

# History can be based only on reality

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Azerbaijan's material and cultural monuments destroyed by Armenia on the occupied territories are an indispensable part of our history. These monuments are not only about culture – they are an archive of our moral past, a colorful page of our history. The ruthless destruction of Karabakh's historical monuments is a crime not only against Azerbaijan, but also against world culture and morality. It represents vandalism in the true sense of the word.

During the aggression against Karabakh, Armenia unleashed unseen atrocities against the civilian population, committing acts of terror and blood-curdling savagery. Hundreds of monuments so valuable to the history of Karabakh have been razed to the ground, many others have been turned into Armenian. One of the earliest human dwellings, the famous Azykh and Taglar caves, the Garakopak and Uzarliktapa burial mounds now serve military purposes and are being deliberately demolished. In addition to the burial mounds of Khojaly, Agdam, Agdara, Fizuli and Jabrayil, the Armenians have destroyed state and private museums, schools, cemeteries, tombstones, mosques, temples, monuments of Caucasian Albania and other sites in Shusha, Lachin, Kalbajar, Gubadli and Zangilan districts.

The destruction and pervasive falsification of historical and cultural monuments on Azerbaijani territories represent a breach of the 1954 Hague Convention, which places a commitment on signatory states to protect tangible and intangible cultural heritage, historical monuments and archeological excavations on the territory of another country during military conflicts. The falsification of historical sites also runs counter to the UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage.

We at *IRS-Heritage* have repeatedly covered this subject. This edition of our magazine contains a story about Armenian crimes and vandalism. We hope this article sends yet another message to the world that if an aggressor is not stopped in time, it will develop the impunity syndrome and commit similar acts elsewhere. As a result, the cultural heritage of the world will only remain in books.

The Armenians may destroy ancient Azerbaijani monuments on our territories, change indigenous place names and steal our intangible cultural heritage, but they can never rewrite history. Real history can be based only on reality, and there is only one reality: Karabakh is native Azerbaijani land and an inalienable part of Azerbaijani history. This will be the case for centuries...