Armenian National Committee of America
1711 N Street NW | Washington DC 20036 | Tel: (202) 775-1918 | Fax: (202) 775-1918 anca@anca.org | www.anca.org

Report: Azerbaijan Destabilizing the Caucasus

In moves that have destabilized the region and undermined prospects for a lasting peace, Azerbaijan has, in recent months, matched its massive military build-up with a dramatic escalation of threats and outright acts of aggression against both Armenia and Artsakh. The growing threat presented by Baku is illustrated by the examples listed below as well as the attached charts and timeline.

- **Promotion of Azerbaijani Soldier for Killing Armenian in Sleep:** On August 31, 2012, Azerbaijani President Aliyev immediately pardoned a convicted axe-murderer Ramil Safarov upon his transfer to Azerbaijan from Hungary, despite agreeing to keep him incarcerated. Safarov was convicted in Budapest of axing to death an Armenian NATO Partnership for Peace participant in his sleep in 2004. He has never showed remorse for the murder. Immediately after his pardon, Safarov received a promotion in the Azerbaijani military, an apartment, and years of back pay for time spent in prison. The pardon was condemned around the world, including by President Obama, the European Parliament, OSCE, Council of Europe, and NATO.

- **Ceasefire Violations Increasing:** Azerbaijan's ceasefire violations along the Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh border have increased by over 2100% between 2006 and 2011, (Source: Nagorno Karabakh Republic Defense Ministry). According to these figures, Azerbaijan has already violated the ceasefire regime 6,000 times during the first 5 months in 2012.[1] (See Graph A)

- **Attacks into Armenia More Frequent:** Azerbaijan is increasingly attacking not only the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, but also the Republic of Armenia, including a brazen and fatal incursion into Armenian territory (Tavoush region) just hours before the June 2012 visit to Armenia by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.[2]

- **Baku's Refusal to Remove Snipers:** According to a November 2011 Radio Free Europe report, "International mediators have repeatedly called for both Armenian and Azerbaijani forces to withdraw snipers from the area. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon added his voice to those calls in a statement issued in September 2010." Armenia and the Nagorno Karabakh Republic have agreed, but Azerbaijan continues to oppose the proposal.[3]

- **Azerbaijani Sniper School:** On May 2011, Eurasia.net reported that a dedicated sniper school has been established in Azerbaijan. According to this news outlet, "The Baku-based Military Patriotic Sports-Technical Society, has already endorsed Aliyev's call [that four-year state youth programs should prioritize military training] with a 45-day-long course that teaches Azerbaijanis over the age of 15 essential combat techniques, including how to be snipers."[4]

- **Azerbaijan's Military Budget Increasing:** The most recent SIPRI figures (2012) show an increase in well over $2 billion a year in Azerbaijan's annual military spending over the past decade. (See Graph B)

- **"Our Main Enemies are Armenians of the World,"** stated Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev during a February 28, 2012 national address that was posted on his official website.[5]

- **Threat to Shoot Down Civilian Airplane**: Azerbaijan, as recently as July of 2012,[6] has repeatedly threatened to shoot down any civilian planes that fly from Armenia to Nagorno Karabakh. In March 2011, Radio Free Europe reported the Azerbaijan Civil Aviation Administration Director's intention to commit a terrorist act and shoot down civilian planes flying over Nagorno Karabakh.[7]

