

# ECONOMIC AND LEGAL ASSESSMENT OF ILLICIT ACTIVITIES DURING THE OCCUPATION OF KARABAKH AND ITS ADJACENT DISTRICTS

Adalat MURADOV \*

Nargiz HAJIYEVA\*\*

**Abstract.** This study investigates the illegal exploitation of natural resources, the export, and import of goods and products carried out by Armenia during the occupation of Karabakh and the surrounding areas. The current legal and economic assessments of the property rights belonging to Azerbaijani lands are thoroughly conducted upon their liberation from the occupation. This topic, which has not previously been the subject of research, is highly relevant both in terms of the value of the analysis and the practicality of the subject matter. In the study, the economic and legal aspects of the actions carried out by Armenia during the occupation and the clear-cut measures taken by Azerbaijan following the liberation of Karabakh and surrounding areas are comparatively analyzed. Within the scope of international politics and based on geographical boundaries, the regulation of intellectual property and property rights in the occupied territories has become a critical problem in terms of the illegal use of goods and other resources. By actively supporting illicit activities in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan, Armenia not only relieved its ongoing financial difficulties but also benefited economically from the exploitation of resources in the occupied territories by importing more than 90 percent (%) of agricultural and mineral products and exporting mislabeled resources and goods abroad. As such, the economic and legal consequences of intellectual property and natural resource exploitation are inextricably connected to the development of the political and security circumstances in Karabakh and its seven nearby districts.

**Keywords:** Azerbaijan, Armenia, intellectual property, illegal activities, Karabakh, the liberation of Azerbaijani territories, property rights

---

\* Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Istiglaliyyat str. 6, AZ1001 Baku, Azerbaijan. E-mail: adalat\_muradov@unec.edu.az

\*\* Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), Istiglaliyyat str. 6, AZ1001 Baku, Azerbaijan. E-mail: nargiz\_hajiyeva@unec.edu.az

## Introduction

Modern time is more crucial than ever for goods, services, and other products in terms of the effectiveness of regulation and enforcement of intellectual property rights by nation-states. The destiny of trade in many countries depends largely on proper compliance with intellectual property rights, laws, and regulations. Intellectual property (IP) is particularly relevant to current international political and economic issues, perhaps even more than the rule of law or legal principles. Although Azerbaijan has made some progress in regulating and justifying intellectual property rights, concerning the Karabakh issue there are still some difficulties and shortcomings in the maintenance of intellectual property rights as those lands had been under the illegal occupation of Armenia for 30 years. These difficulties occur over and above violations of Azerbaijan's property rights by the illegal consumption of natural resources by Armenia. In contemporary international politics, intellectual property rights (IPR) has increasingly become an arena for both global cooperation and conflict. The definition of international IP rules, their legal status, and their enforcement area of utmost international relevance by the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). In combination with the provisions of TRIPS regulations and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) are the institutional centerpieces for the international IP framework. However, the national level is central when it comes to the actual implementation and enforcement of the respective regulations.\*

To sum up, both IP and property rights are still facing many challenges and disputable issues in different nation-states. Those rights are more restricted by political issues than today's legal principles. Because the parties or states cannot agree upon the enforcement of legal principles, the settlement of disputes, and as a result, the maintenance of international property rights is a more pragmatically political issue. In the political prism, the moral values and principles of the states sometimes limit international property rights, which impede the enforcement of those property rights in the countries.

Currently, Azerbaijan and Armenia do not have diplomatic or economic-trade relations due to the Karabakh conflict dated back to the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the Mehri district in 1988.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, there had been disagreements between the two countries regarding the protection of intellectual property rights and the customs system stemming from the illegal occupation of Azerbaijani territories; Karabakh, and its adjacent territories for 30 years. The main reason for these disagreements is Armenia's falsification, mislabeling, and illegal storage of and exportation to international markets of Azerbaijan's natural resources and products during the occupation. This, in turn, means that Azerbaijan's intellectual property rights had been infringed during the occupation. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted a number of resolutions in 1993, including 822 (1993)<sup>2</sup>, 853 (1993)<sup>3</sup>, 874 (1993)<sup>4</sup>, and 884 (1993)<sup>5</sup>, condemning the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories, reaffirming Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, acknowledging the Karabakh region as the main part of Azerbaijan, and the inviolability of its borders.<sup>6</sup>

During the occupation, Armenia encouraged and supported the illegal production and export of goods from the occupied districts to other neighboring and European countries. Armenian authorities provided logistical support to Armenian and foreign businesses operating in those territories for them to promote their products in international markets, expand trade, develop ties with foreign business owners, and inspect investment opportunities. Before the liberation of these lands, the Armenian side in Azerbaijan's occupied territories shared a common customs zone with Armenia. As a result, at that time, the Armenian Customs Code governed imports to and exports from formerly occupied territories. Unfortunately, Azerbaijan's customs system and spot checks in Karabakh and its neighboring areas were demolished and had no legal status during the occupation period.<sup>7</sup> As Armenia violated the legally binding international obligations and principles derived from intellectual property law in the formerly occupied Azerbaijani territories. (*See Annex 1 below*)

### **Relevance, Novelty, and Justification**

Both IPR and property rights have faced many problems and controversies during the occupation of Karabakh by Armenia. These rights were more limited to political and economic issues than legal principles. As the parties or states fail to agree on the application of legal principles in the settlement of disputes, the protection of international property rights is more practical in political and economic matters. In a political economy, the moral values and principles of states sometimes limit international property rights, which prevent the exercise of these property rights in countries. Based on the importance of the selected research, it should be noted that this topic has not been studied in-depth due to the lack of monographs, other additional information, and sources. As for the innovative features of the study, the article evaluates the main volumes of illegal activities made related to the scrutiny of intellectual property and property rights problems faced by the Azerbaijani side due to the illegal use of goods and items throughout the occupation of Azerbaijani territories.

### **Main Content Analysis**

With the growing economic and political importance of IPR and property rights, countries face different challenges in their occupied territories. Karabakh has historically been an integral part of Azerbaijan, but these territories had been under Armenian occupation for 30 years. In this case, the products and goods illegally produced in Azerbaijani territories were limited to the territory of Armenia during the occupation. Therefore, before the liberation of those lands, Azerbaijan was unable to take appropriate measures in the regulation of both intellectual property (IP) and property rights in Karabakh and its adjacent areas due to a lack of enforcement measures, centralized policy, and economic powers.

