

Chronic Tension: Azerbaijan – Armenia

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Armenia attempted to attack the Tovuz region of Azerbaijan on 12 July and had to retreat with the response of the Azerbaijani army. In the conflict, four soldiers, with one of them being one the first army lieutenants, died. In the conflicts that continued in the following days, 7 soldiers, with one of them being general in Azerbaijani army, was martyred. The existence of chronic problems between the two countries is the reason for the constant conflicts in the region. This conflict needs to be evaluated within this framework.

General Implications:

From the perspective of Armenia;

- Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway line
- Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP)
- Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP)
- Deniz Şahdeniz II project
- Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Crude Oil Main Export Pipeline Project
- Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum Pipeline
- Baku-Supsa

Considering the geographic perspectives, this region is considered to be a second dam or an alternative taking to Nagorno-Karabakh. In addition, this region opens to Baku via Ganja and Kazah, so it is located at a strategic point in terms of location. When we look economically, Azerbaijan can expand to other countries via the Tovuz region with the projects listed above. For example, energy resources belonging to Azerbaijan via Georgia and Turkey to Europe is transported through this region. This energy policy brings Azerbaijan to the fore strategically in the international arena. Armenia aims to create a state of insecurity by threatening the security of the economy corridor of Azerbaijan. Politically, Armenia

wanted to move the center of the conflict with Azerbaijan away from Karabakh. This type of conflict did not occur for the first time in this region. In 2014, there were conflicts in this region.

According to Article 4 of the CSTO Treaty, in the event of an attack against any of the member states, all other member states will provide the necessary assistance, including military aid. Considering this article, Armenia will rely on Russia's assistance in case of a threat from Azerbaijan. However, in the April Wars of 2016, Russia played a mediator role between Azerbaijan and Armenia rather than being an ally of Armenia. Armenia wants to move the conflict area away from the Karabakh region with the conflict it started by trusting this article. The Armenians make Karabakh look like a separate state and both reflect their wishes to war and create a new conflict zone in the Tovuz region. At the same time, Armenia was blamed for Azerbaijan as the party that started this conflict. Thus, CSTO tries to use its member countries against Azerbaijan. Pashinyan, on the other hand, does not trust CSTO's help very much and aims to turn Armenia towards Europe. The decision of Armenia regarding the attack on it a few days ago was rejected by CSTO and removed from its official site. Failure to accept the decision stating that sanctions should be imposed on Azerbaijan supports Pashinyan's opinion on the CSTO.

Vardan Toganyan, Armenia's Ambassador to Russia, said, "We hope today in the meeting of the CSTO Standing Council. We believe that the CSTO should definitely demonstrate its attitude. Because, there is an attack on a CSTO member country, an area that has nothing to do with the conflict. "As stated above, they aimed to use CSTO against Azerbaijan by taking the conflict to a different area from the original conflict region.

On September 27, 2000, a military partnership agreement between Russia and Armenia was signed. The main purpose of this agreement is Russia's military intervention in the face of attacks on the territory of Armenia. Therefore,

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Armenia wants Russia to be included in this conflict, since the shifting of the conflicts to the Tovuz region will take place in the area where the legitimate lands of Armenia are located.

From the perspective of Azerbaijan;

On July 12, the Armenian Armed Forces carried out extensive provocations. Official shares of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense state that the first to initiate the conflict is the other party. As it is known, Azerbaijan demands peaceful ways of withdrawing from the lands occupied by Armenia. And with the resolutions numbered 822, 853, 874, and 884 taken by the UN Security Council, it was stated that Armenia should withdraw from the attacks and occupations against Azerbaijan territory. However, these decisions were still not realized. Against these provocations, Azerbaijan gave the necessary response within the framework of international law rules. Deputy Defense Minister, Lieutenant General Karim Valiyev, told reporters on July 14 that more than 100 Armenian soldiers were killed, along with military ammunition, for two days.

Some of the countries that support Azerbaijan are:

1. Turkey
2. Pakistan
3. Moldova
4. Ukraine
5. United Kingdom

As a result;

The importance of the attacks on Tovuz region by Armenia:

- The desire to take Tovuz, an important strategic region where the energy resources of Azerbaijan are brought to the world market
- The desire to eliminate the negative perception against power by changing the opposing perception formed in the country in the direction of war
- Distancing the matter from the active conflict zone (Karabakh), creating new

conflict zones and making Karabakh look like an independent third party

- To create a conflict at the borders of Armenia and to ensure the CSTO and especially the intervention of Russia with Azerbaijan through military and security agreements.

Azerbaijan's attitude to these attacks:

- Azerbaijan proposes to resolve the conflict through peace, especially with the principles set by
- UNSC
- Responding to provocations and responding to enemy attacks
- The justification of Azerbaijan in this conflict is supported by many countries internationally