



2025 Country Report Azerbaijan

By Kurtis Yan

CPC



CASPIAN
POLICY
CENTER



PRESIDENT.AZ

Azerbaijan amplified its voice in the Greater Caspian Region, deepening bilateral relations with its neighbors and ascending to new levels in multilateral fora. Azerbaijan and Armenia worked to solidify a peace agreement, which they initialed in August, that would resolve long-lasting tensions and improve regional East-West connectivity. Baku also spent much of the year at odds with Moscow.

Key Points

- Azerbaijan and Armenia strove to overcome obstacles to find agreement on the terms for peace. U.S. mediation helped to quicken negotiations, and both parties initialed a peace deal in August. Not only did this work to improve Azerbaijan-Armenia-U.S. relations, but it also formalized the groundwork for the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP), which would connect Azerbaijan's mainland with its exclave, Nakhchivan, by passing directly through Armenia and expand throughput along the Middle Corridor.
- Trade turnover grew between Azerbaijan and its neighbors in the Greater Caspian Region, and Azerbaijan's state oil company, SOCAR, expanded investment into new oil and gas projects in the region and beyond. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan continued to prioritize the development of joint energy corridors, including gas and green energy corridors to Europe.

- Baku improved its bilateral ties with the Central Asian states with regular state-level visits taking place between the two sides. Recognizing the importance of Azerbaijan to the Middle Corridor, the C5 agreed to fully integrate Azerbaijan into the C5, now C6, format.
- Azerbaijan strengthened its ties within the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), when it hosted the 12th Summit of the Council of Heads of State of the OTS in Gabala in October. Chairmanship of the OTS passed to Baku for the next calendar year.
- Azerbaijan–Russia relations suffered after the Russian downing of an Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) commercial jet in December 2024. Tit-for-tat arrests, political barbs, barbed media comments, and Azerbaijani support for Ukraine further stoked tensions. Russian President Vladimir Putin finally accepted responsibility for the airline incident during a meeting with Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev in October 2025.

➤ Azerbaijan–Armenia Peace Talks

Azerbaijan and Armenia Agree on Border Delimitation

On January 16, the border delimitation commissions of Azerbaijan and Armenia held their 11th meeting at the shared border. The discussions were led by Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister, Shahin Mustafayev, and Armenia's Deputy Prime Minister, Mher Grigoryan, and the sides agreed to initiate the process from the northern point where the borders of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia intersect, moving southward to the border with Iran. The parties also reviewed draft guidelines on procedures for conducting delimitation work.

Source: [Daily Sabah](#)

Azerbaijan and Armenia Agree to Text of Historic Peace Deal

On March 13, Azerbaijani and Armenian policymakers announced that both sides had agreed to the text of a peace agreement that would end the decades-long conflict between the two countries. According to official statements, Armenia accepted two remaining articles, the withdrawal of international legal claims against either party and the barring of third-party representatives along the largely undemarcated border. Azerbaijan’s statements emphasized the desire for Armenia to modify its constitution, with the Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry describing it as a “prerequisite to allow the signing of the negotiated text.”

Source: [APA](#), [Republic of Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#), [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia](#)

After Seeming Breakthrough, Tensions Rise Between Armenia and Azerbaijan

Following the announcement that Baku and Yerevan had agreed upon the text of a final peace agreement, tensions appeared to increase on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border. Azerbaijani officials accused Armenian forces of instigating firefights at several locations along the border zone, which Armenian officials denied. Diplomatically, Armenia's Foreign Minister stated on March 14 that it was unwilling to change its constitution as a pre-condition for signing a peace agreement, which is Baku's position. However, in an interview, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said that the vote on adopting the country's new constitution could take place in 2026, adding that "the government is also considering the idea of holding this process in parallel with the 2026 parliamentary elections."

Source: [EurasiaNet](#), [OC Media](#), [Trend](#), [Vestnik Kavkaza](#)

Armenia – Azerbaijan – United States Trilateral Peace Summit

On August 8, the United States hosted Armenia and Azerbaijan for a peace summit at the White House. During this summit, U.S. President Donald Trump held bilateral meetings with both Armenia Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, where each country signed a bilateral agreement to develop strategic partnerships with the United States. Potential areas of cooperation include defense, energy, trade, connectivity, technology, and artificial intelligence. All three leaders signed a declaration stating their commitment to peace and unblocking commerce, transport, and communication links. The summit also made way for the construction of the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP), which will provide Azerbaijan with full access to its exclave of Nakhchivan across Armenian territory. It is still unclear which U.S. company would be involved in the TRIPP. Azerbaijan also received a U.S. waiver for Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, allowing for direct military cooperation. Finally, both Armenia and Azerbaijan withdrew as members of the OSCE Minsk group that was originally established to mediate Armenia's former occupation of Azerbaijani territory in Nagorno Karabakh.