### **Theoretical background**

In the contemporary world, intellectual property rights are mostly considered core rights amongst the nation-states in terms of providing and preserving their rights and affiliation upon different goods, services, and items belonging or

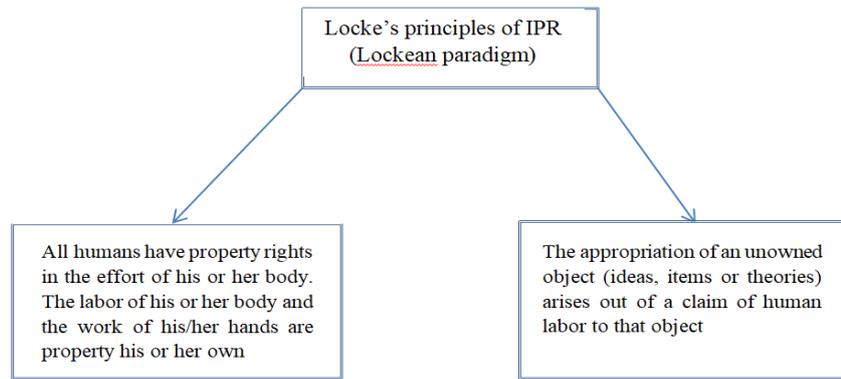
produced by them. Although, in recent times, the enforcement of intellectual property rights by countries is much more crucial for ensuring ownership over goods, services, and any other products, the theory of intellectual property law has not undergone deep investigation up to recent times or not much attracted the attention of philosophes and scholars.<sup>8</sup>

In his book "The Rationale for Intellectual Property" (1991), Hettinger argues that the most powerful institution that properly supports intellectual property rights is based on people's efforts, intelligence, and perseverance, rather than on others. Classical economists such as John Locke, Adam Smith, and Karl Marx generally recognize the importance of property rights in the process of economic development, and modern mainstream economics agree with this recognition. According to John Locke, one's labor was their property, and thus, the property was any land maintained and sustained through one's own labor as long as there was enough and similar quality land to meet the needs of everyone's labor.<sup>9</sup>

The father of intellectual property theory, John Locke's "Labor Theory", is widely used to well comprehend intellectual property. According to the "Lockean paradigm", each man possesses property in his own person, holding the point that the fruits of a man's labor (because of hard work) belong merely to him or her. In these circumstances, the intellectual property would seem to follow up the natural rules, since the other side or individual has to surely be allowed to acquire the fruits of his or her mental and physical labor. So that in the case of the breach of these rules, one or the other side has to be infringed due to the illegal use of his or her work.<sup>10</sup>

The "Lockean" justification points out that property rights are considered natural rights. A person has a right to possess the creation of the new idea in his mind, at the same time; he owns the creation of his labor and his fruits as a result of his hard work. In the beginning, everything can be seen as common, however, by using labor, individual mind, and intellect, it turns to be private, which all those belong to this or another person. Therefore, they do have their legal rights to preserve their belongings engendering from his toil. (Goods, items, or any fruits because of labor) It comes from those arguments that intellectual property rights are natural rights and reflects the ownership of mind, labor to the individual.<sup>11</sup>

In his article entitled "On Locke's Theory of Property and His Marxist Criticism: On Locke and Marx, Property Rights, and Individual Freedoms", Murat Birdal emphasizes that Karl Marx's perspective on the Lockean paradigm differs due to his critique of the theory. According to Locke's theory, not all rights are equal, but there is a hierarchy among them, and one person's right to property restricts all other rights. As a result, there is open social stratification, and property rights cannot be distributed equally. To protect his or her property rights, a person must have created an object or an idea. Otherwise, the rights are meaningless and untrue.<sup>12</sup>



**Figure 1.** J. Locke's justification for natural law or labor theory (*Composed by the authors*)

William Fisher emphasizes in his book “Theory of Intellectual Property” that intellectual property rights are frequently essential among nation-states in terms of securing and protecting their rights and belonging to the various goods, services, and things they own or produce. The “Lockean” labor theory is still criticized by some interlocutors, as Leggett claims that if you proclaim a private object or item belongs to your own, however, you cannot be sure whether the very exclusive idea/object has not been the present or not been made by another person. So that these kinds of property rights can only be defensible in the case if, the rights of individuals are protected without breaching the property rights of another.<sup>13</sup> Locke mentions that all people are common to make and then use their exclusive ideas or objects, meaning that they are able to defend and preserve those property rights, which are made as a result of their labor or hard work. However, in the “Lockean” paradigm, there is a lack of ideas that cannot support as to exclusive object or idea does not belong to or are not made in other’s minds.<sup>14</sup>

According to the justification of Locke, intellectual property rights are exclusive but do not mean that they are always relevant; mostly they are for a limited duration. Thus, the criticism in the “Lockean” theory is that intellectual property rights are not absolute rights, but more relative rights, so that in the current times, intellectual property rights arise questions and disputes amongst nation-states in terms of geographical indications, mainly in conflicted territories of the countries. Therefore, in different periods, intellectual property rights can be limited by socio-economic and other legally local fundamental rights where such kinds of rights have dominancy and can be more persistent in a particular situation.<sup>15</sup>

Karl Marx’s view of the “Lockean” paradigm is distinct due to his criticism of the given theory. Marx’s criticism of Locke’s theory asserts that not all rights possess equal standing, however rather there is a hierarchy among them and the right of an individual’s property has restrictions on all other rights. So that there is a clear social stratification, and not all property rights can be distributed equally. Otherwise, the right becomes hollow and untrue. Simultaneously, each individual must accept

materialistic goals, because his targets are to secure and retain his personal property done by his intellectual mind.<sup>16</sup>

Therefore, Marx points out that all other rights must be understood as obedient to property rights. Consequently, there is a misperception of the idea that, if a man is property-less, he is not able to possess and preserve any labor, as he does not have any property products. Marx also criticizes the labor theory of value that causes the elimination of private property, which he remarks as a source of estrangement and a major obstacle for the attainment of individual freedom. Whereas Locke defines the right to property as the epicenter of individual freedom, Marxists argue that individual freedom can only be achieved by the elimination of property rights. Under the Marxist view, man's freedom is only limited to having property rights. The man without property cannot acquire any rights and can be deprived of any other rights as well.<sup>17</sup>

To sum up, intellectual property rights are still facing many challenges and disputable issues in different nation-states. Those rights are more restricted by political issues than today's legal principles. Because the parties or states cannot agree on the enforcement of legal principles in the settlement of disputes, and as a result, the maintenance of international property rights is a more pragmatically political issue. In the political prism, the moral values and principles of the states sometimes limit international property rights, which impedes the enforcement of those property rights in the countries. Therefore, although Locke's theory seems to be an appropriate theory for the regulation and understanding of international property rights, however, the theory remains unanswered to some questions as to the geographic indications, politics between countries, and so on.

### **Violation of Property Rights: Illegal Appropriation of Natural Resources**

Property rights or tenure to natural resources are a key policy apparatus for promoting sustainable resource use and protection. Their role in sustainable natural resource management, good governance, and poor community empowerment are receiving a lot of attention in development and environmental or ecosystem management. Property rights are increasingly being highlighted in literature and practical experience as an important consideration in rural empowerment and sustainable management of land and natural resources. It is based on the principles of international environmental law (IEL) and closely in connection with the attempt to control pollution and depletion of natural resources within the framework of sustainability.<sup>18</sup>

Development organizations are increasingly recognizing property rights as a pivotal factor in determining how land and natural resources are effectively used and managed, as well as how benefits from these resources are distributed by governments. Clear and enforced property rights are crucially necessary for keeping ecosystems healthy and safe. So that the proper regulation and effective application of property rights prevent the destruction of the ecosystem, can encourage the provision of ecosystem services and help invest in the protection and efficient use of natural resources. Property rights regimes are an important part of natural resource management because they affect how the resources and revenues of natural resources

are distributed by influencing the promotion of resource management of different actors, and in the end, shapes resource conditions and livelihoods.<sup>19</sup>

Unfortunately, the ecosystem was (flora and fauna) damaged and environmental degradation occurred as a result of illegal exploitation of natural resources in Karabakh and seven nearby regions. According to the report of the Azerbaijani Presidential Administration, Armenia illegally exploited natural resources in the occupied territories and used water resources to create an artificial ecological crisis.<sup>20</sup> During 30 years, Armenia illicitly produced gold and other precious metals and minerals in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and exported them to international markets by grossly violating both international law and environmental law. This was a scheme of illegal business activities and money laundering in those territories.<sup>21</sup> Despite all these illegal violations, the world community (mainly international and regional organizations) has not taken any preventive measures or actions upon the violation of international environmental law, intellectual property, and property law in the occupied territories.

Along with pursuing a policy of aggression for 30 years, Armenia had appropriated the natural resources of Azerbaijan and for many years, the reserves extracted from the gold deposits in Kalbajar had been exported to world markets as Armenian production (mislabelled “made in Armenia” brand). Armenian as well as foreign companies mainly run by the diaspora including Lebanon’s Artsax Roots Investment, the United States’ Tufenkian Foundation, Armenia’s General Benevolent Union / AGBU / Cherchian Family Foundation have provided constant financial assistance to make personal gains and carry out demographic and cultural changes in these areas during the occupation.<sup>22</sup>

During the nearly 30 years of occupation of Azerbaijani lands, many international companies have operated illegally in the extraction and appropriation of natural resources in those areas. Since 1999, the Armenian government had encouraged several foreign companies to invest in Karabakh. These influential companies overtly had violated the norms of international law by operating in the internationally occupied territories of Azerbaijan in the fields of mining, construction, woodworking, telecommunications, and others. International Companies from Iran, the United States, Russia, Great Britain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and other countries have illegally exploited Azerbaijan's wealth by investing in the occupied territories. The illegal activities of international companies in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan were also reflected in the report entitled “Who else profits: international and European companies in the occupied territories” issued by the Israeli Kohelet think tank in 2017 and 2018.<sup>23</sup>

During the Armenian occupation, many international companies (160 international companies illegally operated in Karabakh) from French, (Orange, Crédit Agricole, Cartor, etc.) the UK, (Grand Thronton” company, Vodafone), Germany (Aurubis, Deutz-Fahr), Russia, (Tashir Group, GeoProMining, Vibrotechnique), Netherland, (VimpelCom), the USA (ATA-Bank MS, GS Motors, Caterpillar, John Deere), Denmark (FLSmith), Iran (Iran Mellat Bank), etc. established businesses in Azerbaijan by violating the principles of international law.<sup>24</sup> Along with the above-mentioned countries, companies from Lebanon, Canada, Portugal, Argentina, and

other countries also set up businesses in Azerbaijan during the occupation.<sup>25</sup> Although Azerbaijan has repeatedly called on international organizations and the United Nations in different times to fight against illegal trade and exploitation in Karabakh and its surrounding areas, these appeals have never been heeded.

The extraction of precious minerals and metals in the occupied territories was considered one of the main activities. For example, the underground copper-gold mine in Gizilbulag (a subsidiary of the Armenian company Vallex Group CJSC, registered in Liechtenstein) was completely depleted. The same applies to the open copper-molybdenum mine in Demirli. In 2014, Gold Star CJSC started gold mining near the village of Veynalli (Zangilan district). It is reported that GPM Gold, a subsidiary of GeoProMiningLtd, which operates in Russia, had produced ore at the gold mine in the village of Soyudlu, Kalbajar region, since 2007. The famous Swiss brand watches were made of gold illegally exploited and exported from gold mines in the Veynali village of Zangilan and Kalbajar, the occupied well-off territories of Azerbaijan.<sup>26</sup>

**Figures. 1 and 1a.** Gold mines were illegally exploited by Armenia in the Kalbajar region



**Source:** Armecofront

The Vardenis-Aghdara highway was built for the illegal transportation of natural resources from the occupied region of the Azerbaijani-Armenian international border.<sup>27</sup> The Armenian government, through its energy ministry, transported ore concentrate directly from Gizilbulag to Armenia, where it processed gold-bearing copper and exported it to international markets, especially in Europe.

**Figures. 2 and 2a.** The Vardenis-Aghdara highway, which was used for illegal activities/transportation during the occupation.



2

2a

Source: Armenia Fund

In addition, coal was extracted from a mine near the occupied village of Chardagli in the Tartar region to supply a power plant in Yerevan. Therefore, in this epilogue, the secret displacement of the population and illegal economic activities in the occupied territories created a socio-political status quo, demographic displacement, and armed conflicts as a well-known “bloody diamond”.<sup>28</sup> It can be argued that during the occupation, minerals, agriculture, water resources, and other natural resources were directly intended for Armenian and international “shadow” businesses. Based on demographic changes, human rights and humanitarian norms

were violated through the implementation of fundamental contradictions, including IDPs.

According to the official data, there are 155 different mineral deposits in those Azerbaijani territories.<sup>29</sup> Of these deposits, including 5 gold, 6 mercury, and 2 copper deposits, 12 are classified as rich ore deposits. As it is known, during the occupation, the Armenians plundered these fields and exported their wealth to foreign countries by adding many profits to their budgets. Most of the dozens of companies involved in the development of these fields, such as Sterlite Gold Ltd, Sirkap Armenian, Base Metals, Manex and Valex, and the Armenian Copper Program were directed in the occupied territories by the Armenian diaspora.<sup>30</sup>

The Soyudlu (Zod) gold deposit in the Kalbajar region, located on the border with Armenia and currently closed, has been exploited since 1976 and produced more than 27 tonnes of gold before it was occupied by Armenia. In the following period, the Armenians exploited both the Soyudlu field with estimated industrial reserves of 112.5 tons and the Agduzdag and Tutkhun fields, which are thought to have reserves of more than 13 tons. Since 2007, the management of the Soyudlu (Zod) field has been transferred to the GeoProMining Gold Company (GPM).<sup>31</sup> According to the company's website, the company is an international diversified metal mining holding with three assets in Armenia and Russia. Its assets in Armenia include GPM Gold in the village of Soyudlu (Zod) and the Agarak copper-molybdenum plant. It is reported that 130,000 ounces of gold were extracted from the Zod mine in 2018. (Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, 2016) It is estimated that the field will be depleted in 18 years. The Canadian company First Dynasty Mines (FDM)<sup>32</sup>, which operated the Willow field before GPM, became the sole owner of the company in 1998 as a 50 % shareholder in the Armenian state-owned Ararat Gold Recovery Company (AGRC).<sup>33</sup> At present, the companies operating these fields are in a desperate situation, facing huge losses. Moreover, the Azerbaijani government has every reason to sue these companies in international courts for compensation for any economic and environmental damage to those territories.

### **Illicit Settlement in Karabakh and the Lack of International Law**

During the occupation, the Armenian government registered privately-owned companies, entities, as well as foreign enterprises, including Armenian-owned businesses, and facilitates permanent financial, economic, demographic, and cultural changes in those territories to not only provide their gains but also support the propagation of the territories. So that the expansion of the Armenian business environment in former occupied Azerbaijani territories created opportunities to keep these territories under control.

