. The settlement, of course, goes through political ways. The negotiation process is still ongoing. However, our strong military and strong capacity are strengthening our position. Our position is based on the historical justice. I want to say once again that Nagorno-Karabakh is an Azerbaijani land and will remain Azerbaijani land. Our position is supported by the international law. There are four UN Security Council resolutions that demand the unconditional withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from the occupied lands.

Our position is supported by a strong army. Much attention has been given over the past years to army building to this end. Our army is growing. This is a continuous process. I often visit the military units, familiarize with the situation and see that the combat capability of our army is growing. We have a regular army. The professionalism of our army is growing. The patriotic spirit of the army, like elsewhere in the country, is also on a high level. The vast majority of officers in the army are young people. I am very pleased that the Azerbaijani youth is brought up in the spirit of patriotism. [...]

Azerbaijan has allocated huge funds into military over the past years. For comparison, I can say that in 2003 our military budget was \$ 163 million, last year the figure reached 3.6 billion, and this year it is \$ 3.7 billion. This shows that army building is a priority issue. The biggest expense of our budget goes to the army. And it's natural. In recent years, we have purchased the most modern equipment. In the 21st century, wars will be fought rather on the basis of technology and knowledge. This is a requirement of the time. Weapons purchased by Azerbaijan over the recent years are modern. This is the weapon of the high accuracy and a huge devastating force. Nearly a hundred combat and transport helicopters have been bought over the past years. Dozens of combat aircraft, the most advanced anti-aircraft installation have been bought as well. These armored vehicles, most modern tanks and artillery can destroy any enemy target. This process continues. [...]

I am sure that Azerbaijan will successfully carry out all its tasks. Today, we can say there is not a single outstanding issue, apart from the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh. There is a development, specific policies, programs, and excellent results in all areas. I am confident that we will achieve the desired in the settlement of the conflict, restore historical justice, return back to our native land! No other way! The development of the history, the course of history, the processes taking place in the world, strengthening Azerbaijan, and weakening impoverished Armenia are all the realities. These are the realities that we have created with our policies, our will. We will continue to isolate Armenia from all international and regional projects. We will continue to strengthen Azerbaijan. Our strong state will

have a say in resolving the conflict, and the Azerbaijani army will fulfill the order of the Supreme Commander.

Long live the Azerbaijan army! "

28 May 2013

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/official/80066>

Azerbaijan never ruled out military settlement of Karabakh conflict – President

[...] "Azerbaijan is willing to settle the conflict peacefully. However, for us it is important that the issue is settled. Unlike us, Armenia is not interested in settling", said the head of state, noting that the mediators, are, unfortunately, engaged in actions to increase confidence between the parties.

"The co-chairs seek to stabilize the situation at the contact line, and various other matters not related to the problem. This situation is unacceptable and inadmissible. It needs changes", said the President of Azerbaijan, stressing that negotiations should be carried out in fact. "But the point is to ensure the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, recognized by the international community. The occupying forces must withdraw from the territories of Azerbaijan ", the head of state said.

"As for the future of the people living today in Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as citizens who will return to the region after the settlement, there is a positive international experience, including in Europe. The principle of self-governance can be used without going beyond this practice", said the President of Azerbaijan, stressing that Nagorno-Karabakh is and will be the native land of Azerbaijan.

The Head of State reiterated that there can be no concessions on the territorial issue.

"In fact, the choice is not great in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, it will be either peaceful or military. We are ready for both options", the President continued, noting that Azerbaijan has never ruled out a military settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The Head of State added that the international law and the UN Charter give Azerbaijan the right for self-defence. And Baku may carry out any operations on the territory recognized by the international community as an integral part of Azerbaijan any time.

"We remain committed to the peaceful resolution of the conflict so far. I believe that the opportunities in this area have not yet run out. We need to do more to resolve the conflict ", the head of the Azerbaijani state said, noting that Azerbaijan should become even stronger.

According to him, Azerbaijan should continue to seek to isolate Armenia from international projects.

"This strategy and policy are already producing effect. From 80 to 100 thousand people leave Armenia every year, in line with its official statistics. The process of depopulation is widening in the country. There is a demographic crisis, and this crisis will deepen", President Ilham Aliyev said.

According to him, the less is the able-bodied population in the country, the lower the chance for growth is. However, he noted that the outlook for economic growth in Armenia is vague, as this state is stagnating.

"We must and will isolate Armenia. We will also do everything possible to improve our potential, including in military", the president said, noting that today the Azerbaijani army is the strongest in the South Caucasus".

17 May 2013

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/79810>

'Armenia is a gray spot on the map of the South Caucasus'

Armenia is a gray spot on the map of the South Caucasus.

It is "cancer" of the region through which the illegal traffic of arms and drugs go, chief of the political analysis and information provision department of the Azerbaijani Presidential Administration Elnur Aslanov has said at an international forum of research centres of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

According to the representative of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan, difficult situation, in which the country's population is, annually causes up to 100,000 Armenians to leave it forever, 1news.az reports.

According to him, unlike Armenia, Azerbaijan, whose economy is 75% of the total economy of the South Caucasus, is developing rapidly.

"Our country, whose population is 65% of the total population of the South Caucasus, has become a major transport route linking the West with the East," said Aslanov, noting that the main problem of the republic is the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

"Unfortunately, for more than 20 years, a fifth of Azerbaijan's territory is occupied. The provisions of the four UN resolutions are not fulfilled," said the head of the department.

He noted that the hope for a peaceful settlement of the conflict still remains.

"However, in the event of failure of peace talks, Azerbaijan will use other tools to liberate the occupied territories," said Aslanov, pointing out that at present the country's military budget is equal to the entire state budget of Armenia.

Finally Aslanov drew attention to the fact that the geo-strategic importance of the South Caucasus is growing from the viewpoint of politics, energy and transportation.

16 April 2013

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/78863>

Every year Azerbaijan becomes stronger and Armenia - even weaker – President

On 14 April, under the chairmanship of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, the Cabinet of Ministers held a meeting on the results of socio-economic development in the first quarter of 2013 and the upcoming challenges. [...]

A few days ago at the forum of MGIMO, I reiterated the official position of Azerbaijan on the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. I want to say once again that the internationally recognized territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is not, never was and never will be the subject of negotiations. We will never allow creating in the Azerbaijani lands the second far-fetched Armenian state and will endeavour, by all possible means, to resolve this conflict in the near future. This conflict should be resolved on the basis of international law, the four UN Security Council resolutions should be implemented unconditionally, and the occupying forces must withdraw from our land.

Along with this, we must continue to build up our strength - political, economic and military. This is our sovereign right. Once again I want to say have no doubt that Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity. Every day, every month brings our victory closer. Every month, every year Azerbaijan is becoming stronger, and Armenia - even weaker. This is already seen and known by all the structures and countries involved. The course, the development of the story is that Armenia will not be able to compete with Azerbaijan. Its main hope is the external force, the Armenian lobby and its supporters, the political circles of some other countries. Our hope is our strength, the Azerbaijani people, the truth and justice, international law and our growing strength. I am sure that Azerbaijan will restore fairness and ensure its territorial integrity. [...]

2 April 2013

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/78400>

Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity

A new quarter for 760 IDP families was commissioned in Masazir settlement of Absheron on 1 April.

1news.az reports citing the official website for the President of Azerbaijan that the opening ceremony was attended by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. [...]

At the same time, the balance of power in the region has changed in our favor. Today, Azerbaijan is the fastest growing country in the world. Armenia experiences decline every year. Our population is growing – there are already 9.3 million people in Azerbaijan. And the population of Armenia, even according to official statistics, drops by almost 100,000 people a year. So when I say that I have every confidence that Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity, I rely on these factors. But at the same time, I and all of us really want the issue to be resolved quickly. We really want an immediate action to be taken to put an end to occupation. Unfortunately, the double standards and double approach existing in the world do not allow solving the problem. [...]

Armenia occupied our land by military means. Then, to eliminate the effects of the occupation the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions. None of them has ever been fulfilled. How come that they adopt a resolution on any other issue and start its immediate execution in a day and when it comes to us, the issue has not been settled for already 20 years and we just hear that the issue must be settled peacefully. Why? Because there are double standards. We have the full right and international law

recognizes our ability to restore our territorial integrity by all means. The UN Charter has provisions that any country has the right to use every opportunity to defend itself. The Helsinki Final Act puts the principle of territorial integrity above any other principle, including the principle of self-determination of peoples. However, injustice, double standards, the Armenian lobby and its supporters in the world, as well as passive intermediaries do not create the necessary conditions for a solution. But, despite this, we'll continue our political and diplomatic efforts in this direction. We will further strengthen our activities in international organizations. At the same time, more serious steps will be taken in army building. We will use every opportunity to keep Armenia in the current isolation in economic and regional issues. I am confident that as a result of these complex measures and with the growing power of the country, we will restore our territorial integrity. [...]

6 March 2013

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/77563>

Azerbaijani parliamentarian dissatisfied with OSCE MG's activity

Azerbaijan is not going to yield a piece of its land to anyone and is ready to liberate the occupied Azerbaijani land at the order of the Supreme Commander.

