

# April lessons for the occupier

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In the 22 years since the signing of the cease-fire agreement, Azerbaijan was able to restore its control over part of the occupied territories for the first time. In response to the violation of the cease-fire by Armenian military units on the Armenian-Azerbaijan contact line on 2 April, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces launched a major offensive and liberated some of the territories that were under occupation.

The four-day war showed the superiority of the Azerbaijani army over the enemy, and tangible headway was made precisely due to the power of our military forces. Azerbaijan's victory also proved that our country is able to liberate its lands in a military way at any moment and the factor that creates an obstacle to it is not the military power of the enemy country, but possible interference by other states.

International organizations settle conflicts on the basis of norms and principles of international law. Preference is given to the sovereignty of states, the principles of territorial integrity and self-determination of nations. We should also note that although international organizations, especially the United Nations and its Security Council, have made tremendous effort to settle conflicts, these efforts often remain futile. For example, although the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions (822, 853, 874 and 884) in 1993 in connection with the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan and although each of these resolutions condemns Armenia's aggressive policy and unconditionally demands that Armenian military units withdraw from the Azerbaijani lands they have occupied, these demands have still not been fulfilled. Such behavior by Armenia, which relies on its patrons and has historically been a tool in the hands of great powers, has always caused a state of war in the region. Although as a peace-loving country Azerbaijan has always preferred negotiations, our neighbor flouts all norms of international law and not only refuses to withdraw from the lands it has occupied, but also regularly creates tension on the contact line and continues to fire at the civilian population. Using its right to protect its lands and citizens, Azerbaijan was forced to take retaliatory steps in early April. Its magazine has repeatedly noted that in order to protect our territorial integrity, if the peace talks fail, Azerbaijan will restore its border in a military way. The occupier will probably learn a lesson from the April events and draw the right conclusion. Otherwise, responsibility for the prolongation of the state of war in the region, more bloodshed and deaths of innocent people will rest squarely with Armenia.