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Prevention of armed conflict

Right of peoples to self-determination

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

**The responsibility to protect and the
prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic
cleansing and crimes against humanity**

**Security Council
Seventy-fifth year**

**Letter dated 10 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative
of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

Further to my letters dated 3 October ([A/75/491-S/2020/976](#)), 5 October ([A/75/496-S/2020/984](#)) and 31 October ([A/75/566-S/2020/1073](#)), I am enclosing herewith the Report on the involvement of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries by Azerbaijan in the aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 71, 114 and 135 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mher **Margaryan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 10 December 2020 from the Permanent
Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

REPORT

ON THE USE OF FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS (FTFs)
BY AZERBAIJAN IN THE AGGRESSION
TO SUPPRESS THE INALIENABLE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF
ARTSAKH (NAGORNO-KARABAKH)
TO SELF-DETERMINATION

(as of October 31, 2020)

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Chapter 1: Overview

On September 27 the Azerbaijani Armed Forces launched a large-scale airborne, missile and land attack along the entire line of contact in Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh), starting a new war against the people of Artsakh, who were forced to defend their right to self-determination. The Azerbaijani army used tanks, armoured combat vehicles, heavy artillery, long range air-to-surface missiles, multiple launch rocket systems, heavy flamethrower systems (TOS), and aviation, including helicopters and UAVs. Not only military settlements and units, but also towns and villages, hospitals and schools were targeted by Azerbaijan's attacks.

Azerbaijan's military capacities were shifted to a higher level with the support and direct involvement of Turkey. The perception that Turkey heavily backs Azerbaijan had been formed gradually, since the beginning of this year, as the actions of Azerbaijan and Turkey had been escalating the security situation in the region, reflected, among other things, in the bellicose rhetoric of the both sides, including of the political-military leadership of the countries. Besides the political support to Baku, Erdogan's regime provided military assistance, including heavy armament, munition and other equipment, sending military advisors, experts and operators. The recent TurAz-2020 joint military exercise took place from July 29 to August 13, as a rehearsal of the ongoing aggression. The main part of the Turkish military equipment, armament and munition, as well as personnel, operators and specialists remained stationed in Azerbaijan after the end of the drills.

Since the joint military exercises with Turkey conducted in July-August 2020 in Azerbaijan, Ankara-affiliated private contractors initiated recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters who had already gained the battle experience in Syria and other conflict zones in the Middle East and North Africa to transfer them to Azerbaijan as "mercenaries", "bodyguards", "custodians" or other pretext. The recruitment has taken place mainly in the Turkish-controlled Syrian territories of Idlib Governorate, Tal Abyad and Suluq of Raqqa governorate, Shaikh al-Hadid, A'zaz, Jarabulus, Afrin, Jinderes, Manbij and al-Bab of Aleppo Governorate and Gaziantep, Kilis, and Şanlıurfa in Turkey. The recruited FTFs were from 18 to 40 years old. The tracking of the personal data of some fighters transported to Azerbaijan proved, that many of them had been engaged in previous or ongoing conflicts under the Turkish supervision in Syria, Iraq and Libya. The foreign terrorist fighters were integrated into the force structure of the Armed Forces and Border Control Forces of Azerbaijan.

Between July and September, 2020, a thousands of foreign terrorist fighters were recruited and transported to Azerbaijan. The recruitment and transfer of foreign terrorist fighters by Turkey has been acknowledged by governments of several countries, law enforcement agencies and continues to be extensively reported and documented by independent observers on the ground and the international media. There is no precise data on those who have already been killed during the aggression or have been wounded and receive treatment. As claimed by some sources, 107 FTFs have already been killed in the battles (09.10.2020).

Mostly the members of "Sultan Suleyman Shah", "Firqatu-l-Hamza", led by Fahim 'Isa, "Sultan Murad", led by Sayf Abu Bakr (pseudonym: Sayf Balud) participated in hostilities against Artsakh. Sayf Abu Bakr is known as a former commander within the radical group of ISIL/Da'esh. The fighters of other divisions, such as Faylaqu-sh-Sham, Ahraru-sh-Sham, Jeish an-Nukhbah, Muttasim, Sultan Ertugrul, Nuraddine Az-Zinki, were also involved. According to credible reports, these groups are affiliated with internationally recognized terrorist entities, such as ISIL, Al-Qaida, al-Nusrah Front etc., designated by the UN SC as terrorist organizations. The group names often contain their composition: from firqa (division) to legion (Faylaq) and even brigade (Liwa'), but there is no precise data on the number of units involved in each group.

Some groups were formed exclusively from representatives of Turkic origin, like Syrian Turkomans/Turkmen¹ (i.e. "Sultan Murad", "Nuraddine Az-Zinki") or Uyghurs² ("Sultan Ertugrul"). The terrorist training camps on the Syrian, Iraqi and Libyan soil, which are run by Turkish-affiliated fighters and prepare new forces for the Azerbaijani Army, have been put on radars by the intelligence services of many countries. After being transferred to Azerbaijan, the FTFs were deployed by the Turkish supervisors predominantly on the frontline, in most dangerous zones, i.e. in Horadiz or close to Fizuli. Others were instructed to occupy "less dangerous" positions.

¹ Turkomans/Turkmen: small minority in Turkey and Syria, who enjoy coveted privileges granted by Turkey, such as Turkish citizenship and sensitive leadership positions.

² According to the Armenian law enforcement agencies, a group of Uyghur fighters were transferred with their families to Turkey from Central Asia earlier this year that were mentored and trained in the Syrian camps and moved to Azerbaijan in mid-September.

The propaganda in the Turkish-controlled Syrian territories has taken place under jihadist slogans. The agitators have misled the communities, delivering them false information, that Armenians are fighting against Islam, and sustained the rumour that “the Armenian humanitarian mission in Aleppo is a pure manifestation of such anti-Islamic policy or behaviour”. The poor financial and social conditions in the territories of Syria under Turkish control created fertile ground for recruitment of FTFs and their deployment to Azerbaijan.

The factual evidence on presence of FTFs in Azerbaijan include their interviews to international media, recordings of telephone conversations between them and third persons, radio intercept data from the battlefields in Artsakh, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, Tik-Tok posts, flight radar data etc. They also contain their own or family members’ and affiliates’ confessions, notes, glorifying and mourning posts, photos and selfies made in specific geographical area easily recognizable or identified by specialists as those located at or in vicinity to the LoC.

Chapter 2: Reports on the transfer of FTFs from Syria and Libya to Azerbaijan

The first cases of FTF recruitment for training and further transfer to Azerbaijan have been reported even before the July escalation, but the number of such cases significantly increased after the escalation on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border in the period of July 12-15, 2020.

July 17

The following message was circulated through private accounts in social networks.

URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT!!!

Armenia - Azerbaijan

Syria North Syria: Turkish occupying forces in northern Syria have opened registration centres in the Afrin region of northern Aleppo province, with the aim of transferring loyalist Jihado-Syrian mercenaries to Azerbaijan to Turkey and Muslim brothers. To counter the Armenian army.

In exchange for signing a renewable six-month contract, mercenaries receive a monthly salary of US\$ 2500.

The Muslim Brothers Guide, Criminal Erdogan, enters his 5th war in the Middle East, after; Syria, Libya, Iraq, against its opponents, and now in Azerbaijan against Armenia... And soon against Egypt!!! Pretty much.

🚩 Aleppo Turkish occupation forces open registration centres in Afrin area in northern Aleppo countryside to transfer their loyal militants to Azerbaijan to fight against the Armenian army in exchange for signing a six-month renewable contract and a monthly salary of \$ 2500.

Since mid-September the Armenian intelligence reports warned about the recruited FTFs and their transfer to Azerbaijan through the Turkish territory. The most mentioned route was Gazientep-Istanbul flights by Turkish Airlines and from Istanbul to Baku either with Turkish, or Azerbaijani Silk Way Airlines. It became evident when Syrian-based pro-Kurds news sources (i.e. Afrin Post) started publicizing this to Armenian and other regional media.

Below is the non-exhaustive chronology of their appearance in the media in headlines and links (as of 31 October 2020).

September 22

Ankara sends its “hired killers” to Azerbaijan. Is it planning another massacre against Armenians?

<http://afrinpost.net/en/2020/09/ankara-sends-its-hired-killers-to-azerbaijan-is-it-planning-another-massacre-against-armenians/>

September 23

Turkey reportedly preparing to send members of Sultan Murad Division to Azerbaijan

<https://syriacpress.com/blog/2020/09/23/turkey-reportedly-preparing-to-send-members-of-sultan-murad-division-to-azerbaijan/>

September 25

Reports Turkey is transferring Syrian militants to Azerbaijan as hostilities against Armenia increases

<https://greekcitytimes.com/2020/09/25/reports-turkey-is-transferring-syrian-militants-to-azerbaijan-as-hostilities-against-armenia-increases/>

September 28

Turkey deploying Syrian fighters to help ally Azerbaijan, two fighters say

<https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN26J258>

Turkey sends 4,000 Syrian ISIS mercenaries to fight against the Armenians

[http://asianews.it/news-en/Turkey-sends-4,000-Syrian-ISIS-mercenaries-to-fight-against-the-Armenians-\(VIDEO\)-51151.html](http://asianews.it/news-en/Turkey-sends-4,000-Syrian-ISIS-mercenaries-to-fight-against-the-Armenians-(VIDEO)-51151.html)

Syrian rebel fighters prepare to deploy to Azerbaijan in sign of Turkey's ambition

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/28/syrian-rebel-fighters-prepare-to-deploy-to-azerbaijan-in-sign-of-turkeys-ambition>

September 29

Turkey sends former ISIL commander to lead Azerbaijan's fight against Armenia: report

<https://nationalpost.com/news/armenia-azerbaijan-accuse-each-other-of-cross-border-attacks-civilian-toll-climbs>

40 Muslim Brotherhood militant heading from occupied Afrin to Azerbaijan

<http://afrinpost.net/en/2020/09/40-muslim-brotherhood-militant-heading-from-occupied-afrin-to-azerbaijan/>

Turkey recruiting Syrians to guard troops and facilities in Azerbaijan

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/azerbaijan-armenia-turkey-syrians-recruiting-guard-facilities>

September 30

Haut-Karabakh: Moscou dénonce la présence de combattants syriens et libyens dans la région

https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2020/09/30/haut-karabakh-pas-de-pourparlers-en-vue-l-armenie-et-l-azerbaïdjan-determine-au-combat_6054225_3210.html

أرمينيا وأذربيجان: بي بي سي عربي تحاور مقاتلا سوريا على خط النار بين البلدين (Armenia and Azerbaijan: BBC interviews a fighter under the fire line between two countries).

<https://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast-54346711>

Syrian mercenaries sustain Turkey's foreign policy

<https://www.dw.com/en/turkey-syrian-mercenaries-foreign-policy/a-55098604>

Nagorno-Karabakh: at least three Syrian fighters killed

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/30/nagorno-karabakh-at-least-three-syrian-fighters-killed>

October 1

Macron reprimands Turkey, accuses Erdogan of sending 'jihadists' to Azerbaijan

<https://www.france24.com/en/20201002-macron-reprimands-turkey-accusing-erdogan-of-sending-jihadists-to-azerbaijan>

France accuses Turkey of sending Syrian jihadists to Nagorno-Karabakh

<https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN26L3T4>

Russia Says Syria, Libya Fighters Deployed to Karabakh Conflict

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/09/30/russia-says-syria-libya-fighters-deployed-to-karabakh-conflict-a71610>

Rebels from Syria recruited to fight in conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia, source says
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/10/01/middleeast/azerbaijan-armenia-syrian-rebels-intl/index.html>

October 2

What are Syrian mercenaries doing in Azerbaijan?
<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/north-africa-west-asia/what-are-syrian-mercenaries-doing-azerbaijan/>

October 3

Libye: des mercenaires syriens sur le départ en direction de l'Azerbaïdjan?
<https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20201003-libye-mercenaires-syriens-sont-ils-d%C3%A9part-azerbaïdjan>

October 4

More pro-Turkish Syrian mercenaries die in Azeri-Armenian fighting
<https://the arabweekly.com/more-pro-turkish-syrian-mercenaries-die-azeri-armenian-fighting>

October 5

Syrians Make Up Turkey's Proxy Army in Nagorno-Karabakh
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/10/05/nagorno-karabakh-syrians-turkey-armenia-azerbaijan/>

October 7

Turkey deploys Syrian mercenaries to Karabakh war
<https://asiatimes.com/2020/10/turkey-deploys-syrian-mercenaries-to-karabakh-war/>

October 9

Over 100 Syrian mercenaries killed fighting for Azerbaijan
<https://geopolitics.news/euroasia/over-100-syrian-mercenaries-killed-fighting-for-azerbaijan-report/>
'We don't even know where Azerbaijan is': The Syrian mercenaries driven by poverty to die in a distant war
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/armenia-azerbaijan-syria-war-fighting-mercenary-russia-b912446.html>

October 10

Why Turkey hired Syrians to fight for Azerbaijan
<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/why-turkey-hired-syrians-to-fight-for-azerbaijan/>

October 14

Turkish-Backed Syrian Fighters Join Armenian-Azeri Conflict
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/turkish-backed-syrian-fighters-join-armenian-azeri-conflict-11602625885>
Deaths of Syrian mercenaries show how Turkey, Russia could get sucked into Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/azerbaijan-armenia-turkey-nagorno-karabakh/2020/10/13/2cdca1e6-08bf-11eb-8719-0df159d14794_story.html

Putin expresses concerns to Erdogan about Middle East fighters in Karabakh clashes

<https://www.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN26Z2OV>

October 16

Conflict enforcement

https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4537733?from=main_1

October 20

Des vidéos documentent la présence de mercenaires syriens dans le conflit du Haut-Karabakh

<https://observers.france24.com/fr/20201020-videos-document-presence-mercenaires-syriens-conflit-haut-karabakh>

October 23

Lindsey Snell: Rumors of Syrian mercenaries started in July

<https://mediamax.am/en/news/special-report/40439/>

October 31

Syrische Söldner in Bergkarabach. "Ich kann euch gleich hier erschießen"

<https://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/syrische-soeldner-in-bergkarabach-ich-kann-euch-gleich-hier-erschiessen-a-00000000-0002-0001-0000-000173743589>

Below is the list of FTF groups, whose participation in the aggression against Artsakh is suspected:

Firqatu-l-Hamza

Sultan Murad

Sultan Suleiman Shah

Malik Shah

Faylaq al-Majd

51st brigade

Ahrar ash-Sharqiyah

Jeish ash-Sharqiyah

Jeish an-Nukhba

Jabhatu-sh-Sham

Al-Furqan

Al-Muttasim

Al-Umshat

Suleiman Shah

Failaqui-sh-Sham

Sultan Ertugrul

Nuraddine Az-Zinki

Ahraru-sh-Sham

Jund ash-Sham

Jabhat al-Nusra

Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement

Groups of identified fighters:

Al-Hamza Division (Firqatu-l-Hamza)

The ‘Canadian National Post’ published an article referring to the information of ‘Daily Beast’, which states that Turkey is sending ‘**Syrian Turkman Sayf Balud (aka Sayf Abu Bakr (Balud))**’ who has previously appeared in an ISIS propaganda video and who has been described as a former ISIS commander’ to fight in Nagorno-Karabakh.³ According to some other sources, in 2016 he formed the Al-Hamza special unit, which operates under the control of the Syrian National Army. As it is mentioned on the Twitter account of Jamel Al-Saleh, head of the Jeish Al-Izza Unit, Sayf Balud was injured on October 4, though the information was denied afterwards⁴. Some sources claim, that Balud is coordinating the process of recruitment of fighters in Syria and operates between Turkey, Libya and Syria.

On September 22, according to the “Afrinpost” a batch of militants of “**Hamza Division**”, a militia group affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood, set off from their headquarters in the center of the occupied Afrin region in northern Syria, towards the collection center in the city of Marea, for further deployment to Azerbaijan. The article further claimed that on the previous day - September 21, ‘a batch of armed men (65 gunmen / hired killers) had left the headquarters of the leader in “Al-Jabha al-Shamiya” militia called “Malik al-Ustu”, located in the Ashrafiyah neighborhood, and went to the city of Azaz for departing to Azerbaijan through Turkey’⁵. On September 29, the same agency reported that “a new batch of 40 militants entered Turkey in order to go to Azerbaijan, to fight there against the Armenian forces.”⁶

A video was released by Elizabeth Tsurkov, a Research Fellow at the Forum for Regional Thinking and a doctoral student in political science at Princeton University, where a Syrian fighter in Azerbaijan was telling about the heavy shelling carried out by the Armenian forces. According to the information of Tsurkov, ‘**the fighter is Mustafa Qanti, 23-years-old**. He was recruited to go to Libya by the Hamza Division, a Turkish-backed faction. He is from the town of Hayyan, western countryside of Aleppo, which the Syrian regime occupied during its last offensive on Idlib in 2020. His family now lives in displacement in al-Atarib in abject poverty’⁷.

Award winning journalist Lindsey Snell, who is specialized in conflict and humanitarian crisis, informed on her Twitter account that fighters “**from the Hamza Division had arrived in the Azerbaijani** capital of Baku via Turkey”. She further elaborated that the “FTFs are mostly coming from Syria but around 70 militants had also been in Libya”. According to the ‘Greek City Times’ News Agency, the Hamza Division is made up mostly of “Arabs and Turkmen, and has become a moveable proxy force for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.”⁸

Lindsey Snell also published an article, where she informed that according to the reports, Syrians had been among those killed as the tensions in Nagorno-Karabakh escalated. **A militant from Hamza Division who was deployed to Azerbaijan** informed her that “... they (most probably the recruiters) told us we were coming to guard a Turkish base. Then we get here and it’s fighting, right away, it’s fighting.”⁹

On October 9, Lindsey Snell made another Twitter post claiming that ‘according to Hamza source, it is planned to

³ <https://nationalpost.com/news/armenia-azerbaijan-accuse-each-other-of-cross-border-attacks-civilian-toll-climbs>

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/turkey-sends-sayf-balud-isis-warlord-to-azerbaijan-to-face-off-against-putins-armenian-allies>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/jamelalsleh0/status/1312772742249410561>

⁵ <http://afrinpost.net/en/2020/09/ankara-sends-its-hired-killers-to-azerbaijan-is-it-planning-another-massacre-against-armenians/>

⁶ <http://afrinpost.net/en/2020/09/40-muslim-brotherhood-militant-heading-from-occupied-afrin-to-azerbaijan/>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/Elizrael/status/1312345769555496961>

⁸ <https://greekcitytimes.com/2020/09/25/reports-turkey-is-transferring-syrian-militants-to-azerbaijan-as-hostilities-against-armenia-increases/>

⁹ <https://investigativejournal.org/turkeys-syrian-mercenaries-in-azerbaijan-feel-tricked-as-bodies-pile-up/>

deploy the following number of FTFs to Azerbaijan¹⁰:

- **450 FTFs from Liwa al-Fatih from Syria (the week commencing on October 9)**
- **800 FTFs Faylaq al-Majd from Syria on/around October 22; and 650 from Libya via Turkey**

In another tweet, she referred to a Hamza member in Azerbaijan, who claimed that “**Hamza and Sultan Murad are now staying together with the Azerbaijani Army**”¹¹.

Moreover, on October 14, Lindsay Snell informed on her Twitter account that “**300 Hamza fighters returned from Azerbaijan to Syria** last night (October 13) refused to fight after the death of a Hamza man from Kafr Halab.”¹² On October 16, the same information was also reported by Elizabeth Tsurkov, who claimed that according to her sources “all the men from Kafr Halab, as well as fighters from Menagh (Aleppo) refused to fight and returned to Syria.”¹³ In a separate Twitter post she also reported that “at least 6 men of this group of Hamza Division fighters were killed fighting Armenian forces” are were replaced by a new batch of recruits from the Sultan Sliman Shah (Amshat) Brigade.¹⁴

On 18 of October, Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported, that “the Turkish government transported a **new batch of [...] over 400 fighters of Al-Hamzat Division, Sultan Murad** and other factions” from Syria to Azerbaijan.¹⁵

Sultan Murad Division and Suleyman Shah Brigade

A number of media outlets reported the presence of the Sultan Murad fighters in Azerbaijan and their participation in the aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh. The group was led by so called Fahim Isa, which is probably, his pseudonym.

Mustafa Khalid (pseudonym), the 23-year-old from Idlib city, confirmed to ‘Guardian’ News Agency that ‘he signed up on September 18 and was now stationed at a post on the line of contact which has come under sustained artillery fire since last Sunday (September 27). The contact of Guardian informed that ‘he travelled as part of a contingent of 1,000 Syrians from the Turkish-backed Sultan Murad, Suleiman Shah and Al Hamza divisions which left the Hawar Kilis border crossing with Turkey for a military base in Gaziantep on September 23 (the location coincides with the information voiced out by French President Macron on October 1). From that point they were transferred to Istanbul by plane and then flew to Azerbaijan by Turkish military cargo. “Data from the Flight Radar website, which tracks aircraft movements, as well as geo-located pictures and coordinates sent to the Guardian, confirm his account.”¹⁶

‘Guardian’ further informed that, according to the above-mentioned contact, the group was provided with the **Azerbaijani uniforms**.

Producer Riam Dalati from ‘BBC Syria’ posted on his Twitter account photos of Syrian National Army fighters in fresh Azerbaijani uniforms.¹⁷

On October 11, another video became public, where the Arab-speaking fighters were wearing Azerbaijani border-guard uniforms and were using Azerbaijani armored vehicles and trucks.¹⁸

The information about FTFs wearing Azerbaijani uniforms was also illustrated in the article of Arabic Section of ‘BBC’ News Agency. According to the same article, ‘the fighters from **Sultan Murad and Suleyman Shah** groups sent to Azerbaijan have Turkic roots and are the age of 17 to 30.’ Moreover, the article of BBC referred to **Abdullah (pseudonym)**, who confirmed that fighters were transferred from Northern Syria to the village of Hor Kilis, and then to the airport in Antep in southern Turkey, where they took a flight of one hour and forty minutes to Istanbul airport. From Istanbul they were transferred via Azeri Airlines to Azerbaijan.¹⁹

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/Elizrael/status/1313906508627877890?s=20>

¹¹ <https://twitter.com/LindseySnell/status/1314547244801163265>

¹² <https://twitter.com/LindseySnell/status/1316128044319469579?s=20>

¹³ <https://twitter.com/Elizrael/status/1317160267726413825?s=20>

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/Elizrael/status/1317161169967337475?s=20>

¹⁵ https://www.syriaahr.com/en/188973/?fbclid=IwAR2LgKckBxGfWmbDrx_2lDya_hgo6fWcMG-bga7c9F1Dqeov7-stAfP9iP0

¹⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/02/syrian-recruit-describes-role-of-foreign-fighters-in-nagorno-karabakh>

¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/DalatrM/status/1311306704760565761>

¹⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-14tyoQFYQ&>, See Annex 2, **Reference H**

¹⁹ <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast-54346711>

On October 3, the UK-based monitoring Group ‘Syrian Observatory for Human Rights’ (SOHR) claimed that more **than 300 Syrian fighters had been deployed to Azerbaijan**, who come from two ethnic Turkmen armed groups, including the **Sultan Murad Division and the Suleyman Shah Brigade**.²⁰ The two Turkish-backed Syrian rebel groups have been important actors in the Turkish-controlled areas of northern Syria.

According to the information distributed by Washington-based ‘Al-Monitor’, Muzahem al-Salem, a former Spokesperson of Jaysh Maghawir Al-Thawra, a Syrian rebel group, informed that **‘the first group of Syrian fighters was dispatched to Caucasus a week ago before the fresh clashes resumed in Nagorno-Karabakh on September 26**. Muzahem al-Salem claimed the fighters were recruited through a center set up by the Turkish-backed Sultan Murad Brigades in northern Syria. Moreover, a group of 150 fighters from Faylaq al-Sham reportedly crossed to Turkey from Afrin and were later transferred to Azerbaijan from Adana International Airport. The fighters were allegedly taken to training camps on two islands in the Caspian Sea for tactical training and were told that their job would be to defend Azeri gas facilities.²¹ The news agency claimed that the Sultan Murat Brigade is reportedly expected to send some 2,000 fighters to Azerbaijan in the next couple of weeks, presumably between October 5-18.

‘AsiaNews’ agency provided an audio recording of the operational nucleus of the Sultan Murat Brigade, which revealed the following: "Syrian volunteers are destined to be sent to the front line on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border... and they will fight for the Azeris, that is, for the Shiites".²²

The Armenian Intelligence services intercepted the voice message of a fighter from Sultan Murad Group, where the latter claims that “instead of Libya he is currently in Azerbaijan.”²³

On October 12, Lindsay Snell tweeted, that according to a SNA source “approx **2300 fighters from Sultan Suleiman Shah and Sultan Murad** have amassed at Hawar Kilis today, where they’ll be crossed to Turkey and ultimately deployed to Azerbaijan”.²⁴

Malik Shah brigade

According to the article published by ‘AsiaTimes’ news agency, **‘Khaled**, originally from Homs and living displaced with his mother and younger siblings in a camp in the northern countryside of Aleppo, is employed by ‘Malik Shah Brigade’. He left for Azerbaijan two weeks before the Nagorno-Karabakh assault started (around 13/14 September). Together with 25 other FTFs they were deployed to Azerbaijan by the following route: Kilis area (southern Turkey)-Syria-Gaziantep-Istanbul-Azerbaijan. According to the source, the age of fighters was between 18-40, who were screened for illness and injuries in Kilis²⁵.

Faylaq al-Majd

The ‘Investigative Journal’ portal quoted **a militant from Faylaq al-Majd** who has been based in Misrata for several months: “I’ll prepare myself quickly, and then I’ll go to Azerbaijan. They just sent 450 to Misrata from Syria to replace the ones who have been here for a long time. Most of us will go on to Azerbaijan.”²⁶

Jund ash-Sham

An opposition fighter from Jund ash-Sham, based in Afrin, confirmed to ‘AsiaNews’ that he had spoken with an Azerbaijani FTF, who was fighting in Syria, and asked him about the purpose of fighting in Azerbaijan, alongside the Shiites, against Karabakh. The latter elaborated that ‘it is part of the Jihad; it is a holy war of Muslims against Christians’. The same agency reports, that ‘the news of the dispatch of **4 thousand Syrian mercenaries** by Turkey was also confirmed yesterday (September 27) by the Human Rights Observatory in Syria’.²⁷

Ahrar al-Sham (Ahraru-sh-Sham)

A fighter, who declined to be named, informed ‘Reuters’ that the deployment of fighters to Azerbaijan was coordinated with Ankara. “I didn’t want to go, but I don’t have any money. Life is very hard and poor”, said the

²⁰ <https://www.syriaahr.com/en/186916/>

²¹ <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/10/turkey-russia-syria-fighter-transfers-azerbaijan-armenia.html>

²² [http://asianews.it/news-en/Turkey-sends-4,000-Syrian-ISIS-mercenaries-to-fight-against-the-Armenians-\(VIDEO\)-51151.html](http://asianews.it/news-en/Turkey-sends-4,000-Syrian-ISIS-mercenaries-to-fight-against-the-Armenians-(VIDEO)-51151.html)

²³ <https://youtu.be/qJpKs1-9xtQ>

²⁴ <https://twitter.com/LindsaySnell/status/1315613219034214400>

²⁵ <https://asiatimes.com/2020/10/turkey-deploys-syrian-mercenaries-to-karabakh-war/>

²⁶ <https://investigativejournal.org/turkeys-syrian-mercenaries-in-azerbaijan-feel-tricked-as-bodies-pile-up/>

²⁷ [http://asianews.it/news-en/Turkey-sends-4,000-Syrian-ISIS-mercenaries-to-fight-against-the-Armenians-\(VIDEO\)-51151.html](http://asianews.it/news-en/Turkey-sends-4,000-Syrian-ISIS-mercenaries-to-fight-against-the-Armenians-(VIDEO)-51151.html)

fighter who had fought in Syria for Ahrar al-Sham, a group that Turkey has supported. The fighter said he had arranged his assignment with an official from the Turkish-backed Syrian National Army (SNA) in Afrin.²⁸

Jeish an-Nukhba

A fighter from the **SNA-affiliated Jeish al-Nukhba militia**, said to ‘Reuters’ “that according to his sources, nearly 1,000 Syrians were set to be deployed to Azerbaijan”. Other rebels gave figures of between 700 and 1,000.²⁹

FTFs Transported from Libya

Several sources confirmed that Syrian fighters were transferred from Libya’s capital Tripoli to Azerbaijan in order to take part in the fighting there. On October 2, SOHR sources confirmed that a new batch of some 800 fighters have returned from Libya to Syria, after completing their mission.³⁰

According to another source, the Turkish special services informed the mercenaries fighting in Libya that after the termination of their contracts they would be redeployed to Azerbaijan, via Turkey instead of returning to Syria.³¹

‘The Jerusalem Post’ referred to ‘Al-Ain’ in the UAE, Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and other sources, claiming that up to 1,400 Syrians would be sent from Libya to Azerbaijan. These would be the first of 3,500 members of Ankara’s foreign legion.³²

Data collected from online plane tracking radars indicate that Turkish Air Force C130 223 (Mode-S ICAO code 4B821F) departed Al-Watiya Air Base of Libya and landed in Baku on September 30. Another data report indicates that an unknown jet departed from Tripoli to Azerbaijan, with the call sign of BRQ218.³³

Records on Fighters, whose affiliation to any FTF Group is not yet certified

‘France 24’ News agency informed about 26-year-old **Abu Ahmad (pseudonym)** from a camp for the displaced in the north of Aleppo, a province controlled by Turkey-backed rebels, declared that “he was heading to Karabakh hoping to better provide for his wife and children. **Another fighter from the town of Atareb in Aleppo** province informed ‘AFP’ that “he was on the frontline, in Azerbaijan” by sending a text message. In Syria’s northwestern province of Idlib, 38-years-old opposition fighter **Abu Adnan (pseudonym)** revealed that he had been approached about signing up as a combatant in the Caucasus.³⁴

On September 30, ‘BBC Syria’ Producer Riam Dalati, referring to the Syrian electronic source ‘JesrPress’, posted on its Twitter account an image of an **injured soldier of the Syrian National Army (SNA)** fighter from Homs. The photo was taken in Azerbaijan. ‘Jesr Press’ further informed that he died shortly after being taken to hospital.³⁵

In another tweet, Riam Dalati posted a video where the SNA fighters were performing drills in the same uniform that was assigned to them on their arrival in Azerbaijan on September 25.³⁶

On October 30, the Defence Army of Artsakh released a video of the interrogation of the captured terrorist fighter, whose name is Mhreb Muhammad Alshkheri. He was born in Hama, Syria. He is married with 3 children. According to the information, received during interrogation, on October 19 along with 250 terrorists he was transferred to the Artsakh-Azerbaijan front line by Turkey. The fighter claims that the promised payment of \$2000 has not been paid.³⁷

²⁸ <https://www.reuters.com/article/armenia-azerbaijan-turkey-syria-int/turkey-deploying-syrian-fighters-to-help-ally-azerbaijan-two-fighters-say-idUSKBN26J258>

²⁹ <https://www.reuters.com/article/armenia-azerbaijan-turkey-syria-int/turkey-deploying-syrian-fighters-to-help-ally-azerbaijan-two-fighters-say-idUSKBN26J258>

³⁰ <https://libyareview.com/7002/>

³¹ <https://stepagency-sy.net/2020/09/30/%D9%87%D8%B0%D8%A7-%D9%85%D8%A7-%D9%8A%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AC%D9%87%D9%87-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%AA%D8%B2%D9%82%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A3%D8%B0/>

³² <https://www.jpost.com/middle-east/evidence-mounts-that-turkey-recruited-syrians-to-fight-armenia-644078>

³³ <https://caucasus.liveuamap.com/en/2020/29-september-flight-from-tripoli-coming-to-baku-azerbaijan>, See Annex 1, **Reference B1**

³⁴ <https://www.france24.com/en/20201003-syria-rebels-sign-up-to-fight-for-azeris-to-feed-families>

³⁵ <https://twitter.com/Dalatr/status/1311269228738207745?s=20>

³⁶ <https://twitter.com/Dalatr/status/1311382439076429825?s=20>

³⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVnZL05Ex20>

Records of materials released by FTFs from Azerbaijan

On Telegram account of Jarablus News-al Kabus, which is run by activists of Syrian National Army from the Northern Part of Syria, the terrorist fighters released videos, where they talk about the Armenian armaments³⁸, casualties³⁹ and a helicopter⁴⁰

On September 28 and 30, the “Stepagency” released audio recordings of fighters (overall 5 audio recordings), where the fighters called on ‘Abu Walid’ not to allow other fighters to come to Azerbaijan, because of the heavy fighting and bad conditions.⁴¹ There is another video recording of two fighters, who claim that they are in Azerbaijan and advice others not to come because of severe fighting.⁴²

On October 3, Elizabeth Tsurkov released a video on her Twitter account, “where FTFs were calling others to join them”. They were also talking about an issue of “opening corridor between Armenia and Libya”.⁴³ According to the photo, released by journalist Julian Röpcke, the geolocation of the area, recorded in the video, is the Azerbaijani military base in Horadiz, at 6km depth from the frontline.⁴⁴

The Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense released a video on October 3 which showed a storage/shelter of armaments (presumably left by the Armenian forces).⁴⁵ The small construction has the same external signs as the shelter recorded in the video of fighter **Mustafa Qanti (aka Mustafa Ghanti)**.⁴⁶

There are two other recordings, intercepted by the Armenian Intelligence Service: in the first recording⁴⁷, the fighter referred to his location as Mataghis. In the second one⁴⁸, the location is Horadiz. Both areas are close to the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan.

On October 11, a video, released in open sources, reveals the Arab-speaking fighters in Azerbaijani border guard uniforms, standing on the border-crossing to Iran while demonstrating the hand-gesture of the ‘Grey Wolves’, a Turkish far-right movement, and chanting ‘Liberation’⁴⁹.

³⁸ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_eFA5718Oc, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvixBzeIctM>, See Annex 2, **Reference A**

³⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9az9xcxd7Wg>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2t8moyQRW1Q>, See Annex 2, **Reference B**

⁴⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EFHUpVeSsM>, See Annex 2, **Reference C**

⁴¹ <https://bit.ly/3iBRqni>, <https://bit.ly/3npdXr6>, See Annex 2, **Reference E**

⁴² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ab_h2_vUFNQ, See Annex 2, **Reference J**

⁴³ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1312409487404404736>

⁴⁴ <https://twitter.com/JulianRoepcke/status/1312347751359959040>,

⁴⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvoExPh88js&feature=youtu.be&t=90>

⁴⁶ <https://twitter.com/i/status/1312345769555496961>

⁴⁷ <https://youtu.be/5nP4iDySshw>, See Annex 2, **Reference F**

⁴⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHHrn68yOe4>, See Annex 2, **Reference G**

⁴⁹ <https://twitter.com/Elizrael/status/1315356086719963139>

Chapter 3: Testimonies by heads of states, high-ranking officials, government bodies

President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron

On October 2, the President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron, while delivering his speech before the EU leaders at the Special European Council, has announced:

“... according to our data 300 Syrian fighters left Syria to reach Baku via Gaziantep. The fighters are known, traced, identified, they come from jihadist groups operating in the Aleppo region... other contingencies are preparing ... I wouldn't want to tell you that it is a red line because it is crossed. It is crossed!... I am thinking of #Syria, I am providing an answer... I invite all of the #NATO partners to just face the behavior of a NATO member, and I do not think so. It is also a point on which we absolutely must have a dialogue of truth with #Turkey.”⁵⁰

<https://www.france24.com/en/20201002-macron-reprimands-turkey-accusing-erdogan-of-sending-jihadists-to-azerbaijan>

On October 1, during the press briefing before entering the Summit hall at the European Parliament, French President stated:

“We have information today that indicates with certainty that Syrian fighters have left the theatre of operations, fighters from jihadist groups have transited through Gaziantep to reach the theatre of operations in Nagorno Karabakh. This is a very serious new fact, which changes the situation”.⁵¹

President of the Syrian Arab Republic Bashar al-Assad

President of the Syrian Arab Republic Bashar al-Assad gave an interview to the Russian Sputnik N/A on October 6 and told:

“Turkey used those terrorists coming from different countries in Syria. They used the same method in Libya; they used Syrian terrorists in Libya, maybe (also) of other nationalities. So, it's self-evident and very much probable that they are using that in Nagorno-Karabakh, because, as I said earlier, they are the one who started this problem, this conflict, they encouraged this conflict, so they wanted to achieve something and they're going to use the same method. We can say for sure that they've been using Syrians and other nationalities of terrorists in Nagorno Karabakh.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkgB0kIeHyc>

Director of the Russian External Intelligence Service Sergey Naryshkin

On October 6 the Russian External Intelligence Service (SVR) press service published a statement by Director Sergey Naryshkin:

“We [...] cannot stay unconcerned over the fact that southern Caucasus may become a new foothold for the international terror groups, which would allow the militants to infiltrate other states bordering Azerbaijan and Armenia, including Russia... According to the SVR information, mercenaries from international terror group, such as the Nusra Front, the Firqat al-Hamza, the Sultan Murad Division, fighting in the Middle East, as well as Kurdish extremist groups actively converge in [Nagorno-Karabakh] conflict area,” the SVR head said. The information

⁵⁰ Original French: “Nous avons établi à partir de nos propres renseignements que 300 combattants ont quitté la Syrie pour rejoindre Bakou en passant par Gaziantep. Ces combattants sont connus, tracés, identifiés, et ils viennent des groupes jihadistes qui opèrent dans la région d'Alep... d'autres contingences se préparent ... Je ne voudrais pas vous dire que c'est une ligne rouge parce qu'elle est franchie. Elle est franchie! Et quand je donne une ligne rouge, j'ai pu la montrer à d'autres égards, je pense à la #Syrie, j'apporte une réponse. J'invite l'ensemble des partenaires de l'#OTAN à regarder simplement en face ce qui est un comportement de membre de l'OTAN, et je ne pense pas que ça en relève. C'est aussi un point sur lequel nous devons absolument avoir un dialogue de vérité avec la #Turquie.”

⁵¹ Original French: “Nous disposons d'informations aujourd'hui de manière certaine qui indiquent que des combattants syriens ont quitté le théâtre d'opérations, des combattants de groupes jihadistes en transitant par Gaziantep pour rejoindre le théâtre d'opérations du Haut Karabakh. C'est un fait très grave, nouveau, qui change aussi la donne.”

refers to hundreds and even thousands radicals who wish to earn money on the new Karabakh conflict.”⁵²
<https://tass.com/world/1209115>

⁵² Original Russian: “Нас не может не беспокоить, что Закавказье способно стать новым плацдармом для международных террористических организаций, откуда боевики в последующем могут просачиваться в сопредельные с Азербайджаном и Арменией государства, в том числе в Россию. По имеющейся в СВР информации, в зону конфликта активно подтягиваются наемники из воюющих на Ближнем Востоке международных террористических организаций, в частности [таких как] "Джебхат ан-Нусра" (запрещена в РФ), "Фиркат аль-Хамза", "Султан Мурад", а также экстремистских курдских группировок", - заявил глава СВР. Он подчеркнул, что речь идет о сотнях и уже даже тысячах радикалов, рассчитывающих заработать на новой карабахской войне.”

Chapter 4: Various aspects of recruitment and information about demised FTFs

Almost all sources, covering the issue of the enrollment of FTFs in Azerbaijan, mentioned that the fighters were recruited for money. There are also other arguments, which refer to the religious issues, as a motivating factor for the terrorist fighters to participate in this aggression.

Ziad Hajj Obeid, a commander at the Syrian National Army, told Rudaw TV, a Kurdish TV channel in Iraqi Kurdistan, that there are two reasons Syrian rebels are driven to join the fight for Azerbaijan: **“the first one - financial incentives, the second one - sense of duty towards Turkish allies, who supported them in Syria.”**⁵³

Many sources point that FTFs agreed to be deployed to Azerbaijan because of their poor financial and social conditions. Meantime, some sources unveiled that the FTFs were not informed about the real purpose of their deployment to Azerbaijan (i.e. to participate in military operations), but were recruited for guarding some checkpoints.

‘Reuters’ referred to a fighter, who informed that he agreed to be recruited because of “hard and poor life”. Together with another fighter, he further confirmed that ‘Syrian brigade commanders told they would earn **around \$1,500 a month**’⁵⁴

‘BBC’ referred to a **\$2000 monthly salary, which fighters will receive for guarding border check points.**⁵⁵

Elizabeth Tsurkov claimed that according to rumors FTFs “will get a **\$2,500** monthly salary”.⁵⁶ This amount also appears in the first alert on July 19, 2020, but is not confirmed.

‘Al-Arabiya’ agency claimed that more than 300 fighters mainly from Al-Hamza and Al-Umshat groups from Afrin region were redeployed by Turkey and were informed that the final destination would be Azerbaijan, where they should guard border check points for **\$1500-\$2000** a month’.⁵⁷ In the meantime, ‘Guardian’ referred to a salary of \$1000-\$1200, which will be paid to FTFs for the same purpose.⁵⁸

‘AsiaTimes’ agency in its article claimed that it had reached a fighter, Louai, who was rejected to be deployed to Azerbaijan, because of his injury. Louai confirmed that his friend, Mahmoud, was transferred to Azerbaijan on September 25 for a monthly salary of \$1500.⁵⁹

An Armenian Intelligence contact confirmed that the Turkish side has established offices in the provinces of Idlib, Aleppo and the Turkish Havar-Killis military base on the Turkish-Syrian border. They enrol militants and send them to Azerbaijan through Gaziantep and Istanbul. The regular fighters are promised to receive \$1500 per month. They are usually offered six-month-long contracts with possible prolongation. The leaders and field commanders are promised bigger salaries and appraisals.