The statement came from head of the working group on interparliamentary ties Azerbaijan-Austria Javid Gurbanov at the meeting with the delegation of the Austrian parliament, headed by second president of the National Council of Austria Fritz Noygebauer.

"We do not fear anyone and are not going to surrender our lands. Armenia has been holding 20% of Azerbaijani lands under occupation for more than 20 years. We support the peaceful settlement of the conflict but if the negotiations are ineffective, we are ready to return the occupied Azerbaijani lands at the order of the supreme commander", he said.

According to Gurbanov, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev stands for the peaceful resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno Karabakh and is ready to provide the high status of autonomy to Nagorno Karabakh within the framework of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

"Armenians have already created their state-Armenia on historical Azerbaijani lands and we will not tolerate the creation of the second Armenian state in our territory", the head of the working group for interparliamentary ties Azerbaijan-Austria of Milli Majlis.

In turn, MP Eldar Ibrahimov expressed dissatisfaction with the activity of the OSCE Minsk Group under the auspices of which two years ago Azerbaijan and Armenia hold peace talks on the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh.

"We do not want to be at war with anyone, but we have to return our lands that have been holding neighbor Armenia under occupation for over 20 years. We are dissatisfied with the activity of the OSCE Minsk Group which sets the provision that the conflict parties must demonstrate the political will and find a solution to the conflict. But why do we need the mediators if we could settle the problem ourselves?", he said.

20 November 2012

Source: <http://www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/azerbaijan-leader-unleashes-anti-armenia-twitter-tirade.aspx?pageID=238&nID=35078&NewsCatID=355>

Azerbaijan leader unleashes anti-Armenia Twitter tirade

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev caused an Internet storm today after his official Twitter account posted a tirade of several dozen sharply worded statements against neighbouring Armenia. Most of the brief messages were recycled from a long speech Aliyev gave last week, but the sudden broadside of inflammatory tweets posted Tuesday afternoon prompted a top Armenian lawmaker to compare the messages with Nazi German propaganda.

"The Armenian lobby is our main enemy and we are the main enemy for them," said Aliyev's official Twitter account, @presidentaz.

"Armenia is a country of no value. It is actually a colony, an outpost run from abroad.... Evidence of this is the mass exodus of people from Armenia to other countries," another tweet read.

Energy-rich Muslim Azerbaijan has been in a bitter conflict with its land-locked Christian neighbour Armenia over the territory of Nagorny Karabakh for decades. The two fought a war in the 1990s that left about 30,000 people dead.

"Azerbaijan grows stronger and more powerful by the year, while Armenia weakens and declines every year," Aliyev said in a further tweet.

The tirade drew a furious reaction from Armenian parliament deputy chairman Eduard Sharmazanov, who called Aliyev a "totalitarian leader of a totalitarian state". "Aliyev shows by his cynical proclamations that there are still supporters of fascism in the 21st century, and that this ideology flourishes thanks to leaders like him," Sharmazanov told AFP. "His remarks recall the 1930s-1940s and (Nazi leader Adolf) Hitler," he added.

Aliyev succeeded his father Heydar as the leader of the former Soviet state in 2003 and has showcased the Caspian sea country as an important energy partner to the West despite human rights concerns.

He gave the 40-minute-long speech that inspired Tuesday's Twitter frenzy to his New Azerbaijan Party to mark the 20th anniversary of its establishment.

Reacting to the furore, senior Azerbaijan administration official Ali Gasanov did not attempt to soften the rhetoric, saying Aliyev had "laid out the facts and realities of modern day Armenia" in his speech.

"All of Armenia's resources are directed at supporting the separatist (Karabakh) regime on Azerbaijan's occupied territories," he said, calling Armenia a country with an agenda driven by outside forces.

17 November 2012

Source: <http://news.az/articles/politics/72114>

Karabakh conflict settlement 'main direction in our foreign policy' – President

"I've broadly expressed my thoughts about the main directions of our foreign policy and there is no need to repeat them".

The statement came from President Ilham Aliyev who participated in a ceremonial event on the 20th anniversary of the Yeni Azerbaijan party that was organized at the Buta palace on 16 November.

The president also said "Simply I want to note that the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict is the main direction in our foreign policy. **We will continue our efforts.** I have to repeat that our position is very firm, it is based on international law, history, justice and our growing might. **We are in process of talks and all the same we will continue strengthening our military might. Today the gap between Armenia and Azerbaijan is very big and it is growing every day. Azerbaijan is strengthening every year while Armenia is growing weaker.** The obvious proof is the mass migration of people from Armenia to other countries. **We will further take efforts to deepen Armenia's isolation. This policy is effective. We see the results.** We will further expose the occupational policy of Armenia in all international organizations. The number of our friends in the world is growing. The number of countries that wish to cooperate with us is growing too. Today we have started investing in foreign countries in different directions. This is a new process. And we are going to strengthen this process. Thus, in the future the political and economic ties with all countries will grow even stronger". Touching upon the issue of Khojaly genocide, the president noted "Three countries have already recognized the Khojaly genocide as genocide on the official level. This process has already started and will continue. We must seek recognition of Khojaly genocide by a greater number of foreign countries. That is in terms of middle and long-term perspective, restoration of territorial integrity of Azerbaijan does not create doubts either in our country or among mediators, dealing with this issue. **Therefore, we believe that the mediators demonstrate a bigger activeness in this issue recently, since everyone knows that the growing political, economic and military might of Azerbaijan will lead to the final resolution in favor of Azerbaijan. I have to repeat that we take part in the negotiation process. But along with this, we take all other measures and are ready to all other variants.** I have to note that Azerbaijan has strong legal, historical and political grounds. **I do not doubt that Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity.** The settlement of this issue is possible on the basis of these principles".

9 October 2012

Source: <http://news.az/articles/karabakh/69794>

Azerbaijani flag will be raised in Shusha and Khankandi - Ilham Aliyev

Nagorno Karabakh is the Azerbaijani land, it will remain an Azerbaijani land and the flag of Azerbaijan will be raised in Shusha and Khankandi.

According to the official website for the President of Azerbaijan, the statement came from President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev during his speech while familiarizing with the conditions created at the Nushaba park in Barda on 7 October.

"I have no doubt that we will attain the solution of this issue and Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity. The reasons of my optimism is well known-the successful development of Azerbaijan. **In**

every sphere including economy, resolution of social problems, military construction, strengthening of international positions of our country, that is today Azerbaijan and Armenia are incomparable", President Ilham Aliyev said.

According to the head of the state, today Azerbaijan is moving forward and Armenia is going backwards and degrading.

Noting that Nagorno Karabakh as an integral part of Azerbaijan must be within Azerbaijan, President Ilham Aliyev said that no other variant is being considered and we should strive to attain this variant.

"Probably, the negotiations will continue for some more time. I do not rule it out. But at the end of these talks we will return to these lands.

"I certainly want us to do this without bloodshed. However, we must be ready to any variant. Today we have not only strong economy but also strong army. The military potential and human potential, the feeling of patriotism", he noted.

11 September 2012

Source: <http://news.az/articles/official/67984>

'We will continue to isolate Armenia from international and regional projects'

The cause for Armenia's grave economic situation is Azerbaijan.

The statement came from President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, APA reports.

"The main problem for Azerbaijan is the occupation of our lands by Armenia. Our lands are under occupation as a result of the aggression, aggressive policy of Armenia against Azerbaijan."

The president noted that this issue cannot find its solution because of the support of patrons of Armenians in the world to them. "It's despite the fact that there are all opportunities and legal framework for the solution of the issue. International organizations have adopted decisions and resolutions. Leaders of the leading countries of the world have made statements that this current situation is unacceptable and the status quo must be changed. Unfortunately, Armenia remains indifferent to these calls, and international community does not exert the due pressure and effect on it. This is the cause for the insolvability of the issue. We will continue to strengthen our country and our international positions. Legal grounds for the solution are sufficiently enough, and these grounds defend and support Azerbaijan's position. The UN, its Security Council, OSCE, the Council of Europe, European Parliament and other international organizations have adopted decisions which are the only path for the settlement of the conflict."

The head of state stressed that the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan is recognized by all countries, and this issue can find its solution only within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

"There is no change in Azerbaijan's position regarding this settlement of this issue. We will not back off the path that we have taken. Nagorno-Karabakh is an eternal and historical land of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan must restore its territorial integrity. Occupiers must be and will be withdrawn from all the occupied lands. Azerbaijani citizens must and will return to their homelands. Our compatriots will

return to the regions which are currently beyond administrative borders of former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Province, and Nagorno-Karabakh, Khankandi and Shusha. I am convinced and believe in this, and there are enough factors to consolidate my conviction: International law, economic power of Azerbaijan, our military potential and increasing weigh of Azerbaijan in political arena. Only looking at the history of the last one year, we can see the successes of Azerbaijan.

