

OPERATION "RING" (KOL'TSO)

AZERBAIJAN'S ETHNIC CLEANSING CAMPAIGN

April-June 1991

As the Soviet Union was collapsing, Azerbaijan planned and implemented a brutal genocidal act, ethnically cleansing border areas of Nagorno Karabakh of its indigenous Armenian population. Approved by Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov, **Operation Ring**, the code name of this criminal action, was carried out by paramilitary units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan, aided by the Soviet Army and the Soviet Internal Troops. Methods used in the operation included raids, roundups, military strikes and forced deportation.



As a result of this brutal act:

100 Armenians were killed

700 Armenians were taken hostage

5,000 Armenian villagers were forcefully deported

The following 24 Armenian villages were ethnically cleansed by Azerbaijan in April-June 1991:

Khanlar Province (Northern Karabakh)

Getashen
Martunashen

Shahumian Province (Northern Karabakh)

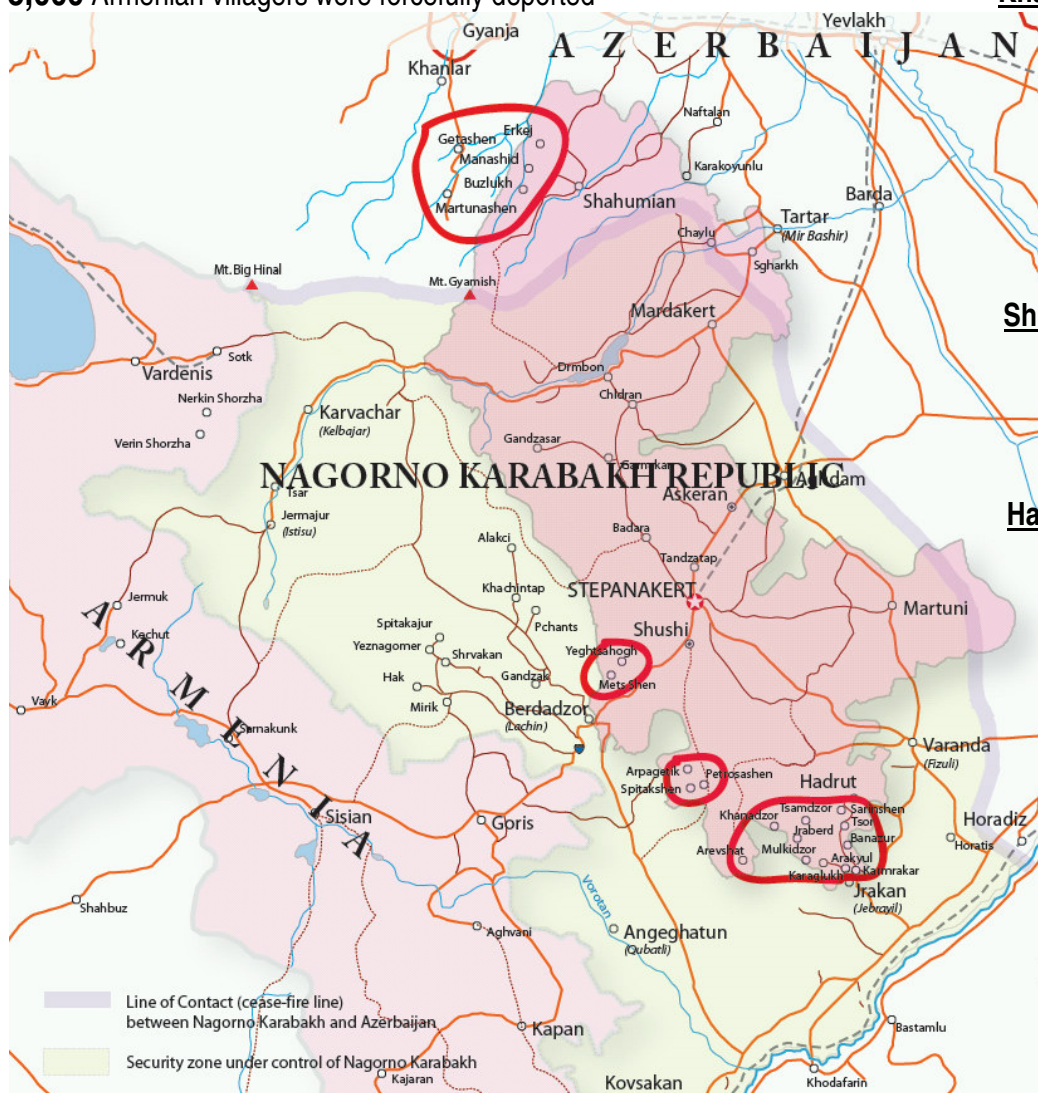
Buzlukh
Erkej
Manashid

Shushi Province (Southern Karabakh)

Kirov
Mets Shen
Tsakhkadzor
Yeghtsahogh

Hadrut Province (Southern Karabakh)

Arpagetik
Arakyel
Arevshat
Banazur
Jraberd
Khandzadzor
Karaglukh
Kamrakar
Mulkidzor
Petrosashen
Sarinshen
Sarilanj
Spitakashen
Tsamdzor
Tsor



Red rings indicate areas ethnically cleansed by Azerbaijan during Operation Ring

Azerbaijan should be held accountable for the organization and implementation of this gross violation of human rights on a mass scale.

Operation Ring, the ensuing all-out war against Nagorno Karabakh and the continued absence of any reassessment and condemnation of its past and ongoing criminal actions on the part of Azerbaijan, reinforces the belief that Azerbaijan cannot be trusted with ensuring the security of the Nagorno Karabakh people. Today, the continuation of Azerbaijan's genocidal intent is clearly reflected in official Baku's economic blockade of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh and its intensifying calls to launch a new military attack on Nagorno Karabakh.