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## **ARMENIA VIOLATES CEASEFIRE WITH AZERBAIJAN 40 TIMES**

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Armenian armed forces have 40 times violated the ceasefire in various directions along the line of contact between Azerbaijani and Armenian troops over the last 24 hours, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry said on Feb. 17.

The Armenian army was using 60mm and 82mm mortars and grenade launchers

Armenian armed units stationed in Voskevan village of Armenias Noyemberyan district opened fire at the positions of Azerbaijani armed forces located in Gushchu Ayrim village of Azerbaijan's Gazakh district.

Meanwhile, the Azerbaijani army positions located in Alibeyli village of Azerbaijan's Tovuz district came under fire from the Armenian positions located in Mosesgekh village of Armenia's Berd district.

The Azerbaijani army positions came under fire from the Armenian positions located near the Armenian-occupied Goyarkh village of Terter district, Marzili village of Aghdam district, Kuropatkino village of Khojavand district, Garakhanbeyli, Horadiz and Ashagi Seyidahmedli villages of Fuzuli district, Mehdili village of Jabrayil district as well as from the positions located on nameless heights of Goranboy, Terter, Khojavand, Fuzuli and Jabrayil districts of Azerbaijan.

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict entered its modern phase when the Armenian SSR made territorial claims against the Azerbaijani SSR in 1988.

A fierce war broke out between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. As a result of the war, Armenian armed forces occupied some 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory which includes Nagorno-Karabakh and seven adjacent districts (Lachin, Kalbajar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadli and Zangilan), and over a million Azerbaijanis became refugees and internally displaced people.

The military operations finally came to an end when Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a ceasefire agreement in Bishkek in 1994.

Dealing with the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is the OSCE Minsk Group, which was created after the meeting of the CSCE (OSCE after the Budapest summit held in Dec.1994) Ministerial Council in Helsinki on 24 March 1992. The Groups members include Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, the United States, France, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Belarus, Finland and Sweden.

Besides, the OSCE Minsk Group has a co-chairmanship institution, comprised of Russian, the US and French co-chairs, which began operating in 1996.

Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 of the UN Security Council, which were passed in short intervals in 1993, and other resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly, PACE, OSCE, OIC, and other organizations require Armenia to unconditionally withdraw its troops from Nagorno-Karabakh.

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Kaynak/Source: