

### ANNUAL REPORT 2019





CENTER OF ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BEYNƏLXALQ MÜNASİBƏTLƏRİN TƏHLİLİ MƏRKƏZİ

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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#### **FOREWORD**



DR. FARID SHAFIYEV
Ambassador, Chairman of the
Center of Analysis of International
Relations (AIR Center)

The Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center), founded in February 2019, aims to analyze important international developments around Azerbaijan and across the globe, to produce top-quality research and reports on international affairs, and to improve studies about Azerbaijan and various issues relating to security and development in the South Caucasus region.

The Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict constitutes the priority area of our studies and activities. The analyses produced by the AIR Center are thus focused on various aspects of the conflict, as well as on the potential and immediate impacts of international processes on our region. Some of the work produced by our experts is published in publicly available media, whereas other parts are prepared solely for the governmental agencies of Azerbaijan.

We also aim to become a platform for discussion among think tanks, domestic and international, about various issues relating to Azerbaijan and global relationships. In this regard, we are looking forward to information sharing, idea exchange, knowledge creation and dissemination, and initiating partnerships with foreign think tanks, educational establishments, and international organizations.

Despite the relatively short period of time that has passed since the establishment of the Center, we have been able to achieve several accomplishments thanks to the strong commitment of our experts. The AIR Center has already established memoranda of understanding with over twenty think tanks representing countries from various parts of the world. The research produced by our Center has been published by some leading academic portals and media outlets based in different countries. We also contribute on a daily basis to domestic media agencies in Azerbaijan. More detailed information about our products, activities, internships, and scholarship opportunities can be accessed on our website https://aircenter.az/.

#### **MISSION**



The Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center) was established on February 6, 2019, and is a new public institution. The Center aims, on the one hand, to delve into analysis, and research on a wide spectrum of issues relating to international relations, foreign affairs, global governance, and politics, alongside closely following related developments in neighboring countries and within our own region.

On the other hand, the AIR Center also extends its analytical and research expertise on the above issues to the Azerbaijani government, academic institutions, and other interested local stakeholders

by offering a unique analytical synthesis of the influence of events on international and regional dimensions, and their potential implications for Azerbaijan. This is also a two-way street, in the sense that the Center will also extensively study the implications of Azerbaijan's foreign policy decisions and actions on its wider neighborhood and the international community.

The Center studies, researches, and offers policy guidance and recommendations to the Azerbaijani government on diverse foreign policy topics including, but not limited to, the Armenia–Azerbaijan conflict, its history, and the conflict resolution process; Azerbaijan's global standing and cooperation with international and regional organization; security and economics related topics; and energy, transportation, and communications networks. The Center aims to produce top-quality research and reports on these and related issues. In addition, the Center aims to improve studies on Azerbaijan and to explore security and development issues in the South Caucasus region.

The AIR Center hosts interns, distributes scholarships, and facilitates field study research in Azerbaijan. The Center organizes round tables, seminars, and conferences while conducting research to produce analytical papers and memos. The Center also hosts, welcomes, and covers the expenses of visiting research fellows from various countries whose academic and professional backgrounds relate not only to conflict, but also to wider geopolitical and economic issues, and international cooperation.

As well as working with the government of Azerbaijan, the AIR Center it is open



to collaborations with other public, non-governmental, and commercial entities—domestic or international—for carrying out joint research studies and projects of mutual interest.

Since its establishment, the AIR Center has brought together prominent experts to launch several projects on foreign policy and international development. In this regard, the AIR

Center offers many opportunities to those seeking to be a part of a team working toward the strengthening of international security and regional stability.

#### **PROJECTS**

#### Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

One of the main missions of the AIR Center is to conduct in-depth research on the Armenia–Azerbaijan conflict and the ongoing occupation of the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan on behalf of the government of Azerbaijan and local and international audiences. The Center aspires not only to inform and educate local and international audiences, but also to influence and facilitate policy-making processes on the conflict.

# The occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijan policy of Azerbaija

The research agenda and recommendations of AIR Center experts on the Armenia–Azerbaijan conflict are based on three dimensions of Armenian studies: The Republic of Armenia; Armenians in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan; and the Armenian lobby abroad.

