

Collection of war threat statements by President Ilham Aliyev and other Azerbaijani officials

Excerpts from the President's speeches and other Azerbaijani and international news reports, dating from 2007 until February 2012.

1. Azerbaijan again threatens war to retake Nagorno-Karabakh, 9 February 2012

Azerbaijan reiterated on Tuesday that it still has the possibility of armed action up its sleeve if current talks to settle its conflict with Armenia over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region prove fruitless. Talks Brokered by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe have brought about no progress, Azeri Defence Minister Col. Gen. Safar Abiyev said during a meeting in Baku with the chief of the Turkish general staff, Gen. Of the Army Necdet Ozel. For this reason, Azerbaijan Keeps building up its armed forces for the possible recapture of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is an Armenian-speaking enclave in Azerbaijan, Aliyev said.

The two ministers also discussed military aspects of the overall political situation in the region and Azeri-Turkish military cooperation.

Source: <http://www.interfax.com/newsinf.asp?pg=6&id=307784>

2. "Azerbaijan's sovereignty must and will be guaranteed above all occupied lands", 26 December 2011

"The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be restored, all immigrants must return to their native lands – to Nagorno-Karabakh, as well as Shusha", - Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said it at the opening ceremony of the new residential village, built in Takhtakorpu in Agjabadi region for 552 displaced families from the Lachin region. "Azerbaijan's sovereignty should be fully restored. This is required by international law and the Azerbaijani people require this. We now are making diplomatic efforts to get back there. If you see that these efforts fail, then at any time we need military means to recover our lands. International law recognizes this right for us. Just as long as we try to do it by negotiation and, simultaneously, to increase their power. Over the years we have become much stronger. We have created a powerful military capability", - he said.

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/51631>

3. "Speech by President Ilham Aliyev on the 20th anniversary of the restoration of state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 18 October 2011

"...The difference in the level of development between Armenia and Azerbaijan has further increased in recent years. A solution of this [Nagorno-Karabakh] conflict is possible only through acceptance of international law. Azerbaijan's territorial integrity recognized by the international community and the United Nations must be restored. Four UN Security Council resolutions must be implemented unconditionally. The occupying forces must withdraw from our lands.

The territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan must be restored. The citizens of Azerbaijan who have suffered from Armenian vandalism, atrocities and the policy of ethnic cleansing must and will return to their native lands. I have no doubt about that. To do this, we must become and are becoming even

stronger. In the economic, military and all other areas Azerbaijan's potential is several times greater than that of Armenia, and it must grow further.

We will continue our diplomatic effort, but at the same time we will use all our opportunities to restore our territorial integrity. Justice is on our side, everybody knows that. No matter how difficult it has been for 20 years and no matter how hard the Armenian lobby has tried, we have declared and shown the world that Nagorno-Karabakh is native and historical Azerbaijani territory, from both historical point of view and from the standpoint of international law. Today, our offensive diplomacy is producing effect. I am sure that this issue will be resolved in line with international law and Azerbaijan will restore its territorial integrity. There are sufficient grounds for that. I occasionally share my thoughts with the Azerbaijani public on this issue. There are sufficient grounds. In addition to the historical and legal factors, the balance of powers is proof of Azerbaijan's superiority. Economic strength is incomparable. After 20 years of independence, Azerbaijan accounts for 83 per cent of the South Caucasus economy. As a result of the measures to be taken in the future and the upcoming reforms, this figure will only continue to grow, it will not diminish, but grow further.

In addition to economic factors, any country, including Azerbaijan, is taking steps to protect itself. Our growing military spending is a natural process. All our expenses, including the military, are growing. Considering the fact that we have the Karabakh problem, an increase in our expenses is natural. If they did not increase, it would be unnatural. They are and will be growing. The task I set a few years ago is now in the past. I said that our military spending must equal Armenia's total budget. Today, our military spending is 500 million higher than the Armenian budget. In the future, the difference will further increase.

One of the reasons for my optimism is the demographic situation in the region. The population of Azerbaijan is growing every year, we have over 9.1 million citizens. The population of Armenia is decreasing by the year, and will continue to reduce due to natural processes and because of the hopelessness, unemployment and mass apathy prevailing there. All these and other factors, needless to say, further strengthen our confidence. Most importantly, the people of Azerbaijan will never put up with this situation. The people of Azerbaijan will ensure the existence of Nagorno-Karabakh as an integral part of Azerbaijan."

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/3327>

4. "Karabakh Conflict Can Be Resolved Peacefully Through Pressure On Armenia", 6 September 2011

"Azerbaijan still has a potential of negotiations toward the settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. Azerbaijani President stated many times that "If I feel that the potential of negotiations ended and it is held only for the talks, Azerbaijan will deny holding negotiations and will restore its territorial integrity by other means", Head of Public Policy Department of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan Ali Hasanov told journalists. He said Azerbaijan couldn't state that this potential ended. "The OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs, as well as other institutions, which participate in the international peacekeeping processes, enable us to think that this problem can be resolved peacefully through the pressure on Armenia".