The issue of the recruitment centers was touched upon in the article of ‘AfrinPost’ Agency, published on October 3. According to the agency, “two offices, **Amir Ghobari School and Azhar Afrin School, were being used for registering** the names of those, who wish to join the fighting in Azerbaijan”. The article further claimed that “600 militants of the Sultan Murad militia 5 days ago (around September 27-28) left from Afrin to Azerbaijan”, while indicating that the “Turkmen are the ones who go the most, considering that the fight against Armenians is jihad against the infidels”.⁶⁰ The ‘Human Rights Organization-Afrin’ revealed the name of another recruitment center on October 11. According to its Facebook post, “the center is located behind the school in the village of Marateh, 5 km. to the west of Afrin. The center is a confiscated building, formerly belonging to one of the forcibly displaced

⁵³ <https://www.voanews.com/extremism-watch/monitor-turkey-sending-syrian-fighters-azerbaijan>

⁵⁴ <https://in.reuters.com/article/armenia-azerbaijan-turkey-syria-int-idUSKBN26J258>

⁵⁵ <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast-54346711>

⁵⁶ <https://twitter.com/Elizrael/status/1310902661949120520?s=20>

⁵⁷ <https://beta.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/2020/09/27/%D8%A3%D8%B1%D8%AF%D9%88%D8%BA%D8%A7%D9%86-%D9%8A%D8%AF%D8%B9%D9%88-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B1%D9%85%D9%86-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%91%D8%AF-%D9%88%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B4%D9%8A%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86-%D9%8A%D8%AD%D8%B0%D8%B1%D9%87-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%AF%D8%AE%D9%84>

⁵⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/28/syrian-rebel-fighters-prepare-to-deploy-to-azerbaijan-in-sign-of-turkeys-ambition>

⁵⁹ <https://asiatimes.com/2020/10/turkey-deploys-syrian-mercenaries-to-karabakh-war/>

⁶⁰ <http://afrinpost.net/en/2020/10/600-mercenaries-of-al-hamzat-militia-left-from-afrin-to-azerbaijan/>

local Kurds called Salah Othman, who is currently living in Germany.” The Organization further elaborates that “during the past week (probably October 4/5-10/11) Hamzat Division recruited 300 mercenaries from the ranks of Arab and Turkmen settlers in Afrin and Idlib camps for Syrian IDP's to deploy to Azerbaijan.”⁶¹

Elizabeth Tsurkov in her article “The Syrian Mercenaries Fighting Foreign Wars for Russia and Turkey” published on October 16, claims that “in addition to the main recruiters—the **commanders of three Turkish-backed factions, Fahim Issa (who leads the Sultan Murad Brigade), Sayf Abu Bakr (of the Hamza Division), and Muhammad Jassem, also known as Abu Amsha (of the Sultan Sliman Shah Brigade)**—a broad network of profiteers has grown up among the associates of these commanders.” They have created groups on the popular messaging service WhatsApp and use brick-and-mortar offices in Afrin since August for recruiting terrorist fighters and deploying them to Azerbaijan.”⁶²

According to ‘Kommersant’ news agency, the recruitment of FTFs is being conducted in Ankara-controlled territories in the north and northwest of Syria “by employees of the **private military company SADAT** with the assistance of field commanders of the Syrian National Army (SNA). The main recruiting points allegedly operate **in the cities of Afrin, Al-Bab, Ras al-Ain and Tel Abyad**. The FTFs, with the help of Turkish transport companies, are transported to the city of Sanliurfa (Turkey), 40 km from the border with Syria. Further, the mercenaries are transferred to the conflict zone by **SADAT charter flights**.”⁶³

It is noteworthy that **the head of SADAT company is Adnan Tanriverdi, the former chief military aide to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**. According to some sources, this company is fully funded and supported by the Turkish government.⁶⁴

According to some official Syrian sources, the special services of Turkey have been enrolling mainly Uyghurs for deploying them to Azerbaijan. They are not considered as well-trained fighters, and therefore they are entitled for the lowest payments -\$500-700 per month.

On October 5, Liz Cookman, an Istanbul-based journalist writing for ‘Foreign Policy’, in her article quoted a family member of a terrorist fighter, killed in Azerbaijan: “We blame the Turkish government for taking advantage of our poor and the young’s hunger for money”. The source further informed that “they lost the promised 60,000 Turkish lira (about \$7,800) in compensation for the fallen fighters.”⁶⁵

‘The Idlib Post’ released a video on its twitter account, which was recorded in Afrin, Syria.⁶⁶ In the video, supposedly ‘a leader’ was calling the fighters to go for the battle in Azerbaijan, as the Islamic World is facing with deprivation from the East to the West’.⁶⁷ **This footage explicitly demonstrates how an influential religious figure calls upon the members of a community to go for fighting to Azerbaijan, as it is a divine war for greater Levant (i.e. for ideological or ethnical purposes).**

In one of the video recordings (See footnote 43 of the current report), the fighter is using hate speech, while demonstrating the corpses of the Armenian soldiers and clearly indicates that “the God helped them to kill the pigs and infidels.”

On September 30, The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) revealed that its staff had documented the shooting of a Syrian pro-Turkish mercenary in the battles, adding that the number of the Syrian mercenaries fighting in Azerbaijan until the moment reached 320 armed men, and they were transferred by Turkish security companies.⁶⁸

On September 30, ‘The Guardian’ referred to **the death of Muhammad Abdul Razzaq (aka Muhammad Shaalan)** from town Atarib, stating that the cousin of the latter, Omar Abdo, was contacted by the men from **Hamza division**, who informed about the demise of the fighter. The fighter was transferred to Azerbaijan on 20 of September. ‘The Guardian’ also referred to the families of **2 other demised FTFs – Hussein Talha, from Ain Jara village, and Sadam Aziz Azkor (alias- Daroubi) of al Kareem** – who also informed that they have been contacted

⁶¹ <https://www.facebook.com/Human-Rights-Organisation-Afrin-Syria-114977619885802>

⁶² <https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2020/10/16/the-syrian-mercenaries-fighting-foreign-wars-for-russia-and-turkey/>

⁶³ <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4537733?query=Принуждение%20к%20конфликту>

⁶⁴ <https://www.nordicmonitor.com/2020/05/turkeys-paramilitary-contractor-sadat-aims-at-training-african-troops-with-the-help-of-defense-cooperation-agreements/>

⁶⁵ <https://foreignpolicy.com/author/liz-cookman/>

⁶⁶ <https://twitter.com/idliben/status/1313934979366367236?s=21>

⁶⁷ <https://youtu.be/vI4IVz-0Kpc>

⁶⁸ <https://see.news/first-syrian-mercenary-loyal-to-turkey-falls-in-azerbai/>

by commanders about the death of their relatives’⁶⁹ ‘The Washington Post’ also published article referring to the killing of Muhammed Shaalan.⁷⁰ Some details of his death was revealed by ‘Syria Direct’ independent agency in an article from October 12. According to Rami Akkoush, a friend of Muhammed Shaalan, the latter informed him, that his role would be “limited to guarding Turkish installations” in Azerbaijan. Nevertheless, after the deployment in Azerbaijan and unveiling that the mission was changed, Shaalan objected to be involved in fighting, complaining that they “are not fighting alongside the Shia, who are the ones killing our families in Syria and committing massacres against us.” According to Akkoush, this led to the dispute between Shaalan and the other Syrians, on one side, and the faction commanders on the other and after that they were returned to the rear military posts. A while ago, Akkoush was informed, that the position of Shaalan was shelled and he died.⁷¹

On October 1, the ‘Idlib Post’ posted a tweet, where it informed about the ‘killing of **Qassem Mustafa Aljzamour (also al-Jzamour)** a member of DeirEzzor unit (Sultan Murad Division) in Azerbaijan.’⁷²

On October 2, Human Rights Organization, based in Afrin, released an information on its Facebook page, stating that eighty-one Syrian mercenaries have reportedly been killed. The dead mercenaries belonged to the following pro-Turkey rebel groups:⁷³

1. Al-Sharqiya Army, lost 19 militants.
2. Al-Hamza Division, lost 4.
3. Division 51, lost 9 militants.
4. Jaish al-Nukhba, lost 11 militants.
5. The Levant Front, lost 22 militants.
6. Al-Furqan Brigade, lost 32 militants.
7. Al-Mu'tasim Division, lost 6 militants.

On October 2, some sources informed about the demise of “**4 FTFs – Major Kinan Farzat (aka Kan’an Frzat/Fzrat), Yasser Farzt (aka Yasser Frzat/Fzrat), Bilal Al-Taybani (aka Bilal At-Taybani) and Walid Al-Ashtar from Homs**, who were killed while participating in the battles in Nagorno-Karabakh.”⁷⁴

On October 3, ‘L’Orient le Jour’ informed that according to ‘SOHR’, “850 combatants were sent to Azerbaijan over the last week (September 23-October 3) in addition to the previous deployment of 1200 Syrians and at least 36 of Syrian rebels have perished in the past 48 hours, bringing the death toll to 64”.⁷⁵

On October 4, the American ‘Fox News’ Agency released an article with the testimonies of a Syrian Fighter without unveiling the latter’s details, who informed that “**four men** from his hometown of Rastan – a small, ancient city and anti-Assad bulwark in the Homs governate – **were slain** on the battlefield this week. One was a relative, **Kinan Ferzat (aka Kan’an Frzat/Fzrat)**, a 35-year-old major in the Turkey-backed Free Syria Army (FSA) unit known as the Syrian National Army. “Kinan defected from the Syrian regime army in 2012 and joined the Free Syrian Army (FSA) within the First Corps faction as an Artillery Brigade leader, the military,” his family member said. “In 2018, he refused the reconciliation with the regime and was deported to northern Syria, like the other defected military officers. Kinan had two options, either he would go to Idlib and join the Islamic and terrorist organizations, or he would go to Afrin and join the Turkish National Army.” He chose to go to Afrin and joined the **Sultan Murad faction**, which operates under the Turkish Army, the relative continued, claiming that he was approached to go to Azerbaijan and feared refusing – traveling from Gaziantep airport and on to Istanbul, and then into Azerbaijan.”⁷⁶

The first reports of the transportation of the corpses of fighters came on October 3-4. ‘Foreign Policy’ reported that “more than 50 Syrians killed in a conflict raging far from their own borders—in a land many had barely heard of a

⁶⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/30/nagorno-karabakh-at-least-three-syrian-fighters-killed>

⁷⁰ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/09/30/armenians-azerbaijan-turkey-russia-clashes/>

⁷¹ <https://syriadirect.org/news/destitution-deception-thrust-syrians-into-the-azerbaijani-armenian-war-in-nagorno-karabakh-region/>

⁷² <https://twitter.com/IdlibEn/status/1311562155347640320?s=20>

⁷³ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=365235251526703&id=114977619885802

⁷⁴ <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/420304>

⁷⁵ <https://www.lorientlejour.com/article/1235044/au-moins-64-combattants-syriens-proturcs-morts-au-nagorny-karabakh.html>

⁷⁶ <https://www.foxnews.com/world/are-syrian-rebels-dying-azerbaijan-armenian-conflict>

few months ago—were returned home for funeral preparations”⁷⁷. The same information was shared by Elizabeth Tsurkov on her twitter account, where she referred to the **death of Muhammad Khaled a-Shahna (aka as-Shahna/al-Shahna)**⁷⁸ from **Ahrar al-Sham** stating that “he is one of 55 corpses of Syrians killed in Azerbaijan that were handed over last night according to a witness of the handover. The body of Muhammad Khaled a-Shahna arrived from Azerbaijan to the Hiwar Kilis (Hawar Kilis) crossing connecting Turkey to zones under its control in northern Syria.”⁷⁹ Some details of his death was revealed by ‘Syria Direct’ independent agency in its article published on October 12. Particularly, the agency noted that “the commander of al-Shahna’s unit, a young Syrian from Jabal a-Zawiya in the countryside of Idlib, was wounded” and al-Shahna decided to rescue him (according to what the family of al-Shahna was later told by the mother of a young man from the city of Homs who was there at the time) but “a sniper bullet struck al-Shahna in the head, and he fell into a valley where he died due to blood loss”, just 3 days after his arrival to Azerbaijan.”⁸⁰

‘Syria Direct’ covered a story of another fighter, **Adham from Kafr Jannah village in the north Aleppo** (presumably killed) in the same article. According to Shakeeb (both are pseudonyms), cousin of Adham, the latter decided to go to Azerbaijan in the hopes that he would return with “\$4000-\$5000 to rent or maybe buy a house”. While in Azerbaijan, Adham contacted his cousin and informed that “they were prohibited from taking pictures or telling anyone, even me. One guy had been threatened with prison after he posted a video from Azerbaijan.”