The first dimension, the Republic of Armenia, covers foreign policy, domestic policy, the military, economics, development, and governance. In our research on this dimension we follow, study, and research all economic, political, and demographic social developments and processes, as well as public opinion in the Republic of Armenia, on a daily basis and prepare appropriate analyses and reports for the government and the public.

In the second dimension, we follow and study the processes in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. In the third dimension, we study the synergy between the Armenian lobby abroad and the Republic of Armenia, including how they influence each other and work against the interests of Azerbaijan in different parts of the world. All three dimensions are viewed, studied and examined in light of the national



interest of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the ongoing occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan.



The AIR Center also regularly submits reports, comprehensive analyses, and research on the above aspects of Armenian studies to the government of Azerbaijan and to the general public to initiate wider discussions and to raise the awareness of different audiences.

In order to equip the expert and research community of Azerbaijan with in-depth knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of the three dimensions

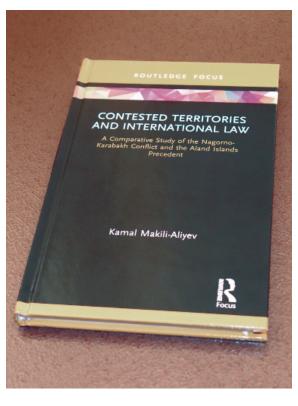
of our Armenian studies as well as the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, the AIR Center has launched free, regular, and professional Armenian language courses.

The AIR Center also studies the history and legal aspects of the conflict between the two countries, while also focusing on international resolution conflict efforts. contribute to future peace-making initiatives, the AIR Center is engaged in ongoing research and book projects collaboration with scholars, researchers, and experts from different institutions and continents on, for





example, hate speech, conflicting narratives, and myth creation, aspects that exacerbate the deadlock in the resolution of the conflict and prevent reconciliation of the two societies. AIR Center experts regularly appear on leading



media outlets as part of the ongoing, informal debate on different aspects of the conflict. The AIR Center also cooperates with local and international expert communities on matters relating to different aspects of the Armenia–Azerbaijan conflict to initiate debate and exchange views.

#### Eurasian connectivity and the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route

The Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, or Middle Corridor, is one of the three main land routes across Eurasia envisaged in the revival of the Silk Road. The route will create natural synergy with China's Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to develop connectivity between East and West. As a new, multimodal transit corridor, the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route extends from the China-Kazakhstan border to Europe, passing through Kazakhstan, across the Caspian Sea, and through Azerbaijan and Georgia via rail, road, and sea connections. The symbolic date of its formation can be considered as October 2013, when the Coordinating Committee was created. This included Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Romania, and Turkey. The purpose of this multimodal freight transportation route is to increase freight traffic between China, Central Asia, the Caspian and Black Sea basins, and European countries. The route passes through Azerbaijan in both directions while bypassing Russia.

Azerbaijan supports the Belt and Road Initiative based on mutually beneficial cooperation. In this context, a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of the Silk Road Economic Belt was signed between the Government of Republic Azerbaijan

and the Government of the People's Republic of China during President Ilham Aliyev's state visit to China in December 2015. Azerbaijan's favorable geopolitical and geographical position enhances the development of connectivity between Asia and Europe. Necessary



steps have been taken with partners in the region within the framework of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route. In the course of improving its transportation infrastructure in recent years, Azerbaijan has developed various projects for the revitalization of the historical Silk Road, including the Baku–Tbilisi–Kars (BTK) railway. An important leg of the Middle Corridor, BTK started operating in

2017 (official opening October 30, 2017).

It is expected that BTK, set to carry 1 million passengers and 6.5 million tons of cargo per year in the beginning and 3 million passengers and 17 million tons of cargo by 2034, will offer a new perspective on uninterrupted transportation and trade between China and Europe. Transport through the Middle Corridor using BTK shortens the transportation time by one third (15 days) compared with the Northern Corridor. In addition, the Middle Corridor is 2,000 km shorter and more favorable in terms of climatic conditions, thus minimizing transportation costs and increasing the profitability of transportation in the Eurasian space.