Source: [Caspian Policy Center](#)

Delegations from Armenia and Azerbaijan Hold Mutual Visits

On September 5, Armenia's Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan and Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev led delegations to their respective counterpart's territories. The two parties discussed steps towards border delimitation, demining efforts, and plans to restore infrastructure along the countries' shared border. This was the first meeting since the two countries signed the outlines of the August peace agreement.

Source: [OC Media](#)

Azerbaijan Removes All Restrictions on Cargo Transit to Armenia

On October 21, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev announced that all restrictions on cargo transiting through Azerbaijan to Armenia had been lifted. The overturning of restrictions has led to the first shipment of Kazakhstan grain moving unimpeded through Azerbaijan to Armenia, with Aliyev adding that it demonstrates bilateral peace “in practice.”

Source: [Reuters](#)

Working Groups Announced for the TRIPP Corridor and U.S.–Azerbaijan Relations

U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Allison Hooker first met with officials in Yerevan, after which she announced the creation of working groups to expedite negotiations and construction on the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP). Hooker then met with officials in Baku to establish a working group on the Charter of Strategic Partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan, which builds on negotiations held in August. In late October, the U.S. Department of State had said that working groups would be created to include government officials of both Azerbaijan and Armenia by the year’s end. One question that remains to be settled is the leasing term that Armenia will give to companies to work on the corridor that traverses Armenian territory. Separately, Azerbaijan Railways stated that the company is in the process of conducting a feasibility study to assess potential upgrades to railways in its exclave of Nakhchivan.

Sources: [Eurasianet](#), [Eurasianet](#), [Caucasus Watch](#), [X](#)

➤ Energy and Trade

Kazakhstan Conducts First Oil Shipment from Kashagan Field to Azerbaijan

On January 27, KazMunayGas (KMG), Kazakhstan’s national energy company, announced that it had shipped crude oil from its Kashagan field to Baku, Azerbaijan. The first batch of Kashagan oil, about 6,000 tons, was loaded onto the Taraz oil tanker at Aktau port and arrived at Baku’s Sangachal terminal, to be later transported via the Baku–Tbilisi–Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline to the Mediterranean Sea. On January 15, Azerbaijan’s SOCAR and the subsidiary of Kazakhstan’s KMG signed an agreement to transport 240,000 tons of Kashagan oil annually. The delivery was part of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan’s efforts to develop alternative export routes for domestic oil.

Source: [The Astana Times](#)

Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan, and Romania Meet to Discuss Transit Route

According to a statement from the Turkmenistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officials from Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Romania held a video conference on February 10 to work on a draft agreement seeking to advance a Caspian Sea–Black Sea international trading route. Such a route would allow for the shipment of Turkmen gas, in addition to other goods and resources, as far as to Europe.

Source: [The Times of Central Asia](#)

Pakistan Extends LNG Supply Agreement with Azerbaijan's SOCAR

On February 20, Pakistan's Economic Coordination Committee approved a three-year extension of the LNG supply agreement between Pakistan LNG Limited (PLL) and Azerbaijan's SOCAR Trading, a division of Azerbaijan's State Oil Company. Initially signed in July 2023, the agreement allows PLL to procure one LNG cargo per month as needed without financial or take-or-pay commitments.

Source: [Interfax](#)

Azerbaijan and Türkiye Launch Gas Pipeline to Nakhchivan

On March 5, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev visited Ankara, Türkiye, to hold talks with Türkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Discussions focused on growing economic and energy collaboration between the two countries and the inauguration of a new gas pipeline through Türkiye leading to Azerbaijan's exclave of Nakhchivan. The pipeline is 85 kilometers in length and has an annual capacity of 500 million cubic meters (mcm).

Source: [Daily Sabah](#)

Israel and Azerbaijan Ink Strategic Energy Agreement

On March 17, Azerbaijan and Israel signed an agreement to grant a consortium, led by the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR), a license for gas exploration in Israel's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the Mediterranean Sea. A consortium of UK-based supermajor BP, Azerbaijan's state oil and gas firm SOCAR, and Israeli company NewMed Energy signed a licensing agreement to explore for natural gas offshore Israel. Along with this project, SOCAR announced that it had concluded a deal with Union Energy to acquire a 10% stake in the Tamar project, one of the largest offshore gas fields in the Mediterranean.

Source: [Oilprice.com](#), [Report.az](#)

World Bank Approves \$173.5 Million Loan to Boost Azerbaijani Renewable Energy

On March 28, the World Bank approved a \$173.5 million loan to support Azerbaijan's renewable energy transition, focusing on the development of utility-scale solar and wind power projects. The financing aimed to Azerbaijan's dependence on fossil fuels align it with global sustainability commitments. The initiative includes infrastructure improvements to integrate renewable energy into the national power grid.

Source: [Interfax](#)

SOCAR and BP, Exxon Sign New Exploration Deals

On June 2, as part of the Baku Energy conference, the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijani Republic (SOCAR), BP, and Exxon Mobile, signed agreements to carry out further oil and gas exploration in Azerbaijan. Per reporting by Reuters, "Exxon Mobil vice president John Ardill said that the company would apply in Azerbaijan its experience in developing unconventional fields, but that it was too early to announce possible volumes."

Source: [Reuters](#)

Baku Hosts 30th Energy Week

Azerbaijan's capital hosted the 30th edition of Baku Energy Week from June 2-4, bringing together 267 companies from 39 countries to discuss the future of energy across Eurasia. There, ExxonMobil and Azerbaijan's state energy company SOCAR signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for exploration, development, and production of unconventional onshore oil resources in Azerbaijan. Exxon already holds stakes in Azerbaijan's largest oil development project, Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli, and the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, via which Caspian crude oil is transported to Türkiye and Europe. Additionally, on June 3, BP announced that it completed its acquisition of participating interests in two offshore exploration and development blocks in the Azerbaijan sector of the Caspian Sea – the Karabakh and the Ashrafi-Dan Ulduzu-Aypara fields.

Source: [Reuters](#), [bp](#), [bp](#), [Vestnik Kavkaza](#)

Ukraine Imports Gas from Azerbaijan for the First Time

With Ukraine's gas storage levels falling to their lowest amounts in the past 11 years, Ukraine's Naftogaz and Azerbaijan's SOCAR have signed a natural gas import agreement. To prepare for the upcoming winter, Naftogaz plans to import large amounts of gas. The planned shipment will be delivered through the Trans-Balkan route through the Bulgaria-Romania-Ukraine corridor.

Source: [The Kyiv Independent](#)

Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan Ink Major Deal for Hydrocarbon Exploration in Ustyurt

On July 24, 2025, Uzbekistan's Ministry of Energy, Azerbaijan's state oil company SOCAR, and Uzbekneftegaz signed a Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration in the Ustyurt region in northwestern Uzbekistan. The agreement initiates 3D seismic surveys across at least 1,000 square kilometers, followed by the drilling of an exploratory well. If commercial reserves are found, the project will move to development, drilling, and the construction of a new refinery. Investment in the project now totals \$2 billion.

Source: [Daryo](#), [Times of Central Asia](#)

Azerbaijan–Georgia Trade Grows by 28%

According to Azerbaijan's State Customs Committee, since the beginning of 2025 trade volume between Azerbaijan and Georgia amounted to \$465 million, a 28.4% increase compared to last year. Exports from Azerbaijan totaled \$382 million, while imports from Georgia reached \$82.6 million. Georgia now accounts for 1.61% of Azerbaijan's total trade turnover, ranking as its 10th-largest trade partner.

Sources: [Vestnik Kavkaza](#)

Green Electricity Corridor Moves to Cost-Benefit Analysis by the European Union

In the framework of a 10-year development plan, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) will consider weighing the feasibility of a joint energy project that has been proposed by a consortium of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Hungary, and Romania. The project, titled the Black Sea Green Energy Corridor, was envisioned in 2022 and would connect Azerbaijan and Georgia to Romania via a power transmission cable. At maximum capacity, it aims to annually produce 4 gigawatts of electricity through solar and wind energy sources in Central Asia.

