

AUSTRALIAN-AZERBAIJANI-TURKISH FRIENDSHIP



12 June 2021

To whom it may concern,

We, the Azerbaijani-Turkish community in Australia, are writing to express our deep concern over Armenia's ongoing provocations, including border infiltrations to plant new mines, and refusal to provide maps of landmines planted by Armenian armed forces in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

These insidious and inhuman actions continue to take civilian lives, and over 120 Azerbaijanis have been killed and injured during mine explosions since November 2020.

Yet another tragedy happened on 4 June, this time killing journalists in the line of duty.

Employees of the Azerbaijan State News Agency (AZERTAC) and Azerbaijan Television (AZTV) were filming the liberated territories when they hit a mine in the village of Susuzlug of Kalbajar district. AZERTAC correspondent Maharram Ibrahimov and AZTV cameraman Siraj Abishov, as well as the deputy representative of the head of the Kalbajar district Executive Authority in Susuzlug village, Arif Aliyev, who was accompanying the film crew, were killed when their vehicle hit the anti-tank mine. Four people were seriously injured and hospitalized.

The mining of Azerbaijani territories by the Armenian Armed Forces and refusal to provide minefield maps are gross violations of the norms and principles of international law, including the Geneva Convention of 1949, and shows the continuation of criminal actions against the Azerbaijani citizens.

Azerbaijan has made numerous appeals to international organizations and lodged an intergovernmental complaint to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) over Armenia's refusal to provide maps of mines in the formerly-occupied territories.

We, our families, children, friends and the community itself are represented in different

walks of life in Australia, are worried about the current situation and we hereby call on the Australian government, members of parliament and relevant institutions to condemn Armenia's ongoing provocations and refusal to provide the minefield maps. This is not only an attack on the lives of civilians, but also an open act of terrorism against free speech and the activities of journalists.

Thank you!



Imametdin Kassoumov
President, Australian-Azerbaijani-Turkish Friendship
Vice-President, New South Wales Council of Turkish Associations
www.azerbaijan.org.au
info@azerbaijan.org.au