Another geopolitical advantage of the BTK project is its creation of a direct rail connection that promotes multilateral cooperation among the Turkic-speaking states. Within the framework of cooperation on the Middle Corridor, the ministers of transport of the Turkic Council member countries signed a Joint Cooperation Protocol. In addition, a Coordination Board was created at the level of Deputy Ministers, which is expected to bring practical solutions to problems that may arise in the field of transportation between countries. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed among the ports of Aktau, Baku, and Samsun that established a "sister port" relationship. Under the umbrella of the Turkic Council, negotiations are ongoing on a draft International Combined Freight Transport Agreement among member states.

In addition to the aforementioned countries, the Middle Corridor Initiative is supported by Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The Turkey–Georgia–Azerbaijan–Turkmenistan–Afghanistan transit corridor, known as Lapis Lazuli, is crucial for landlocked Afghanistan and Tajikistan as well as for regional integration and interconnectivity. Afghanistan,



Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, and Turkmenistan signed an agreement on the Lapis Lazuli corridor on the sidelines of the 7th Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, November 14–15, 2017.

Eurasian Connectivity and the Middle Corridor have recently drawn enormous scrutiny and gained greater recognition from think tanks, independent experts, and scholars – not only from participating countries, but also from the international community. The AIR Center accordingly aims to create a mechanism that boosts multilateral collaboration and dialogue through building a platform for better coordination and synergy. To reach this goal, the AIR Center intends to hold academic conferences, conduct joint research projects, and share and publish research findings among the countries along the Middle Corridor.

#### Non-Aligned Movement

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is the largest assembly of world nations after the UN: a forum that brings together 120 members, 17 observer countries, and 10 observer organizations declaring their non-bloc affiliation and impartiality. Founded in 1961 in Belgrade by 25 participating states, the Movement now assembles two-thirds of UN members and 55 per cent of the world population.

At a time of increasing polarization in international politics at the beginning of the 21st century, when the former USSR and the US were the opposing poles, the NAM played the role of a "refuge and protection platform" for less developed countries. Currently, some members of the Movement have risen from the status of developing countries to



developed ones and are playing an active role in world politics. Although the original essence of the anti-imperialist Movement has lost its relevance to such countries, there are still states that need to be supported politically, economically, and socially. The Non-Aligned Movement liberates these countries from political dependence on



their powerful neighbors. Consequently, the Movement only not member enables states to conduct independent policies, but also moderates their relations with powerful nations. Combined, the voice of 120 countries sounds loud enough.

The NAM can act as a platform for fundamental changes in international economic relations as a mechanism for regulating the socio-economic relations of the member states, which will allow the former mandate countries to use their natural resources to revitalize their economies and social welfare systems in their national interests. Rather than being just a shelter or moral support for third countries, the NAM can be transformed into a working mechanism that can take



practical steps not only as a defender of peace, but also as a provider of political, economic, environmental, and other rights.

Azerbaijan holds the NAM chairmanship for the period 2019–2022. Azerbaijan's presidency of the Movement is a substantial and positive development for a state located in a delicate neighborhood. There is no doubt that, during its chairmanship, Azerbaijan will seek to attract more support for the resolution of the Armenia–Azerbaijan conflict in accordance with the norms and principles of international law, namely, the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan based on the four UN Security Council Resolutions (822, 853, 874, and 884).

#### **EVENTS**

#### International conference on the 10th anniversary of the Turkic Council

The AIR Center hosted an international conference titled "Turkic Council: the 10th Anniversary of the Nakhichevan Agreement" in Baku on October 3, 2019. During his opening speech, Farid Shafiyev, Chairman of the AIR Center, noted that the purpose of such a conference was not only to celebrate the anniversary of the Turkic Council, but also to unite the efforts of all member states to institutionalize the Turkic-speaking countries and raise their international profile. Mr. Shafiyev stated that Azerbaijan, as one of the founders of the Turkic Council, was proud of the efforts it had made toward preserving Turkic traditions and values.





Kismet Gozalov, Deputy Secretary General of the Turkic Council, then touched upon the importance of fundamental research on issues of international relations and security in a globalizing world, thus underlining that political cooperation among the Turkic-speaking countries would contribute to the analysis of integration processes. Later, Ramiz Hasanov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, said that the Turkic

Council was an important platform for broad cooperation in terms of developing regional and multilateral relations in all areas of common interest and investing in various fields in the region. Mr. Hasanov emphasized that the Turkic Council plays an important role in the preservation of common Turkic traditions and values.



During the panel discussions, Altynbek Mamaisupov, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries, stated that the Turkic Council had systematically introduced the concept of Turkicspeaking countries to the world. He noted that the Great Silk Road had contributed to the geography of

cooperation between the Turkic-speaking countries.

Gunay Efendiyeva, President of the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, touched upon the history of the Turkic Cultural Heritage Fund and projects implemented by the Foundation on the initiative of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Fizuli Majidli, Advisor to the President of the International Turkic Academy, said that the Academy, which was created on the initiative of the President of Kazakhstan and has gained international status, has implemented a number of projects for academic integration between Turkic-speaking countries, and spoke about the development of common alphabet theories.



The future of the Eastern Partnership

The AIR Center and the EU Delegation in Azerbaijan jointly held structured consultations on the future of the Eastern Partnership in Baku on October 11, 2019. Speaking at the event, Kestutis Jankauskas, Head of the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan, mentioned that the EU and Azerbaijan have, to date, maintained their strategic partnership

in the energy sector. According to Ambassador Jankauskas, EU–Azerbaijan relations are currently developing in all areas of social and economic life; 21 projects have already been implemented between the EU and Azerbaijan, with the participation of 34 institutions.



Later, Farid Shafiyev, Chairman of the Center of

Analysis of International Relations, noted that the purpose of the event was to discuss relations within the framework of the Eastern Partnership, as well as current challenges, prospective projects, and their benefits to Azerbaijan.

Vassilis Maragos, Head of Unit, European Commission DG Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations, then underlined that, following the EU expansion of 2004–5, the organization has consistently invested in the development and security of the Eastern Neighborhood countries. According to Mr. Maragos, the EU and Azerbaijan have agreed on the partnership priorities and are currently working on a partnership agreement that addresses the wider requirements. "This agreement will bring our relations to a new level,» he said, and added that the EU has established uniquely cooperative relations with all six Eastern Partner countries, also noting that 3,000 jobs have been created as a result of EU projects implemented in Azerbaijan. "The EU is Azerbaijan's largest investment and trade partner," Mr. Maragos stated.





The consultations were attended by a wide range of stakeholders including Azerbaijani state officials, parliamentarians, representatives of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, universities, think tanks, civil society, and media.

#### The "Contract of the Century"

The AIR Center held a seminar marking the 25th anniversary of "the Contract of the Century" on September 17, 2019. In his opening remarks, Dr. Farid Shafiyev noted that the "Contract of the Century," signed on September 20, 1994, changed the political and economic landscape in Azerbaijan. According to Dr. Shafiyev, this agreement not only contributed to the development of Azerbaijan, but also to the transformation of oil resources into human capital.

Hikmet Hajiyev, Head of the Foreign Policy Department of the Presidential Administration, said that the treaty was signed by leading international companies during

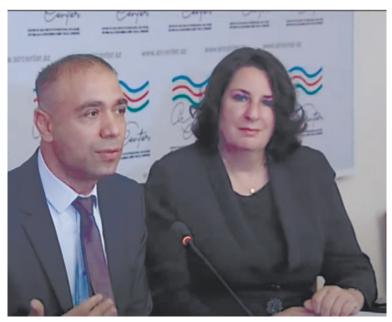




difficult geopolitical processes. He observed that Azerbaijan had laid the foundation for a successful energy strategy and effective energy diplomacy, stating: "Although Azerbaijan has been an oil producer for many years, oil has often not served the interests of the Azerbaijani people. With the signing of the 'Contract of the Century,' a new era of oil began and, as a result, the people of Azerbaijan saw its benefits." Mr. Hajiyev expressed that Azerbaijan's oil strategy is a major factor in energy security at the international and regional levels, and is the foundation of the country's independence and economic development. Moreover, "Today, Azerbaijan is already a gas exporting country. The TANAP and TAP projects are entering the final phase of implementation. We hope that, together with our partners, we will complete these projects soon. With its gas resources, Azerbaijan will contribute to European energy security."