Source: [Eurasianet](#)

Sea Freight Traffic Increases by 8% in Azerbaijan

According to the State Statistics Committee of Azerbaijan, in the first 10 months of 2025, the country shipped and received 7.7 million tons of cargo, 560,000 tons more than in 2024, accounting for an eight percent increase. Oil-related cargo accounted for almost half of the total cargo volume. Nearly 200 million tons of cargo were transported in the country in the first 10 months of the year, with sea freight accounting for around four percent.

Source: [Vestnik Kavkaza](#)

Regional Cooperation

Caucasus Deputy FMs Meet in Tbilisi

The Deputy Foreign Ministers of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan met for talks on April 17 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The meeting follows joint participation by all three countries Foreign Ministers at the Antalya Forum earlier in April. The meeting produced a joint document to further elevate dialogue. The meeting was also attended by Georgian Foreign Minister Maka Botchorishvili, who emphasized the South Caucasus as “a region of strategic importance, with immense potential.”

Source: [OC Media](#)

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan Establish Joint Venture

The Vice-President of Azerenergy, Ziyaddin Guliyev, Head of the Department of KEGOC, Saltanat Shunayeva, and Deputy Chairman of the National Electric Networks of Uzbekistan, Feruz Kurbonov, signed a document on July 1 to create a joint venture, “Green Corridor Union.” The venture will be headquartered in Baku, with Farhad Mammadov as its General Director. The initiative is part of the Azerbaijan-Central Asia Green Energy Corridor project to increase energy security and transition to renewable sources.

Source: [The Astana Times](#)

Azerbaijan Hosts Joint Military Exercises with Kazakhstan, Qatar, Pakistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan

Azerbaijan hosted joint military exercises “Eternal Brotherhood” with the participation of forces from Kazakhstan, Qatar, Pakistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan. The drills started on September 9 and lasted two weeks. Minister of Defense of Azerbaijan Zakir Hasanov said that this is the fourth Eternal Brotherhood joint exercises, which had a “tradition and a vivid example of military cooperation.”

Source: [Caspian Post](#)

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan Start Military Exercises in Uzbekistan

On October 14, large-scale joint military exercises involving units from the defense ministries of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan commenced at Kattakurgan training ground in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The joint exercises, entitled Unity-2025 (“Birlik-2025”), aimed to enhance military cooperation and partnership in the face of growing geopolitical tensions, as well as the emergence of new threats and challenges.

The exercises consisted of three stages, including strengthening the protection and defense of the state border, and searching, localizing, and destroying illegal armed formations.

Source: [Tashkent Times](#), [Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan](#)

President Ilham Aliyev Arrives in Kazakhstan for State Visit

On October 20, President Ilham Aliyev landed in Kazakhstan to meet with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. The two leaders engaged in high-level talks on trade, energy, logistics, and increased cooperation within the Organization of Turkic States. Pursuing stronger economic ties and investment opportunities, both sides aim to double bilateral trade to \$1 billion and expand cooperation in renewable energy and oil transit.

Source: [Azertag](#), [The Astana Times](#), [Euronews](#)

OTS Heads of State Summit Takes Place in Gabala

On October 6 and 7, the Azerbaijani city of Gabala hosted the 12th Summit of the Heads of State of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS). Leaders of member states and observer states attended, including Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orbán, President of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and President of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Ersin Tatar. The summit aims to bring together delegations and discuss key issues for further advancing unity, peace, and prosperity across the Turkic World.

Sources: [Report.az](#), [Organization of Turkic States](#), [AzerNews](#), [report.az,qazinform](#), [Vestnik Kavkaza](#)

Azerbaijan Joins the C5 Format as a Full Member

During the seventh Consultative Meeting of Heads of State, Central Asian leaders agreed to integrate Azerbaijan as a full member in future meetings, expanding the C5 format into a C6. While Azerbaijan previously participated as a guest with full rights, its full accession reinforces growing regional connectivity and cooperation across the Caspian, including initiatives like the Middle Corridor. In a speech following the announcement, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev described Central Asia and Azerbaijan as forming “a single geopolitical and geo-economic region whose importance in the world is steadily growing.”

Source: [The Times of Central Asia](#)

↘ International Diplomacy

European Commission Vice President Visits Azerbaijan

On April 25, Kaja Kallas, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union and the Vice-President of the European Commission, paid an official visit to Baku, Azerbaijan. During the press conference with Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov, Kallas highlighted that the EU and Azerbaijan have agreed to resume negotiations on a new partnership and cooperation agreement.