We are a member of the respected international organization – the UN Security Council. We chaired this organization a couple of months ago. We entered this organization with the support of 155 countries. Recently, 120 member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement supported a resolution considering the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue within the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. 120 countries is the majority of the world. We in many cases hear the notion of international arena, and some organizations, some structures mean themselves when they say international arena. International arena is not an object that unites 20 or 30 countries. International arena is the UN, and 155 countries in the UN supported us. International arena is the Non-Aligned Movement.

There operate 120 countries. They too supported us. That is, the international arena supports our position and of course, it gives us additional opportunities and increases our confidence. But at the same time, the Minsk Group has been created for 20 years to solve this issue, but it cannot. It cannot exert the due pressure on Armenia. We see that this issue can and must be solved at the expense of the power of Azerbaijan. Therefore, we must be more powerful. We must further strengthen our army and we do. At present the Azerbaijani Army is among mighty armies not on a regional, but on a global scale. We are advancing our country by strengthening our economic potential.

It enables us to conduct an independent policy on this issue. We make decisions based on national interests in foreign and domestic policy. Strong Azerbaijan is a strong regional factor, and a stabilizing factor. At the same time, it's already not possible not to account with Azerbaijan in regional issues. Attempts not to account with Azerbaijan brought no result and the recent history shows that. Therefore, the stronger we are, the sooner Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity. We have an unambiguous position regarding the solution of the issue. I have repeatedly stated my opinions on this. The aggressive forces must be removed from all the occupied lands, and after that peace and cooperation can emerge in the region and the source of danger can be removed. So far, our lands are under occupation. Our number one target is Armenia. We will continue to isolate Armenia from all international and regional projects. This policy is bearing fruits and the cause for Armenia's difficult economic situation is Azerbaijan. This is unambiguous. According to their own statistics, 80,000 people have fled Armenia in the first half of the year. By the end of the year, this figure will probably double. The Azerbaijan's population is increasing and after 5-10 years, in general, the correlation of percents will be one to ten, maybe even less. These factors should make them think. Their grave economic situation, demographic situation and isolation from international issues must make them worry.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijan is stepping forward. Despite the occupation of our lands, we make great achievements and we increase them. A couple of days ago, respected international economic structure – The Davos Economic Forum placed Azerbaijan 42nd for economic competitiveness, the first place in the CIS space. Our affair is the affair of justice. We want the restoration of justice and we will achieve it. For us, the number one issue in our foreign policy, on our agenda in general, is liberation of the occupied lands. We are working day and night, and we will continue this activity."

15 August 2012

Source: <http://www.azatutyun.am/content/article/24676913.html>

Azeri Defence Chief Again Threatens War With Armenians

Azerbaijan renewed threats to end the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by force on Tuesday, with Defence Minister Safar Abiyev saying that the Armenian side is leaving Baku with no other option.

“Unwilling to peacefully return Azerbaijan’s occupied lands, Armenia is every day bringing forward the start of a new war,” Azerbaijani news agencies quoted Abiyev as telling General Myles Deering, the visiting commander of the Oklahoma National Guard.

Abiyev complained that long-running mediation efforts by the U.S., Russian and French co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group have not produced any “concrete results.” In these circumstances, he said, Azerbaijan has no option but to “liberate the occupied territories.”

Azerbaijani leaders have for years been threatening to forcibly regain control of Karabakh and Armenian-controlled lands surrounding it. The Armenian side has repeatedly condemned and dismissed those threats, saying that the Azerbaijani military would suffer another defeat.

The United States, the European Union and Russia have likewise spoken out against possible attempts at a military solution to the Armenian-Azerbaijani dispute.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton warned of “unpredictable and disastrous consequences” of renewed fighting in the conflict zone when she visited Yerevan and Baku in June. “The use of force will not resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and therefore force must not be used,” Clinton said

27 July 2012

Source: <http://www.apa.az/en/news.php?id=176277>

Deputy PM Ali Hasanov: “Azerbaijan prepares to liberate the occupied areas”

Baku – APA. “Azerbaijan prepares to liberate the occupied areas. We will not make any concessions to Armenia in liberation of the lands,” Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the State Committee for Work with Refugees and IDPs Ali Hasanov told journalists, APA reports.

“If Armenia wakes and settles down to right course today, may be any agreement will be achieved in the negotiations. The state has respect for president’s promise. If Armenia continues its non-constructive position, we will liberate our lands in near future by the order of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief. At present, the government started preparations for the next processes. It is return program, calculation of damage and another issue. We must ready for it.”

25 June 2012

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/5252>

Ilham Aliyev attended a ceremony at the Top Level Military School named after Heydar Aliyev dedicated to the 2012 graduation of special purpose military educational institutions

The main challenge facing us is the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. As you know, the Azerbaijani government has been working in this direction for many years. But, unfortunately, the issue remains unresolved. As I noted earlier, the aggression and injustice committed against Azerbaijan in the early years of our independence are, unfortunately, still on the agenda. I am absolutely convinced, have repeatedly expressed my thoughts about it and want to say it again – if great Heydar Aliyev had been the leader of our country at decisive moments in our history, in the early years of our independence, not an inch of our land would have been given to the invaders. But in 1987, Soviet leaders removed Heydar Aliyev from political power. Less than two weeks after that, Armenian nationalists and their supporters began to make claims on the separation of Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan and its annexation to Armenia. In the last months of the Soviet Union, an expansionist policy against Azerbaijan began. In the first months of our independence this expansion led to great tragedies. The Khojaly genocide was perpetrated, Shusha, Lachin and Kalbajar were occupied.

We are currently building up our strength and taking part in negotiations. I am absolutely convinced that the stronger our army, the stronger our position in the negotiations. There is a direct connection between these two factors. We are demonstrating a principled stance in the talks. We will not step back from it. Besides, we have become much stronger in recent years. Several years ago there was a parity in military and economic terms between Armenia and Azerbaijan, now we have eliminated this parity. From an economic point of view, Azerbaijan is 10 times stronger than Armenia. Our state budget is 10 times bigger. Our military spending is 10 times higher. There is positive demographics in Azerbaijan. International law has been violated for 20 years. We must become even stronger. Our strength is the primary means of a fair settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Azerbaijan's candidacy was supported by 155 countries. Last month Azerbaijan presided over the Security Council for the first time in its history. I also want to note that our election to the Security Council was not easy at all. We earned this place in a tense struggle. We deserved it. We have demonstrated a principled position from the very first days, first months. Our position is based on international law and justice. I can also say that at the initial stage Armenia also wanted to become a member of this authoritative structure together with us and put forward its candidacy. But when it saw that it was powerless to Azerbaijan and that it would suffer a bitter defeat, it quietly withdrew from the political battlefield and recognized its political defeat. This was a very symbolic step. It is no secret that the international attention to Azerbaijan is at a very high level. I have no doubt that if the active phase of the war starts, Armenia will flee from the battlefield just as it did from the political arena. I am sure that the international community and the countries involved in the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh are increasingly aware that Armenia cannot resist Azerbaijan. We hope that there will come a time when sober-minded people are represented in the Armenian leadership who will realize that a further protraction of the conflict is to the detriment of Armenia. Armenia will not gain anything by marking time.

As solution delays, the balance of forces between Armenia and Azerbaijan changes in our favor. I want to repeat that 10 years ago there was a certain balance. Now this balance is gone. In the coming years Azerbaijan will only grow stronger because we know our prospects. We are creating our own future. I am sure that all the factors I mentioned – our political strength, economic development, military power, love of the country – will lead us to a solution of the issue, Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity and our flag will fly in Shusha, Khankandi, Nagorno-Karabakh.

16 April 2012

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/4739>

Opening speech by Ilham Aliyev at the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan dedicated to the results of the socioeconomic development in the first quarter of 2012 and future goals,

[...] One covers economic issues, the other –security and political matters. Azerbaijan was represented at both. At both events I outlined the views, positions and policies of our country. In particular, I spoke about the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, the occupation of our lands and the suffering of one million of our countrymen, and drew the world's attention to these issues.

Cyber-warfare is waged against us. This is true. I am absolutely sure of this, this is beyond doubt. Particularly active in this war, of course, is the Armenian lobby. The attempts to discredit Azerbaijan, deny its realities, portray Azerbaijan in the world as a backward and undemocratic country are the dirty job of the Armenian lobby.

Their sphere of influence is quite broad. They are represented in the leading print media of various countries.

Sometimes they go under different names and conceal their origin. This is a secondary issue now. A person shouldn't conceal his nationality. Anyone should be proud of his nationality. But they are different even in this respect in other countries.

Sometimes they conduct open campaigns against Azerbaijan and try to harm our image in a coordinated manner. Their activities are straight forward, Azerbaijan is number one target for the Armenian lobby. For us too, I repeat, the Armenian lobby is number one enemy. We must be prepared for this fight.