Source: <http://www.historyoftruth.com/news/latest/10097--karabakh-conflict-can-be-resolved-peacefully-through-the-pressure-on-armenia>

5. Azerbaijan's President: "One cannot compare an elephant with an ant", 28 July 2011

At the joint press conference with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President Ilham Aliyev said actually it shows the aggressive essence of Armenia. "This country is full of problems. Tens of

thousands of people leave the country. The country's economy is in crisis – poverty, misery, despair. There is not a good facility in the country, but for the foreign endowments, foreign patronage this country will collapse. In this situation, with 1.8 million real population, they make claims for historical territories of Turkey. They consider that they have solved Nagorno Karabakh problem. They are mistaken. Nagorno Karabakh is Azerbaijan's territory, remains as Azerbaijan's land. **The day will come when Azerbaijan will restore its sovereignty over Nagorno Karabakh either peacefully, or in a military way,**" he said.

Source: <http://milaz.info/en/news.php?id=6145>

6. Azerbaijan backs Turkey over Cyprus but fears Karabakh impact, says Azeri deputy PM, 21 July 2011

[...] Armenia just does not understand the fact that **God condemned the two Caucasus states to live as neighbors**, Hasanov added. "I used to believe back in 2001 that time was with us on the Karabakh issue, but I no longer think that way. The issue is getting deeper as time drags on. Time has worked in our favor only economically speaking, but it is working against us politically," he said. **"We always say that if things keep going this way, we could declare war. We would have liked to see Turkey behind us, but there is international law. There is a security agreement between Russia and Armenia,"** Hasanov added. **"Turkey cannot back us [militarily], but of course we see [Turkey] beside us politically. It is not like Turkey will be fighting a war with Russia anyway. Baku is negotiating with Yerevan solely for the sake of negotiating,** as Azerbaijan would be labeled an "anti-democratic state" if it did not participate in the meetings, Hasanov said.

Source: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=azerbaijan-backs-turkey-over-cyprus-but-fears-karabakh-impact-says-azeri-deputy-pm-2011-07-21>

7. Top Azeri official warns of fresh war in Caucasus, 18 July 2011

Armenia may try to provoke Azerbaijan into a new war in the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijani Deputy Foreign Minister Araz Azimov has claimed. **"Armenia is interested in war, more so than Azerbaijan. They want to gain further justification of the occupation in Karabakh, so they would be looking for an opportunity to provoke. So war is a possibility but it will only start with a provocation,"** Azimov told the Hürriyet Daily News in a recent interview.

Source: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=top-azeri-official-warns-of-fresh-war-in-caucasus-2011-07-18>

8. Not all Madrid principles meet Azerbaijan's interests – official, 18 July 2011

'Neither Armenia nor Azerbaijan can present the principles proposed by the Minsk Group co-chairs as a victory. These principles do not envisage victory of any party, they are rather based on mutual concessions'. The statement came from chief of the public policy department of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan Ali Hasanov. He said Azerbaijan's concession would be granting an interim status to Nagorno Karabakh. "It means that Azerbaijan would grant an interim status to Nagorno

Karabakh before its final definition in normal conditions of peace. President Ilham Aliyev spoke of the renewed Madrid principles at the previous session of the Cabinet of Ministers. The renewed principles consist of four main principles. Certainly, not all of those principles meet Azerbaijan's interests. To meet its interests, Azerbaijan should start war for liberation of occupied lands and force Armenia to sign a treaty satisfactory to Azerbaijan while in current conditions it is impossible. Therefore, we show a constructive position and make mutual concessions", Hasanov said.

Source: <http://news.az/articles/politics/40654>

9. Azerbaijan must attack Yerevan, says political expert, 14 July 2011

Azerbaijan must attack Yerevan, said Azerbaijan former lead negotiator and presidential adviser Vafa Guluzade Thursday, adding that the attacks must be so severe that Armenia would not be able to "forget it." In his statements, Guluzade also said that in addition to Yerevan, Azerbaijan must attack Gyumri, Gapan and other large cities in Armenia. Guluzade said in recent years, Azerbaijan has purchased a great deal of military equipment "that other countries can only dream about." Guluzade, who served as lead advisor to successive Azeri presidents, including Haydar Aliyev and was a member of Azerbaijan's Security Council, also expressed his belief that the Minsk Group co-chair countries side with Armenia.

Source: <http://asbarez.com/97048/azerbaijan-must-attack-yerevan-says-political-expert/>

10. President Ilham Aliyev: Azerbaijan will ensure its territorial integrity using all factors, including the army factor, 5 July 2011

"To ensure Azerbaijan's territorial integrity is one of the most important forthcoming issues," Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said at the Third Congress of the World Azerbaijanis, APA reports. Noting that international organizations passed resolutions on the settlement of Karabakh problem, President said these documents are not fulfilled due to Armenia's unconstructive position.

"Yerevan must understand that Azerbaijan's potential cannot be compared with Armenia's capability. Azerbaijan's economic potential is ten times more than Armenia's economic potential. Armenia has no power to compete with Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan's military expenditures are 50 percent more than Armenia's budget," he said...President Ilham Aliyev also said that Azerbaijan will ensure its territorial integrity using all factors, including the army factor.

Source: <http://www.milaz.info/en/news.php?id=5897>

11. Armenia makes military solution to the conflict urgent – MP, 2 July 2011

"Over the years our army has really become a very powerful force, which is not inferior to the most advanced armies of the world for its technical equipment and combat readiness. Head of state Ilham Aliyev attaches special importance to military construction, and our army has reached such heights due to the expedient policy by the head of state. Moreover, the Azerbaijani people have always supported their own army, and this is a sign of the unity between the army and the people," said Aydin Mirzazade, deputy chairman of the security and defence committee of the Azerbaijani Parliament, the Milli Majlis. Mirzazade noted that though Azerbaijani army can at any moment fulfill its tasks, Azerbaijan is committed to a peaceful way to resolve the conflict. "And the international community wants a solution to the conflict. Aspirations and actions of Azerbaijan in this direction are clear. However, the enemy party still makes groundless territorial claims, does not take a clear commitment to liberate the occupied territories, and it therefore makes military solution to the conflict urgent. Armenia must finally realize that

it cannot indefinitely keep the occupied territories of a neighbor. The time works against it," Mirzazade noted.

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/39670>

12. Azerbaijan leader warns of army buildup at huge parade, 26 June 2011

BAKU (Reuters) - Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, speaking during the biggest military parade in Baku since the fall of the Soviet Union, **promised to boost army spending and gain control of the territories disputed with Armenia.**

"I am completely sure that our territorial integrity will be resumed in any possible way, Aliyev was shown on state television as saying at the parade to mark armed forces day. **"Therefore, we should be even stronger."**

Aliyev said that **his country will boost military spending to \$3.3 billion** this year, up from \$2.15 a year ago and just \$160 million in 2003. Troops marched across Liberty square in central Baku, along with convoys of infantry combat vehicles and Russia-made S-300 self-propelled anti-aircraft missile launchers. Warplanes, helicopters and drones cruised over the city, as TV aired footage of battleships on duty off the Azeri Caspian coast. **"Nagorno-Karabakh is a native Azerbaijani land, this is the way it always was, but it is temporarily under occupation, which cannot last forever,"** Aliyev said, adding that Baku will continue diplomatic efforts.

Source: <http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCATRE75POLD20110626>

13. Vice speaker: If Karabakh conflict is not resolved peacefully, Azerbaijan can liberate its lands from occupation in military way, 14 June 2011

"If the Karabakh conflict is not resolved peacefully, the hopes after the Kazan meeting come to zero, Azerbaijan reserves its right to liberate its lands from occupation by military means," said the First Vice-Speaker, Chairman of the Security and Defence Committee of the Azerbaijani Parliament Ziyafet Askerov. He said the international law allows it. **"Unfortunately, Armenia has so far engaged only in imitation, that is came to the talks only to stall for time,"** said Askerov.

Source: <http://en.trend.az/news/karabakh/1891595.html>

14. Azeri defence ministry says Armenia making war inevitable, 4 June 2011

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Azerbaijan's defense ministry was quoted Saturday as saying **Azeri troops would eventually be sent to seize back the Armenian-backed breakaway territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. [...]**

"Eventually, Azerbaijani soldiers will meet the expectations of the people, the government, and the supreme commander-in- chief and will liberate the occupied land from the enemy," Azeri defense ministry spokesman Eldar Sabiroglu told a news conference, according to Interfax.

Source: <http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCATRE7531V420110604>

15. Speech by Ilham Aliyev at the official reception dedicated to the 28th May – Republic Day, 27 May 2011

[...] As far as Armenia is concerned, we will continue to make efforts to isolate Armenia from all regional projects. We do not hide it. This is our policy. Armenia has occupied our lands. This policy will continue until the occupation ends. If a peace agreement is signed, then Armenia can also be involved in regional projects. This will depend on what steps they take.

Source: <http://en.president.az/articles/2338>

16. Settlement of Karabakh conflict is most important issue for Azerbaijan – President Ilham Aliyev, 21 March 2011

[...] At present, the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is the biggest source of threat to the region. Everybody knows that we did not create this threat and Azerbaijani side suffers from this conflict most of all. I am confident that the issue will be resolved and the territorial integrity will be restored. There is no and cannot be any other way to resolve this issue. The Azerbaijani state and people will never allow the establishment of a second Armenian state on Azerbaijani territory. Nagorno Karabakh will never be independent. The people currently living in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Azerbaijanis, who must go back to Nagorno Karabakh, have to live in conditions of autonomy. This is a well-known approach in the world practice and all issues have to be resolved with a status of autonomy within a united Azerbaijan state. Once again I want to say that Azerbaijan will never retreat from this principled position", - Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said.

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/33268>

17. Zaman: Azerbaijan vows to shot down Armenian planes over Nagorno-Karabakh, 17 March 2011

Azerbaijan has warned Armenia in a strongly-worded statement that it will not shun in shooting down its planes if the country advances its plans to complete an airport in occupied Azerbaijani territories. Head of Azerbaijani State Civil Aviation Administration, Arif Mammadov, raspigly warned Armenia while speaking to reporters on Wednesday that any airplane taking off from the airport which is under construction in the Nagorno-Karabakh, which is occupied by Armenian military in early 1990s, will be destroyed by Azerbaijani armed forces.

Armenia has occupied Nagorno-Karabakh in early 1990s, predominantly populated by ethnic Armenians, and seven adjacent regions to the disputed territory despite the fact that no Armenian population lived in this provinces. 16 years of mediation by Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) Minsk Group has yielded no results and thus increasing the possibility of military confrontation more than ever. The region has already become a usual showcase of border skirmishes, leaving tens of dead each year from both from Azerbaijan and Armenia. Both sides accuse each other of violating the already vulnerable cease-fire.

"Our airspace over Nagorno-Karabakh is closed and according to Azerbaijani aviation law, it is even legal to destruct the airplanes flying to this part of the country", Mammadov said. According to Mammadov, dealing with the deterrent measures, Azerbaijan already notified the situation to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Observers say Azerbaijan fears Armenia could use the airport as a base for military aircrafts during a possible armed confrontation between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The airspace over Nagorno-Karabakh is closed, as Azerbaijani authority does not control the region after since early 1990s, when the ceasefire agreement was signed with Armenia under the auspices of Russia. ICAO has already responded to the concerns of Azerbaijan and urged the country to take precautions against any abnormal occurrences in the region.

Azerbaijan State Civil Aviation Administration responded to the ICAO that this time in cooperation with Azerbaijan Defence Ministry, that the airspace is closed and it cannot be used for any purposes. The Azerbaijani officials urged the ICAO to take appropriate measures to prevent the redundant incidents.

Source: <http://www.todayszaman.com/news-238515-azerbaijan-vows-to-shot-down-armenian-planes-over-nagorno-karabakh.html>

18. Azerbaijan's Defense Minister Safar Abiyev statement at a meeting with his [Slovenian] correspondent, Mrs. Ljubitzja Jelušič, 2 March 2011

Armenia is not planning to disavow its occupational policy and in this case Azerbaijan will inevitably use its sovereign right to liberate lands, Azerbaijan's Defense Minister Safar Abiyev told at the meeting with [Slovenian] Defense Minister Mrs. Ljubitzja Jelušič. News.Az reports citing the Defense Ministry of Azerbaijan. According to Abiyev, in this case, this will be a reason for growing tensions in the region. Azerbaijan's Defense Minister informed his [Slovenian] counterpart about the military and political situation in the region, the problems created by the Karabakh conflict. As a result of the meeting the Defense Ministers of Azerbaijan and [Slovenia] signed an agreement on cooperation in defense.

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/32278>

19. Azerbaijan Preparing For War, Says Defense Minister Safar Abiyev, 14 February 2011

BAKU (Today's Zaman)—Azerbaijan's Defense Minister Safar Abiyev told OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmen that his country is seriously preparing for war against Armenia to "liberate its territories from occupation."

"Azerbaijan is seriously preparing to liberate its territories," Abiyev reportedly told the co-chairs, the defense ministry's press release said on Friday.

Abiyev defended his comments by referring to the traditional practice of other countries, saying that every country would act similarly in these situations. In the statement Abiyev emphasized the necessity of implementing current international norms and provided examples of situations in which international law was successfully implemented.

Abiyev also criticized the activities of the Minsk Group and said that while diplomatic overtures of the mediators have not produced any results, Azerbaijan has not yet lost its hope in the group.

Ziyafat Asgarov, the deputy speaker of the Azerbaijani parliament, told reporters in December of last year that Azerbaijan reserves the right to liberate its occupied territories. When asked whether war was on the agenda, Asgarov said, "You will see it very soon."

Novruz Mammadov, the director of the department of foreign relations in the presidential administration of Azerbaijan, told ANS TV channel on Saturday that it is natural for Azerbaijan to intensify its war rhetoric, pointing to the failure of mediators to bring about peace in the conflict.

"The only job of the international community and OSCE Minsk Group is to make Armenia accept the proposals on the table," Mammadov said.

"It is very natural that Azerbaijan increase its military calls because we have been negotiating for many years already. Because the talks have not produced the outcome we want, the Azerbaijani president

[Ilham Aliyev] is highlighting the right of Azerbaijani army to liberate our territories and this is only natural," Mammadov concluded.

Source: <http://asbarez.com/93413/azerbaijan-preparing-for-war-says-defense-minister/>

20. Closing remarks by Ilham Aliyev at a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on the results of socioeconomic development of 2010, 14 January 2011

In 2011, extensive work will be done in the area of army construction. Overall, our defense expenditure exceeds \$3 billion. This is 30 per cent more than Armenia's total budget, which is in the range of \$2 billion. I repeat, our military spending alone constitutes \$3 billion. Of course, Azerbaijan cannot be compared to Armenia, we are a developing, modern, strong and rich country, while Armenia is in recession, a poor country dependent on foreign aid. The difference between our countries is incomparable, and it will gradually grow further. We can allocate any amount to the military, while Armenia can only provide for itself at the expense of foreign aid. This dependence, of course, manifests itself politically too. I can say that, unlike Armenia, Azerbaijan is completely independent. We have economic, political power and a strong will to conduct an independent policy. As I said earlier, in 2011 we expect to commission new defense industry enterprises. We must try to ensure that the enterprises providing for the needs of our army and military entities are of priority importance. We must try, and we are already succeeding in that, to import the latest military equipment to Azerbaijan.

Source: <http://president.az/articles/1400/print?locale=en>

21. Speech by Ilham Aliyev at the commissioning of a residential building for Karabakh war veterans and martyrs' families, 24 December 2010

At the same time, we are strengthening our army. We are paying great attention to army building and allocating large funds. Our army is the most powerful army in the region, and the attention being paid to army building manifests itself. Our lands have been under occupation for many years. We have been subjected to Armenian aggression. In the early 1990s, Armenia and its foreign benefactors took advantage of the instability and chaos in Azerbaijan and seized our lands. Of course, it would be impossible today. Today, Azerbaijan has the most powerful military potential. Our economic, political and military power cannot be compared to that of Armenia. But let me repeat, in the early 1990s Armenian invaders capitalized on the situation in Azerbaijan and occupied our lands.

We are trying to resolve the issue through negotiations. But, as you can see, it hasn't been possible yet. Therefore, of course, we must be prepared for all other options. The purpose in allocating significant resources to army building, taking measures to improve the professionalism of the army, conducting regular exercises, acquiring and producing new weaponry, munitions and technology in Azerbaijan is that if the negotiations prove unsuccessful, then our lands must be liberated by a military option. This is a reality, this is our most difficult problem and it must be resolved.

In the years of ceasefire, Azerbaijan has covered a long and successful road. While in the early 1990s there was relative balance in the economic or military spheres between Armenia and Azerbaijan, today we are well ahead. Azerbaijani economy accounts for 75 per cent in the South Caucasus. The financial capabilities available to us Azerbaijan us to resolve any issue in its favor. The Armenian side, of course, is well aware of this and has to reckon with this reality. It is not by chance that their hysterical actions of recent months have exposed their fear to the whole world. This is a reality, and as long as Azerbaijani lands remain under occupation, Armenia will live in fear. No-one would want a neighbor harboring evil plans. But we have no other choice. If Armenia follows international law and withdraws its forces from Azerbaijani territory, peace and calm will be established in the region. But as long as our lands are under

occupation, Armenia and its leaders must know that the Azerbaijani people can at any time conduct a military operation in its own territory. These opportunities are provided for by international law.

With regard to our capabilities, as I have noted, they are growing by the day and will be even greater in the future.

Source: <http://www.president.az/articles/1318?locale=en>

22. Aliyev at the opening ceremony of a new settlement for IDP families in the region of Agdam, 11 November 2010

Today again I would like to say it openly that we will continue our army building. We have created already a professional and strong army and purchased weaponry in large quantities. Our Army will act at any moment. We do not want to have war. But, we will never reconcile with this situation. Armenia knows and should know that our patience has also limits. Our patience is not an infinite one.

Source: <http://www.president.az/articles/1058?locale=en>

23. Aliyev at the farewell at the opening of a compound composed of living mansions constructed for IDP families, November 2010

Our goal is to restore international law and territorial integrity. Internationally recognized territory integrity of Azerbaijan should be restored. This constitutes our goal. We use and should use various opportunities to hit the target. This is our sovereign right. We want to solve the issue by talks and peace. However, it seems that Armenian side wishes only to delay it and a new stage in negotiation process starts again. We wait for the answer of Armenia related to the proposed issues. If there will be no positive answer, we will make, of course, changes in our policy.

Besides that, it is not a secret that we develop successfully our army building process. Our military might is increasing. Our defense capabilities are strong. Spirit of patriotism and professionalism are at high level. I do not doubt that our Armed Forces can fulfill their task with courage and in a short period of time. I do not doubt that we will restore our territorial integrity. The truth and history demand it that way, and today, the forces balance hints at that stance.

Source: <http://www.president.az/articles/1049?locale=en>

24. Aliyev at funeral of Azerbaijani soldiers, 7 November 2010

Today is a very sad day. At the same time, this day is a glorious one. Mubariz and Farid died for their Motherland on their own soil. Having killed 5 enemy soldiers and wounded 3 of them in an uneven battle, Mubariz Ibrahimov became a martyr. Mubariz knew well that he would not come out of the battle safe and sound. However, his affection to Motherland and love to its soil, as well as his spirit of patriotism elevated him to the martyrdom. Mubariz is a role model for all the youth.

...

We will not let Armenia to engage in imitation of negotiations. We will keep conducting talks for as much as there remains a hope for restoration of our territorial integrity through negotiations. If we notice that it is not possible, then, the Azerbaijani state will restore its territorial integrity using its military. I do not doubt that we have all the conditions necessary for it - combat preparedness, material and technical supply, sufficient weaponry and ammunitions, professional army, high morale and the will of the Azerbaijani people. We can restore our territorial integrity by military means at any moment. The enemy should know this and they do know that.

Source: <http://www.president.az/articles/1011/print?locale=en>

25. President Ilham Aliyev at the opening of a new secondary school, 14 October 2010

Certainly, Karabakh is an ancient Azerbaijani land. Is there the word 'Karabakh' in Armenia? No! Khankendi in Karabakh was called Stepanakert in the Soviet Times. Where did Stepanakert come from? This name was taken from the name of Stepan Shaumyan. If this city had a historical past, related to Armenians, would they have given this name?! Its historical name is Khankendi. This is the reality. Our children must know this, they should know that present-day Armenia locates in ancient Azerbaijani lands. In addition, they also want to create the second state in our territory. They want to create the second Armenian state on the historical Azerbaijani lands. **We can never be able to agree on this and we will restore the territorial integrity of our country. By any way!** I do not doubt this! Today Azerbaijan is a strong state. Today Azerbaijan is able to take actions not only in the sphere of education but also in other spheres.