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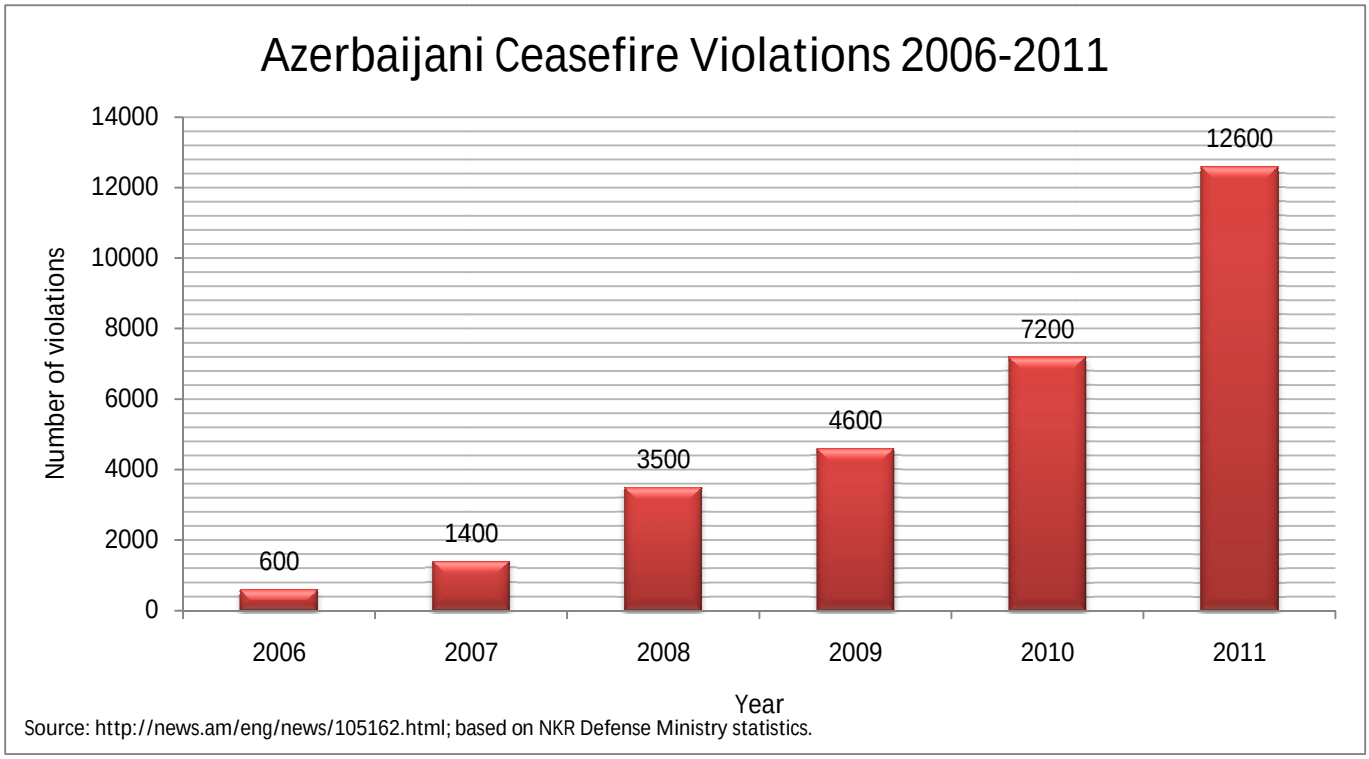
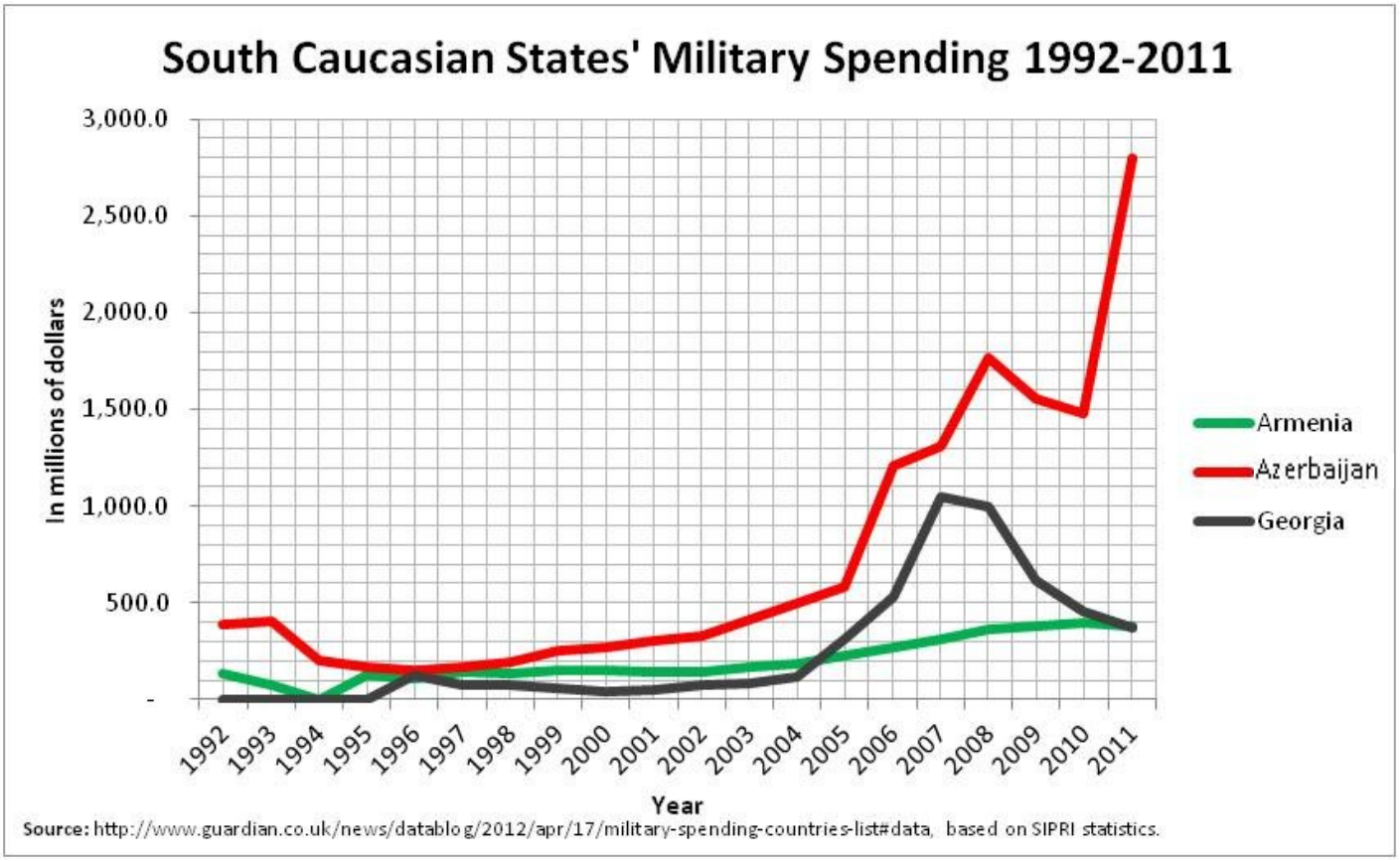
[1] http://news.am/eng/news/105162.html
[2] http://www.rferl.org/content/clinton-armenia-azerbaijan-georgia-tour/24602702.html
[3] http://www.rferl.org/content/snipers_karabakh_armenia_azerbaijan/24402333.html
[4] http://www.eurasianet.org/node/63468
[5] http://en.president.az/articles/4423
[6] http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/24647074.html
[7] http://www.rferl.org/content/azerbaijan_threatens_to_shoot_down_karabakh_flights/2340659.html