Tsurkov shared the video, released by ‘Jesspress.com’, which recorded the handover of the dead FTFs⁸¹. The same agency reported that as of October 5, “80 Syrian fighters have been killed”.⁸²

It is noteworthy that according to the data of ‘FlightRadar24’, the Turkish Health Ministry’s Embraer ERJ-135 Air ambulance TC-CJB departed Baku on October 3-4.⁸³ According to reports the remains of the killed FTFs were transported to Turkey by this flight.

According to the information of ‘The Washington Post’, released on October 14, another group of 52 killed Syrian corpses were handed to the families of the fighters in “a refrigerated truck at a Syrian-Turkish border post”. The media outlet further interviewed the cousin of **Mahmoud Najjar (aka Mahmud Najjar)**⁸⁴, a **38-year-old Syrian fighter, who was killed in Nagorno-Karabakh**. The cousin confirmed that Mahmud Najjar was among those, who “went to break the borders” and his body was marked with number 12 in the truck. According to the source, Najjar was promised \$2000 per month. On their first day in Azerbaijan, they were given uniforms with light green shades of camouflage and they were located in mountains. Najjar was killed by the sniper after being sent to clear a building”.

On October 21, ‘Syrian Observatory for Human Rights’ published an article, according to which the SOHR’s activists have documented the **death of 9 Syrian fighters** in Azerbaijan **during the last 24 hours**. Furthermore, on October 20, SOHR’s activists documented the **death of 27 Syrian fighters** in the last 48 hours (18-20 October). SOHR claimed, that **the death toll of the Turkish-backed FTFs since their deployment in Azerbaijan has risen to at least 170 killed fighters, including 118 fighters whose corpses were transferred to Syria**, while the killed bodies of others continue to remain in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict-zone.⁸⁵

⁷⁷ <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/10/05/nagorno-karabakh-syrians-turkey-armenia-azerbaijan/>

⁷⁸ <https://twitter.com/Elizrael/status/1312702349169876992?s=20>

⁷⁹ <https://twitter.com/Elizrael/status/1312701459469946884?s=20>

⁸⁰ <https://syriadirect.org/news/destitution-deception-thrust-syrians-into-the-azerbaijani-armenian-war-in-nagorno-karabakh-region?fbclid=IwAR3uFYEHveogwYWG7c1wt8kvurT4lOkqIDcD-BHekqrXfuaXvc1PqkS6MQ>

⁸¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4GecIUOQ8mg>

⁸² <https://www.jespress.com/2020/10/05/%d9%85%d9%82%d8%a7%d8%aa%d9%84%d9%88%d9%86-%d8%b3%d9%88%d8%b1%d9%8a%d9%88%d9%86-%d9%82%d8%aa%d9%84%d9%88%d8%a7-%d9%81%d9%8a-%d8%a7%d8%b0%d8%b1%d9%8a%d8%a8%d8%ac%d8%a7%d9%86/>

⁸³ <https://twitter.com/GDarkconrad/status/1312837290696245249>, Annex 1 **Reference B2**

⁸⁴ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/azerbaijan-armenia-turkey-nagorno-karabakh/2020/10/13/2cdca1e6-08bf-11eb-8719-0df159d14794_story.html

⁸⁵ https://www.syriaahr.com/en/188973/?fbclid=IwAR2LgKckBxGfWmbDrx_2lDya_hgo6fWcMG-bga7c9F1Dqev7-stAfP9iP0

Chapter 5: Legal Aspects

The deliberate targeting of the civilian population of Artsakh by Azerbaijan with the direct involvement of Turkey and with the use of Foreign Terrorist Fighters constitutes a crime against humanity and is a gross violation of international law, including humanitarian law,⁸⁶ the Geneva Conventions.

By providing foreign terrorists with the Azerbaijani national military uniforms and using them against the people of Artsakh, who fight a vital struggle for self-determination, Baku converts the Azerbaijani Armed Forces into a terrorist organization.

The basic “principle of distinction”, (i.e. during an armed conflict civilians and combatants, as well as civilian objects and military objectives must be distinguished always and without any exception) is severely breached by Azerbaijan.

In accordance with the *International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism* (Article 2) “Any person commits an offence within the meaning of this Convention if that person by any means, directly or indirectly, unlawfully and willfully, provides or collects funds with the intention that they should be used or in the knowledge that they are to be used, in full or in part, in order to carry out: (a) An act which constitutes an offence within the scope of and as defined in one of the treaties listed in the annex; or (b) Any other act intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, or to any other person not taking an active part in the hostilities in a situation of armed conflict, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act”.

In line with paragraph 2 of the Article 5 of the *UN Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries* the “State Parties shall not recruit, use, finance or train mercenaries for the purpose of opposing the legitimate exercise of the inalienable right of peoples to self-determination, as recognized by international law, and shall take in conformity with international law, the appropriate measures to prevent the recruitment, use, financing or training of mercenaries for that purpose”. Paragraph b of the Article 4 of the same convention states that the accomplice of a person who commits or attempts to commit an offence is also a subject of the offence.

In conformity with the *United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Annex, Chapter I. Measures to address conditions conducive to terrorism*, the States Members of the United Nations resolve “to continue to strengthen and make best possible use of the capacities of the United Nations in areas such as conflict prevention, negotiation, mediation, conciliation, judicial settlement, rule of law, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, in order to contribute to the successful prevention and peaceful resolution of prolonged unresolved conflicts. We recognize that the peaceful resolution of such conflicts would contribute to strengthening the global fight against terrorism”; “to arrange under the auspices of the United Nations initiatives and programmes to promote dialogue, tolerance and understanding among civilizations, cultures, peoples and religions, and to promote mutual respect for and prevent the defamation of religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures”; “to promote a culture of peace, justice and human development, ethnic, national and religious tolerance and respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs or cultures by establishing and encouraging, as appropriate, education and public awareness programmes involving all sectors of society”, “to continue to work to adopt such measures as may be necessary and appropriate and in accordance with our respective obligations under international law to prohibit by law incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts and prevent such conduct”.

In compliance with the **United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Annex, Chapter II. Measures to prevent and combat terrorism**, the States Members of the United Nations resolve to undertake the following measures, such as: “to refrain from organizing, instigating, facilitating, participating in, financing, encouraging or tolerating terrorist activities and to take appropriate practical measures to ensure that our respective territories are not used for terrorist installations or training camps, or for the preparation or organization of terrorist acts intended to be committed against other States or their citizens”, “to cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with our obligations under international law, in order to find, deny safe haven and bring to justice, on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute, any person who supports, facilitates, participates or attempts to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or provides safe havens”, “to ensure the apprehension and prosecution or extradition of perpetrators of terrorist acts, in accordance with the

⁸⁶ International humanitarian law does not provide a definition of terrorism, but prohibits most acts committed in armed conflict that would commonly be considered “terrorist”, if they were committed in peacetime.

relevant provisions of national and international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law”, “to step up national efforts and bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, as appropriate, to improve border and customs controls in order to prevent and detect the movement of terrorists and prevent and detect the illicit traffic in, inter alia, small arms and light weapons, conventional ammunition and explosives, and nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological weapons and materials”.

The **UN Security Council Resolution 2170** “recalls that widespread or systematic attacks directed against any civilian populations because of their ethnic or political background, religion or belief may constitute a crime against humanity, emphasizes the need to ensure that ISIL, ANF and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida are held accountable for abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, urges all parties to prevent such violations and abuses”; “condemns the recruitment by ISIL, ANF and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida of foreign terrorist fighters, whose presence is exacerbating conflict and contributing to violent radicalization, demands that all foreign terrorist fighters associated with ISIL and other terrorist groups withdraw immediately, and expresses its readiness to consider listing those recruiting for or participating in the activities of ISIL, ANF and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida under the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, including through financing or facilitating, for ISIL or ANF, of travel of foreign terrorist fighters”; “calls upon all Member States to take national measures to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to, and bring to justice, in accordance with applicable international law, foreign terrorist fighters of, ISIL, ANF and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, reiterates further the obligation of Member States to prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups, in accordance with applicable international law, by, inter alia, effective border controls, and, in this context, to exchange information expeditiously, improve cooperation among competent authorities to prevent the movement of terrorists and terrorist groups to and from their territories, the supply of weapons for terrorists and financing that would support terrorists”.

The UN Security Council resolution 2178 declares, that “Member States shall, consistent with international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law, prevent and suppress the recruiting, organizing, transporting or equipping of individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, and the financing of their travel and of their activities”. Furthermore, “any person or individual who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice and all States shall ensure that their domestic laws and regulations establish serious criminal offences sufficient to provide the ability to prosecute and penalize in a manner duly reflecting the seriousness of the offence”.

In line with the UN Security Council resolution 2396, “Foreign terrorist fighters and those who finance or otherwise facilitate their travel and subsequent activities may be eligible for inclusion on the ISIL (Da’esh) & Al-Qaida Sanctions List maintained by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011), and 2253 (2015) where they participate in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of, or in support of, supplying, selling or transferring arms and related materiel to, or recruiting for, or otherwise supporting acts or activities of Al-Qaida, ISIL, or any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof, and calls upon States to propose such foreign terrorist fighters and those who facilitate or finance their travel and subsequent activities for possible designation”.

In accordance with the UN Security Council resolution 2253:, “Member states shall prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale, or transfer to these individuals, groups, undertakings and entities from their territories or by their nationals outside their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned, and technical advice, assistance or training related to military activities”.

Pursuant to the UN Security Council resolution 2462, The Security Council “calls upon Member States to conduct financial investigations in terrorism related cases and to seek ways to address the challenges in obtaining evidence to secure terrorist financing convictions”. The Security Council “further calls upon Member States to more effectively investigate and prosecute cases of terrorist financing and to apply, as appropriate, effective, proportionate, and dissuasive criminal sanctions to individuals and entities convicted of terrorist financing activity”.

Chapter 6: Conclusion

The well-established and documented presence of Turkish-backed foreign terrorist fighters in Azerbaijan and their involvement in the hostilities against the people of Artsakh is destabilizing the regional peace and security.

Turkey and Azerbaijan have gravely violated their obligations under international law, including International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, UN Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, Geneva conventions, as well as relevant UNSC resolutions.

Turkey and Azerbaijan undermine the object and purpose of the international legal instruments. Moreover, most of these gross and systematic breaches relate to their obligations under peremptory norms of general international law, which are essential for the protection of fundamental interests of the international community.