The undeniable fact is that those territories are mostly supported by the Armenian diaspora. For example, Armenian diaspora organizations, including "Artsakh" Roots Investment (Lebanon), (*See Annex 2 below*) operating in Lebanon, had played a major role in securing and facilitating the occupation.<sup>34</sup> Most of the financing for settlement and other activities was provided by foreign US investors of Armenian origin and charitable non-profit organizations such as the US Tufenkian Foundation, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), the Cherchian Family

Foundation, Gerald Turpanjian Educational Foundation, Lincy Foundation, Shahan Natalie Family Foundation Cafesjian Family Foundation, Armenian Cultural Association of America, Inc., etc. Simultaneously, they also benefited from tax-free status in host countries and provided large amounts of financial assistance to any kind of illegal socio-economic activities and settlements in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan. They provided either other funding to support directly or indirectly these activities on behalf of the promotion of Armenia.<sup>35</sup>

During the occupation, Armenia supported and explicitly promoted the production and export of illegal goods in Azerbaijani territories. Armenian authorities provided logistical support to Armenian and foreign businesses operating in the occupied territories to promote their products on international markets, further expand trade, develop ties with foreign businesspersons, and inspect investment opportunities there. Armenian-based agricultural, liquors export businesses such as “Stepanakert Brandy Factory”, and “Artsakh Fruit CJSC” constantly mislabeled the products produced or packed in those territories to conceal the illicit nature of the origin of products/items to misinform foreign governments, international retailers, and consumers. There was illegal traffic in the natural resources of the territories controlled by the Armenian armed forces. Armenia used those territories as a transport base to provide delivery of minerals, other resources, and directly facilitated the export of goods and minerals to international bazaars. Armenia was trying to adapt the Armenian socio-economic environment and customs system to Karabakh and formed occupied nearby districts.

Armenia unswervingly or indirectly, through its subordinate separatist regime and with the proper support of the Armenian Diaspora, continued its illegal socio-economic and other activities in the territories with either state or private interventions and tried to enhance the property rights of its citizens settling in those areas. At the same time, the Armenian Diaspora was actively involved in the resettlement of Syrian Armenians to the formerly occupied territories, giving them Armenian citizenship and creating conditions for their socio-economic well-being there.<sup>36</sup> Some measures have been undertaken to include the Azerbaijani territories occupied by Armenia into the socio-economic space and its customs territory regulated by Armenia by violating international obligations, including those within the WTO.<sup>37</sup> It is supposed that the Customs Code of Armenia regulated import to these territories. Unfortunately, Azerbaijan's customs system and spot check along with those territories had been completely demolished and had no legal status during the occupation although Armenia at that time was breaching the legally international obligations and principles stemming from Intellectual Property Law.

### **Breach of IPR: Illegal Export Issue, Mislabeled, and Forgery**

Before the liberation, the Armenian national currency which is known as “drama” was illegally used in Karabakh and its adjacent districts of Azerbaijan. During that time, the occupied territories are considered the main part of Armenia's economic territory, according to the Central Bank of Armenia (CBA), and all banking institutions operating in Karabakh had been licensed and controlled by the CBA. The banking system remained the focal point of the Armenian financial market at the time,

with 528 branches in Armenia and Karabakh, 237 of which were in Yerevan. During the occupation, the Armenian government encourages commercial banks to open branches in occupied areas. At the same time, 8 Armenian banks are operating in the occupied territories, including Artsaxbank, Convers Bank, Ardshininvestbank, Armbusinessbank, Armeconombank, Araratbank, Unibank, and Ameriabank.<sup>38</sup> Armenia actively participates in the illegal exportation of Azerbaijani goods to neighboring countries. Armenia actively promoted businesses and their products operating in Azerbaijan's occupied territories.<sup>39</sup>

During the occupation, there are regular reports of the destruction of houses, graves, cultural monuments in these areas of Azerbaijan, the transportation of equipment, construction materials, especially iron products, and other goods to other countries. Relevant information includes the fact that various precious metals, including gold-bearing soil, machine tools used in factories and plants, electric trains, wagons, and rails were cut and transported to other countries. There is information about the demonstration of our national treasures looted from the occupied territories - ancient historical works, carpets, minerals in European countries under the name of Armenian national treasure. Armenians exhibited photographs of mineral deposits and up to 3,600 rock carvings in Kalbajar in 2000 in Finland as their territory.<sup>40</sup>

In addition, the sale of ancient Azerbaijani musical instruments by Armenians in Europe, the CIS, and North America has increased, and Karabakh carpets have been put up for sale at various exhibitions and auctions under the name of Armenian or Persian carpets. In recent years, a large number of historical, cultural, and religious monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan have been sold to foreign countries. Unique exhibits in museums in the occupied territories have either been destroyed or new museums have been created based on these exhibits, allegedly belonging to Armenians. In this sense, it should be noted that the Armenians attach special importance to the issue of appropriation of the monuments of ancient Caucasian Albania. Ancient Albanian inscriptions, wall patterns, and crosses on them were destroyed and replaced with Armenian attributes. Several mosques are used as warehouses. This campaign is purposeful and aimed at justifying the fact that these regions do not belong to Azerbaijan from the historical and cultural point of view and the settlement of Armenians in those areas.<sup>41</sup>

Even, at the "Made in Armenia Expo2015" exhibition, held in Yerevan on April 26-28, 2015, a separate stand was set up for the products of the so-called "Artsakh" (Original name is Karabakh). The wine factories of "Stepanakert Brandy Factory CJSC" were being run in the occupied Khojavand district, Gyrgyz Bazar village, and the town of Khankandi, producing fruit vodkas, mulberry, and Stepanakert Brand Plant CJSC, which worked closely with the Yerevan Factory, exported liquor products to Russia, particularly Moscow, as well as Australia and Belgium.<sup>42</sup> Stepanakert Brandy Factory" and "Artsakh Fruit CJSC" frequently mislabel products produced or packed in Azerbaijan's occupied territories to conceal the illicit nature of the origin of products/items to deceive foreign governments, international retailers, and consumers.<sup>43</sup>



liberation of those lands, Azerbaijan was unable to take appropriate measures in the regulation of intellectual property in Karabakh and its adjacent areas.