Graph A



Graph B

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A Timeline of Azerbaijan's Threats and Acts of Aggression 2008-2012

September 13, 2012	European Parliament passes resolution condemning Azerbaijan for pardoning an axe-murderer, Ramil Safarov, who confessed and was convicted for the 2004 killing of an Armenian in his sleep, when both of them were in Budapest for a NATO Partnership for Peace language program. http://www.rferl.org/content/safarov-azerbaijan-armenia-european-parliament/24707701.html
September 7, 2012	AP reports that President Aliyev defiantly defends his decision to pardon the axe-murderer stating, "the decision to pardon him is correct from the legal viewpoint and is well-founded." Meanwhile the spokesman for the United National High Commissioner for Human Rights condemned the pardon explaining,"The crime was very clearly and, by his own confession, ethnically motivated. . . . Ethnically motivated hate crimes of this gravity should be deplored and properly punished – not publicly glorified by leaders and politicians . . . ." http://news.yahoo.com/azerbaijans-president-defends-killers-pardon-133853490.html http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/2012/09/release-of-an-arzebaijani-soldier-who-killed-an-armenian-causes-concern/
September 5, 2012	Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chair John Kerry condemns Azerbaijan for promotion of axe-murderer, stating "I am shocked and appalled that Azerbaijan not only welcomed Safarov home, but pardoned, promoted, and treated him as a hero. This needlessly provocative act endangers the fragile peace between these countries and damages the government of Azerbaijan's credibility." http://www.foreign.senate.gov/press/chair/release/kerry-statement-on-release-of-ramil-safarov
September 5, 2012	Thorbjon Jagland, the Council of Europe's secretary general joined worldwide condemnation of Azerbaijan explaining, "I find it unacceptable that a convicted murderer is welcomed as a hero . . . I reject the prospect of a world whose moral code begins to fray, where respect for human dignity is denied." http://www.armenialiberty.org/archive/english/20120905/1089/1089.html?id=24698903
August 31, 2012	President Obama condemns Azerbaijan for pardoning an axe-murderer, who was extradited from Hungary under the pretext that he would continue to serve his life sentence in Azerbaijan. Ramil Safarov was immediately pardoned upon his transfer to Azerbaijan, promoted to the rank of major, granted an apartment, and given back pay for the years he served in prison. http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/08/31/statement-nsc-spokesman-tommy-vietor-azerbaijan-s-decision-pardon-ramil-

August 14, 2012	RFE reports, "Azerbaijan renewed threats to end the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by force . . . ." Azerbaijan's Defense Minister warns that a new war was drawing closer every day. http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/24676913.html
July 16, 2012	RFE reports, "Azerbaijan appeared to have renewed on Monday its threats to shoot down civilian aircraft that would carry out flights between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh . . . ." http://www.armenialiberty.org/articleprintview/24647074.html
July 14, 2012	The Nagorno Karabakh Republic (NKR) reports 250 instances of ceasefire violation by Azerbaijani forces in the past week. http://news.am/eng/news/113390.html
July 12, 2012	RFE reports that unlike Armenia, Azerbaijan continues to reject the OSCE's calls to pull back its snipers. Azerbaijan has also rejected the OSCE's calls to establish a mechanism to investigate ceasefire violations. Instead, Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister reiterated previous threats stating, "If Armenia does not want its soldiers to die, then it must liberate Azerbaijan's lands." http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/24643482.html
*July 7, 2012	Contract serviceman **Levon Tamrazyan, 39, was killed by an Azeri sniper** on Armenia's northeastern border. http://www.bakutoday.net/armenian-soldier-killed-by-azeri-sniper-shot.html
June 25, 2012	Just days after President Obama, French President Hollande, and Russian President Putin issued a declaration expressing a "resolute commitment to a peaceful settlement" of the conflict and calling on the parties to "refrain from maximalist positions in the negotiations, respect the 1994 ceasefire agreement, and abstain from hostile rhetoric that increases tension," President Aliyev stokes the embers of war again stating, "The war is not over yet. Only its first stage is. Over the past few years our military spending has increased more than 20 times. . . . This is 50 per cent more than Armenia's total expenditure." http://en.president.az/articles/5306
June 19, 2012	Member of the European Parliament Charles Tannock writes in an Op Ed, "among Armenia and Azerbaijan, only Azerbaijan has an interest in mobilizing troops at the risk of escalating to an outright actual war . . . . [O]nly Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and his government openly and repeatedly threaten their neighbor with war, whereas Armenia does not and would logically have no such interest." http://www.euractiv.com/global-europe/europe-risky-tolerance-war-escal-analysis-513406
June 19, 2012	Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ) warn of Azerbaijani aggression and urge the nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan Richard Morningstar to confront it during his confirmation hearings. Morningstar vows to "urge the Azerbaijani government to show restraint in its rhetoric and to prepare its people for peace, not war." http://anca.org/press_releases/press_releases.php?prid=2149

*June 18, 2012	Karabakh government reports **Azerbaijani attack** that kills another Armenian soldier Aram Gyulnazarian, who was 19 years old. http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/minsk-group-urges-bold-karabakh-steps.aspx?pageID=238&nID=23543&NewsCatID=359
June 18, 2012	**Karabakh government reiterates its support for a peaceful settlement**, stating "The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic reaffirms its commitment to the settlement of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict by exceptionally peaceful means and its readiness to permanently carry out the existing obligations of the parties to maintain the ceasefire." http://www.nkrusa.org/news/daily_news.php?id=2859
June 16, 2012	Nagorno Karabakh Republic reports over 1000 instances of ceasefire violation by Azeri armed forces in the past week. http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/112176/
June 14, 2012	RFE reports, "Azerbaijan effectively rejected on Thursday renewed international calls for the parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to unconditionally withdraw snipers from 'the line of contact' and agree to joint investigations of growing truce violations there . . . . The Armenian side has voiced support for both sniper withdrawal and joint investigations." http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/24614737.html
*June 6, 2012	Karabakh government reports **Azerbaijani attack that kills one Karabakh soldier and wounds two**, along the Azerbaijan-Karabakh border. http://www.rferl.org/content/armenia-azerbaijan-nagorno-karabakh/24605659.html
*June 5, 2012	Armenia reports **a second Azerbaijani attack** in two days on its border in the Tavush region, resulting in the death of five Azerbaijani soldiers. RFE reports, "Successive nighttime attempts by Azerbaijani forces to penetrate Armenian lines were repulsed, and the Armenian side launched retaliation offensives… Azerbaijani leaders regularly boast about the country's level of defense spending." http://www.rferl.org/content/is-a-new-karabakh-war-imminent-even-inevitable/24610997.html http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-18328690
*June 4, 2012	Just hours before Secretary Clinton is to arrive in Armenia for an official state visit, **Azerbaijan attacks Armenia**, **killing three Armenian soldiers and wounding several**. The attack is along the **internationally recognized** Armenia-Azerbaijan border in Tavush and over 250 miles away from Nagorno Karabakh. http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-06-04/news/sns-rt-armenia-clinton-update-1-pixl5e8h4csz-20120604_1_armenian-soldiers-armenia-and-azerbaijan-nagorno-karabakh-conflict
May 25, 2012	Azerbaijani President Aliyev warns again, "**The war is not over yet**. Only its first stage is." http://en.president.az/articles/5170

May 12, 2012	NKR Defense Ministry reports an exponential increase in Azerbaijani ceasefire violations. Azerbaijan violated the ceasefire 600 times in 2006; 1,400 times in 2007; 3,500 times in 2008; 4,600 times in 2009; 7,200 times in 2010; and more than 12,600 times in 2011. http://news.am/eng/news/105162.html
* April 27, 2012	**Three Armenian soldiers** and one Azerbaijani army officer **are shot dead** in separate incidents along the **internationally recognized** Armenia-Azerbaijan border. http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/24562491.html
April 25, 2012	**Armenian kindergarten** along the border with Azerbaijan was reportedly **shot at and evacuated** a day after the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Minsk Group monitors visit the site to investigate. http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/24565475.html
April 4, 2012	Azerbaijan purchases **$1.6 billion worth of new weaponry**, which it says is targeted at Armenia. http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htproc/articles/20120404.aspx
*March 20, 2012	Armenia's Ministry of Defense reports that **an Armenian soldier was killed by an Azerbaijani sniper** in the Tavush region of Armenia. **Another Armenian army sergeant was killed by a sniper a week before** in the same area, which is over 200 km away from the conflict and along the internationally recognized border. http://www.rferl.org/content/armenia_says_army_officer_killed_by_azerbaijani_sniper/24522191.html
March 14, 2012	**State Department Spokesman** reacts to Azerbaijani Defense Minister's call to resolve conflict through war stating, "There **is no military solution to this conflict.** We urge the sides to prepare their populations **for peace, not war**, and to refrain from any provocative rhetoric or actions on the ground." http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/03/185830.htm
March 13, 2012	Azerbaijan's Defense Minister states that **Azerbaijan is ready for war**. http://tert.am/en/news/2012/03/13/abiev/
February 28, 2012	Azerbaijani President Aliyev states in a national address, **"Our main enemies are Armenians of the world."** http://en.president.az/articles/4423
January 20, 2012	Aliyev, "The Azerbaijani flag must and will fly in Nagorno-Karabakh… Our **rising military potential** is bringing that holy day closer." http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/24461971.html
January 16, 2012	**President Aliyev** announces that Azerbaijan is buying up modern weaponry to be able to occupy the Nagorno Karabakh Republic quickly. Aliyev warns on state television, **"It's not a frozen conflict, and it's not going to be one."** http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-01-16/azerbaijan-amassing-arms-for-possible-karabakh-war-aliyev-says.html

December 21, 2011	"**This conflict cannot have a military solution. That's impossible**," said Bernard Fassier, France's outgoing chief Karabakh negotiator "in a warning that seemed **primarily addressed to Azerbaijan,"** according to RFE. http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/24429582.html
November 25, 2011	RFE reports, "International mediators have repeatedly called for both Armenian and Azerbaijani forces to **withdraw snipers from the area**. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon added his voice to those calls in a statement issued in September 2010. The idea is **backed by the Armenian side but opposed by Azerbaijan**." http://www.rferl.org/content/snipers_karabakh_armenia_azerbaijan/24402333.html
November 22, 2011	**US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern condemns the weekend Azerbaijani sniper attacks which killed two Karabakh soldiers**. "Any manifestation of violence is deplorable, and we wish to contribute to the problem's peaceful settlement through the [OSCE] Minsk Group process," said Ambassador Heffern. http://asbarez.com/99511/heffern-condemns-azeri-sniper-attacks/
*November 21, 2011	**Two Armenian soldiers are killed by Azerbaijani forces** near Nagorno-Karabakh. Bloomberg news reports that earlier this month, President Aliyev boasted that Azerbaijan may use **military force** to gain control of Nagorno-Karabakh. http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-11-21/armenian-soldiers-killed-in-disputed-region-arminfo-reports.html
*October 6, 2011	**One Armenian and two Azerbaijani soldiers are killed by sniper fire** on the Karabakh-Azerbaijan border. **Two Armenian soldiers are wounded on the internationally-recognized Armenia-Azerbaijan border,** a sign of an escalation of fighting to a new front. http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/24350911.html
September 14, 2011	**Azerbaijan violates the ceasefire by flying an unmanned drone into Nagorno Karabakh's airspace,** which is shot down by Karabakh forces, who now have physical evidence of Azerbaijan's ceasefire violation. This is the first time, since the ceasefire that any party has violated the airspace, markedly increasing tensions. http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-09-14/azeri-spy-drone-downed-over-disputed-region-karabakh-army-says.html
August 26, 2011	The head of Azerbaijan's Presidential Administration Political Analysis Department Elnur Aslanov told a gathering of hundreds of Azerbaijani students, who were studying abroad, that **Ramil Safarov, who was convicted of murdering an Armenian with an axe while he was sleeping in his dorm room in Hungary, is an inspiration and "give[s] special spirit to Azerbaijani youth."** http://news.az/articles/politics/43269 http://en.trend.az/news/politics/1923332.html
July 28, 2011	RFE reports that many sources, including ones in Baku, blame Azerbaijan for blocking an agreement at the latest peace summit in Kazan. http://www.rferl.org/content/medvedev_moment_saved_nagorno_karabakh_kazan/24279692.html