Annexes

Annex 1: Flight tracking data

Reference B1	Unknown jet with call sign BRQ218 (travelling from Tripoli to Azerbaijan) https://caucasus.liveuamap.com/en/2020/29-september-flight-from-tripoli-coming-to-baku-azerbaijan
Reference B2	Turkish Health Ministry's Embraer ERJ-135 https://twitter.com/GDarkconrad/status/1312837290696245249

Annex 2: Recordings released by FTFs from Azerbaijan

<i>Reference N</i>	<i>Audio/video recordings</i>	<i>Transcript/Description</i>
Reference A	Armenian armaments https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_eFA5718Oc	Here are the armaments. Our goods are in Syria. The boxes are closed. No one will take anything, as we will not be able to sell it.
	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvixBzeIctM	The trophy obtained from Armenia (Mustafa)
Reference B	Armenian casualties https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9az9xcxd7Wg https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2t8moyQRW1Q	The victims of the Armenian Army. I will come back with victory.
Reference C	Armenian helicopter https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EFHUpVeSsM	The voices discuss whether the air strike is delivered by helicopter or the helicopter itself is hit down by air strike.
Reference D	Azerbaijani military base in Horadiz https://twitter.com/JulianRoepcke/status/1312347751359959040	The Geolocation of Military Base
Reference E	Audio Recordings of fighters Recording No. 1 https://bit.ly/3iBRqni	Hello, let the peace, grace and mercy of the Lord be upon you. How are you Abu Walid. Master, as about Azerbaijan, don't allow anyone to come here. The situation is not good. The fighting is quite heavy. I swear with the name of Almighty God, 30-40 people die every day, for the sake of God, the condition of those who are wounded, is awfully unutterable. Sheikh, I swear, all of them are Syrians, a single Azeri doesn't fight.
	Audio Recordings of fighters Recording No. 2 https://bit.ly/3iBRqni	All right, Confide in God, my dear Abu Walid. I swear with the name of God, we are disgraced, we are embarrassed, for the sake of God. By God, everyone wants to return, everyone is dissatisfied. Some are

		<p>dying, others are losing their heads, third ones- their legs, as there are mines everywhere. I swear with the Almighty God, it is already two days that people want to return, no one has come back, I swear, they threatened us with weapon, so that no one will talk they are taking us for fighting against our will and they are taking us for training, against our will and so on. Everything is obligatory here, against our will.</p>
	<p>Audio Recordings of fighters Recording No. 3 https://bit.ly/3iBRqni</p>	<p>Haji, don't come, I swear with the name of the God, don't come. This guys don't know my name, neither I know theirs. Everything is a lie, it is fighting, Master, some are blown up, some die, others we can't take out from ruins. There are 30-50 lost people, we don't know they are dead or alive. 35 people are dead, those who are wounded are above 70. Haji, it is not a game, it is a carnage. For the sake of God, it is a carnage. Take care Abu Walid, don't allow anyone to come, I swear with the name of God. I don't know him, and he doesn't know me. There are 100 people who want to return, but they are not allowed. They don't do anything, they are sitting, they don't do absolutely anything.</p>
	<p>Audio Recordings of fighters Recording No. 4 https://bit.ly/3npdXr6</p>	<p>Hey, the whole groups are dying, each of which are 10, 15, 7, 8, many are dying. As if Turks are with us and so on. No one is alongside us, besides Shia people. Why Shia people betray people. What are they doing with</p>

		us, they don't send us, they don't send us back. They are dying with groups.
	<p>Audio Recordings of fighters</p> <p>Recording No. 5</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3npdXr6</p>	<p>Tell Mohammad not to send people here, it is a trouble, tell Mohammad Jamil and Foulans (if they don't know anyone, they call them Foulan), right? Tell him that he is absolutely useless, 1%. Tell, that Alan is sending greetings and that he doesn't have any help from this one, 1%, ok?</p>
Reference F	<p>Audio Recordings of fighters</p> <p>Location – Mataghis</p> <p>https://youtu.be/5nP4iDySshw</p>	<p>For the Sake of God, let someone take us from here, this is a morass. Currently, we are in Mataghis. There is no food or water. We are under fire and shelling. We are here for almost 4-5 days. The bodies of our friends are teared into pieces in front of our eyes. Please, talk to a higher officer to take us out from here. Talk to Azerbaijani militaries, let them bring us food and water. We have also talked to Azerbaijanis and they replied that either we should do our job, or they will kill us. How long shall we stay? Half of our Syrian friends has already died. If they won't take us from here, I will come to Turkey. Our friends have already started to fight with each other over the food. We have been told that there will be food, water and money. Where are they? There is no money, no food, no water.</p>

Reference G	Audio Recordings of fighters Location – Horadiz https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHHrn68yOe4	Hi brother, who is hearing us. Good morning Abu Hassan. We are under shelling. We are in Horadiz. The fighter further complains about his condition and the absence of food and water.
Reference H	Arab-speaking fighters wearing Azerbaijani border-guard uniforms and using Azerbaijani armored vehicles and trucks https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-14tyoQFYQ&	Fighters cry out without order: “Hey, be careful ahead! Allahu Akbar! Bring the munition! There is no one ahead! You attack! Be careful around us! Gather all group! Etc”
Reference I	Fighters in Azerbaijani border guards uniform https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXkR8oDJmCg	Fighter A (pointing the plaque allegedly placed by Armenian party): “Armenians, Liberation, Allahu Akbar”. Then demonstrating gesture of ‘Grey Wolves’, Turkish far-right organization. Fighter B (demonstrating the Liberty gesture and pointing the area behinds him): “Iran”.

Reference J	Video recording of two fighters, who claim that they are in Azerbaijan https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ab_h2_vUFNQ	<p>Fighter A: This message is addressed to our brothers who went to Azerbaijan. Because of financial problems and so on</p> <p>Fighter B: No one has a right to do like that.</p> <p>Fighter A: Do not believe that somebody dies from hunger, and do not believe that God Almighty leave you one day. Look, you went to Azerbaijan but do not consider yourself poorer than me. Maybe there is no one poorer than me and these guys. Be accountable with God and you will be given what you want. Ask the compensation/fee from God Almighty. What Azerbaijan? You are from the people of Levant. Mohamed Prophet preached in Levant. The emigrants come from outside Syria passing thousands of kilometers to put their feet on Levant. So, we are from the people of Levant. Why do we have to go to Azerbaijan, Libya or another place? I swear, I do not die from hunger, God Almighty created worms in stones.</p> <p>Fighter B: I swear, my brother, I welcome our brothers...</p> <p>Fighter A: You are from us and you are our brothers.</p> <p>Fighter B: When they say that 50 people have been killed, we, I swear of sublime God, are being sorry for you. We care about you otherwise we would not talk about that. Your patient is with us in Rabat (not audible). There are 5 million people in camps</p>
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		<p>who want to come back to cities and villages.</p> <p>Fighter A: People who are in camps are waiting for you. They have no way but Allah and you.</p> <p>Fighter B: And you are going to Azerbaijan?</p> <p>Fighter A: Where? God Almighty said "Hold fast" (quote from Quran). God did not say go here and there. Do you think that it is jihad? This is Demand of Jihad. We are today in defensive Jihad. You are forced to defend not to demand. Demand, and I will demand with you but not now.</p> <p>Fighter B: Allah is my suffice, and the best deputy. God bless you.</p>
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Annex 3: Lists of foreign terrorist fighters**Lists of FTFs transferred by Turkey to Azerbaijan according to the Armenian Intelligence sources****List A**

	Foreign terrorist fighter	Date and place of birth
1.	Khatab Ahmad Shikho خطاب احمد شيخو	1992, Latakia
2.	Ahmad Mohammed Shama احمد محمد شما	01/01/1988, Latakia
3.	Mohammed Zamja Ajuz محمد زمجي عجوز	01/12/1977, Al-Rauda, Hamah province
4.	Ziad Jamal Ajuz زياد جمال عجوز	18/01/1989, Latakia
5.	Usama/Osama Hasan Husein اسامة حسن حسين	12/05/1995, Latakia
6.	Tarek Mohammed Turkman طارق محمد تركمان	05/12/1987, Latakia
7.	Khaled Ali Shrshi خالد علي شرشي	09/10/1988, Latakia
8.	Haytham Hasan Hussein هيثم حسن حسين	20/08/1990, Latakia
9.	Mustafa Nadim Bariq مسطفي نديم باريق	05/01/1982, Al- Qastal, Suburb of Damascus
10.	Orhan Mohammed Jariq اورهان محمد جريق	20/02/1988, Latakia
11.	Ahmad Sabed Morjah احمد ثابت مورجة	1987, Latakia
12.	Mohammed Aref Shirtik محمد عارف شيرتيك	01/02/1994, Latakia
13.	Yaser Ramadan Sheikh Ahmad ياسر رمضان شيخ احمد	01/01/1985, Latakia

14.	Ahmad Mohammad Mahmud احمد محمد محمود	08/04/1995, Latakia
15.	Ali Mohammad Ajuz علي محمد عجوز	05/01/1992, Latakia
16.	Burhan Saleh Manlauli برهان صالح منلاولي	10/10/1992, Qastal
17.	Mohammad Shaukad/t Mahmud محمد شوكت محمود	01/11/1992, Rabia
18.	Ahmad Jamal Hamu احمد جمال حمو	01/01/1995, Rabia
19.	Adel Azzuddin Tosun عادل عز الدين طوصون	07/09/1993, Rabia
20.	Farid Mohammad Malahsin فريد محمد ملاحسن	06/01/1986, Al-Dura
21.	Mohammad Ahmad Ajuz محمد احمد عجوز	02/01/1968, Latakia

List B

	Foreign terrorist fighter	Date and place of birth
1.	Fahim Issa, One of the leaders of Sultan Murad. One of the main recruiters, alongside with Abu Amsha and Sayf Abu Bakr (Balud)	
2.	Qassem Mustafa al-Jazmour, Sultan Murad fighter	
3.	Saif Abu Bakr (Saif Balud), One of the leaders of Al Hamza	
4.	Alaa Jneid, One of the commanders of Al Hamza	
5.	Muhammad Al-Jasim, One of the commanders of Al Hamza	
6.	Mustafa Ghanti, Al-Hamza fighter	23 y. o. (1997)
7.	Adham	Kafr Jannah village, Aleppo

8.	Muhammad Abdul Razzaq (nickname Muhammad Shaalan) Al-Hamza fighter Killed	45 y. o., Al-Atarib, Aleppo province
9.	Muhammad Jassem/ Abu Amsha, Leader of Sultan Suleiman Shah brigade, known from fights in Libya. One of the main recruiters, alongside with Fahim Issa and Sayf Abu Bakr (Balud)	
10.	Abuebide Aljonubi/Al-Janubi, One of the commanders of “Jabhat an-Nusra”	Tall Zamyun, Idlib province
11.	Mustafa Muhammad al-Kudur	1999, Village Kurin, Idlib province
12.	Hasan Muhammad Saghir	1980
13.	Najm Nimr/Namr al-Khalil/Hebron	1980
14.	Khalid Mustafa Abras	1984, Village Kurin, Marim
15.	Ahmad Feisal al-Ibrahim	1992, City of Kafr Roumah, Idlib province
16.	Abdullah Subhi Hamada	1984
17.	Musab Hasan al-Hasan	1992, Village al-Tawama, Aleppo province
18.	Abdullah Abdulaziz Shobak	1997
19.	Samir Abdulaziz Shobak	1994
20.	Ali Abdulkhalek Hassun	1997, Village Kurin, Idlib province
21.	Hussein Abdulkhalek Hassun	1998, Village Kurin, Idlib province
22.	Jihad Ahmad al-Hamavi/Yousef Ibrahim Jamal	1991, City Sarmada, Idlib province
23.	Basil Omar Mustafa	1997, Village al-Tawama, Aleppo province
24.	Obeida Abdu-l-Rahman Naser	1999
25.	Feisal Muhammad al-Ahmad	1988, city Idlib, Syria
26.	Muhammad Abdulrahman Kari/Kabi	15.02.1983
27.	Abdullah Hassan Shobak	1985

28.	Khaled Wahid al-Jum'a	1997, City Kafr Roumah, Idlib province
29.	Sami Muhammad Ghandour	1998
30.	Abdulaziz Muhammad Kabi	01.03.1980
31.	Ahmad Shehadi Shreydi	1988
32.	Yusef Ibrahim Jalal/Jamal	1991, City of Serakib, Idlib province
33.	Hasan Kamel al-Akdi	1998, City Kafr Roumah, Idlib province
34.	Yazan Walid Osman	1997, Village Kurin, Idlib province
35.	Nader Musa Faris	1988, Village al-Tawama, Aleppo province
36.	Mustafa Khaled al-Dik/Deek	1999, City Kafr Roumah, Idlib province
37.	'Adil Abdulrahman al-Omar	1994, Village Killi, Idlib province
38.	Yamin Walid Abdin	1996, Village Kurin, Idlib province
39.	Shaanan Mar'i Khalil	1976
40.	Muhammad Ahmad Bzamani	1992, Village Kurin, Idlib province
41.	Ibrahim Mustafa Hamadeh	1998, City Kafr Roumah, Idlib province
42.	Yaser Abdu-l-Latif Abdu-l-Qader	1994
43.	Hammoud Ibrahim Hammoud	1998
44.	Ahmad Abdunaser Maher	1999
45.	Ahmad Feisal al-Ibrahim	1999, Village Kurin, Idlib province
46.	Barakat Muhammad Muhsin Hammash	1998, Village al-Tawama, Aleppo province
47.	Abdullah Zahr al-Din Ajini	1994, Village Kurin, Idlib province
48.	Ali Muhammad Dawalibi	1997, Kafr Hamra, province of Aleppo

49.	Muhammad Ibrahim Juma'a	1994
50.	Khalid Walid al-Rahmoun	1992
51.	Azouv/Izo Mahmud al-Yousef	1998, City of Kafr Roumah, Idlib province
52.	Ahmad Imad Bisarah/Bisharah Bizarah/Bzarah	1997
53.	`Az ad-Din Hadr Shakir	1997
54.	Heitham Keik	(Drvishan, North of) Kessab
55.	Isam Keik	(Drvishan, North of) Kessab
56.	Mustafa Ajuz	(Ghabara, North of) Kessab
57.	Yahya Mella	(Ghabara, North of) Kessab
58.	Tarek Sokhta, Commander of the group of fighters	(Ghabara, North of) Kessab

List C

	Foreign terrorist fighter	Date of birth
1.	Zakaria Ahmad Qadi زكريا أحمد قاضي	1988
2.	Mumammad Nuri Abu Ali محمد نوري أبو علي	1991
3.	Mazen Kamal Qara Bujuk مازن كمال قره بجق	1977
4.	Ali Adib Raslan علي أدیب رسلان	1994
5.	Zahir Abdu-l-Wudud زهير عبد الودود خليل	1990
6.	Omar Mustafa Hoban عمار مصطفى هوبان	1996

7.	Muhammad Hashem Qadi محمود هاشم قاضي	1996
8.	Anis Nadim Shiar أنس نديم شعار	1988
9.	Munif Majid Qujak منيف مجيد كوجاك	1995
10.	Omar Muhammad Abu Ali عمار محمد أبو علي	1991
11.	Muhammad Mustafa Hajj Abu Ali محمد مصطفى حاج أبو علي	1992
12.	Muhammad Muhammad Ali Abdel Hadi محمد محمد علي عبد الهادي	1988
13.	Murad Ahmad Qara Bujuk مراد أحمد قره بجق	1991
14.	Teymur Hanfi Bostanji تيفور حنفي بوستنجي	1996

List D

	Foreign terrorist fighter
1.	Muhammad ash-Sheykh Ali محمد الشيخ علي
2.	Firas al-Hajj Yousef فراس الحاج يوسف
3.	Musa Janid موسى جنيد
4.	Tamam Ayyub تمام أيوب
5.	Muhammad Aliwi محمد عليوي
6.	Ali ash-Sheikh علي الشيخ

7.	Muhammad Dalla محمد دلة
8.	Haythum Dalla هيثم دلة
9.	Hasan Muhammad Sharita حسن محمد شريطة
10.	Adil al-Yousef عادل اليوسف
12.	Abd al-Jabbar Qastun عبد الجبار قستون Al-Hamza

List E

	Foreign terrorist fighter	Place of birth
1.	Younis Naasan يونس نعان	Kafr Khum
2.	Nidal Shariba نصال شريبا	
3.	Nizar Shariba نزار شريبا	
4.	Mohammad Shariba محمد شريبا	
5.	Khalil Malya Mousa خليل ماليا موسى	
6.	Mohammad Shukhti محمد شختي	

List F. Demised FTFs according to the Armenian Intelligence sources

	Foreign terrorist fighter	Date and place of birth
1.	Yasser Frzat ياسر فرزات "Al-Hamza"	Rastan, province of Homs, Syria

	Foreign terrorist fighter	Date and place of birth
2.	Kan`an Frzat كنان فرزات SNA, Major/Captain	35 y.o (approx. 1985), Rastan, province of Homs
3.	Abu Shadi ابو شادي "Al-Hamza"	Al-Atarib, province of Aleppo, Syria
4.	Hussein Talha حسين طلحة "Al-Hamza"	Anjara, province of Aleppo, Syria
5.	Sadam Aziz Azkour (alias- Daroubi) صدام عزيز عذكور "Al-Hamza"	Village Al Karim North-West of Hama
6.	Ali al-Rahmouni علي الرحموني "Al-Hamza"	Kafr Aleppo, Aleppo province
7.	Abd al-Razak (alias- Abu Houria/Hurira) عبد الرزاق / ابو حورية	Village Tasnin, Homs province
8.	Bilal At-Taybani بلال الطيباني	Rastan, province of Homs
9.	Mahmud Najjar محمود نجار	City Marea, Aleppo province
10.	Walid al-Ashtar وليد الأشر	Rastan, province of Homs
11.	Abu Kasim al-Zaghlul ابو قاسم الزغلول	Al-Hajar al-Aswad, Suburb of Damascus
12.	Muhammad Abdul Sattar al-Khalaf محمد عبد الستار الخلف	Al-Atarib, province of Aleppo
13.	Abdul Hanan Abd al-Razak عبد الحنان عبد الرزاق	Village Marea, province of Aleppo
14.	Muhammad Abdel Mouti محمد عبد الموتي	
15.	Hussein al-Taweel حسين الطويل	

	Foreign terrorist fighter	Date and place of birth
16.	Firas Auaid فiras عويد	
17.	Abdullatif Hasani عبداللطيف حسني	
18.	Muhammad Mahdi محمد مهدي	
19.	Mazen Muhammad مازن محمد	
20.	Abdurrahman al-Khatib عبد الرحمن الخطيب	
21.	Hamza al-Shami حمزة الشامي	
22.	Abdulrahman al-Shami عبدالرحمن الشامي	
23.	Raduan Rahal رضوان رحال	
24.	Muhammad Khaled as-Shahna محمد خالد الشحنة	26-year-old , Displaced from Maarat an- Nouman, to Maarat an-Misreen, province of Idlib
25.	Ibrahim Jum`a ابراهيم جمعة	Rastan, province of Homs, Syria
26.	Ahmad Lahlah لهله/أحمد لحلاح	Rastan, province of Homs, Syria
27.	Amer Izzat Sukhta عامر عزت سوخطة	24/05/1982, Latakia
28.	Kamal Ahmed Jamal Sukhta كمال احمد جمال سوخطة	25/04/1971, Rabia, Latakia or Hama governorate
29.	Murad Nauras Sukhta مراد نورس سخطة	01/01/1986, Latakia
30.	Kinan Nauras Sukhta كنان نورس سخطة	1992, Latakia

	Foreign terrorist fighter	Date and place of birth
31.	Amer Ahmad Shikho عامر احمد شيخو	20/01/1988, Al-Samra, Hama governorate
32.	Mohammed Shaker Sukhta محمد شاكر سوخته	15/01/1988, Rabia, Latakia or Hama governorate
33.	Ali Izzat Sukhta علي عزت سوخته	09/04/1988, Rabia, Latakia or Hama governorate
34.	Adel ash-Shahir Al-Hamza	
35.	Bilal Tiawi	
36.	Adel al-Shahir عادل الشاهر One of the Commanders of Al-Hamza	
37.	Abu Maria ابو ماريا	Deir ez-Zor
38.	Abu Mazal ابو ماظل	Deir ez-Zor
39.	Yasen Ahmad	

List G. Fighters with social network profiles

	Foreign terrorist fighter	Social media account
1.	عامر سوخته Amir Sokhta	https://bit.ly/30I7EFm https://www.facebook.com/amer.sohta1
2.	كمال سوخته Kamal Sokhta	https://bit.ly/3nuLDUv https://www.facebook.com/kemal.sohta
3.	محمد سوخته Muhammed/ Mohammad Shaker Sokhta, (killed)	https://www.facebook.com/muhammed.sohta https://www.facebook.com/mehmet.sohta.7
4.	علي عزت سوخته Ali Azt Sokhta, (killed)	https://www.facebook.com/aliazt.sohkta
5.	كانان نورس سوخته Kanan Nors Sokhta (killed)	https://www.facebook.com/mazen.nors
6.	مراد نورس سوخته Murad Sokhta, (killed)	https://www.facebook.com/murat.sohta.39 https://www.facebook.com/murat.sohta.10
7.	عامر أحمد شيخو	https://bit.ly/2SygHo3

	Amir Ahmad Sheikhu	
8.	ابراهيم جمعة Ibrahim Jum`a (killed)	pic.twitter.com/P8uS8amrvf
9.	احمد لاهله Ahmad Lahlah (killed)	pic.twitter.com/P8uS8amrvf