### **Second Karabakh War and Distressing Realities**

Towards the end of 2020, in the context of the world's fight against the Covid-19 virus, Armenia violated a ceasefire and committed a large-scale provocation on September 27, 2020, in the occupied Karabakh, and intensively fired at the positions, and settlements of the Azerbaijani army located in the frontline zone of the surrounding areas with large-caliber weapons, mortars, as well as artillery of various calibers.<sup>47</sup> In addition to the Covid-19 quarantine regime, a military curfew has been declared in Azerbaijan since September 28, 2020, in connection with the war. The war between Armenia and Azerbaijan resulted in the trilateral agreement on November 10, 2020, with the involvement of Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. During the second Karabakh War, Azerbaijan not only did act under the principles of international law and the provisions of the Geneva Convention but also fought fairly for the liberation of ancient and historical Azerbaijani lands.<sup>48</sup> Azerbaijan has always been a reliable actor in ensuring peace, security, and stability in the South Caucasus region with its neighbors. However, the Armenian illegal occupation of Azerbaijani territories ostensibly was breaching the principles of international law, which led to an abyss of security and peace in the South Caucasus. Azerbaijan has never launched a missile attack on Armenian territory during the war. However, Armenian missiles attacks fired at the non-war territories of Azerbaijan were targeted the densely populated cities including, Ganja<sup>49</sup>, Tartar<sup>50</sup>, Mingachevir<sup>51</sup>, and Ordubad<sup>52</sup> killed more than hundreds of civilians such as women, adults, and children<sup>53</sup>, even wiped out the whole family<sup>54</sup> as well by causing family genocide in October 2020. Missile fire launched by Armenia also caused damage to the Azerbaijan-Georgia energy pipeline.<sup>55</sup> The four U.N. Security Council resolutions (822<sup>56</sup>, 853<sup>57</sup>, 874<sup>58</sup>, 884<sup>59</sup>) adopted in 1993 condemned this invasion and ethnic cleansing, reaffirmed the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, as well as demanded immediate, complete, and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian occupying forces from all occupied regions.<sup>60</sup> Unfortunately, these binding U.N. Security Council resolutions and the Minsk Group of OSCE Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe) negotiations/efforts remain unfulfilled by Armenia. Although the OSCE Minsk Group has repeatedly put forward the idea of self-determination of Karabakh, Azerbaijan has strongly expressed its dissatisfaction with it. The principle of self-determination is described in international laws and conventions including the U.N. Charter along with the Geneva Convention<sup>61</sup>, repeatedly reaffirming the right to self-determination as preceding territorial integrity in such circumstances, where fundamental rights have been violated.<sup>62</sup> However, the self-determination of Karabakh would have been a completely erroneous and unsuccessful policy. As in international law and conventions, there can be no question of self-determination of peoples (Armenians) in the illegally occupied territories (a clear example of the Karabakh issue) of another country, which not only contradicts territorial integrity but also grossly violates the principles of international law. It is an undeniable fact that Karabakh is an integral part of Azerbaijan legally recognized by international law. The self-determination of Armenians living in Karabakh, - a

historically inseparable part of Azerbaijan, during the period of illegal occupation is completely contrary to the principles of international law and does jeopardize the whole territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. The violation of territorial integrity means trampling not only on the UN Charter but also on other international resolutions and conventions.

It is an overt fact that Azerbaijan has fought against Armenia in its occupied territories to liberate them, which have been in the occupation within 30 years by suffering illegal exploitation, obliteration of areas, and stringent eco-terrorism.<sup>63</sup> In 2020, Azerbaijan was struggling on two different fronts: on the one hand, the country was combating to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic, on the other hand, was involved in the 44 Days - Karabakh War II with Armenia to liberate its occupied territories. To sum up, even though the OSCE Minsk Group has repeatedly held proper talks with two parties to resolve the Karabakh conflict peacefully, it did not reach any relevant or effective deal between the sides as its peace effort in Karabakh was obsolete and uncooperative.<sup>64</sup> Although diplomatic talks have been held at various times to resolve the issue within the international level by following up the core principles of international law, no strict warning or diplomatic sanction has been issued or taken against Armenia, which violated international law, IPR, and property rights by holding illegal activities including export and import operations, extraction and misuse of natural resources in Karabakh and its seven neighboring districts.

### **Post-Liberation Period: Loss of Resources**

The Second Karabakh War put an end to the Armenian occupation of Azerbaijani territories after almost 30 years and led to the formation of a new geopolitical and socioeconomic environment in the South Caucasus. In recent decades, Armenia's policy has had a profound effect on the formation of its economic policy, leading to its complete economic blockade and a substantial reduction in its ability to develop foreign economic relations. Although the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict does not allow for the full use of opportunities for cooperation in the region, other countries in the region have jointly implemented many energy and transport projects and strengthened the position of the South Caucasus in the world economic sphere. Due to the occupation of Azerbaijani territories, Armenia was left out of these vital projects and lost the opportunity to benefit from them. The only economic advantage of the occupation of Armenia was the exploitation and export of natural resources in those territories, especially precious metals. The illegal exploitation of these resources by Armenia has led to large financial gains for 30 years.<sup>65</sup>

However, in general, the economic opportunities that Armenia lost as a result of the occupation are many times greater than the opportunities created by the resources in the occupied territories. These factors give grounds to say that the occupation of Karabakh has been one of the main factors influencing the formation of Armenia's economic policy, and therefore, the end of the occupation will have a significant impact on the formation of Armenia's future economic policy. At the same time, the rich precious metal reserves in Karabakh were exploited by Armenia during the occupation and exported to other countries. Mining products were imported to Armenia as raw materials and after processing, they were also exported to other

countries. These resources also affected the economic development of Armenia. Estimates show that in 2019, the mining industry accounted for 13% of the GDP of the so-called regime in the formerly occupied territories.<sup>66</sup>

The Soyudlu gold deposit, the largest gold deposit exploited by Armenians, and other related industries accounted for 1 to 1.5% of Armenia's GDP. Suggesting that the loss of precious metal deposits from Armenia means that it will be deprived of a large number of financial resources, which will have a significant impact on the prospects for economic development. This will also increase unemployment and limit the activities of other related sectors. The deprivation of Armenia of these resources as a result of the war will act as a negative factor affecting its economic development. The social problems caused by the loss of resources, food security problems, unemployment, and rising prices will put additional pressure on the Armenian economy and have crucial implications on the future economic development prospects of the country.<sup>67</sup>

After the war, the balance of power and geostrategic environment in the South Caucasus underwent radical alteration. Azerbaijan has commenced restoration and reconstruction work in the liberated territories since the beginning of 2021, and urgent measures are being taken in this direction. The international airport was opened in the Fuzuli district of Karabakh, religious temples and mosques destroyed in Agdam and Shusha during the occupation were rebuilt, museums and houses of famous Azerbaijani poets, personalities, and scientists were restored.

The Azerbaijani government agrees to the coexistence of Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the future on the condition that Armenians would live in peace and tranquility in Karabakh with Azerbaijani people exercising all social rights within the framework of Azerbaijani laws and regulations.<sup>68</sup> In this regard, Azerbaijan will serve as a guarantor of peace and security in the South Caucasus region. Even today, according to the Institute of Geography of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences and the UNHCR – UN Refugee Agency, 20,000 Armenians are living in Baku today, with a total of around 120,000 living in the whole country and almost exclusively comprises persons married to Azerbaijanis or of mixed Armenian-Azerbaijani descent.<sup>69</sup> Unfortunately, the same example cannot be applied to Armenia, as since the forceful deportation of Azerbaijanis from the Mehri region by the Armenian government in 1988, to date, no single person of Azerbaijani has been living in Armenia. Therefore, the government of Azerbaijan is eager to rebuild and rehabilitate Karabakh and its adjacent regions, which are lagged economically, resource-poor, and facing environmental problems due to the 30 years of illegal occupation. Thus, Azerbaijan will play a crucial role in the economic, social, and cultural revival of the Karabakh region by taking necessary measures and actions in the way of both rehabilitation and reconciliation.

## Conclusion

In recent years, Azerbaijan has made considerable progress in the regulation and justification of both intellectual property (IP) and property rights, however, it should be noted that there are still some challenges and paucities in IP and property rights protection.