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/politics/2472>

26. Speech by President Ilham Aliyev at a ceremony to inaugurate the State Flag Square

The opening of the State Flag Square is a truly historic and unforgettable event. This square is a great architectural monument in itself. The upper part of the square covers 3 hectares, while the area of the whole square is 60 hectares. State symbols of Azerbaijan – the national emblem, words of the anthem and the map of the country – are depicted here. There will also be a state flag museum here and in the center of the square there will be Azerbaijan's state flag. This is the biggest and the highest flag in the world. The flagpole is 162 meters high and it can be seen from anywhere in Baku.

...
The establishment of such a magnificent square in our capital Baku is a truly great event. Our flag is a source of our pride. Our flag is our flesh and our heart. The state flag of Azerbaijan is hoisted in all parts of Azerbaijan. **After the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, our state flag will be hoisted in the lands still under occupation now. Our state flag will be hoisted in Nagorno-Karabakh, Khankandi and Shusha. We must and we are making this day nearer by our work.**

Source: <http://www.president.az/articles/646/print?locale=en>

27. President Aliyev's opening address to the Cabinet to review the first six months of 2010, 13 July 2010

"We took very important steps in the military industry in 2009. We've been strengthening our military potential. Recently we made changes to our budget, which now stands at \$15bn. We allocated an additional \$500m to military spending. And this is part of our single-minded policy. We have to focus, first and foremost, on strengthening the country's military potential, and this is what we are doing. Azerbaijan's military spending today is \$2.15bn, which is more than the total budget of Armenia. And we've achieved the goal that we set ourselves a few years ago. This allows us to modernize our army and purchase state-of-the-art weapons and military equipment."

Our military power can play a decisive role in the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. However, we don't want this to happen. We want the issue to be solved through negotiations, through diplomatic means. But military power will strengthen our position.

We must be ready to liberate our occupied lands at any time. And I'm completely confident that Azerbaijan is capable of doing so today. We have considerably increased our military power...

Azerbaijan must make it to the ranks of the developed countries in terms of economic progress, and this is our goal. We are a modern country. This is why the first stage of the war decides nothing. It only

proves that the people of Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani state will never accept this situation and will restore their territorial integrity by any means."

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/19078>

28. President Ilham Aliyev Tuesday at the inauguration of a center for the "Azeri Community of Nagorno-Karabakh," 7 July 2010

"This is the last chance for Armenia to leave the occupied lands voluntarily for the sake of its own future and its own security." ...

The threat comes two days after Aliyev held talks with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who urged both sides to refrain from "use of force or the intention of use of force" to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

In his lengthy remarks, Aliyev said that Azerbaijan had accepted the updated Madrid Principles drafted by the OSCE Minks Group that is mediating the peace process.

He said the time had come for Armenia to adopt the principles, accusing Yerevan of deliberately delaying the process.

The Azeri President said his country's growing economic and military potential and the strengthening of its position in the international arena will help it restore its territorial integrity.

"Today our army is able to solve any task," the Azerbaijani President said.

Source: <http://asbarez.com/83135/%E2%80%98last-chance-for-armenia%E2%80%99-threatens-aliyev/>

29. Aliyev confesses, pledges to continue provocations, 7 July 2010

"There is cease-fire agreement. But today there are no peacekeeping forces in the region, there are Armenian and Azerbaijani soldiers. The distance between them sometimes makes 40-50 meters. No one can provide guarantees that undesirable incidents will not occur there. How long should Azerbaijani people wait? For how long it should accept this unfairness? It could be explained somehow when there was military balance between Armenia and Azerbaijan. But today there is no such balance. And they are well aware of it," Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said in a statement in Baku Tuesday.

Ilham Aliyev here tried to imply something and give spirit to those under his command, however, willy-nilly he confessed that the incident of June 18-19 night near the village of Chaylu was provoked by "impatient Azerbaijani people", explaining that "there is lack of military balance."

Source: <http://www.panorama.am/en/politics/2010/07/07/aliev/>

30. Speech by President Ilham Aliyev at a joint battle exercises of the Armed Forces, 24 June 2010

Dear servicemen!

Let me congratulate you and all the people of Azerbaijan on the forthcoming Day of the Armed Forces and wish you success in your service.

The Azerbaijani army is getting stronger by the day. The process of army construction in Azerbaijan is progressing well, which enables us to build up our military power. Army construction is a very important issue for any country. Of course, for a country at war it must be a priority. And it is – army construction in Azerbaijan is top priority. We have been suffering from aggression for many years, our lands are under occupation. We must be prepared to free our native lands from occupiers at any moment. To do that,

along with political and diplomatic efforts, we must have a strong army, and this process is successfully under way. The level of the Azerbaijani army is very high today.

The professionalism and combat-readiness of our army are growing, the morale is high. At the same time, our military infrastructure is strengthening, and major steps have been taken in this direction in recent years. The state allocates sufficient funds to address the needs of our army. Let's just look at one figure: in the last several years, to be exact, in the last seven years our military expenditure increased more than 13 times. Azerbaijan's military expenditure for 2010 is \$2,150 billion, which exceeds Armenia's total budget. Several years ago we set a goal: Azerbaijan's military expenses must exceed Armenia's total expenditure. And this goal has already been made. We will continue to build up our military power and purchase the required arms, ammunition and hardware.

