



Genocide Watch
The Alliance Against Genocide

Country Profile: Armenia

From 1915 - 1922, Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire were victims of genocide. They endured systematic policies of deportation and extermination. In 1918, Armenian forces halted Turkish invasion at the [Battle of Sardarabad](#) and created the First Republic of Armenia.

The First Republic's policies were discriminatory against non-Armenians. The state systematically expelled Muslim Azerbaijanis and Kurds. Armenian forces under the *Dashnaktsutyun* party massacred Azerbaijani and Kurdish people and burned villages [from 1918 to 1921](#). In March 1918, Armenians and their Bolshevik allies killed over [10,000 Azerbaijanis in Baku](#), during the "March Days" in Azerbaijan. These massacres are still a source of Azerbaijani anger toward Armenians.

From 1947-1953, the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic carried out a policy of 'ethnic homogenization' by deporting Kurds and Azerbaijanis from Armenian territory. Over [40,000 Azerbaijanis](#) were expelled to the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. "Armenianization" depopulated and renamed abandoned Azerbaijani villages, towns, and cultural landmarks. Out of a population of 180,000 in 1989, only a [handful](#) of ethnic Azerbaijanis are still living in Armenia.

The Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh conducted a referendum and declared independence from Azerbaijan in 1991. They established the Republic of Artsakh. From 1988 to 1994, over 600,000 ethnic Azerbaijani and Kurdish civilians fled Artsakh. These people now live as [internally displaced](#) people in squalid camps throughout Azerbaijan.

During the Artsakh war of independence from 1988-1994, Armenian forces executed Azerbaijani civilians and looted their property. The [worst instance of violence](#) against the Azerbaijanis occurred in Khojaly when Armenian forces shot hundreds of Azerbaijan civilians fleeing from their destroyed village in 1992.

The current Armenian and Artsakh governments deny any involvement in past crimes against Azerbaijanis and erase their history from Armenian textbooks. Armenian and Artsakh authorities deny Azerbaijani IDP's the right to return to their former homes and villages.

Both Artsakh and Azerbaijani artillery target civilians living along the "Line of Contact" between Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) and Azerbaijan. Targeting civilians is a war crime.

Because of Armenia's denial of past war crimes such as the Khojaly massacre and past forced displacement of Azerbaijanis, and the current shelling of Azerbaijani civilians by Armenian artillery,

Genocide Watch considers Armenia to be at Stage 10, Denial.

Genocide Watch recommends:

- The Armenian government should recognize the past war crimes committed against Azerbaijanis during the Nagorno-Karabakh War, including the Khojaly Massacre.
- Displaced Azerbaijanis should receive adequate compensation from the Artsakh and Armenian governments for their lost property.
- Russia should broker a peace agreement between Armenia, Artsakh, and Azerbaijan, beginning with an immediate cease fire by all sides.
- The United Nations (U.N.) should authorize and mobilize a U.N. peacekeeping force to deter future violence between Armenia, Artsakh, and Azerbaijan.