The second session of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly was also held in Baku in the first quarter. I can say that such a session has been held outside the European Union for the first time. Baku was not chosen as a venue by chance. The session was held at a very high level, it gave us the opportunity to inform members of the European parliament about the work ongoing in Azerbaijan, our position, in particular, on the history and realities of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, the genocide against Azerbaijanis, the Armenian fascism. [Editor: euronest is specifically NOT about the frozen conflicts and President Aliyev's opening speech was shocking to many participants, also because he called Armenians "fascists", which he repeats here.] Those who perpetrated a bloody tragedy, an act of genocide in Khojaly are fascists, there is no other name for them. Taking the

opportunity, I spoke about the realities and shared my thoughts on Azerbaijan's position and its general outlook for the future.[...]

At all international events I have spoken about the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and exposed Armenia's policy of aggression. I will continue to expose it at all international events. Our principled position on the settlement of the conflict remains unchanged. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be restored unconditionally, the occupying forces must withdraw from our land. The internationally recognized territorial integrity of our country will be fully restored. I have no doubt about that. We are growing stronger both economically and internationally. Our military capacity is also growing. This area is and will always be in the focus. We are creating a powerful military industry. At the same time, we buy and will continue to buy large volumes of military equipment, weapons and ammunition. Not to mention anti-aircraft guns. We are and will be buying tanks, artillery units, combat aircraft, weaponry, all modern equipment needed for combat. I can say that, as in other areas, we are pursuing a diversified policy in this area too, we don't rely only on one producer. A growing number of countries want to cooperate with us and we have the opportunities for that. Unlike some other countries, we don't get anything for free, we buy everything, and this policy will be continued.

Azerbaijan already has a strong army. All the armed forces are ready and capable of fulfilling any task in the interests of our country. They are ready to restore Azerbaijan's sovereignty over Nagorno-Karabakh and other occupied lands. We simply want to do this without bloodshed, by peaceful means, through talks, and every minute and every day brings us closer to victory. Armenia is plunging into a deep recession, while Azerbaijan is growing stronger. Victory day is nearing us. The day will come when the Azerbaijani flag will fly in Khankandi and Shusha. [Editor: Khankandi is the Azeri name for Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh. Note that none of the OSCE Minsk Group proposals foresee handing back the Armenian populated core of the former Soviet Oblast of Nagorno-Karabakh. The L'Aquila declaration foresees only the return of the unpopulated (formerly mostly Azeri populated) surrounding buffer zone. Saying that on victory day the Azerbaijani flag will fly in Khankandi contradicts ALL mediation efforts and is only possible through winning war.

28 February 2012

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/4423>

Closing Speech by Ilham Aliyev at the conference on the results of the third year into the "State Program on the socioeconomic development of districts for 2009-2013"

I am confident that all the issues provided in the state investment program for 2012 will be resolved. This year should also be successful for our country, in particular, we expect major development of the non-oil sector. [...]

The projects started earlier and the ongoing ones are bearing fruit. In 2012 we will also open large enterprises and factories. So our non-oil capacity will be further enhanced. I want to repeat that there

are all the possibilities for the development of private enterprise. Business people and heads of executive authorities have provided information about the processes taking place in the region.

Our political influence and economic power are growing. This is seen by those who like us and those who don't. There are quite a lot of those who rejoice in our successes. But there are forces that don't like us, our detractors. They can be divided into several groups. First, our main enemies are Armenians of the world and the hypocritical and corrupt politicians under their control. The politicians who don't wish to see the truth and are engaged in denigrating Azerbaijan in different parts of the world. Members of some parliaments, certain political figures, etc. who live on the money of the Armenian lobby. We know them all. There is no need to name them. This is one group. Another group includes those who don't accept Azerbaijan's independent policies. In other words, they don't accept that Azerbaijan can pursue an independent policy. We do and we will pursue an independent policy. This policy, I want to repeat, serves the interests of the Azerbaijani people. It does not and never will serve the interests of anyone else. The interests of the Azerbaijani people are above anything else. We do and we will fight to protect these interests. The results and recent history show that we can succeed even alone.

The third group includes those who just envy us. The realities of Azerbaijan show that we are truly developing and achieving historic progress. Look what we have achieved in both political and economic spheres in recent years. I want to repeat that while the ratings of developed states are falling and some developed countries are on the verge of a default, Standard & Poor's has raised the credit rating of Azerbaijan. [...]

Azerbaijan will become even stronger, and the best answer to those who write about us, about our country, authors of those defamatory articles is our reality, our work and success. Azerbaijan is a dynamic country. Azerbaijan is a strong country. The number of our friends is increasing. But there will always be those who don't like us. But the fact that they are in our way can't make us abandon the chosen path. Our path is one of justice. Our path is one of righteousness, development and progress. We are and will be going along this path successfully. Thank you!

9 February 2012

Source: <http://www.interfax.com/newsinf.asp?pg=6&id=307784>

Azerbaijan again threatens war to retake Nagorno-Karabakh

Azerbaijan reiterated on Tuesday that it still has the possibility of armed action up its sleeve if current talks to settle its conflict with Armenia over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region prove fruitless. Talks Brokered by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe have brought about no progress, Azeri Defence Minister Col. Gen. Safar Abiyev said during a meeting in Baku with the chief of the Turkish general staff, Gen. Of the Army Necdet Ozel. For this reason, Azerbaijan Keeps building up its armed forces for the possible recapture of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is an Armenian-speaking enclave in Azerbaijan, Aliyev said.

The two ministers also discussed military aspects of the overall political situation in the region and Azeri-Turkish military cooperation.

26 December 2011

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/51631>

“Azerbaijan’s sovereignty must and will be guaranteed above all occupied lands”

“The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be restored, all immigrants must return to their native lands – to Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as Shusha”, - Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said it at the opening ceremony of the new residential village, built in Takhtakorpu in Agjabadi region for 552 displaced families from the Lachin region. “Azerbaijan’s sovereignty should be fully restored. This is required by international law and the Azerbaijani people require this. We now are making diplomatic efforts to get back there. If you see that these efforts fail, then at any time we need military means to recover our lands. International law recognizes this right for us. Just as long as we try to do it by negotiation and, simultaneously, to increase their power. Over the years we have become much stronger. We have created a powerful military capability”, - he said.

18 October 2011

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/3327>

Speech by President Ilham Aliyev on the 20th anniversary of the restoration of state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan

“...The difference in the level of development between Armenia and Azerbaijan has further increased in recent years. A solution of this [Nagorno-Karabakh] conflict is possible only through acceptance of international law. Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity recognized by the international community and the United Nations must be restored. Four UN Security Council resolutions must be implemented unconditionally. The occupying forces must withdraw from our lands.

The territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan must be restored. The citizens of Azerbaijan who have suffered from Armenian vandalism, atrocities and the policy of ethnic cleansing must and will return to their native lands. I have no doubt about that. To do this, we must become and are becoming even stronger. In the economic, military and all other areas Azerbaijan's potential is several times greater than that of Armenia, and it must grow further.

We will continue our diplomatic effort, but at the same time we will use all our opportunities to restore our territorial integrity. Justice is on our side, everybody knows that. No matter how difficult it has been for 20 years and no matter how hard the Armenian lobby has tried, we have declared and shown the world that Nagorno-Karabakh is native and historical Azerbaijani territory, from both historical point of view and from the standpoint of international law. Today, our offensive diplomacy is producing effect. I am sure that this issue will be resolved in line with international law and Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity. There are sufficient grounds for that. I occasionally share my thoughts with the Azerbaijani public on this issue. There are sufficient grounds. In addition to the historical and legal factors, the balance of powers is proof of Azerbaijan’s superiority. Economic

strength is incomparable. After 20 years of independence, Azerbaijan accounts for 83 per cent of the South Caucasus economy. As a result of the measures to be taken in the future and the upcoming reforms, this figure will only continue to grow, it will not diminish, but grow further.

In addition to economic factors, any country, including Azerbaijan, is taking steps to protect itself. Our growing military spending is a natural process. All our expenses, including the military, are growing. Considering the fact that we have the Karabakh problem, an increase in our expenses is natural. If they did not increase, it would be unnatural. They are and will be growing. The task I set a few years ago is now in the past. I said that our military spending must equal Armenia's total budget. Today, our military spending is 500 million higher than the Armenian budget. In the future, the difference will further increase.

One of the reasons for my optimism is the demographic situation in the region. The population of Azerbaijan is growing every year, we have over 9.1 million citizens. The population of Armenia is decreasing by the year, and will continue to reduce due to natural processes and because of the hopelessness, unemployment and mass apathy prevailing there. All these and other factors, needless to say, further strengthen our confidence. Most importantly, the people of Azerbaijan will never put up with this situation. The people of Azerbaijan will ensure the existence of Nagorno-Karabakh as an integral part of Azerbaijan."

6 September 2011

Source: <http://www.historyoftruth.com/news/latest/10097--karabakh-conflict-can-be-resolved-peacefully-through-the-pressure-on-armenia>

"Karabakh Conflict Can Be Resolved Peacefully Through Pressure On Armenia"

"Azerbaijan still has a potential of negotiations toward the settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. Azerbaijani President stated many times that "If I feel that the potential of negotiations ended and it is held only for the talks, Azerbaijan will deny holding negotiations and will restore its territorial integrity by other means", Head of Public Policy Department of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan Ali Hasanov told journalists. He said Azerbaijan couldn't state that this potential ended. "The OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs, as well as other institutions, which participate in the international peacekeeping processes, enable us to think that this problem can be resolved peacefully through the pressure on Armenia".

28 July 2011

Source: <http://milaz.info/en/news.php?id=6145>

Azerbaijan's President:"One cannot compare an elephant with an ant"

At the joint press conference with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President Ilham Aliyev said actually it shows the aggressive essence of Armenia. "This country is full of problems. Tens of thousands of people leave the country. The country's economy is in crisis – poverty, misery,

despair. There is not a good facility in the country, but for the foreign endowments, foreign patronage this country will collapse. In this situation, with 1.8 million real population, they make claims for historical territories of Turkey. They consider that they have solved Nagorno Karabakh problem. They are mistaken. Nagorno Karabakh is Azerbaijan's territory, remains as Azerbaijan's land. The day will come when Azerbaijan will restore its sovereignty over Nagorno Karabakh either peacefully, or in a military way," he said.

21 July 2011

Source: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=azerbaijan-backs-turkey-over-cyprus-but-fears-karabakh-impact-says-azeri-deputy-pm-2011-07-21>

Azerbaijan backs Turkey over Cyprus but fears Karabakh impact, says Azeri deputy PM

[...] Armenia just does not understand the fact that God condemned the two Caucasus states to live as neighbors, Hasanov added. "I used to believe back in 2001 that time was with us on the Karabakh issue, but I no longer think that way. The issue is getting deeper as time drags on. Time has worked in our favor only economically speaking, but it is working against us politically," he said. "We always say that if things keep going this way, we could declare war. We would have liked to see Turkey behind us, but there is international law. There is a security agreement between Russia and Armenia," Hasanov added. "Turkey cannot back us [militarily], but of course we see [Turkey] beside us politically. It is not like Turkey will be fighting a war with Russia anyway. Baku is negotiating with Yerevan solely for the sake of negotiating, as Azerbaijan would be labeled an "anti-democratic state" if it did not participate in the meetings, Hasanov said.

18 July 2011

Source: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=top-azeri-official-warns-of-fresh-war-in-caucasus-2011-07-18>

Top Azeri official warns of fresh war in Caucasus

Armenia may try to provoke Azerbaijan into a new war in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijani Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov has claimed. "Armenia is interested in war, more so than Azerbaijan. They want to gain further justification of the occupation in Karabakh, so they would be looking for an opportunity to provoke. So war is a possibility but it will only start with a provocation," Azimov told the Hürriyet Daily News in a recent interview.

18 July 2011

Source: <http://news.az/articles/politics/40654>

Not all Madrid principles meet Azerbaijan's interests – official

'Neither Armenia nor Azerbaijan can present the principles proposed by the Minsk Group co-chairs as a victory. These principles do not envisage victory of any party, they are rather based on mutual concessions'. The statement came from chief of the public policy department of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan Ali Hasanov. He said Azerbaijan's concession would be granting an interim status to Nagorno Karabakh. "It means that Azerbaijan would grant an interim status to Nagorno Karabakh before its final definition in normal conditions of peace. President Ilham Aliyev spoke of the renewed Madrid principles at the previous session of the Cabinet of Ministers. The renewed principles consist of four main principles. Certainly, not all of those principles meet Azerbaijan's interests. To meet its interests, Azerbaijan should start war for liberation of occupied lands and force Armenia to sign a treaty satisfactory to Azerbaijan while in current conditions it is impossible. Therefore, we show a constructive position and make mutual concessions", Hasanov said.

14 July 2011

Source: <http://asbarez.com/97048/azerbaijan-must-attack-yerevan-says-political-expert/>

Azerbaijan must attack Yerevan, says political expert

Azerbaijan must attack Yerevan, said Azerbaijan former lead negotiator and presidential adviser Vafa Guluzade Thursday, adding that the attacks must be so severe that Armenia would not be able to "forget it." In his statements, Guluzade also said that in addition to Yerevan, Azerbaijan must attack Gyumri, Gapan and other large cities in Armenia. Guluzade said in recent years, Azerbaijan has purchased a great deal of military equipment "that other countries can only dream about." Guluzade, who served as lead advisor to successive Azeri presidents, including Haydar Aliyev and was a member of Azerbaijan's Security Council, also expressed his belief that the Minsk Group co-chair countries side with Armenia.

5 July 2011

Source: <http://www.milaz.info/en/news.php?id=5897>

President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijan will ensure its territorial integrity using all factors, including the army factor

"To ensure Azerbaijan's territorial integrity is one of the most important forthcoming issues," Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said at the Third Congress of the World Azerbaijanis, APA reports. Noting that international organizations passed resolutions on the settlement of Karabakh problem, President said these documents are not fulfilled due to Armenia's unconstructive position.

"Yerevan must understand that Azerbaijan's potential cannot be compared with Armenia's capability. Azerbaijan's economic potential is ten times more than Armenia's economic potential. Armenia has no power to compete with Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan's military expenditures are 50 percent more than Armenia's budget," he said...President Ilham Aliyev also said that Azerbaijan will ensure its territorial integrity using all factors, including the army factor.

2 July 2011

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/39670>

Armenia makes military solution to the conflict urgent – MP

"Over the years our army has really become a very powerful force, which is not inferior to the most advanced armies of the world for its technical equipment and combat readiness. Head of state Ilham Aliyev attaches special importance to military construction, and our army has reached such heights due to the expedient policy by the head of state. Moreover, the Azerbaijani people have always supported their own army, and this is a sign of the unity between the army and the people," said Aydin Mirzazade, deputy chairman of the security and defence committee of the Azerbaijani Parliament, the Milli Majlis. Mirzazade noted that though Azerbaijani army can at any moment fulfill its tasks, Azerbaijan is committed to a peaceful way to resolve the conflict. "And the international community wants a solution to the conflict. Aspirations and actions of Azerbaijan in this direction are clear. However, the enemy party still makes groundless territorial claims, does not take a clear commitment to liberate the occupied territories, and it therefore makes military solution to the conflict urgent. Armenia must finally realize that it cannot indefinitely keep the occupied territories of a neighbor. The time works against it," Mirzazade noted.

26 June 2011

Source: <http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCATRE75P0LD20110626>

Azerbaijan leader warns of army buildup at huge parade

BAKU (Reuters) - Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, speaking during the biggest military parade in Baku since the fall of the Soviet Union, promised to boost army spending and gain control of the territories disputed with Armenia.

"I am completely sure that our territorial integrity will be resumed in any possible way,

Aliyev was shown on state television as saying at the parade to mark armed forces day. "Therefore, we should be even stronger."

Aliyev said that his country will boost military spending to \$3.3 billion this year, up from \$2.15 a year ago and just \$160 million in 2003. Troops marched across Liberty square in central Baku, along with convoys of infantry combat vehicles and Russia-made S-300 self-propelled anti-aircraft missile launchers. Warplanes, helicopters and drones cruised over the city, as TV aired footage of battleships

on duty off the Azeri Caspian coast. "Nagorno-Karabakh is a native Azerbaijani land, this is the way it always was, but it is temporarily under occupation, which cannot last forever," Aliyev said, adding that Baku will continue diplomatic efforts.

14 June 2011

Source: <http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/1891595.html>

Vice speaker: If Karabakh conflict is not resolved peacefully, Azerbaijan can liberate its lands from occupation in military way

"If the Karabakh conflict is not resolved peacefully, the hopes after the Kazan meeting come to zero, Azerbaijan reserves its right to liberate its lands from occupation by military means," said the First Vice-Speaker, Chairman of the Security and Defence Committee of the Azerbaijani Parliament Ziyafet Askerov. He said the international law allows it. "Unfortunately, Armenia has so far engaged only in imitation, that is came to the talks only to stall for time," said Askerov.

4 June 2011

Source: <http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCATRE7531V420110604>

Azeri defence ministry says Armenia making war inevitable

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Azerbaijan's Defence ministry was quoted Saturday as saying Azeri troops would eventually be sent to seize back the Armenian-backed breakaway territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. [...] "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 Defence ministry spokesman Eldar Sabiroglu told a news conference, according to Interfax.

27 May 2011

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/2338>

Speech by Ilham Aliyev at the official reception dedicated to the 28th May – Republic Day

[...] As far as Armenia is concerned, we will continue to make efforts to isolate Armenia from all regional projects. We do not hide it. This is our policy. Armenia has occupied our lands. This policy will continue until the occupation ends. If a peace agreement is signed, then Armenia can also be involved in regional projects. This will depend on what steps they take.

21 March 2011

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/33268>

Settlement of Karabakh conflict is most important issue for Azerbaijan – President Ilham Aliyev

[...] At present, the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is the biggest source of threat to the region. Everybody knows that we did not create this threat and Azerbaijani side suffers from this conflict most of all. I am confident that the issue will be resolved and the territorial integrity will be restored. There is no and cannot be any other way to resolve this issue. **The Azerbaijani state and people will never allow the establishment of a second Armenian state on Azerbaijani territory. Nagorno Karabakh will never be independent.** The people currently living in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Azerbaijanis, who must go back to Nagorno Karabakh, have to live in conditions of autonomy. This is a well-known approach in the world practice and all issues have to be resolved with a status of autonomy within a united Azerbaijan state. Once again I want to say that Azerbaijan will never retreat from this principled position", - Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said.

17 March 2011

Source: <http://www.todayszaman.com/news-238515-azerbaijan-vows-to-shot-down-armenian-planes-over-nagorno-karabakh.html>

Zaman: Azerbaijan vows to shot down Armenian planes over Nagorno-Karabakh

Azerbaijan has warned Armenia in a strongly-worded statement that it will not shun in shooting down its planes if the country advances its plans to complete an airport in occupied Azerbaijani territories. Head of Azerbaijani State Civil Aviation Administration, Arif Mammadov, raspigly warned Armenia while speaking to reporters on Wednesday that any airplane taking off from the airport which is under construction in the Nagorno-Karabakh, which is occupied by Armenian military in early 1990s, will be destroyed by Azerbaijani armed forces.

Armenia has occupied Nagorno-Karabakh in early 1990s, predominantly populated by ethnic Armenians, and seven adjacent regions to the disputed territory despite the fact that no Armenian population lived in this provinces. **16 years of mediation by Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) Minsk Group has yielded no results and thus increasing the possibility of military confrontation more than ever.** The region has already become a usual showcase of border skirmishes, leaving tens of dead each year from both from Azerbaijan and Armenia. Both sides accuse each other of violating the already vulnerable cease-fire.

"Our airspace over Nagorno-Karabakh is closed and according to Azerbaijani aviation law, it is even legal to destruct the airplanes flying to this part of the country", Mammadov said. According to Mammadov, dealing with the deterrent measures, Azerbaijan already notified the situation to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Observers say Azerbaijan fears Armenia could use the airport as a base for military aircrafts during a possible armed confrontation between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The airspace over Nagorno-Karabakh is closed, as Azerbaijani authority does not control the region after since early 1990s, when the ceasefire agreement was signed with Armenia under the auspices of Russia.

ICAO has already responded to the concerns of Azerbaijan and urged the country to take precautions against any abnormal occurrences in the region.

Azerbaijan State Civil Aviation Administration responded to the ICAO that this time in cooperation with Azerbaijan Defence Ministry, that the airspace is closed and it cannot be used for any purposes. The Azerbaijani officials urged the ICAO to take appropriate measures to prevent the redundant incidents.

2 March 2011

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/32278>

Azerbaijan's Defence Minister Safar Abiyev statement at a meeting with his [Slovenian] correspondent, Mrs. Ljubitzta Jelušič

Armenia is not planning to disavow its occupational policy and in this case Azerbaijan will inevitably use its sovereign right to liberate lands, Azerbaijan's Defence Minister Safar Abiyev told at the meeting with [Slovenian] Defence Minister Mrs. Ljubitzta Jelušič. News.Az reports citing the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan. According to Abiyev, in this case, this will be a reason for growing tensions in the region. Azerbaijan's Defence Minister informed his [Slovenian] counterpart about the military and political situation in the region, the problems created by the Karabakh conflict. As a result of the meeting the Defence Ministers of Azerbaijan and [Slovenia] signed an agreement on cooperation in Defence.

14 February 2011

Source: <http://asbarez.com/93413/azerbaijan-preparing-for-war-says-Defence-minister/>

Azerbaijan Preparing For War, Says Defence Minister Safar Abiyev

BAKU (Today's Zaman)—Azerbaijan's Defence Minister Safar Abiyev told OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmen that his country is seriously preparing for war against Armenia to "liberate its territories from occupation."

"Azerbaijan is seriously preparing to liberate its territories," Abiyev reportedly told the co-chairs, the Defence ministry's press release said on Friday.

Abiyev defended his comments by referring to the traditional practice of other countries, saying that every country would act similarly in these situations. In the statement Abiyev emphasized the

necessity of implementing current international norms and provided examples of situations in which international law was successfully implemented.

Abiyev also criticized the activities of the Minsk Group and said that while diplomatic overtures of the mediators have not produced any results, Azerbaijan has not yet lost its hope in the group.

Ziyafat Asgarov, the deputy speaker of the Azerbaijani parliament, told reporters in December of last year that Azerbaijan reserves the right to liberate its occupied territories. When asked whether war was on the agenda, Asgarov said, "You will see it very soon."

Novruz Mammadov, the director of the department of foreign relations in the presidential administration of Azerbaijan, told ANS TV channel on Saturday that it is natural for Azerbaijan to intensify its war rhetoric, pointing to the failure of mediators to bring about peace in the conflict.

"The only job of the international community and OSCE Minsk Group is to make Armenia accept the proposals on the table," Mammadov said.

"It is very natural that Azerbaijan increase its military calls because we have been negotiating for many years already. Because the talks have not produced the outcome we want, the Azerbaijani president [Ilham Aliyev] is highlighting the right of Azerbaijani army to liberate our territories and this is only natural," Mammadov concluded.

14 January 2011

Source: <http://president.az/articles/1400/print?locale=en>

Closing remarks by Ilham Aliyev at a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on the results of socioeconomic development of 2010

In 2011, extensive work will be done in the area of army construction. Overall, our Defence expenditure exceeds \$3 billion. This is 30 per cent more than Armenia's total budget, which is in the range of \$2 billion. I repeat, our military spending alone constitutes \$3 billion. Of course, Azerbaijan cannot be compared to Armenia, we are a developing, modern, strong and rich country, while Armenia is in recession, a poor country dependent on foreign aid. The difference between our countries is incomparable, and it will gradually grow further. We can allocate any amount to the military, while Armenia can only provide for itself at the expense of foreign aid. This dependence, of course, manifests itself politically too. I can say that, unlike Armenia, Azerbaijan is completely independent. We have economic, political power and a strong will to conduct an independent policy. As I said earlier, in 2011 we expect to commission new Defence industry enterprises. We must try to ensure that the enterprises providing for the needs of our army and military entities are of priority importance. We must try, and we are already succeeding in that, to import the latest military equipment to Azerbaijan.

24 December 2010

Source: <http://www.president.az/articles/1318?locale=en>

Speech by Ilham Aliyev at the commissioning of a residential building for Karabakh war veterans and martyrs' families

At the same time, we are strengthening our army. We are paying great attention to army building and allocating large funds. Our army is the most powerful army in the region, and the attention being paid to army building manifests itself. Our lands have been under occupation for many years. We have been subjected to Armenian aggression. In the early 1990s, Armenia and its foreign benefactors took advantage of the instability and chaos in Azerbaijan and seized our lands. Of course, it would be impossible today. Today, Azerbaijan has the most powerful military potential. Our economic, political and military power cannot be compared to that of Armenia. But let me repeat, in the early 1990s Armenian invaders capitalized on the situation in Azerbaijan and occupied our lands.

We are trying to resolve the issue through negotiations. But, as you can see, it hasn't been possible yet. Therefore, of course, we must be prepared for all other options. The purpose in allocating significant resources to army building, taking measures to improve the professionalism of the army, conducting regular exercises, acquiring and producing new weaponry, munitions and technology in Azerbaijan is that if the negotiations prove unsuccessful, then our lands must be liberated by a military option. This is a reality, this is our most difficult problem and it must be resolved.

In the years of ceasefire, Azerbaijan has covered a long and successful road. While in the early 1990s there was relative balance in the economic or military spheres between Armenia and Azerbaijan, today we are well ahead. Azerbaijani economy accounts for 75 per cent in the South Caucasus. The financial capabilities available to us Azerbaijan us to resolve any issue in its favor. The Armenian side, of course, is well aware of this and has to reckon with this reality. It is not by chance that their hysterical actions of recent months have exposed their fear to the whole world. This is a reality, and as long as Azerbaijani lands remain under occupation, Armenia will live in fear. No-one would want a neighbor harboring evil plans. But we have no other choice. If Armenia follows international law and withdraws its forces from Azerbaijani territory, peace and calm will be established in the region. But as long as our lands are under occupation, Armenia and its leaders must know that the Azerbaijani people can at any time conduct a military operation in its own territory. These opportunities are provide for by international law.

With regard to our capabilities, as I have noted, they are growing by the day and will be even greater in the future.

11 November 2010

Source: <http://www.president.az/articles/1058?locale=en>

Aliyev at the opening ceremony of a new settlement for IDP families in the region of Agdam

Today again I would like to say it openly that we will continue our army building. We have created already a professional and strong army and purchased weaponry in large quantities. Our Army will act at any moment. We do not want to have war. But, we will never reconcile with this situation. Armenia knows and should know that our patience has also limits. Our patience is not an infinite one.

