

**REPORT**

**AZERBAIJAN MILITARY OPENS  
FIRE ON ARMENIAN VILLAGES,  
ESCALATING TENSIONS AND  
SPREADING FEAR**

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# **AZERBAIJAN MILITARY OPENS FIRE ON ARMENIAN VILLAGES, ESCALATING TENSIONS AND SPREADING FEAR**

Despite U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's March 25, 2025, statement declaring that "any form of escalation in the South Caucasus is unacceptable,"<sup>1</sup> Azerbaijani gunfire has persisted for the past eight days in Syunik, Armenia's southern conference, spreading fear and terror among residents of Khoznavar and Khnatsakh villages.

## **Summary of Incident**

Residents of the Syunik province in southern Armenia report a rise in shootings in recent days. Eyewitnesses claim the attacks intensify at night after the European Union observers depart the area. The gunfire has caused significant distress, especially among children, sparking widespread fear. The "Young People of Khoznavar" account has shared a video documenting the March 25 shootings.<sup>2</sup>

## **Escalation of Violence**

Residents report that gunfire erupts at regular intervals throughout the night, with red tracer bullets streaking above their homes. In Khoznavar, agricultural work has been halted due to the danger. In Khnatsakh, the situation is described as "terrorizing," with growing fears that residential homes may soon be targeted.

On March 25, 2025, a resident of Khoznavar, Roman Grigoryan reported:

"They shot at 10 p.m., at 2:00 a.m., again at 4:00 a.m., today, and yesterday. Yesterday, while we were doing agricultural work in the field, they also shot towards us. We stopped work for one to two hours, then started again."<sup>3</sup>

Manushak Soghomonyan, a Khnatsakh resident, stated:

"For five nights, there have been continuous shootings, starting at 10:20 p.m. until 5:30 a.m. The people are in a panic. Red bullets are passing over the village. The people are scared. They do not shoot at the houses, they shoot towards the mountains. But maybe

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of State, Secretary Rubio's Call with Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan (Mar. 25, 2025), <https://www.state.gov/secretary-rubios-call-with-armenian-prime-minister-pashinyan/>

<sup>2</sup> Խոզնավարի երիտասարդներ, FACEBOOK, (25 March, 2025) <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/197E1oEjvu/>

<sup>3</sup> Սյունիքի մարզի Խոզնավար ու Խնածախ գյուղերի բնակիչները հաստատում են՝ կրակոցներ կան, RADIO LIBERTY ARMENIA, (25 March, 2025) <https://www.azatutyun.am/a/syouniki-marzi-khoznavar-ou-khnatsats-gyougheri-bnakichnery-hastatoum-en-krakotsner-kan-/33358844.html>

they will begin to shoot at the houses so that the people are forced to leave the village. We've been living in terror for five nights. They are using different types of weapons.”<sup>4</sup>

Residents of Khoznavar report that the shootings intensify during the night, when the European Union observers are no longer in the village.<sup>5</sup>

A Khnatsakh resident said:

“We have young children who jump from their spots hearing shootings.”<sup>6</sup>

A Khnatasak resident, Kamela Ohanyan, said:

“Both adults and children are scared. I do not know what will happen. We moved here from Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh). We lived there for 12 years and left during the 44-Day War. And now, the same thing is happening.”<sup>7</sup>

Another Khnatasak resident stated:

“They shoot both in the air and in the direction of buildings.”<sup>8</sup>

On March 27, 2025, Khoznavar residents informed the Center for Truth and Justice that gunfire had persisted for eight days. Fearing the unknown, villagers—including many children—sleep fully dressed. Most gunfire occurs at night, originating from two to three Azerbaijani military positions, with bullets striking numerous rooftops.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> ՍՅՈՒՆԻՔՈՒՄ՝ ԿՐԱԿՈՑՆԵՐ, ԱԺ-ՈՒՄ՝ ՎԱՐՉԱՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ ՍՊԱՌՆԱԼԻՔՆԵՐ ԴԱԿԻՆ ԴԱԽԱԳԱՀՆԵՐԻՆ | ԼՐԱՏՎԱԿԱՆ ԿԵՆՏՐՈՆ (@azatutyunradio), YOUTUBE (26 March, 2025), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7X0\\_jm98QWM&t=466s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7X0_jm98QWM&t=466s)

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.