Source: [EEAS](#)

Iran and Azerbaijan Sign Seven MOUs During Pezeshkian's Visit to Baku

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian visited Baku on April 28, 2025, and signed seven memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with Azerbaijani president Ilham Aliyev, covering political consultation, cultural exchange, health, media, and investment. Both leaders reaffirmed their recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh as Azerbaijani territory. Pezeshkian shortened his trip due to a fatal incident at Shahid Rajee airport in Iran but pledged to return soon. His visit marked a significant step toward restoring bilateral ties after a gunman killed an Azerbaijani guard at his embassy in Tehran in 2023. Azerbaijan later reopened the embassy at a new location, ending an 18-month closure.

Source: [bne Intellinews](#)

Azerbaijan Hosts 17th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization

On July 3–5, Azerbaijan hosted the 17th summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Khankendi in the Karabakh region. Titled “New ECO Vision for a Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Future,” the summit featured the presidents of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Türkiye, the prime ministers of 10 ECO member-countries, and representatives of international organizations. During the summit, the parties discussed their dedication to enhance regional cooperation, focusing on regional trade, connectivity, and sustainable development. The parties concluded the summit by signing the Khankendi Communiqué, which reaffirms the right of return for displaced Azerbaijanis and highlights the importance of sustainable economic development of ECO countries.

Source: [News Central Asia](#); [Azerbaijan.az](#)

Transitional President of Syria Visits Azerbaijan

Ahmad Al-Sharaa, Transitional President of the Syrian Arab Republic, arrived in Baku on July 12 for a working visit during which a memorandum of understanding was signed between the government of Syria and Azerbaijan's SOCAR oil company for supplying natural gas to Syria via Türkiye. Al-Sharaa also visited the tomb of Azerbaijan's former President, Heydar Aliyev. Earlier in May, Azerbaijani officials arrived in Damascus to discuss potential avenues of cooperation in Syria's post-conflict reconstruction, including possible Azerbaijani support in infrastructure, oil and gas, and education development.

Source: [AZERTAC](#), [Middle East Monitor](#)

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev Speaks at General Debate at the UN General Assembly

Aliyev began his speech by celebrating Azerbaijan's reclaiming of Karabakh and praising the U.S. President Donald Trump for facilitating both the strategic US-Azerbaijan partnership and for supporting peace with Armenia. Aliyev called upon neighboring littoral states to cooperate in stopping the environmental degradation and shrinkage of the Caspian Sea. He also called for measured energy diversification and stressed Azerbaijan's openness to further renewable energy investment.

Source: [United Nations](#)

Aliyev, Zelenskyy Discuss Cooperation between Azerbaijan and Ukraine

On October 2, on the margins of the 7th European Political Community Summit, President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy held a meeting. During this meeting, Zelenskyy thanked Azerbaijan for its principled and consistent support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and congratulated Aliyev on the peace agreement with Armenia reached with the involvement of U.S. President Donald Trump. The leaders discussed diplomatic efforts to establish real peace in Ukraine and ways to achieve it as soon as possible, Azerbaijan's humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, and potential for further cooperation in the energy and defense sectors.

Source: [President of Ukraine](#), [President of the Republic of Azerbaijan](#)

Azerbaijan President Aliyev Receives NATO Delegation

A NATO delegation that included the permanent representatives of 13 NATO countries visited Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 6. President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev held a meeting with the delegation. During the meeting, he highlighted efforts in Afghanistan and energy security as key areas for Azerbaijan-NATO cooperation. Aliyev also noted

that after close cooperation with the Turkish army, the Azerbaijani army now meets NATO standards, underscoring the role of expanding relations between Azerbaijan and the NATO Alliance.

Source: [X, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan](#)

➤ **Azerbaijan–Russia Relations**

Azerbaijan Bars Russian Duma Member

Azerbaijan banned Russian State Duma member Nikolai Valuev from entering the country following comments Azerbaijani officials deemed “offensive statements against Azerbaijan and our people.” Valuev had posted on social media in reaction to Azerbaijani officials shuttering a local Russian cultural center and described the Azerbaijani diaspora in Russia as “uncultured, primarily concerned with money, and criminal in nature.”

Source: [RFE/RL](#)

Azerbaijan’s President Opts Not to Attend Russia’s Victory Day Celebrations

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev did not attend the Victory Day celebrations and military parade in Moscow on May 9. While most Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) leaders were present, Aliyev's absence comes amid strained Azerbaijan–Russia relations following the December incident involving an Azerbaijani civilian aircraft in Russian airspace. Once the news regarding Aliyev's absence from the celebrations broke out, Ukraine's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Yuriy Husyev thanked President Aliyev on his X account.

Source: [Meduza, news.am](#)

Azerbaijan Cancels Russian Events over “Extrajudicial Killings” of Two Nationals

On June 27, police in Yekaterinburg, Russia, carried out mass arrests of members of the city's Azerbaijani community, detaining about 50 individuals for questioning in connection with a series of murders and attempted murders committed between 2001 and 2011. The two primary suspects, brothers Guseyn and Ziyaddin Safarov, died during their detainment. Azerbaijan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the killings as “ethnically motivated public and deliberate unlawful actions,” and that Russia's actions have “recently taken on a systematic nature.” Following this, the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan cancelled all planned cultural events hosted with Russian state and private

organizations. Azerbaijani state media also noted that Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexey Overchuk's visit to Azerbaijan was cancelled, adding that it was "not appropriate under the current circumstances for Overchuk or any other official representative of Russia to visit."

Source: [Meduza](#), [Kyiv Independent](#), [Reuters](#)

Azerbaijan Signals Intent to Petition International Court Over Plane Crash

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev announced on July 19 that Baku was in the process of preparing a legal dossier to submit to an international court regarding the downing of Azerbaijan Airlines Flight 8243 last December. In doing so, Azerbaijan seeks punishment for those involved as well as financial compensation to victims' families and Azerbaijan Airlines for the lost aircraft. Resolved that Russian ground forces played a role in the crash that killed 38 Azerbaijani citizens, Azerbaijan's decision to take the case to an international court comes at a time of particularly heightened tensions between Moscow and Baku.

Source: [Euronews](#)

Zelenskyy and Aliyev Discuss Bilateral Relations, Condemn Russia's Attack on Oil Storage Facilities in Ukraine

On August 10, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a phone call to President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. Zelenskyy congratulated Aliyev on the achievements in the peace agenda between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the two leaders also discussed bilateral relations. Notably, Zelenskyy and Aliyev condemned the "deliberate airstrikes by Russia on an oil storage facility owned by Azerbaijan's SOCAR in Ukraine, as well as other Azerbaijani facilities and a gas compressor station."

Source: [Caspian Policy Center](#), [President of the Republic of Azerbaijan](#)

SOCAR Oil Depot in Ukraine Attacked by Russian Drones

On August 18, Russia launched a drone attack on the Azerbaijani state-owned energy SOCAR oil depot in the Odesa region of Ukraine. The attack resulted in a massive fire that damaged various facilities, including fuel tanks, station buildings, operator and technical rooms, and weighing facilities. This is the second Russian attack on the SOCAR oil depot in Ukraine. The Ukrainian side, including President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his ministry of foreign affairs, condemned Russia for a purposeful attack on Azerbaijani facilities, stating that "it was an attack on our relations and on energy independence."

Source: [Trend.az](#), [APA](#)

Putin Admits Russian Air Defense Systems Responsible for Azerbaijani Jet Crash

On October 9, on the sidelines of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Heads of State Council Summit, President of Russia Vladimir Putin held a one-on-one meeting with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. This was the two leaders' first meeting since the tragic December 2024 incident involving the downing of an Azerbaijani passenger plane in Russian air space. During the meeting, Putin, for the first time since the crash, publicly admitted that Russia's air defense systems were to blame for downing the Azerbaijani jetliner. Putin said that two Russian anti-air missiles had exploded about 10 meters from the plane during a Ukrainian drone attack on Grozny, adding that Russia will "do everything to provide compensation and give legal assessment to all responsible officials' action."

Source: [AP News](#), [Kyiv Post](#)

Head of Sputnik Azerbaijan Released from Custody and Returned to Russia

Igor Kartavykh, who leads the Russian state-media outlet's office in Baku, returned to Russia on October 19 after Azerbaijani forces raided the office and arrested him. The arrest of Kartavykh was seen as a direct response to the Russian downing of an Azerbaijani commercial jet in December 2024 and the deaths of two Azerbaijani migrants in Russia during a police raid.

Source: [OC Media](#)

1015 15th St NW Suite 380
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 997-4082
Info@caspianpolicy.org
caspianpolicy.org

