



**OFFICE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT**



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It should be acknowledged that the mere presence of Azerbaijani servicemen in the immediate vicinity of civilian communities is a violation of the right of people; residents of the communities are living under constant threat to their lives.

https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1990

The windows of the tractor of a resident carrying out agricultural work were shattered by the Azerbaijani targeted shootings in the direction of Khachik village: An alarming-call addressed to the Human Rights Defender

Yesterday's Azerbaijani shootings in the direction of Khachik village of Areni community were targeted, and shattered the glass of back and side window of the tractor belonging to a civilian conducting agricultural work.

At the moment of the shootings, the resident of the community was in the tractor and was cultivating the land. It is evident that the Azerbaijani servicemen were aware that the peaceful civilian was engaging in agricultural work.

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=962372111028661&id=100017676420633

It is necessary not to legitimize their presence and acts with announcements, but to take necessary and urgent measure to remove them from the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia

The official, acting as the Secretary of the Security Council, who made a surprising public announcement, is obliged to clarify (at least)

1. How does he envisage the free and safe movement of people and goods on the Goris-Kapan road under the conditions of Azerbaijani border and customs control?

2. Is he aware that these functions imply restrictions on the rights of the people of Armenia by the Azerbaijani law enforcement agencies? Such as subjecting people to fines, initiating criminal cases, apprehending and arresting people, subjecting them to searches, etc.

3. How do Armenians (the residents of the villages in the vicinity of that sector of the road) or foreigners traveling on the Goris-Kapan road defend their rights (for example, to whom and to what procedures will they apply)? How does he envisage the application of the Azerbaijani legislation to them?

4. How will he ensure that the Azerbaijani border and customs bodies are held responsible and are punished if they violate the rights of people?

https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1996

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The servicemen of the State Border Service of Azerbaijan, who brutally tortured Armenian servicemen, are the ones who will carry out border control on the Goris-Kapan road. This particularly refers to the atrocities that occurred in October 2020 in Kovsakan.

The report of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia which was published recently demonstrates that the servicemen of the State Border Service of Azerbaijan tortured and unlawfully killed people, and then tied and dragged their bodies by cars. They photographed and filmed these acts, and then celebrated their “victory” with unmasked faces in the Kovsakan School after Tatul Krpeyan (being certain that they will remain unpunished).

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How is he going to organize the life of the residents of the communities in the vicinity of the road, as they will appear in the Azerbaijani customs and border control zone?

It appears that the Azerbaijani State Border Service and customs bodies are reminded by Armenia that payments should be levied on Armenian residents and foreigners traveling on the Goris-Kapan road and other interventions be made on their rights.

In this case, the official who made such an announcement might as well explain the amount of fees and charges the Azerbaijani legislation envisages, what rights people have during these payments? Will those payments be made in Armenian Drams or a foreign currency? What is the procedure of filing complaints, and how will he protect the rights of the citizens? How is he going to organize the life of the residents of the communities in the vicinity of the road, as they will appear in the Azerbaijani customs and border control zone?

Moreover, as a result of delimitation and demarcation process of the border, the Azerbaijani authorities might be deprived of their authority over that road, since the international human rights mechanisms provide that opportunity.

https://ombuds.am/en_us/site/ViewNews/1998

Serious humanitarian issues have arisen as a result of Azerbaijani unlawful acts: The results of today's fact-finding activities of the Office of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia

Throughout the day, the working group sent by the Human Rights Defender of Armenia to Syunik province conducted urgent fact-finding work, primarily related to the unlawful Azerbaijan border and customs control on the Goris-Kapan road. The effects of the unlawful Azerbaijani acts on human rights, as well as the right of the residents of the communities located in the vicinity of the customs and border control were studied.

The obtained evidence confirms that there have been gross violations of human rights in Syunik province, including those of the residents of the communities (children, persons with disabilities, older persons, etc.), and serious humanitarian issues. A very uncertain and unstable situation has arisen for the people.

Firstly, the communication between the Goris, Vorotan, Shurnukh, Bardzravan and other civilian communities have become extremely difficult due to the ban on road traffic by the Azerbaijani unlawful acts.

Serious restrictions on access to food (bread, other foodstuffs), basic necessities, and medical care and services have already arisen in these areas, putting people at an imminent risk of a humanitarian crisis.

The situation that is created grossly violates the interest of the child, and the absolute humanitarian right to primary medical care

The fact that armed and masked Azerbaijani servicemen are present on the road, which in itself is a violation of the right to life of the residents and a real threat to their security.

These rights are recognized internationally and are guaranteed by the Constitution of Armenia. The mentioned violations grossly violate the Delimitation and Demarcation of State Boundaries: Challenges and Solutions guidelines published by the OSCE on December 19, 2017.

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It is evident to me that, in fact, under the guise of unblocking the roads, the Azerbaijani authorities are pursuing a targeted policy of isolating the civilian residential communities of Armenia and causing humanitarian issues: In Goris-Kapan road of Syunik province the so-called Azerbaijani border and customs checkpoints, which were announced on 11 November, 2021, has nothing to do with its announced goals.

This is substantiated by concrete steps taken by Azerbaijani authorities and their consequences.

First, the facts demonstrate that the real reason and source of all these incidents, is the Azerbaijani state-sponsored policy of Armenophobia and enmity.

Moreover, it is evident that the Azerbaijani authorities are well aware that the blockade of the Goris-Kapan road or the so-called Azerbaijani border and customs checkpoints will cause violations of the rights of the civilian population and severe humanitarian issues, including the isolation of a number of civilian communities.; they are taking these steps to purposefully expand them.

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