Bakhtiyar Aslanbayli, Vice-President for Communications, External Affairs, Strategy & Region at BP Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey, stated that Shah Deniz is considered to be one of the few giant gas fields in the world. He presented the discovery of the new fields named Umid and Absheron as confirmation of the existence of massive gas reserves in Azerbaijan and as a new page in Azerbaijan's history concerning the use of natural resources. According to the statistical information provided by Mr. Aslanbayli, BP, together with its partners and Azerbaijan, has exported 3.6 billion barrels of oil over the

last 25 years. Praising the importance of the Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan oil pipeline in this process, he said that this pipeline is the first of its kind to connect the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean; by carrying carbohydrate resources from the Caspian Sea to world markets it is contributing to the diversification of the energy market.



Professor Brenda Shaffer Georgetown University, USA, stated that the "Contract of the Century" was signed amidst difficult historical processes including, among others, the occupation of 20 per cent of Azerbaijani territories and displacement of around one million people. Notwithstanding challenges, thanks to a thorough going strategical approach, it was possible to reach an agreement on the contract and to attract international firms to the region. According to

Prof. Shaffer, Azerbaijan has, in the years since the "Contract of the Century," reinforced its image as a reliable partner.

The seminar continued with a Q&A session.

#### Conference on the glorification of fascism and terrorism

The AIR Center and Baku State University held a joint conference on the glorification of fascism and terrorism in Armenia on October 21, 2019. Speaking at the opening of the conference, Dr. Farid Shafiyev stressed that the heroization of radical movements—

Nazism and terrorism—has become a political culture in Armenia. According to Dr. Shafiyev, this is demonstrated not only in the case of Garegin Nzdeh, but also that of Monte Melkonyan, another terrorist who has come to be regarded as a hero by Armenian state officials.





In turn, Elchin Babayev, Rector of Baku State University, talked about President Ilham Aliyev's speeches at Valdai International Discussion Club and the CIS Summit in Ashgabat, stressing that Azerbaijan's President had backed his response to the Armenian side with well-established arguments. According to Babayev, the awkward situation the Armenian Prime

Minister found himself points, inter alia, to the entrenched ignorance and inexperience of the Armenian leadership. He presented some facts about Garegin Nzdeh's collaboration with the Nazis, his recruitment of numerous Armenians, and the extermination of innocent people. He deplored the glorification of his memory in modern Armenia: "Armenians, having no true heroes, are in so desperate situation that they glorify a Nazi collaborator and worship him as a hero."

Professor Gafar Chaxmaqli of the Center of Armenian Studies at Erciyes University, Turkey, made a presentation about the ideological foundations of Armenian nationalism, thereby highlighting its institutionalized antagonism toward the Turkish people, the long-standing dream of establishing Great Armenia, and readiness to exterminate people to



reach this objective. He talked about the tsegakron (literally, "race-religion") ideology that Garegin Nzdeh founded following his emigration to Bulgaria: "This ideology stipulates that the Armenian race is superior to others. Armenia is ruled by this ideology even today," stated Prof. Chaxmaqli.

Russian expert on the Caucasus Oleg Kuznetsov said in his speech that Nzdeh's ideology and Armenian Nazism were closely embraced by Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians, as proven by historical facts. According to him, they have long seized power in Armenia: "I think the international community must first accept that Armenia is a country that serves the Nazi ideology, or at least the Nazi ideology dominated the country until a year and six months ago."

#### Roundtable on Azerbaijan, Brussels



On December 6, 2019, the AIR Center hosted a roundtable concerning Azerbaijan at the European Policy Center (EPC) in Brussels, Belgium, attended by the representatives of various institutions including, among others, the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan; the EU mission in Azerbaijan; and several Brussels-based organizations and agencies. The event

was focused on recent developments in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, EU-Azerbaijan relations, and negotiations on the new framework agreement.

Dr. Farid Shafiyev of the AIR Center gave a talk in which he presented Azerbaijan's perspectives on the issues under discussion. He stated that Azerbaijan highly appreciates its partnership with the EU and is interested in promoting this as an equal partner. According to Dr. Shafiyev, the numerous energy and transportation projects between the two sides have paved the ground for the auspicious promotion of this partnership.



