

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES OF AZERBAIJAN UNDER ARMENIA'S OCCUPATION: EVIDENCE FROM SATELLITE IMAGERY

2019

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Illegal Activities in the Territories of Azerbaijan under Armenia’s Occupation: Evidence from Satellite Imagery

The present report has been prepared by “Azercosmos” OJSCo and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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Front and rear cover photos: Satellite image exposing wanton destruction of the town of Aghdam in the occupied Aghdam district.

Satellite imagery used in the report is provided by “Azercosmos” OJSCo, the satellite operator of the Republic of Azerbaijan. “Azercosmos” OJSCo owns 3 satellites: telecommunication satellites Azerspace-1 and Azerspace-2 and Earth Observation satellite Azersky. In December 2014, “Azercosmos” OJSCo took over the rights to operate and commercialize Azersky, high resolution (1.5m imagery products) optical Earth observation satellite, and entered into the commercial business of Earth observation services, including Geo-Information services. The images were obtained from Azersky and other high resolution optical Earth observation satellites. For more information on “Azercosmos” OJSCo and its services and products, visit <www.azercosmos.az>.

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INTRODUCTION

The continuing aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan has led to the occupation of a significant part of Azerbaijan's territory, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region, the seven adjacent districts and some exclaves. The war has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people, ruined cities and livelihoods and resulted in the forcible expulsion of more than 1 million Azerbaijanis from their homes and properties. The Republic of Armenia bears full responsibility for unleashing the war and using force against Azerbaijan, occupying its territories, carrying out ethnic cleansing on a massive scale and committing other serious crimes during the conflict.

The international community has consistently deplored, in the strongest terms, the use of military force against Azerbaijan and the resulting occupation of its territories. In 1993, the UN Security Council adopted resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), condemning the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories and reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inviolability of its internationally recognized borders. In those resolutions, the Security Council reaffirmed that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is part of Azerbaijan and called for immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan.¹ Other international organizations have adopted a similar position.

The UN Security Council, in its above-mentioned resolutions specifically reaffirms that the parties are bound to comply with the principles and rules of international humanitarian law² and called on them to refrain from all violations of international humanitarian law.³ The international humanitarian law instruments specifically prohibit any activities aimed at altering the legal system and changing the physical, cultural and demographic character of an occupied territory, including deportations and transfers of civilians, infringement on private and public property, pillage, exploitation of the inhabitants, the resources or other assets of the territory under occupation for the benefit of the occupying power or its population.⁴

In total disregard of the position of the international community and in flagrant violation of international law, Armenia, directly by its own means and indirectly through the subordinate unlawful regime it has set up in the occupied territories and with the assistance of Armenian diaspora, continues to undertake efforts aimed at further consolidating the current status quo of the occupation and preventing the hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijani forcibly displaced persons from returning to their homes and properties in those areas. Armenia's unlawful actions include, inter alia, implantation of settlers from Armenia and abroad, destruction and appropriation of historical and cultural heritage, permanent infrastructure changes, illegal economic and other activities, exploitation and pillage of natural resources and other forms of wealth, accompanied by substantial and systematic interference with the public and private property rights.⁵

The Government of Armenia, Armenia-registered private companies and entities, as well as certain foreign businesses and entities, including those run by the Armenians or based on the Armenian capital, play a decisive role in funding, enabling and facilitating permanent changes in physical, economic, demographic and cultural character of the occupied territories both for private gain and for supporting the prolongation of the occupation of these territories.

¹ See UN Doc. A/67/875-S/2013/313, 24 May 2013.

² See resolution 822 (1993) of 30 April 1993, operative para. 3; resolution 853 (1993) of 29 July 1993, operative para. 11.

³ See resolution 874 (1993) of 14 October 1993, operative para. 9.

⁴ See UN Doc. A/63/662-S/2008/812, 24 December 2008, and UN Doc. A/63/692-S/2009/51, 27 January 2009. See also Part E (Obligations and Responsibility under International Law Arising from the Continuing Unlawful Occupation by Armenia of the Territories of Azerbaijan and Illegal Activities in these Territories) of the Report "Illegal Economic and Other Activities in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan" of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2016).

⁵ See UN Doc. A/59/568, 11 November 2004 and UN Doc. A/59/720-S/2005/132, 01 March 2005.

Unlawful activities in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan were confirmed by independent sources as well. At the request of the Government of Azerbaijan, the OSCE⁶ conducted a fact-finding mission into the occupied territories between 30 January and 5 February 2005. The main outcome of the mission was its report, which is based on the analysis of the situation on the ground. The most important conclusion in the report was that, during its visit, the mission found evidence of the presence of Armenian settlers in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, thus having shared the concerns of Azerbaijan.⁷ The OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmen, proceeding from the conclusions contained in the mission's report, emphasized that "[p]rolonged continuation of this situation could lead to a fait accompli that would seriously complicate the peace process." They "discourage[d] any further settlement of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan" and "urge[d] the parties [...] to avoid changes in the demographic structure of the region, which would make more difficult any future efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement."⁸

The OSCE Minsk Group co-chairmen conducted another field assessment mission to the occupied territories, from 7 to 12 October 2010, to assess the overall situation there. In their subsequent report, the co-chairmen again urged "[...] to avoid any activities in the territories [...] that would prejudice a final settlement or change the character of these areas."⁹

