
ARAZ AZIMOV: REFERENDUM ON NAGORNO-KARABAKH CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE WITH PARTICIPATION OF ENTIRE AZERBAIJANI PEOPLE

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A referendum on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh can only take place with the participation of the entire Azerbaijani people, Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov said on Saturday, APA reported. A referendum in the territory of Azerbaijan can be held only in accordance with Azerbaijan's Constitution, he noted. When the process of resolving the conflict reaches the level demanding a referendum, then the Azerbaijani people will be able to participate in it. I don't accept another plan of referendum on Nagorno-Karabakh, there are no grounds for it.

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 December 1994) Ministerial Council in Helsinki on 24 March 1992. The Group's 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.

Kaynak/Source: