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**AZERBAIJAN'S PAINFUL KARABAKH PROBLEM IS ALSO TURKEY'S PROBLEM - ENVOY**

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18.09.2017

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16 September 2017

APA

The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which the most painful problem of Azerbaijan, is also Turkey's problem, Turkish Ambassador to Azerbaijan Erkan Ozoral told reporters on Friday, APA reported.

He noted that these two states will always strengthen more while they are together. We are fraternal states. We continue to work together on the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. Turkey's strength is Azerbaijan's strength and Azerbaijan's strength is Turkey's, said the diplomat.

With regard to the upcoming joint exercises of the Turkish and Azerbaijani Air Forces, the ambassador said that relations between the armed forces of the two countries should be closer to boost the military cooperation.

The activities in this direction are continuing, and relations between the two countries' armed forces are improving, he added.

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 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: