

TO THE WORLD POETS, TO THE WORLD LITERARY FIGURES!

Dear friends, dear colleagues!

On the morning of September 27, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia fired on Azerbaijani settlements, as well as military positions from several directions, using various weapons, including heavy artillery. As a result, there were casualties, great losses and wounded among the civilian population and the military forces of Azerbaijan. At present, the Azerbaijani army is trying to destroy the enemy's military positions, strike at it and conduct counter-offensive operations.

In general, I would like you to know that recently Armenia's military provocations against Azerbaijan have become unvarying. Now, I need to remind you of some of them and many points in the history of the conflict.

Let me start with the recent date. One month ago, in August, a destabilizing group of the Armenian armed forces was discovered and neutralized in Azerbaijan. The investigation showed that this planned sabotage group came to Azerbaijan to commit acts of terrorism, and the Armenian state has plans for continued aggression against Azerbaijan.

Two months ago, in July, Azerbaijani servicemen and civilians were killed as a result of artillery fire in the direction of the Tovuz region of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

On July 4, 2017, the Armenian armed forces launched an attack and fired mortars, grenades and large-caliber weapons at the village of Alkhanli in the Fizuli region of Azerbaijan. Consequently, the grandmother and her 2-year-old granddaughter Zahra were killed. There were many wounded among the civilian population.

Four years ago, in April 2016, another large-scale military attack by Armenia took place, and owing to countermeasures by the Azerbaijani army, Armenian military units were destroyed completely.

My dear colleagues, the chronology of this attack can be significantly increased, because almost every day Armenia fires weapons and shots in direction of Azerbaijan. But I wonder what the problem is? Why is Armenia doing this? Why has the world community, the UN and relevant structures turned a blind eye on this issue for more than 30 years?

Let me give you a brief reference on the spot. At a time when the former Soviet Union was collapsed in the late 1980s and the central Moscow government was unwilling and incompetent, as well as highly unfair against Azerbaijan, the

separatist, nationalist Armenians have taken a decision to attach the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, historically and legally integral part of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic (It is a part of Karabakh, the land of Azerbaijan) to Armenia. At the same time, 250,000 Azerbaijani Turks, as well as 18,000 Kurds and 1,000 Russians from 172 settlements in the 8,000-square-kilometer territory of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic were forcibly deported from their homes, lands, and permanent residences to Azerbaijan.

In 1988-1993, in total 785 000 people from the Nagorno-Karabakh's (Highland Garabagh) cities and districts such as, Shusha, Khankendi, Khojali, Asgaran, Agdara and Hadrut, integral parts of Azerbaijan, then from 7 districts around the Nagorno-Karabakh, concretely from Lachin, Kalbajar, Agdam, Fizuli, Gubadli, Zangilan and Jabrayil became refugees. The total number of people expelled from Armenian and Nagorno-Karabakh exceeded 1,000,000; that is, at that time, 1 out of every 7 Azerbaijanis became a refugee. During these years, as a result of the aggression of Armenia and their supporters, about 30,000 Azerbaijanis were killed, 100,000 were wounded, and 50,000 became disabled persons.

During the conflict, 4852 Azerbaijanis (including 54 children, 323 women, 410 elderly people) were missing, 1368 people (including 169 children, 338 women, 286 elderly people) were released from captivity, but 783 people (including 18 children, 46 women, 69 old men) are still in captivity in Armenia. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, 439 of those people died in captivity.

During this conflict, the Armenian state committed genocide in Khojaly, the ancient settlement of Karabakh, as in Holocaust and Katyn for its horrors against Azerbaijanis. On the night of February 25-26, 1992, Armenian military units brutally killed 613 Khojaly residents, including 63 children, 106 women, and 70 elderly people, 8 families were completely destroyed; as a result, 25 children lost both parents and 130 children lost one parent; 487 people were wounded, 275 people were taken prisoner, the fate of 150 of them, including 68 women and 26 children, is still unknown.

Despite the fact that many states and international organizations have tried to resolve this conflict over these years, but to no avail. In particular, the OSCE Minsk Group, founded in 1992 and co-chaired by the United States, Russia and France since 1997, has made numerous "tourist visits" to Azerbaijan, to Garabagh - its occupied part, as well as to Armenia. Attempts were made to maintain a fragile and false peace, which did not promise anything good and was violated by the Armenian armed forces almost every day, and each time the parties were given recommendations on the importance of peace.

In 1993, the UN Security Council adopted Resolutions 822, 853, 874, and 884 on the conflict, each of which called for the immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from Azerbaijani territory. Although the Armenian state, relying on its great

patrons, did not pay any attention to these international legal documents, and the international community did not hurry to implement its resolution, it demonstrated a double standard.

And here is the result. Armenia, which has been using temporary peace as a toy and means to maintain the occupied lands for 30 years, has launched new military operations.

Dear colleagues, I do not want to fatigue you with further special comments. If my letter attracts your attention and you do not want to ignore what I have said above, I would like you to know one more matter. As you know, the countries of which you are a citizen recognized the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which covers an area of 86,600 square kilometers, including Nagorno-Karabakh, occupied by Armenia and its patrons, and seven adjacent regions. And today, if the Azerbaijani people, frustrated by the false promises of international organizations and the hypocritical game of peace in Armenia, rise up to liberate their lands by military means, the truth and the justice will be on their side. In fact, although we have not lost faith in a peaceful solution, we have never ruled out military means. But today, we are being pushed into the military in a different way. Because by committing new provocations, the political and military leadership of Armenia, in order to divert the attention of the population from the existing serious social, economic and political problems, wants to expand it, occupy new lands, and seems to have convinced itself of this dream. On the other hand, as you know, Armenia carries out its latest attacks not only from occupied and de jure Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh (and surrounding regions), but also from Armenian territory, thus forcing Azerbaijan to respond as an attacker on Armenian territory, including the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which includes Russia, to push for active military operations.

But they will not be able to do that.

Today's Azerbaijan is not the isolated and weakened Azerbaijan of thirty years ago. Today, Azerbaijan is strong. Every representative of the Azerbaijani people considers him a soldier and obeys the orders of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief. Today, the Armenian government will never be able to present this war on a religious level as usual, because Azerbaijan, unlike mono-ethnic and mono-confessional Armenia, is a peaceful, hospitable country where all religions and denominations, as well as multi-ethnic and multi-ethnic groups live in peace.

However, the thirty years of silence that I emphasized in the appeal should not be confused with the hypocritical and aggressive interpretations of the Armenian state. Ask yourself: what would you do to a robber who broke into your home, killed your loved ones, and killed you?

For thirty years, we believed (perhaps naively) that he would drop his weapon.

Dear friends, dear colleagues!

We are all writers. No matter how much writers and poets write about war, it is a peacetime event, that is, it is very difficult and useless to imagine them writing poetry under bombardment. I have two intentions in addressing this appeal to you - each of you will hear my voice, the voice of a poet, whose territory has been occupied, innocent people killed, villages burned, people taken prisoner, and the material and spiritual, as well as historical heritage of occupied lands has been destroyed. You will hear the truth, you will talk about it with your Armenian colleagues in your countries, and through them, as well as through the creative and media organizations you represent you will ask why the scatter-brained leadership of Armenia is dragging its people into the abyss. You will say no as much as you can to the participation of your countries in the armament of the separatist, occupying Armenian state.

Many of you have been to Azerbaijan. I believe many of you will visit Azerbaijan in future. You have communicated with warm, friendly, peaceful and hospitable Azerbaijanis. People with these qualities, which I have listed above, are being dragged into war. The possibility of a major war in the Caucasus is growing, and Armenia will bear all the responsibility for this.

There is a very popular and beloved song in Azerbaijan. The words belong to Nabi Khazri, a well-known representative of XX century Azerbaijani poetry. There is a couplet like this:

**“Brave men and brave spirits know
It is not equal to the homeland,
Even if everyone shares his life,
he will not share his homeland...”**

At the end of my speech, I would like to recall a poem by the great Polish poet Zbigniew Herbert, which was dedicated to the annexation of Poland by Nazi Germany and to Jozef Chapski, artist and art critic:

“But the children of this land will gather at night,
lovers of freedom will take the ridiculous slingshot,
they will lubricate their museum weapons,
they will take a vow on the bird and the two colors of the flag.

Then, as usual, we will see the explosion redness,
and the boys coming up to us from the pictures,
the tired and sleepless commanders,
the yellow-rusty desert of defeat in the background,
and the only vigilant thought - help will not come ...

Hey, occupier, this helpless homeland of mine will receive you,
It will give you a piece of land under the willow, and he will put you to sleep.
let those who come after us know again
to the most difficult of arts - that is, to the art of forgiveness ... ”

Today, I do not want our world to behave as a world that was too late and
indifferent to allow the annexation of Poland and the Czech Republic by the Nazis.

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