November 2010

Source: <http://www.president.az/articles/1049?locale=en>

Aliyev at the farewell at the opening of a compound composed of living mansions constructed for IDP families

Our goal is to restore international law and territorial integrity. Internationally recognized territory integrity of Azerbaijan should be restored. This constitutes our goal. We use and should use various opportunities to hit the target. This is our sovereign right. We want to solve the issue by talks and peace. However, it seems that Armenian side wishes only to delay it and a new stage in negotiation process starts again. We wait for the answer of Armenia related to the proposed issues. If there will be no positive answer, we will make, of course, changes in our policy.

Besides that, it is not a secret that we develop successfully our army building process. Our military might is increasing. Our Defence capabilities are strong. Spirit of patriotism and professionalism are at high level. I do not doubt that our Armed Forces can fulfill their task with courage and in a short period of time. I do not doubt that we will restore our territorial integrity. The truth and history demand it that way, and today, the forces balance hints at that stance.

7 November 2010

Source: <http://www.president.az/articles/1011/print?locale=en>

Aliyev at funeral of Azerbaijani soldiers,

Today is a very sad day. At the same time, this day is a glorious one. Mubariz and Farid died for their Motherland on their own soil. Having killed 5 enemy soldiers and wounded 3 of them in an uneven battle, Mubariz Ibrahimov became a martyr. Mubariz knew well that he would not come out of the battle safe and sound. However, his affection to Motherland and love to its soil, as well as his spirit of patriotism elevated him to the martyrdom. Mubariz is a role model for all the youth. [...]

We will not let Armenia to engage in imitation of negotiations. We will keep conducting talks for as much as there remains a hope for restoration of our territorial integrity through negotiations. If we notice that it is not possible, then, the Azerbaijani state will restore its territorial integrity using its military. I do not doubt that we have all the conditions necessary for it - combat preparedness, material and technical supply, sufficient weaponry and ammunitions, professional army, high morale and the will of the Azerbaijani people. We can restore our territorial integrity by military means at any moment. The enemy should know this and they do know that.

14 October 2010

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/2472>

President Ilham Aliyev at the opening of a new secondary school

Certainly, Karabakh is an ancient Azerbaijani land. Is there the word 'Karabakh' in Armenia? No! Khankendi in Karabakh was called Stepanakert in the Soviet Times. Where did Stepanakert come from? This name was taken from the name of Stepan Shaumyan. If this city had a historical past, related to Armenians, would they have given this name?! Its historical name is Khankendi. This is the reality. Our children must know this, they should know that present-day Armenia locates in ancient Azerbaijani lands. In addition, they also want to create the second state in our territory. They want to create the second Armenian state on the historical Azerbaijani lands. **We can never be able to agree on this and we will restore the territorial integrity of our country. By any way!** I do not doubt this! Today Azerbaijan is a strong state. Today Azerbaijan is able to take actions not only in the sphere of education but also in other spheres.

1 September 2010

Source: <http://www.president.az/articles/646/print?locale=en>

Speech by President Ilham Aliyev at a ceremony to inaugurate the State Flag Square

The opening of the State Flag Square is a truly historic and unforgettable event. This square is a great architectural monument in itself. The upper part of the square covers 3 hectares, while the area of the whole square is 60 hectares. State symbols of Azerbaijan – the national emblem, words of the anthem and the map of the country – are depicted here. There will also be a state flag museum here and in the center of the square there will be Azerbaijan's state flag. This is the biggest and the highest flag in the world. The flagpole is 162 meters high and it can be seen from anywhere in Baku. [...]

The establishment of such a magnificent square in our capital Baku is a truly great event. Our flag is a source of our pride. Our flag is our flesh and our heart. The state flag of Azerbaijan is hoisted in all parts of Azerbaijan. **After the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, our state flag will be hoisted in the lands still under occupation now. Our state flag will be hoisted in Nagorno-Karabakh, Khankandi and Shusha. We must and we are making this day nearer by our work.**

13 July 2010

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/19078>

President Aliyev's opening address to the Cabinet to review the first six months of 2010

"We took very important steps in the military industry in 2009. We've been strengthening our military potential. Recently we made changes to our budget, which now stands at \$15bn. We allocated an additional \$500m to military spending. And this is part of our single-minded policy. We have to focus, first and foremost, on strengthening the country's military potential, and this is what we are doing.

Azerbaijan's military spending today is \$2.15bn, which is more than the total budget of Armenia. And we've achieved the goal that we set ourselves a few years ago. This allows us to modernize our army and purchase state-of-the-art weapons and military equipment."

Our military power can play a decisive role in the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. However, we don't want this to happen. We want the issue to be solved through negotiations, through diplomatic means. But military power will strengthen our position.

We must be ready to liberate our occupied lands at any time. And I'm completely confident that Azerbaijan is capable of doing so today. We have considerably increased our military power...

Azerbaijan must make it to the ranks of the developed countries in terms of economic progress, and this is our goal. We are a modern country. This is why the first stage of the war decides nothing. It only proves that the people of Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani state will never accept this situation and will restore their territorial integrity by any means."

7 July 2010

Source: <http://asbarez.com/83135/%E2%80%98last-chance-for-armenia%E2%80%99-threatens-aliyev/>

President Ilham Aliyev Tuesday at the inauguration of a center for the "Azeri Community of Nagorno-Karabakh,"

"This is the last chance for Armenia to leave the occupied lands voluntarily for the sake of its own future and its own security."...

The threat comes two days after Aliyev held talks with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who urged both sides to refrain from "use of force or the intention of use of force" to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

In his lengthy remarks, Aliyev said that Azerbaijan had accepted the updated Madrid Principles drafted by the OSCE Minks Group that is mediating the peace process.

He said the time had come for Armenia to adopt the principles, accusing Yerevan of deliberately delaying the process.

The Azeri President said his country's growing economic and military potential and the strengthening of its position in the international arena will help it restore its territorial integrity.

"Today our army is able to solve any task," the Azerbaijani President said.

7 July 2010

Source: <http://www.panorama.am/en/politics/2010/07/07/aliyev/>

Aliyev confesses, pledges to continue provocations,

"There is cease-fire agreement. But today there are no peacekeeping forces in the region, there are Armenian and Azerbaijani soldiers. The distance between them sometimes makes 40-50 meters. No

one can provide guarantees that undesirable incidents will not occur there. How long should Azerbaijani people wait? For how long it should accept this unfairness? It could be explained somehow when there was military balance between Armenia and Azerbaijan. But today there is no such balance. And they are well aware of it," Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said in a statement in Baku Tuesday.

Ilham Aliyev here tried to imply something and give spirit to those under his command, however, willy-nilly he confessed that the incident of June 18-19 night near the village of Chaylu was provoked by "impatient Azerbaijani people", explaining that "there is lack of military balance."

24 June 2010

Source: <http://president.gov.az/articles/279?locale=en>

Speech by President Ilham Aliyev at a joint battle exercises of the Armed Forces

Dear servicemen!

Let me congratulate you and all the people of Azerbaijan on the forthcoming Day of the Armed Forces and wish you success in your service.

The Azerbaijani army is getting stronger by the day. The process of army construction in Azerbaijan is progressing well, which enables us to build up our military power. Army construction is a very important issue for any country. Of course, for a country at war it must be a priority. And it is – army construction in Azerbaijan is top priority. We have been suffering from aggression for many years, our lands are under occupation. We must be prepared to free our native lands from occupiers at any moment. To do that, along with political and diplomatic efforts, we must have a strong army, and this process is successfully under way. The level of the Azerbaijani army is very high today.

The professionalism and combat-readiness of our army are growing, the morale is high. At the same time, our military infrastructure is strengthening, and major steps have been taken in this direction in recent years. The state allocates sufficient funds to address the needs of our army. Let's just look at one figure: in the last several years, to be exact, in the last seven years our military expenditure increased more than 13 times. Azerbaijan's military expenditure for 2010 is \$2,150 billion, which exceeds Armenia's total budget. Several years ago we set a goal: Azerbaijan's military expenses must exceed Armenia's total expenditure. And this goal has already been made. We will continue to build up our military power and purchase the required arms, ammunition and hardware.

Additional steps will be taken in Azerbaijan in the area of military production. A lot of attention has been paid to this sphere lately. At present, there are 21 military enterprises, a military plant in Azerbaijan, 30 manufacturing facilities have been set up. We must ensure that all the hardware, arms and ammunition required for the armed forces are produced in Azerbaijan. We will further step up work in this direction. Of course, to do that financial resources and economic power are required, and we are working on that. [...]

The financial crisis which hit the world in 2009-2010 has almost bypassed Azerbaijan because the steps we have taken saved our country and population from its bitter implications. Azerbaijan is optimistic of the future and is stepping up its military power. I have no doubt that we will meet our

economic, social and political goals. Our goals are to further strengthen our independence, conduct an independent policy and solve the tasks our country is facing. The most important of them is the liberation of our lands from occupiers. As you may know, talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia have been under way for years. Mediators are also playing a role in the talks. Despite this, the issue remains unresolved although there are decisions and resolutions of international organizations supporting our position, the position of justice. Practically all leading international organizations have passed decisions on the issue, but the occupying state ignores them. Under such circumstances Azerbaijan has two choices: either to continue the talks – we are ready for that provided that the talks will yield fruit, or choose another way. We must be prepared for any option, which is confirmed by the numerous statements I have made in the last several years.

