

NAGORNO KARABAKH



SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER BRIEFING 2018

Recent Developments

Azerbaijan is “playing with the fate of people” and the global community remains silent in the face of ‘[caviar diplomacy](#),’ [according to the spokesperson](#) for the president of Nagorno – Karabakh, Davit Babayan

The Chairman of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno Karabakh states Armenians living in the enclave “[want to live according to the laws of Azerbaijan](#)”. Bayram Safarov also claims that

Azerbaijan’s territorial integrity has been recognised internationally by countries such as Germany

Tensions rise between Belarus and Armenia: The Armenian Prime Minister [condemns the President of Belarus](#) for questioning the role of Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, in the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CTSO)

Nagorno - Karabakh President in US: Bako Sahakyan visited the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church in November to [discuss domestic policies](#), homeland diaspora ties and the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict settlement

Humanitarian Figures

Azerbaijan controls information released from Nagorno-Karabakh while preventing civil society organisations, journalists and political figures from entering the disputed enclave. Important events and situations are kept out of the public eye, resulting in a lack of fact-finding reports and humanitarian updates from the region.

Key Developments

> The US representative to the OSCE has [described the status quo](#) as “unacceptable”, underscoring the urgent need to find a resolution to ongoing hostilities over Nagorno Karabakh. Gregory Macris made the remarks during an OSCE Permanent Council address, [claiming the United States supports](#) efforts to increase a “dialogue between Armenians and Azerbaijanis that can stabilise the security situation and make a more constructive atmosphere for negotiations”.

> As Azerbaijani-Belarus relations strengthen, President Ilham Aliyev [publicly thanks](#) Alexander Lukashenko for Belarus’ stance on the settlement of conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. The heads of state issued a [joint statement](#) in November which stressed the importance of resolution and declared that the territorial dispute must be resolved within “the framework of territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of Azerbaijan”.

> France claims it does not recognise the de facto state of Nagorno Karabakh as it maintains its “[clear and unequivocal](#)” stance over the South Caucasus dispute. The [French ambassador to Azerbaijan states](#) that the responsibility of conflict resolution lies with the involved parties, and that based on its impartial position, France encourages the continued OSCE mission of mediation between Armenia and Azerbaijan to reach a diplomatic settlement.

Key Individuals, Places and Groups

- › Artsakh: The official name for Nagorno-Karabakh
- › Stepanakert: Nagorno-Karabakh's capital city
- › Bako Sahakyan: President of Nagorno-Karabakh
- › Ilham Aliyev: President of Azerbaijan
- › Nikol Pashinyan: Prime Minister of Armenia
- › OSCE: Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Context

Nagorno-Karabakh is an ethnically Armenian region landlocked in Azerbaijan. Decades of frozen conflict, warring territorial claims, and years of peace talks have failed to lead to a resolution over the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute.

In 1988, a high-intensity conflict broke out over an Azerbaijan-Armenian territorial dispute. By 1992, [Armenian forces occupied 20 per cent](#) of Azeri territory, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

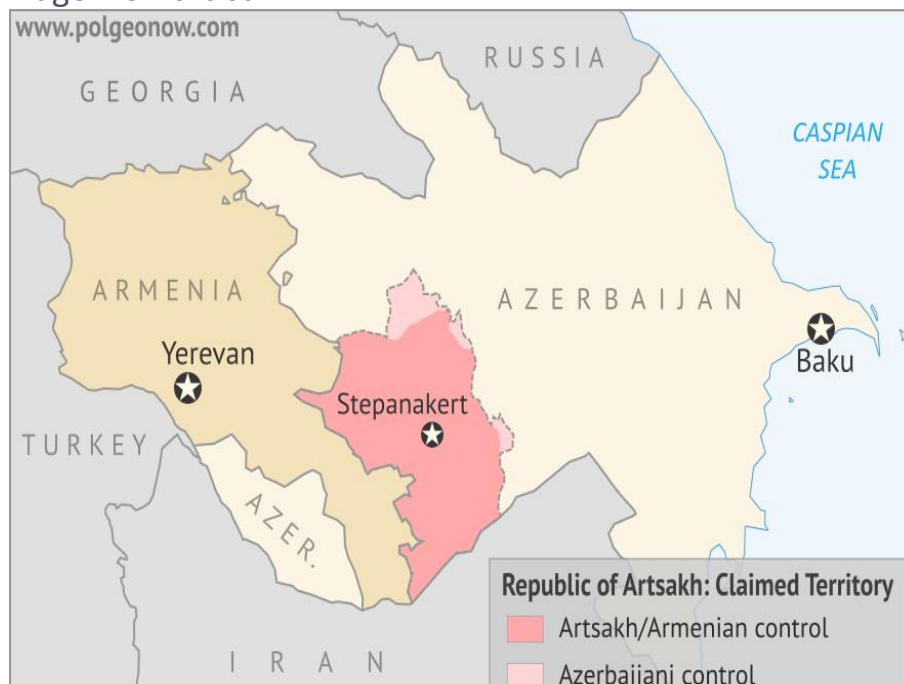
Nagorno-Karabakh declared autonomy from Azerbaijan and gained de facto independence. As a result of the conflict, an estimate of [30,000 lives](#) were lost, and hundreds of thousands of people were displaced.

Since the end of the war in 1994, the Armenian-populated Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has been held under the control of Armenian forces. Russia brokered a ceasefire agreement in 1994, which has been repeatedly violated and is failing to settle conflict between Azeri and Armenian Lines of Contact.

The OSCE Minsk Group plays a significant role in negotiations over the disputed region. The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic is not considered to be independent from Azerbaijan, and as a result, its sovereign status has failed to be recognised by any other UN state.

Mediation efforts are suppressing an all-out war over Nagorno-Karabakh, but [inter-ethnic tensions](#) remain as high as they were when hostilities broke out in 1988. A diplomatic solution is yet to be forged between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the decades-old conflict.

A Map of Azeri and Armenian Occupied Territories in Nagorno-Karabakh



Humanitarian Situation

Azerbaijan [prevents civil society organisations and political figures](#) from entering Nagorno-Karabakh.

The release of information has been forbidden, resulting in a lack of reports on the humanitarian situation in the region.

In the most recent census, Nagorno-Karabakh was reported to have a total population of [145,053](#). Of this total, [144,683](#) are ethnic Armenians. Approximately [400,000](#) Azeri people left the region during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.