During the occupation, Armenia actively supported the approbation of natural resources, as well as an illegal import, and export of goods, services, and items in Karabakh and its seven adjacent areas. It also used Azerbaijan's occupied territories as a transport hub to deliver minerals and other resources both within the country and abroad. At that time, the Azerbaijani customs system had been destroyed in the occupied territories, and the country was having difficulties in protecting its property rights in Karabakh and the seven districts that bordered it. Armenia's illegal economic and other activities in ancient Azerbaijani lands were completely contrary to international law conventions, intellectual property, and environmental law and continued to violate them. Nowadays, Azerbaijan calls on international partners to face criminal charges if its sovereignty and territorial integrity are violated, including prosecution of those who attempted to assist illegal activities in the Karabakh region and its seven surrounding territories.

All illegal economic activities discussed above clearly show that the Armenian government has made significant use of the natural resources of the formerly occupied territories for their economic gain and development. Given that the Armenian economy did not consistently have sufficient capacity to finance the ongoing occupation; illegal activities in Azerbaijani territories had become a vital means for Armenia to continue its occupation and both economically and politically control upon those territories at that time. Although Armenia was trying to keep its economy stable during the occupation at the expense of natural resources in the territories of Azerbaijan, the current blockade of access to resources in the post-war situation has complicated its economic situation. Its economic debt and energy demand have risen sharply following the Karabakh War II.

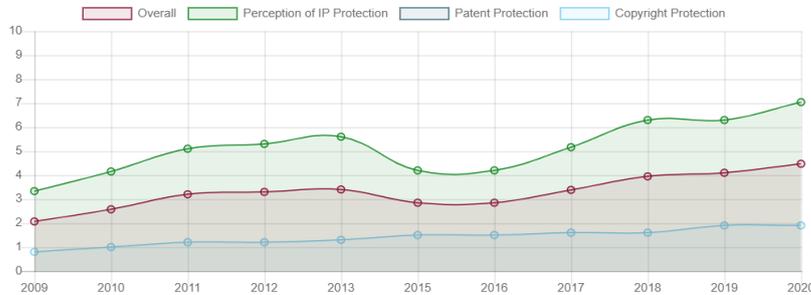
Therefore, given the importance of these sectors in the economic development and political stability of those territories during the occupation, the Armenian government had always been active in supporting all illegal economic activities in the occupied territories. With limited resources, Armenia cannot withstand a long-running war against Azerbaijan without the illicit exploitation of natural resources in those regions. The Azerbaijani government demands Armenia to compensate for the economic and legal damage caused by the illegal exploitation of resources and other export and import acts.

To conclude, referring to the Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, it became overt that both IP and property rights are not limited to the principles of law, but mainly relate to political affairs. Because the majority of disputable issues in both IPR and property rights emerge mainly from politically bewildering situations and misbehaviors between whether the nation-states or actors. Hence, in the modern era, IP and property rights have more to do with politics than law, which is mainly regulated by political-economic relations and moralities of nation-states.

**Annexes**

**Annex 1.** Intellectual Property Rights in Azerbaijan/Overall estimation between 2009 and 2020. Azerbaijan's IPRI score increased by 0.228 to 5,348, ranked in the 13th in Central and Eastern Europe and 67<sup>th</sup> place in the world according to the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), classified by the IMF as part of the Commonwealth of Independent States and by the World Bank as an upper-middle-income country.

**Azerbaijan - Intellectual Property Rights**



Statistic	Score	Global	Region	2020
Overall	4.471	96	16	2020
Perception of IP Protection	7.042	30	2	2020
Patent Protection		No Data	No Data	2020
Copyright Piracy	1.900	94	22	2020
Statistic	Score	Global	Region	Year

**Source:** IPR index/GCI index

**Annex 2.** “ArtsakhBerry” products declaration of Customs by the Customs Union in Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan for the written that the products originate in “The town of Stepanakert, Melivakan Street 31, Armenia Republic”.

**Eurasian Customs Union**  
**ТАМОЖЕННЫЙ СОЮЗ**  
**ДЕКЛАРАЦИЯ О СООТВЕТСТВИИ**

**Заявитель:** Общество с ограниченной ответственностью «Юлдаш», контракт № ARM/RU/501 от 12.10.2012. ОГРН: 1102308008428.  
Место нахождения: Россия, 350015, г. Краснодар, улица Путьевая 5/2 офис 11. Фактический адрес: Россия, 350012, город Краснодар, 2-е отделение связи Солнечный 16. Телефон: +78612225869. Факс: +78612225869. Адрес электронной почты: S\_sprdzan@ip-group.ru.

**в лице** Генерального директора Аллахвердана Хачатуря Романовича

**заявляет, что**  
Консервы: Тутовый дощоб, в стеклянных банках массой нетто от 0,1 до 1,5 кг  
т.н. "ArtsakhBerry"

**изготовитель:** Общество с ограниченной ответственностью «Арцухьяк».  
Место нахождения: Город Степанакерт, улица Меливанкян 31, Республика Армения  
Код (номер ТН ВЭД ТС - 2008 99 990 0  
Серийный выпуск

**соответствуют требованиям**  
Технический регламент Таможенного союза ТР ТС 022/2011 «Пищевая продукция в части ее маркировки», утв. Решением КТС от 9 декабря 2011 года № 881  
Технический регламент Таможенного союза ТР ТС 021/2011 «О безопасности пищевой продукции», утв. Решением КТС от 9 декабря 2011 года № 880

**Декларация о соответствии принята на основании**  
Протокола испытаний № 1088-111-10/13 от 29.10.2013 г. Автономная некоммерческая организация "Испытательный центр "МашЭлТест", № РОСС RU.0001.21АЮ54, срок действия до 28.10.2016

**Дополнительная информация**  
Хранить при температуре 0 - 22 гр, 2 года.

**Декларация о соответствии действительна с даты регистрации по 29.10.2015 включительно**

  
Х.Р.Аллахверди  
инженер в области деятельности организации соответствия или  
физического лица, зарегистрированного в качестве индивидуального  
предпринимателя

**Сведения о регистрации деклараций о соответствии:**

Регистрационный номер деклараций о соответствии: TC № RU Д-АМ.АГ78.В.08392  
Дата регистрации деклараций о соответствии 30.10.2013

Source: [www.doshab.ru](http://www.doshab.ru)

**Annex 3.** “ARIAVAN” is a product of so-called “Artsakh Roots Investments” (ARI) supported by the unrecognized “Artsakh Government” to offer housing loans to people settling in the Kashatagh region of occupied territories of Azerbaijan.



**Source:** Artsakh Roots Investment, Available via [https://www.ariroots.com/?page\\_id=1176](https://www.ariroots.com/?page_id=1176).

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Hajiyev, I. *Lost Historical Lands of Azerbaijan* (Nakhichevan: Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, 2014), 1-9.
- <sup>2</sup> United Nations, doc., *Resolution No. 822*, 30 April (1993).
- <sup>3</sup> United Nations, doc., *Resolution No. 853*, 29 July (1993).
- <sup>4</sup> United Nations, doc., *Resolution No. 874*, 14 October (1993).
- <sup>5</sup> United Nations, doc., *Resolution No. 884*, 12 November (1993).
- <sup>6</sup> Mammadova, N., “Legal Bindingness of Security Council Resolutions: Security Council Resolutions 853 (1993),” *Baku St. UL Rev.* 5 (2019): 233.
- <sup>7</sup> Mammadzada, T., “Space and Security Activities in Azerbaijan,” in *Handbook of Space Security: Policies, Applications and Programs*, ed. By Kai-Uwe Schrogl et al (Switzerland: Springer, 2020), 667-698.
- <sup>8</sup> Fisher, W., “Intellectual property and innovation: theoretical, empirical, and historical perspectives,” *Beleidstudies Technologie Economie* 37 (2001): 47-72.
- <sup>9</sup> Paine, L. S. “Trade Secrets and the Justification of Intellectual Property: A Comment on Hettinger,” *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 20/ 3 (1991): 247-263.
- <sup>10</sup> Vaughn, K. I., “John Locke and the Labor Theory of Value,” *Journal of Libertarian Studies* 2/4 (1978): 311-326.
- <sup>11</sup> Haddad, B. M., “Property Rights, Ecosystem Management, and John Locke's Labor Theory of Ownership,” *Ecological Economics* 46/1 (2003): 19-31.

- <sup>12</sup> Birdal, M., "Locke'un Mülkiyet Teorisi ve Marksist Eleştirisi: Mülkiyet Hakkı ve Bireysel Özgürlükler Üzerinden Locke ve Marx Karşılaştırması," *İstanbul Üniversitesi İktisat Fakültesi Mecmuası* 57?1 (2007): 39-61.
- <sup>13</sup> Fisher, W., (2001). 1-9.
- <sup>14</sup> Drahos, P., *A Philosophy of Intellectual Property* (London and New York: Routledge, 2016), 150-180.
- <sup>15</sup> Tavani, H. T., "Locke, Intellectual Property Rights, and the Information Commons," *Ethics and Information Technology* 7/2 (2005): 87-97.
- <sup>16</sup> Birdal M., (2017), 39-61.
- <sup>17</sup> Birdal M., (2017), 39-61.
- <sup>18</sup> Sikor, T., J. U. N. He, and Lestrelin, G., "Property Rights Regimes and Natural Resources: A Conceptual Analysis Revisited", *World Development* 93 (2017): 337-349.
- <sup>19</sup> Aggarwal, S., and Elbow, K., *The Role of Property Rights in Natural Resource Management, Good Governance, and Empowerment of the Rural Poor* (Burlington: United States Agency for International Development, (2006), 1-37
- <sup>20</sup> Gurbanov, A., "Hydrological Situation in Azerbaijan and Environmental Aggression of Armenia Against Azerbaijan," *Threat to the World: Hydrological Crime and Ecological Genocide*, 11 (2018): 55.
- <sup>21</sup> "The Environmental Cost of Conflict," *Euractiv*, (2021). Available via <https://www.euractiv.com/section/azerbaijan/opinion/the-environmental-cost-of-conflict/>, cited 03.06.2021.
- <sup>22</sup> Torosyan, H., "Some Aspects of State-Building Process in the Republic of Artsakh," *Вестник Российско-Армянского (Славянского) университета: гуманитарные и общественные науки* 2 (2019): 51-68.
- <sup>23</sup> "The Kohelet Policy Forum," *Who Else Profits*, 2 (2018): 1-96. Available via <https://euiha41fnsb2lyeld3vkc37i-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/WhoElseProfits-e-version.pdf>, cited 25.06.2021.
- <sup>24</sup> Azernews Local News Platform, *Firms from 20 Countries Operate Illegally in Nagorno-Karabakh*, (2016). Available via <https://www.azernews.az/nation/93018.html>, cited 22.06.2021.
- <sup>25</sup> Artsakh Press News Platform, *Over 160 Companies with Foreign Participation Registered in Karabakh* (2016). Available via <https://artsakhpress.am/eng/news/35117/over-160-companies-with-foreign-participation-registered-in-karabakh.html>, cited 15.05.2021.
- <sup>26</sup> Anadolu Agency News Platform, *Analysis- Unscrupulous Profiteers of Armenia's Nagorno Karabakh Occupation* (2020). Available via <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/analysis/analysis-unscrupulous-profiteers-of-armenia-s-nagorno-karabakh-occupation-/2041427>, cited 14.05.2021.
- <sup>27</sup> Armenia Fund, *Vardenis - Aghdara Highway*, (2019). Available via <https://www.armeniasfund.org/project/vardenis-martakert-highway/>, cited 10.05.2021.
- <sup>28</sup> Sahib M., "Ecological Terror Policy of Armenia in the Occupied Azerbaijani Territories and its Consequences," Report 1. (2019): 1-17. Available via <http://labourrights-az.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Ecological-Terror-by-Armenia.pdf>.
- <sup>29</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *The Illegal Activities in the Territories of Azerbaijan under Armenia's Occupation: Evidence from Satellite Imagery* 1 (2019): 15-90. Available via <https://mfa.gov.az/files/shares/Azercosmos.pdf>, cited 10.04.2021.
- <sup>30</sup> Azatutyun Armenian News Agency, Armenian News Platform, *Armenian Mining Giant to Expand Karabakh Operations* (2012). Available via <https://www.azatutyun.am/a/24522183.html>, cited 08.04.2021.
- <sup>31</sup> Kalbajar Official Website, *Natural Resources of Kalbajar* (2021). Available via <https://www.kalbajar.com/post/k%C9%99lb%C9%99c%C9%99rin-yeralt%C4%B1-s%C9%99rv%C9%99d%C9%99ri%CC%87>, cited 15.05.2021

- <sup>32</sup> Caspian News Platform, *President Aliyev Demands Compensation for Illegally Exploited Gold Deposits in Azerbaijan's Karabakh Region*, (2021). Available via <https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/president-aliyev-demands-compensation-for-illegally-exploited-gold-deposits-in-azerbaijans-karabakh-region-2021-7-24-0/>, cited 27.04.2021.
- <sup>33</sup> Aghalaryan, K., “*Ararat Gold Recovery Plant to Increase Production; Tailings Dam Capacity at Issue*,” (2021). Available via <https://hetq.am/en/article/134880>, cited 25.05.2021.
- <sup>34</sup> Armenian weekly *News Platform*, *Artsakh Fund Raises Money for Village Expansion Project*, (2014). Available via <http://armenianweekly.com/2014/12/01/artsakh-fund-raises-money-for-village-expansion-project/#prettyPhoto>, cited 22.05.2021.
- <sup>35</sup> *Armenian Banking Sector Overview* (2017). Available via [https://home.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/am/pdf/2017/Armenian%20Banking%20Sector%20Overview\\_2017%20Q4\\_Eng.pdf](https://home.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/am/pdf/2017/Armenian%20Banking%20Sector%20Overview_2017%20Q4_Eng.pdf), 1-37, cited 22.05.2021.
- <sup>36</sup> Călin-Ştefan, G., “The Integration of Syrian-Armenians in the Republic of Armenia: A Cease Study,” *Romanian Journal of Political Sciences* 14/ 02 (2014): 57-72.
- <sup>37</sup> World Trade Organization, Working Party on the Accession of Armenia, Doc. *WT/ACC/ARM/22*. (2002).
- <sup>38</sup> *Armenian Banking Sector Overview*, (2017): 1-37. Available via [https://home.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/am/pdf/2017/Armenian%20Banking%20Sector%20Overview\\_2017%20Q1\\_Eng.pdf](https://home.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/am/pdf/2017/Armenian%20Banking%20Sector%20Overview_2017%20Q1_Eng.pdf), cited 26.05.2021
- <sup>39</sup> *Armenian Business Leaders Explore Investment Opportunities in Artsakh*, (2015). Available via <http://asbarez.com/124804/calif-armenian-business-leaders-explore-investment-opportunities-in-artsakh/>, cited 20.07.2021.
- <sup>40</sup> Armenpress, *Armenian PM attends the opening of Pan-Armenian Expo 2015*, (2015). Available via <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/821453/hh-varchapety-masnakcel-e-panarmenian-eqspo-2015-mijazgayin.html>, cited 10.07.2021.
- <sup>41</sup> Armenpress, (2015), cited 10.07.2021.
- <sup>42</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2019), Available via <https://mfa.gov.az/files/shares/Azercosmos.pdf>, cited 10.05.2021.
- <sup>43</sup> *Karabakh wines have prospects in the Russian market* (2014). Available via <https://artsakhpress.am/eng/news/4457/karabakh-wines-have-prospects-in-russian-market.html>, cited 05.07.2021.
- <sup>44</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2019). Available via <https://mfa.gov.az/files/shares/Azercosmos.pdf>, cited 10.05.2021.
- <sup>45</sup> AzerPress Information Agency, *A British Company Operating Illegally in Nagorno-Karabakh Has Been Warned* (2017). Available via [https://apa.az/az/xeber/sahibkarliq-fealiyyeti/xeber\\_dagliq\\_qarabagda\\_qanunsuz\\_fealiyyet\\_gost\\_-471294](https://apa.az/az/xeber/sahibkarliq-fealiyyeti/xeber_dagliq_qarabagda_qanunsuz_fealiyyet_gost_-471294), cited 10.07.2021.
- <sup>46</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2019). Available via [https://apa.az/az/xeber/sahibkarliq-fealiyyeti/xeber\\_dagliq\\_qarabagda\\_qanunsuz\\_fealiyyet\\_gost\\_-471294](https://apa.az/az/xeber/sahibkarliq-fealiyyeti/xeber_dagliq_qarabagda_qanunsuz_fealiyyet_gost_-471294), cited 10.05.2021.
- <sup>47</sup> Huseynov V., “Armenia - Azerbaijan Conflict Ignites Again in Karabakh,” *Eurasia Daily Monitor* 17/134 (2021): 1-10. Available via <https://jamestown.org/program/armenia-azerbaijan-conflict-ignites-again-in-karabakh/> cited 20.05.2021.
- <sup>48</sup> Azerbaijani Consulate, *Illegal Occupation of Azerbaijani Territories by Armenia*, Consulate General of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles (2020). Available via <https://www.azconsulatela.org/Azerbaijan/Karabakh-Occupation-Ethnic-Cleansing/Overview>, cited 20.05.2021
- <sup>49</sup> Anadolu Agency News Platform, *Armenian Attack Kills 12 Civilians in Ganja, Azerbaijan*, (2020). Available via <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/azerbaijan-front-line/armenian-attack-kills-12-civilians-in-ganja-azerbaijan/2009288>, cited 15.05.2021

- <sup>50</sup> Azerbaijan24, Local News Platform, *16 Years Old Teenager Killed as a Result of Missile Attack to Tartar*, (2020). Available via <https://www.azerbaycan24.com/en/16-years-old-teenager-killed-as-a-result-of-missile-attack-to-tartar/>, cited 15.05.2021
- <sup>51</sup> Daily Sabah Turkish News Platform, *Armenia Launches Missile Attack on Azerbaijan's Mingachevir*, (2020). Available via <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/armenia-launches-missile-attack-on-azerbaijans-mingachevir/news>, cited 13.05.2021
- <sup>52</sup> Anadolu Agency Turkish News Platform, *Armenia Launches Rocket Attack on Ordubad, Nakhchivan*, (2020). Available via <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/armenia-launches-rocket-attack-on-ordubad-nakhchivan-/2008475>, cited 13.05.2021
- <sup>53</sup> Azerbaijan24, Local News Platform, *Armenia's Missile Attack on Ganja City: 3 Children Killed and 2 Went Missing*, (2020), Available via <https://www.azerbaycan24.com/en/armenia-s-missile-attack-on-ganja-city-3-children-killed-and-2-went-missing-nsbp/>, cited 10.05.2021
- <sup>54</sup> TASS Russian News Agency, *16 Years Old Teenager Killed as a Result of Missile Attack to Tartar, Seven Killed, 33 Wounded in Missile Attack on Ganja - Azerbaijani President's Aide*, (2020). Available via <https://tass.com/world/1210929>, cited 07.05.2021
- <sup>55</sup> Ministry of the Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Armenian Missile Attack Causes Damage to Azerbaijan-Georgia Power Line*, (2020). Available via <https://defence.az/en/news/147236/armenian-missile-attack-causes-damage-to-azerbaijan-georgia-power-line>, cited 05.05.2021
- <sup>56</sup> United Nations, doc. *Resolution No. 822*, (1993).
- <sup>57</sup> United Nations, doc. *Resolution No. 853*, (1993).
- <sup>58</sup> United Nations, doc. *Resolution No. 874*, (1993).
- <sup>59</sup> United Nations, doc. *Resolution No. 884*, (1993).
- <sup>60</sup> Hurriyet Turkish News Agency, *Why are UNSC Resolutions on Nagorno-Karabakh not implemented?* (2017). Available via <https://www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/why-are-unsc-resolutions-on-nagorno-karabakh-not-implemented-108833>, cited 02.05.2021
- <sup>61</sup> Geneva Convention, *Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts* (Protocol I), 8 June 1977, (1977). Available via <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/WebART/470-750004>, cited 10.09.2021
- <sup>62</sup> United Nations Charter, *The Right of Self-Determination*, (1981). Available via <https://undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/E/CN.4/Sub.2/404/Rev.1>, cited 05.09.2021
- <sup>63</sup> Ministry of the Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *Karabakh: 30 Years of Occupation and Displacement*, (2020). Available via <https://defence.az/en/news/147025>, cited 02.05.2021
- <sup>64</sup> Cutler, R.M., "The Minsk Group Is Meaningless," (2021): 1-5, Available via <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/07/23/armenia-azerbaijan-nagorno-karabakh-osce-minsk-group-meaningless/>, cited 10.09.2021
- <sup>65</sup> Center for Analysis of International Relations, *The Situation in the Energy Sector of Armenia and its Economic and Political Aspects*, (2021). 1-9, Available via <https://aircenter.az/az/research>, cited 05.07.2021
- <sup>66</sup> Center for Analysis of International Relations, (2021), cited 05.07.2021
- <sup>67</sup> Center for Analysis of International Relations, (2021), cited 05.07.2021
- <sup>68</sup> Aljazeera Policy Platform, *Can President Aliyev be Trusted in Karabakh*, (2020), Available via <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2020/11/26/can-president-aliyev-be-trusted-on-nagorno-karabakh>, cited 06.09.2021
- <sup>69</sup> UNHCR – UN Refugee Agency, *World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples - Azerbaijan: Armenians*, Minority Rights Group International, March (2018). Available via <https://www.refworld.org/docid/49749d5b32.html>