July 27, 2011	Azerbaijan's President Aliyev vows to occupy Nagorno Karabakh "by peaceful **or military means."** http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/24279704.html
July 14, 2011	"**Azerbaijan must attack Yerevan [the capital of Armenia]**", 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. http://asbarez.com/97048/azerbaijan-must-attack-yerevan-says-political-expert/
July 7, 2011	**Azerbaijan's Civil Aviation Administration Director reiterates earlier terror warnings to shoot down civilian planes** flying to Karabakh. "This is the right of the Azerbaijani side, according to the law on aviation," he said. "Whether this right will be implemented or not, it is for the government to decide." http://www.armenianow.com/karabakh/30877/karabakh_civilian_planes_azerbaijan_shoot_down
June 26, 2011	During Azerbaijan's largest military parade since 1991, **President Aliyev vows to avenge the deaths of Azerbaijani soldiers** before stating, **"The war is not over yet, only its first stage is**." Aliyev notes that Azerbaijan's **military budget of $3,300,000,000 was 20 times larger than only 8 years ago and was more than what Armenia spends on its *entire* budget.** http://en.president.az/articles/2537
June 14, 2011	"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 Defense Ministry Spokesman Eldar Sabiroglu told a news conference. http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCATRE7531V420110604
May 26, 2011	Joint statement of the Presidents of the United States, France and Russia emphasizes, "**only a negotiated settlement can lead to peace**, stability, and reconciliation . . . . The use of force created the current situation of confrontation and instability. Its use again would only bring more suffering and devastation." http://www.osce.org/mg/78195
May 11, 2011	Even though the Minsk Group has urged the parties to pull back snipers and Armenia and the Nagorno Karabakh Republic have agreed, Eurasia.net reports that a **dedicated sniper school has been established in Azerbaijan.** http://www.eurasianet.org/node/63468
April 18, 2011	Last year, Azerbaijan spent **$3,000,000,000 on its armed forces**, more than Armenia's entire national budget. http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e3fc19ea-69ed-11e0-89db-00144feab49a.html#axzz1zn5O2PDF

March 18, 2011	Both the Armenian and Nagorno Karabakh governments support the Minsk Group Co Chairs' call to pull back snipers from the border between Azerbaijan and the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, **but Azerbaijan has opposed it.** http://www.azatutyun.am/content/article/2343004.html
*****March 17, 2011	Another **Armenian soldier Aharon Hayrapetyan is shot dead by Azerbaijani snipers** just an hour after a Red Cross prisoner exchange with Armenia. http://www.armradio.am/news/?part=pol&id=19494
March 16, 2011	**Azerbaijan announces its intention to commit a terrorist act and shoot down any civilian planes** flying from Armenia to the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. http://www.rferl.org/content/azerbaijan_threatens_to_shoot_down_karabakh_flights/2340659.html
*****March 10, 2011	**Another Armenian soldier Artur Aghababyan is shot dead by Azerbaijani snipers.** http://armenianow.com/karabakh/28165/karabakh_soldier_killed
March 7, 2011	**Aliyev's chief foreign policy aide**, Novruz Mammadov said that although the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents signed an agreement in Sochi on March 5 to seek to resolve all contentious issues by peaceful means, "the statement does not and **cannot contain any peace guarantees on the part of Azerbaijan."** http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/2330373.html
March 7, 2011	A Turkish official states that Turkey "could back Azerbaijan" if war breaks out in Karabakh, creating the alarming prospect of a NATO member engaging in warfare against a U.S. ally and stoking an already volatile and unstable ceasefire. http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/2330736.html
*****March 4, 2011	**Armenian soldier Grigor Shakhkyan is shot dead by Azerbaijani snipers** a day before Armenia and Azerbaijan meet for peace talks in Sochi. http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/2328401.html
February 24, 2011	A former OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair explained, "The world community led by the OSCE should decide on the issue, as numerous threats to resume war voiced by the Azerbaijani administration undermine international legal norms and hinder peaceful resolution of the conflict." http://news.am/eng/news/49242.html
February 11, 2011	Azerbaijan's Defense Minister Safar Abiyev boasts, **"Azerbaijan is seriously preparing to liberate its territories."** http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=5685278&c=EUR&s=LAN