Discussing the Armenia–Azerbaijan conflict, Dr. Shafiyev reiterated that Armenia has grossly violated international law and continues to do so through its unlawful occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding regions. He lamented that no progress had been achieved in the peace negotiations over the preceding year because of the populist and unfounded statements of Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. He called upon the European Union to pay similar attention and care to the resolution of this conflict as they do with respect to other regional conflicts.

In turn, Tural Ganjaliyev, leader of the Azerbaijani community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, talked about the implications of the occupation for the members of his community and emphasized that the prolongation of this process was a violation of the fundamental rights of the internally displaced persons from Nagorno-Karabakh. Ganjaliyev presented the work his community has done since he was elected as the leader of the community and expressed their readiness to engage in negotiations with



the members of the Armenian community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region to contribute to the settlement of the conflict.

Earlier, on 3–6 December, the AIR Center also met with representatives of EU institutions, policy think tanks, civil society organizations, mass media, and young members of the Azerbaijani diaspora in Brussels.

#### Talks on the Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict, Ankara, Turkey

On November 18, 2019, Dr. Farid Shafiyev, Chairman of the AIR Center, and Tural Ganjaliyev, leader of the Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh, together with delegations from their respective institutions, took part at an event titled "The IDP Problem and Azerbaijan's Experience" in Ankara, Turkey, in the presence of members of the diplomatic corps.



Xazar Ibrahim, Azerbaijan's Ambassador to Turkey, inaugurating the meeting organized for the members of the diplomatic missions accredited in Turkey, informed the audience about the work that Azerbaijan has done with respect to the people



displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding regions in the wake of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. He emphasized that this issue remains among the top tasks on the domestic agenda of the government, despite the time that has passed since those people were forced to flee their homelands in the early 1990s.

Dr. Shafiyev, taking the floor after the Ambassador, asserted that the settlement of the Armenia–Azerbaijan conflict tops the agenda of the Azerbaijani government. Presenting the brief historical background of the conflict, he narrated that "Armenian nationalists put forward the notion of miatsum ('unification' in Armenian) as their ultimate political



objective in the late 1980s, implying the unification of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. In 1991, they changed the core narrative, bringing 'self-determination' to the fore and presenting it to the international community as the fundamental right of the Armenian people resident in Nagorno-Karabakh. They well understood that 'unification' would not be accepted as legal by the international community. However, there has been a dramatic change in this rhetoric under Prime Minister

Nikol Pashinyan. He reiterated the old narrative by declaring that 'Nagorno-Karabakh is Armenia. Period' to a crowd shouting miatsum. This approach by the Armenian government was not welcomed by the international community, including the OSCE Minsk Group, the international body established to mediate the negotiations between Baku and Yerevan chaired by Russia, the United States, and France."

Dr. Shafiyev highlighted that any statement supporting the irredentist claims of the Armenian nationalists undermines the resolution of the conflict, adding that "Nagorno-Karabakh does not constitute only the Armenian, but also the Azerbaijani population. The fundamental rights of the latter have been flagrantly violated and this should continue to be condemned by the international community."

Tural Ganjaliyev, in his turn, lamented that the negotiations have delivered no results,

emphasizing, ho-wever, that the community he leads has not lost its hope for an eventual fair settlement. Informing the audience about the cultural qualities of the Nagorno-Karabakh, he said the region used to be center of Azerbaijani culture with its famous musicians and philosophers.

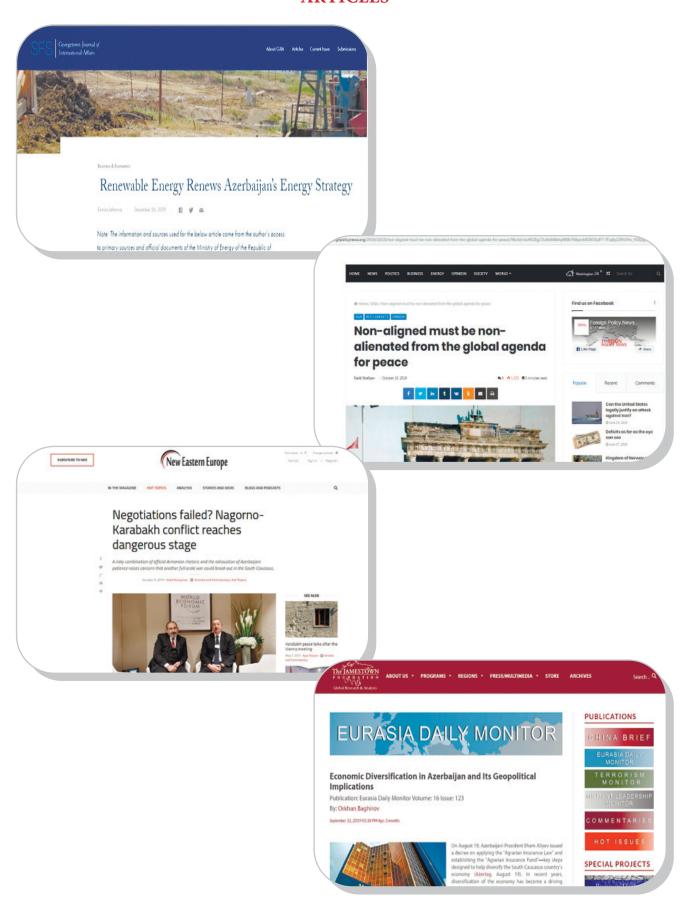
Ganjaliyev added that "the satellite imagery obtained by Azerbaijan indicates that Armenians destroy Azerbaijan cultural heritage in the region.



Armenians have recently reconstructed the Govhar Aga mosque in my hometown Shusha, representing it as a Persian cultural monument, although in fact the monument has no link with Iran. But Azerbaijan protects the Armenian church in Baku. We have lived in peace with Armenians for long centuries. Later they started to make claims to the Azerbaijani territories by occupying not only Nagorno-Karabakh but also the surrounding regions where Armenians did not live."

The meeting continued with a Q&A session.

#### **ARTICLES**









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#### **PARTNERS**



Middle East Institute





















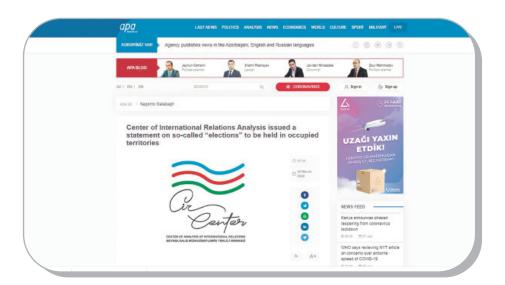


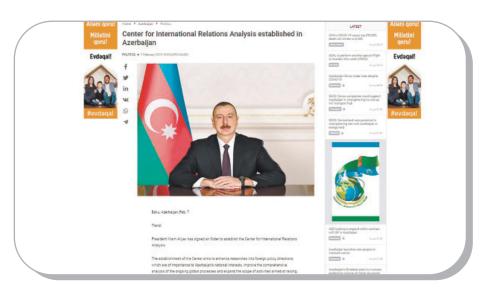






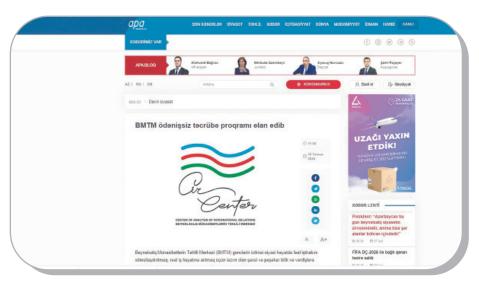
#### AIR CENTER IN THE MEDIA









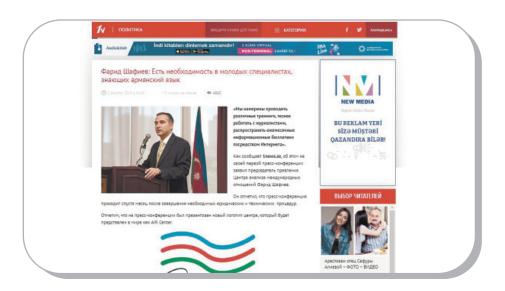












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