We have never rejected a military option although we are in favor of peace talks. The talks have been under way for 20 years and Azerbaijan is demonstrating a constructive approach. But there is no result. How long should the people of Azerbaijan wait? How long should we wait for justice to be restored? The Armenian side ignores the norms of international law and flouts the decisions of international organizations. The patience of the Azerbaijani people is not unlimited.

In recent years we have been attaching special importance to army construction, and the figures I have provided here are only a small fraction of the work we are doing. Our key objective is to restore out territorial integrity by all means.

Let me repeat: we want to resolve the issue through talks. But if that proves impossible, the Azerbaijani army, all the armed forces must be ready to liberate our lands on the order of the commander-in-chief.

We don't have claims on other countries' lands although the present-day Republic of Armenia was founded on historically Azerbaijani lands. We must restore the territorial integrity of our own country. This is our natural right. The most fundamental human rights of one million Azerbaijani citizens have been breached. Azerbaijanis have been subjected to ethnic cleansing. Hundreds thousands of our citizens have been driven out of Upper Qarabag and adjacent districts. How long should we tolerate that? [...]

We must step up our military power, and we are doing that. Today the Azerbaijani army is prepared to fulfill all the tasks with dignity. I want to reiterate: combat-readiness, professionalism, patriotic spirit, military infrastructure, state attention and respect for the army – all these factors will enable us to free our lands from occupiers....

Today's exercises have demonstrated the power of the Azerbaijani army and armed forces again. The exercises have been held jointly by the Defence Ministry, Interior Troops and Border Troops, and we will rise to fight for the motherland, for our lands together. All the people of Azerbaijan will be mobilized. All the armed forces will be mobilized. With this aim the armed forces will coordinate their activities. The key objective of the exercises is to liberate our lands from occupiers. The exercises have been very successful. Of course, they will be thoroughly analyzed. It will take some time. But the first impression is very positive. I can also see that all the tasks have been fulfilled and our armed forces have displayed great professionalism.

28 May 2010

Source: http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenia_Azerbaijan_Mark_Republic_Day/2055860.html

Aliyev at Armenian, Azerbaijani Republic Day

... Aliyev repeated his threats that the Azerbaijani army is capable of restoring his country's territorial integrity "at any time" and "within a short term."

23 April 2010

Source: <http://www.azertag.com/jsp/shownews.jsp?id=644&cdate=2010-04-23&lang=en>

President Ilham Aliyev holds military build-up meeting

Today's meeting is of great significance. It is no secret that along with other spheres Azerbaijan places a particular emphasis on its military. It is our only approach since Azerbaijan is at war. The war is not over. The first phase of war was just completed. We must do it so that we could liberate our lands by military means at any moment

Military spending has increased ten-fold over the past 5-6 years, Defence industry is developing, military equipment has been bought because it is our natural right... Today, Azerbaijan's army is stronger and more professional than Armenian army in all fields.

24 March 2010

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/11936>

Aliyev during festivities to mark the Novruz holiday

The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan has never been a subject of discussion. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be restored. The occupying troops must be withdrawn from all the occupied lands and the Azerbaijani citizens must return there. All communications must open. Azerbaijanis must return to Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenians and Azerbaijanis must live in conditions of high autonomy. The future that can happen either tomorrow or in a hundred years or may never happen will show the nature of this status. This means that the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh outside Azerbaijan is absolutely unacceptable. This is our position of principle. Nagorno-Karabakh will never be independent. Azerbaijan will never recognize it. The world community will also not recognize a formation that has not been recognized by us.

I think today there are good opportunities for the resolution of the issue. Azerbaijan will intensify diplomatic efforts, it takes a constructive position during negotiations and at the same time it uses its potential to grow in strength. This consolidation is observed in the economic, political and military sphere. We do not conceal it. We live in conditions of war. It is not by accident that a greater part of our state expenditure goes on defence. This is natural. There will be no need for large defence costs after the Karabakh conflict is settled. But today there is a great need for it. We will raise our defence costs every year, strengthen the army, purchase new arms and ensure that the armed forces of

Azerbaijan could fulfil the order of the supreme commander within a short period of time, and at any minute. This is our sovereign right and we do not need advisers in this issue.

4 March 2010

Source: <http://www.un-az.org/undp/bulnews57/nk8.php>

Ilham Aliyev: Karabakh Conflict to be settled when Armenia feels Azerbaijan's power,

He said that diplomatic efforts are not enough for the conflict settlement. "Norms of international law are violated in the world negatively affecting the conflict settlement. Power is the key factor and we will achieve that," said Aliyev.

6 February 2010

Source: <http://www.euronews.net/2010/02/02/interview-with-ilham-aliyev-president-of-azerbaijan/>

Aliyev interview with Euronews

Euronews: You've been quoted as saying that if the Armenian side does not withdraw its troops from the seven occupied territories of Azerbaijan and return this land, then Azerbaijan would take those provinces back through a military offensive. Do you maintain this position?

Aliyev: This is a fundamental right of Azerbaijan, as I mentioned before, given to us by international organizations, including the United Nations. We cannot afford the conflict to be in such a frozen situation for another 15 years.

Euronews: It has already been frozen for 16 years...

Aliyev: Of course, so there should be an end to that. We want to put an end to that by peaceful means, and we are working on that, but at the same time, our patience also has limits. I hope that what has been agreed basically before and what we are planning to agree during 2010 will put an end to conflict and peace will come to the Caucasus.

1 January 2010

Source: http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijans_Unsinkable_General/1983345.html

Aliyev's traditional New Year's address

But this year, President Aliyev's message was one of war. He warned that "Azerbaijan is strengthening its military potential," which he claimed is "increasing day by day" and is "being strengthened in terms of weapons and equipment." He then affirmed explicitly that Baku has the "military effectiveness" and will "use all the means at our disposal to solve the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

Some older threat statements

20 November 2009

Source:

http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijan_Says_Karabakh_Talks_Last_Chance_For_Deal/1884135.html

Aliyev during preparations for the Munich conference on security

Azerbaijan said upcoming talks with Armenia on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict would be "decisive" and warned that its troops were ready to use force to take back the rebel region if they fail, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said.

"If that meeting ends without result, then our hopes in negotiations will be exhausted and then we are left with no other option," he said, saying Azerbaijan had the right to use force to take back the mountain region.

"Azerbaijan is spending billions on buying new weapons, hardware, strengthening its position on the line of contact," he said at a meeting with Azerbaijani refugees from the conflict.

"We are doing that because we never excluded and we do not exclude that option. **We have the full right to liberate our land by military means.**"

17 November 2009

Source:

http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijani_President_Criticizes_Armenia_On_Karabakh_Talks/1882645.html

Speaking at the opening of an apartment building in Baku for 369 internally displaced families,

He said Armenian negotiators "keep dragging their feet over issues and prolonging the negotiations." But Aliyev said such a tactic "will not give them anything," and that Armenia's goal is to "populate our lands with Armenians, but they don't have enough people.

Aliyev said that Armenia's population has fallen to 1.7 million (contradicting an official estimate of 3.26 million in 2008.) "It will be difficult for them to defend their front line," he said. In contrast, he continued, "Azerbaijan's opportunities, economy, and demography are growing. Our population is already 9 million. In five or six years we are going to be 10 million."

3 March 2008

Source: <http://www.rferl.org/content/article/1079580.html>

Aliyev to reporters on a trip to western Azerbaijan

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has used his country's mounting oil wealth to stoke tensions further. He has funnelled more than \$1 billion into bolstering the country's Defences. On a trip to western Azerbaijan on March 3, Aliyev told reporters that diplomatic efforts "are not enough," adding that, "to resolve the Karabakh conflict, we have to be strong, we have to be ready to liberate our lands by military means, and we are ready."

4-10 February 2008

Source: <http://www.rferl.org/content/article/1079457.html>

Aliyev to EU-Officials touring the South Caucasus

...heated words from President Ilham Aliyev, who told them Azerbaijan is ready to "wage war" with neighboring Armenia over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

22 June 2007

Source: <http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/22662/>

Azerbaijani President calls 'to attack Armenia in all directions

"Azerbaijan will exert pressure on Armenia unless the seized lands are liberated," Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said when addressing today the graduates of the Supreme Military School.

"Azerbaijan must attack Armenia in all directions. The attack must be political, economic and diplomatic," he said.

"Nagorno Karabakh will never join Armenia and will never be independent," he said.

"Yerevan drags out time hoping for success. In my opinion, this wish is conditioned by career ambitions of some politicians. I do not believe that Armenia is interested in protracting the settlement process," Aliyev said.

Noting the necessity of creation of a military-industrial multiplex, Aliyev said that in the end of the year Azerbaijan will launch its first military output. "War is not over and Azerbaijan will strengthen its army," he said reminding that his country's military budget is equal to Armenia's state budge.