*January 20, 2011	**Armenian soldier Hovik Sukiasian was shot dead**, yet another violation of the "line of contact" between Nagorno Karabakh and Azerbaijan. The Armenian Defense Minister spokesman Davit Karapetian stressed, "This incident once again shows that Azerbaijan's authorities either do not control the frontline behavior of their armed forces or **themselves organize such provocations.**" http://www.rferl.org/content/armenian_soldier_killed_karabakh/2283750.html
January 1, 2011	President Aliyev lays claims to Armenia itself in his New Year's Eve address to the nation. http://www.president.az/articles/1374?locale=en
November 8, 2010	**President Aliyev threatens to "use the military option"** to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. http://www.armenianow.com/karabakh/25684/azerbaijan_aliyev_karabakh_war_threat
October 16, 2010	**President Aliyev claims that Armenia and its capital belong to Azerbaijan,** repeating the same claim he made during an official foreign visit to Estonia. http://www.armenianow.com/commentary/analysis/25429/azerbaijan_aliyev_lays_claims_on_yerevan
*October 14, 2010	**Vitaly Igitian, a 22-year-old Armenian soldier, was shot dead** by sniper fire from Azerbaijani army positions. http://www.azatutyun.am/content/article/2191899.html
October 11, 2010	**OSCE Minsk Group Russian Co-Chair Igor Popov expressed "shock" at the death of Armenian shepherd Manvel Saribekian** in Azerbaijani captivity and urged that the incident be thoroughly examined with the participation of international organizations, in particular the Red Cross. http://news.am/eng/news/34146.html
*October 5, 2010	RFE reports Manvel **Saribekian, a 20-year-old Armenian shepherd,** who had wandered across the line of contact and **was imprisoned by Azerbaijan, was found dead in his prison cell less than a month after his arrest.** Before his death, the International Committee of the Red Cross was not allowed to visit him and a forced confession was broadcast on state run television against international law. Dismissing Azerbaijani claims of suicide, Armenian Government officials stated that "Saribekian was tortured to death or 'driven to suicide'." http://www.azatutyun.am/content/article/2182797.html
September 24, 2010	**President Obama** speaks with Azerbaijani President Aliyev, "emphasizing the **importance of maintaining the ceasefire along the Line of Contact and stressing the need to find a peaceful solution based on the Helsinki principles of non-use of force or threat of force,** territorial integrity, and the equal rights and self-determination of peoples." http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/09/24/read-out-president-obamas-meeting-with-azerbaijani-president-ilham-aliye

*September 17, 2010	An Azerbaijani sniper kills Corporal Andranik Sargsyan in Karabakh. http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/2160875.html
*August 31, 2010	Less than three months after their June 18 attack, **Azerbaijan attacks the Nagorno Karabakh Republic again**, claiming the lives of at least two soldiers. http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijan_Claims_Five_Killed_In_Clash_On_NagornoKarabakh_Border_/2145292.html
August 26, 2010	Eldar Sabiroglu, head of the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry press service declared that **"The Armenian separatists must be driven out of [Nagorno Karabakh] at all cost."** http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijani_Defense_Ministry_Rejects_Laughable_Armenian_Statement/2139321.html
August 10, 2010	**President Aliyev** warns again, "The **war is not over yet, only its first stage is**." http://www.president.az/articles/561?locale=en
June 24, 2010	Congressmen condemn Azerbaijan's attacks with Congressman Mark Kirk (R-IL) stating, "**I condemn the unprovoked attacks by Azerbaijan's armed forces on NKR troops** . . . . I am concerned that such destabilizing actions by the Azeri side . . . gravely undermine the OSCE-led Minsk Process." Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) emphasizing, "The fact that **these attacks were unprovoked and came just hours after a meeting** between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan with Russian President Medvedev as part of ongoing efforts to bring the conflict to a final peace settlement, makes the attacks that much more egregious." http://www.armenianweekly.com/2010/06/24/kirk-pallone-condemn-attacks-by-azerbaijan/
June 23, 2010	**Azerbaijani Foreign Minister** Elmar Mammadyarov states that the **June 18 attack is a "message to the entire world that such incidents will repeat** unless Armenia liberates Azerbaijani lands." He goes on to state that Azerbaijan's **threats to attack "will not end before the settlement of the conflict."** http://www.news.az/articles/17954
*June 18, 2010	Within hours of a meeting between the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to negotiate a peace settlement, **Azerbaijan attacks Karabakh in one of the worst ceasefires, since March 2008**, when Azerbaijan also attacked Karabakh. Four Armenian and one Azerbaijani soldier are killed. http://www.reuters.com/article/2010/06/19/us-azerbaijan-karabakh-idUSTRE65I1VC20100619
June 7, 2010	U.S. Defense Secretary Gates **delivers letter from President Obama, which warns against use of force to resolve the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.** http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6550XE20100607

April 23, 2010	**On the eve of the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Aliyev warned Armenia** against normalizing relations with Turkey and alluded to a possible attack on Armenia itself. Azeri Defense Minister Safar Abiyev informed Aliyev that "The Azerbaijan army has all the capabilities to **hit any target on the territory of Armenia** if necessary." http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2010/04/23/world/international-uk-armenia-turkey-azerbaijan.html
February 25, 2010	**Azeri Defense Minister** Safar Abiyev states that **Azeri military action is becoming "more imminent" and "inevitable."** http://www.upi.com/Top_News/International/2010/02/25/Azerbaijan-threatens-end-to-cease-fire/UPI-25821267105427/
February 25, 2010	Azerbaijan warned on Thursday of a **"great war" in the South Caucasus.** http://in.reuters.com/article/2010/02/25/idINIndia-46478120100225
July 14, 2009	Just four days after Presidents Obama, Sarkozy, and Medvedev announced support for certain Basic Principles to resolve the conflict, including the non-use of force, President Aliyev threatened, "Unfortunately, **I cannot totally rule out a military solution**, as we have the total and based on international laws right to restore our territorial integrity . . . ." http://en.apa.az/news.php?id=105053
June 25, 2009	Aliyev threatens, "We live in a state of war, thus our primary goal is and should be the strengthening of our army. . . . **With the war still going on and only its first stage over, we are continuing our efforts to be ready to free our motherland from the enemy by military means at any time."** http://www.asbarez.com/2009/06/25/azeri-president-says-nation-must-prepare-for-war/ http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/82404/ilham-aliyev-declared-azerbaijan-is-ready-to-go-to-war-with-armenia-.html
*March 16, 2009	A Karabakh soldier is killed by an Azerbaijani sniper on March 13**.** BBC Monitoring International
October 14, 2008	Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliev on Monday vowed a policy **of "total offensive" against neighboring Armenia** during a hardline speech ahead of the presidential election this week." As long as our territory is under occupation, we will follow a policy of a total offensive against Armenia in the political, economic, military and transport sectors," Aliev said. http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/1597780.html
August 9, 2008	**Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister** declares that like the Georgians' recent move against South Ossetia, Azerbaijan has the right to militarily impose its rule over Nagorno Karabakh and **reserves the right to resolve the conflict militarily**. http://www.azernews.az/site/shownews.php?news_id=5942
*May 16, 2008	A Karabakh soldier Andranik Hayrapetian is killed by an Azerbaijani sniper. Interfax News Agency, Russia

April 15, 2008	*Reuters* reports that **Azerbaijan has increased its military budget from $150 million five years ago to $1,300,000,000.** http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSL1597375
March 5, 2008	Nagorno Karabakh urges OSCE mediators to immediately investigate the attacks of the night before. **Azerbaijan will not guarantee the mediators' safety.** As a result, the OSCE is prevented from beginning an investigation.
*March 4, 2008	Several soldiers are killed in **worst ceasefire violation in over a decade.** Armenia accuses Azerbaijan of attacking Karabakh and exploiting its vulnerability at a time of internal protests over its presidential elections. Nagorno Karabakh forces immediately call OSCE peacekeepers to report the violation. **At least 8 soldiers are killed.** http://www.rferl.org/content/article/1079580.html
March 3, 2008	*Reuters* reports that Azerbaijan's President **Aliyev has said that it is ready to take Nagorno Karabakh by force** and is buying the military equipment to do so. http://www.reuters.com/article/2008/03/04/idUSL04930529
January 17, 2008	President **Aliyev proclaims that capital of Armenia is actually Azerbaijani territory and that Armenians living there are "guests."** Aliyev also declares that the war with Armenia was not over, but that "it was just the first stage of the war," which was completed. www.regnum.ru/english/943595.html
January 4, 2008	RFE reports that **Aliyev has told Armenians in Karabakh to accept Azeri rule or get out.** Aliyev warns, "We are reinforcing our army because we must be ready to free our lands . . . at any moment and by any means." http://www.armenialiberty.org/content/article/1592303.html