



*Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

**PRESS-RELEASE**

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**Arson on Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan**

The Azerbaijani authorities received credible information, including through satellite observations, about arson taken place on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, controlled by Armenian military forces. Massive fires which began two weeks ago have spread to the territories controlled by Azerbaijan and seriously threatened local residents. On the 132,2 square km area a number of towns, villages, agricultural lands, cultural and historical monuments, existing flora and fauna, living dwellings have been destroyed or burnt by the fire.

Analyses of the satellite photos confirm that fires are of a large scale and will have disastrous consequences for the entire ecological system of those occupied territories and the region as a whole. Satellite images show that fires in five larger parts are localized and separated from each other by roads, channels and other non-burnt areas. Thus, it is apparent that simultaneous inflammation in several areas separated from each other and their massive and targeted character gives reasonable ground to suggest that they are man-made and intentional. These actions by Armenia constitute a gross violation of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the protocols additional thereto.

The Government of Azerbaijan appeals to the whole international community to express a strong unified position in response to illegal actions of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan such as using destructive flames to make those territories unsuitable for living and cultivating.

Space images and additional information can be retrieved from:

[http://www.mfa.gov.az/eng/armenian\\_aggression/fires\\_continue.shtml](http://www.mfa.gov.az/eng/armenian_aggression/fires_continue.shtml)