



**Statement of the Azerbaijani National Platform
of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
on the Attack by Armenian Armed Forces on Azerbaijani Positions**

23 years ago, in April of 1993, within 5 months the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, relying on the support of Russia, starting from the Kalbajar region of Azerbaijan Republic occupied 20% of Azerbaijan Republic's territories. 23 years later, once again, on 02 April 2016 the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia at night and day times have intensively fired on positions of Azerbaijan along the frontline and residential areas. As a result, there are casualties among civilian population. To prevent this provocation and ensure the safety of the civilian population the armed forces of Azerbaijan were forced to respond.

The usage of large-caliber weapons, mortars, grenade launchers and heavy artillery fire by Armenia's armed forces resulted in casualties among the civilian population there. While repulsing the provocation by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia 16 servicemen of the Azerbaijani Army were killed.

The Azerbaijani National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum reminds the United Nations Security Council resolutions number 822, 853, 874 and 884, the Organization's for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other international organizations appropriate documents and decisions to call the international community to exert pressure on Armenia in order to stop provocative actions.

The beginning of war and using force against Azerbaijan, occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions, exile of more than one million Azerbaijanis from their native lands, and ethnic cleansing carried out by Armenia are reflected in the resolutions and documents of the United Nations, the European Council and the European Parliament.

The only way to achieve a long and lasting settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is unconditional and complete withdrawal of Armenian armed forces from the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan and other occupied territories, to ensure the inalienable rights of internally displaced persons to return to their homeland and the establishment of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis of respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Azerbaijani National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Program Civil Society Forum is appealing to the international community, the UN, the OSCE, the OSCE Minsk Group, the European Union and the Council of Europe to intensify their efforts for the prevention of military operations and establishment of sustainable peace and stability in the region in order to achieve the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within the framework of international law.