Additional steps will be taken in Azerbaijan in the area of military production. A lot of attention has been paid to this sphere lately. At present, there are 21 military enterprises, a military plant in Azerbaijan, 30 manufacturing facilities have been set up. We must ensure that all the hardware, arms and ammunition required for the armed forces are produced in Azerbaijan. We will further step up work in this direction. Of course, to do that financial resources and economic power are required, and we are working on that.

...

The financial crisis which hit the world in 2009-2010 has almost bypassed Azerbaijan because the steps we have taken saved our country and population from its bitter implications. Azerbaijan is optimistic of the future and is stepping up its military power. I have no doubt that we will meet our economic, social and political goals. Our goals are to further strengthen our independence, conduct an independent policy and solve the tasks our country is facing. The most important of them is the liberation of our lands from occupiers. As you may know, talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia have been under way for years. Mediators are also playing a role in the talks. Despite this, the issue remains unresolved although there are decisions and resolutions of international organizations supporting our position, the position of justice. Practically all leading international organizations have passed decisions on the issue, but the occupying state ignores them. Under such circumstances Azerbaijan has two choices: either to continue the talks – we are ready for that provided that the talks will yield fruit, or choose another way. We must be prepared for any option, which is confirmed by the numerous statements I have made in the last several years.

We have never rejected a military option although we are in favor of peace talks. The talks have been under way for 20 years and Azerbaijan is demonstrating a constructive approach. But there is no result. How long should the people of Azerbaijan wait? How long should we wait for justice to be restored? The Armenian side ignores the norms of international law and flouts the decisions of international organizations. The patience of the Azerbaijani people is not unlimited.

In recent years we have been attaching special importance to army construction, and the figures I have provided here are only a small fraction of the work we are doing. Our key objective is to restore our territorial integrity by all means.

Let me repeat: we want to resolve the issue through talks. But if that proves impossible, the Azerbaijani army, all the armed forces must be ready to liberate our lands on the order of the commander-in-chief.

We don't have claims on other countries' lands although the present-day Republic of Armenia was founded on historically Azerbaijani lands. We must restore the territorial integrity of our own country. This is our natural right. The most fundamental human rights of one million Azerbaijani citizens have been breached. Azerbaijanis have been subjected to ethnic cleansing. Hundreds thousands of our citizens have been driven out of Upper Qarabag and adjacent districts. How long should we tolerate that?

...

We must step up our military power, and we are doing that. Today the Azerbaijani army is prepared to fulfill all the tasks with dignity. I want to reiterate: combat-readiness, professionalism, patriotic spirit, military infrastructure, state attention and respect for the army – all these factors will enable us to free our lands from occupiers....

Today's exercises have demonstrated the power of the Azerbaijani army and armed forces again. The exercises have been held jointly by the Defense Ministry, Interior Troops and Border Troops, and we will rise to fight for the motherland, for our lands together. All the people of Azerbaijan will be mobilized. All the armed forces will be mobilized. With this aim the armed forces will coordinate their activities. The key objective of the exercises is to liberate our lands from occupiers. The exercises have been very successful. Of course, they will be thoroughly analyzed. It will take some time. But the first impression is very

positive. I can also see that all the tasks have been fulfilled and our armed forces have displayed great professionalism.

Source: <http://president.gov.az/articles/279?locale=en>

31. Aliyev at Armenian, Azerbaijani Republic Day, 28 May 2010

... Aliyev repeated his threats that the Azerbaijani army is capable of restoring his country's territorial integrity "at any time" and "within a short term."

Source: http://www.rferl.org/content/Armenia_Azerbaijan_Mark_Republic_Day/2055860.html

32. President Ilham Aliyev holds military build-up meeting, 23 April 2010

Today's meeting is of great significance. It is no secret that along with other spheres Azerbaijan places a particular emphasis on its military. It is our only approach since Azerbaijan is at war. The war is not over. The first phase of war was just completed. We must do it so that we could liberate our lands by military means at any moment

Military spending has increased ten-fold over the past 5-6 years, defense industry is developing, military equipment has been bought because it is our natural right... Today, Azerbaijan's army is stronger and more professional than Armenian army in all fields.

Source: <http://www.azertag.com/jsp/shownews.jsp?id=644&cdate=2010-04-23&lang=en>

33. Aliyev during festivities to mark the Novruz holiday, 24 March 2010

The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan has never been a subject of discussion. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan must be restored. The occupying troops must be withdrawn from all the occupied lands and the Azerbaijani citizens must return there. All communications must open. Azerbaijanis must return to Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenians and Azerbaijanis must live in conditions of high autonomy. The future that can happen either tomorrow or in a hundred years or may never happen will show the nature of this status. This means that the independence of Nagorno-Karabakh outside Azerbaijan is absolutely unacceptable. This is our position of principle. Nagorno-Karabakh will never be independent. Azerbaijan will never recognize it. The world community will also not recognize a formation that has not been recognized by us.

I think today there are good opportunities for the resolution of the issue. Azerbaijan will intensify diplomatic efforts, it takes a constructive position during negotiations and at the same time it uses its potential to grow in strength. This consolidation is observed in the economic, political and military sphere. We do not conceal it. We live in conditions of war. It is not by accident that a greater part of our state expenditure goes on defence. This is natural. There will be no need for large defence costs after the Karabakh conflict is settled. But today there is a great need for it. We will raise our defence costs every year, strengthen the army, purchase new arms and ensure that the armed forces of Azerbaijan could fulfil the order of the supreme commander within a short period of time, and at any minute. This is our sovereign right and we do not need advisers in this issue.

Source: <http://www.news.az/articles/11936>

34. Ilham Aliyev: Karabakh Conflict to be settled when Armenia feels Azerbaijan's power, 4 March 2010

He said that diplomatic efforts are not enough for the conflict settlement. "Norms of international law are violated in the world negatively affecting the conflict settlement. Power is the key factor and we will achieve that," said Aliyev.

Source: <http://www.un-az.org/undp/bulnews57/nk8.php>

35. Aliyev interview with Euronews, 6 February 2010

Euronews: You've been quoted as saying that if the Armenian side does not withdraw its troops from the seven occupied territories of Azerbaijan and return this land, then Azerbaijan would take those provinces back through a military offensive. Do you maintain this position?

Aliyev: This is a fundamental right of Azerbaijan, as I mentioned before, given to us by international organizations, including the United Nations. We cannot afford the conflict to be in such a frozen situation for another 15 years.

Euronews: It has already been frozen for 16 years...

Aliyev: Of course, so there should be an end to that. We want to put an end to that by peaceful means, and we are working on that, but at the same time, our patience also has limits. I hope that what has been agreed basically before and what we are planning to agree during 2010 will put an end to conflict and peace will come to the Caucasus.

Source: <http://www.euronews.net/2010/02/02/interview-with-ilham-aliyev-president-of-azerbaijan/>

36. Aliyev's traditional New Year's address 2009/2010

But this year, President Aliyev's message was one of war. He warned that "Azerbaijan is strengthening its military potential," which he claimed is "increasing day by day" and is "being strengthened in terms of weapons and equipment." He then affirmed explicitly that Baku has the "military effectiveness" and will "use all the means at our disposal to solve the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

Source: http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijans_Unsinkable_General/1983345.html

37. Aliyev during preparations for the Munich conference on security, 20 November 2009

Azerbaijan said upcoming talks with Armenia on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict would be "decisive" and warned that its troops were ready to use force to take back the rebel region if they fail, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said.

"If that meeting ends without result, then our hopes in negotiations will be exhausted and then we are left with no other option," he said, saying Azerbaijan had the right to use force to take back the mountain region.

"Azerbaijan is spending billions on buying new weapons, hardware, strengthening its position on the line of contact," he said at a meeting with Azerbaijani refugees from the conflict.

"We are doing that because we never excluded and we do not exclude that option. We have the full right to liberate our land by military means."

Source:

http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijan_Says_Karabakh_Talks_Last_Chance_For_Deal/1884135.html

38. Speaking at the opening of an apartment building in Baku for 369 internally displaced families, 17 November 2009

He said Armenian negotiators "keep dragging their feet over issues and prolonging the negotiations." But Aliyev said such a tactic "will not give them anything," and that Armenia's goal is to "populate our lands with Armenians, but they don't have enough people.

Aliyev said that Armenia's population has fallen to 1.7 million (contradicting an official estimate of 3.26 million in 2008.) "It will be difficult for them to defend their front line," he said. In contrast, he continued, "Azerbaijan's opportunities, economy, and demography are growing. Our population is already 9 million. In five or six years we are going to be 10 million."

Source:

http://www.rferl.org/content/Azerbaijani_President_Criticizes_Armenia_On_Karabakh_Talks/1882645.html

39. Aliyev to reporters on a trip to western Azerbaijan, 3 March 2008

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev has used his country's mounting oil wealth to stoke tensions further. He has funnelled more than \$1 billion into bolstering the country's defenses. On a trip to western Azerbaijan on March 3, Aliyev told reporters that diplomatic efforts "are not enough," adding that, "to resolve the Karabakh conflict, we have to be strong, we have to be ready to liberate our lands by military means, and we are ready."

Source: <http://www.rferl.org/content/article/1079580.html>

40. Aliyev to EU-Officials touring the South Caucasus from February 4, 2008 – 10 February, 2008

...heated words from President Ilham Aliyev, who told them Azerbaijan is ready to "wage war" with neighboring Armenia over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Source: <http://www.rferl.org/content/article/1079457.html>

41. Azerbaijani President calls 'to attack Armenia in all directions, 22 June 2007

"Azerbaijan will exert pressure on Armenia unless the seized lands are liberated," Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said when addressing today the graduates of the Supreme Military School.

"Azerbaijan must attack Armenia in all directions. The attack must be political, economic and diplomatic," he said.

"Nagorno Karabakh will never join Armenia and will never be independent," he said.

"Yerevan drags out time hoping for success. In my opinion, this wish is conditioned by career ambitions of some politicians. I do not believe that Armenia is interested in protracting the settlement process," Aliyev said.

Noting the necessity of creation of a military-industrial multiplex, Aliyev said that in the end of the year Azerbaijan will launch its first military output. "War is not over and Azerbaijan will strengthen its army," he said reminding that his country's military budget is equal to Armenia's state budget.

Source: <http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/world/news/22662/>