In 2016, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan produced a report titled "Illegal Economic and Other Activities in the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan" (hereinafter referred to as 2016 Report), which presented the irrefutable well-documented evidence that the illegal activities in the occupied territories continued with their scope and the geographic area dramatically expanded.¹⁰

The present report contains high-resolution satellite imagery of the occupied territories acquired by "Azercosmos" OJSCo, which provides sufficient and convincing evidence testifying to ongoing illegal activities in the occupied territories. The satellite data cross-corroborates information examined in the 2016 Report, some key findings of which are reproduced here to provide overall context. Some photo evidence from various open sources is also included in the present report, which consists of six parts:

- (A) Implantation of settlers and construction of permanent social infrastructure in support of settlement activities;
- (B) Exploitation and pillage of natural resources;
- (C) Permanent infrastructure changes;
- (D) Exploitation of agricultural and water resources;
- (E) Destruction of public and private property, including historical and cultural heritage;
- (F) Environmental damage.

⁶ Since 1992 the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has engaged in efforts to achieve a settlement of the conflict under the aegis of its Minsk Group, currently under the co-chairmanship of the French Republic, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

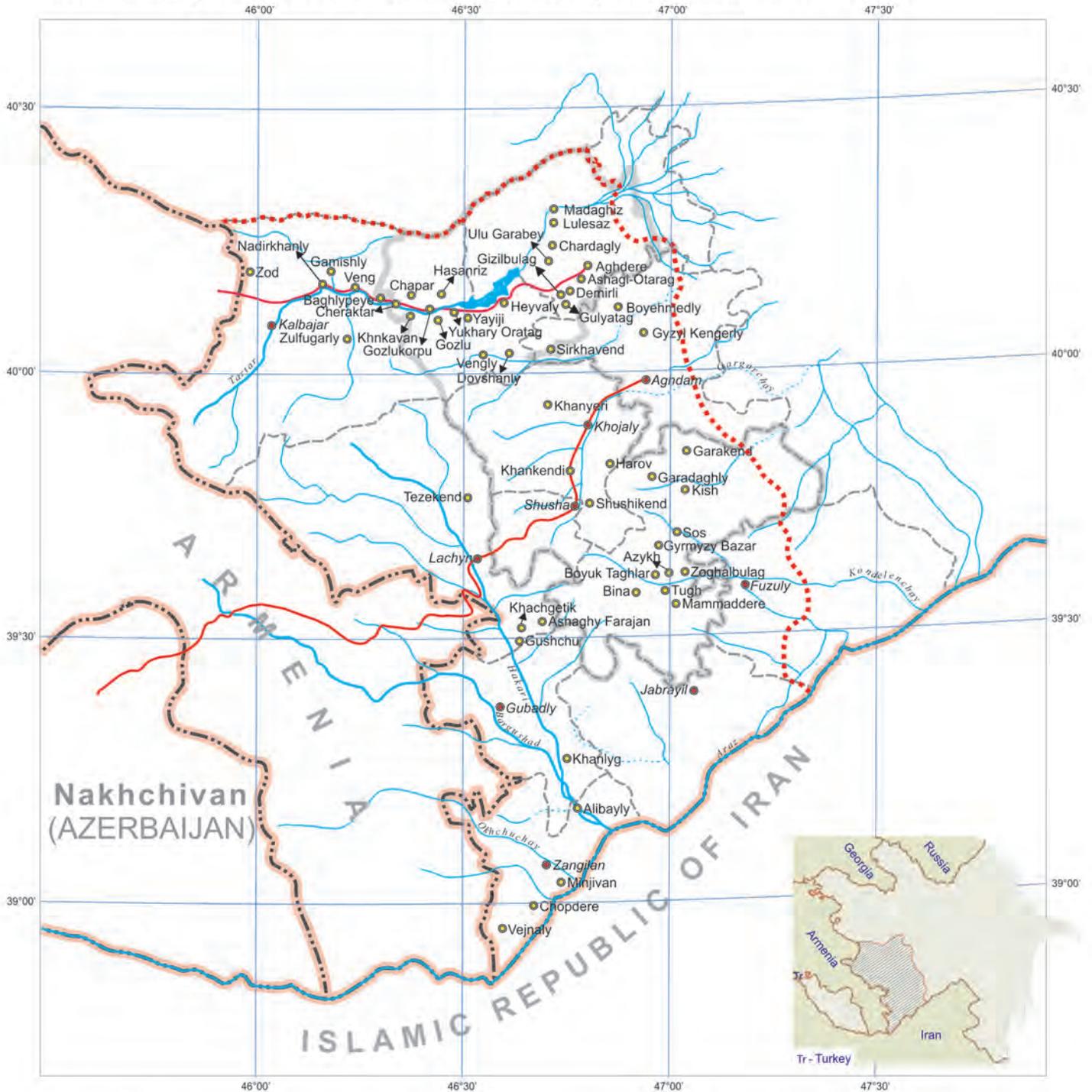
⁷ See UN Doc. A/59/747-S/2005/187, 21 March 2005, annex II.

⁸ See "Letter of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs to the OSCE Permanent Council on the OSCE Minsk Group Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan Surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh (NK)", UN Doc. A/59/747-S/2005/187, 21 March 2005, annex I, pp. 4 and 5.

⁹ For the Executive Summary of the OSCE field assessment mission report, see <<http://www.osce.org/mg/76209?download=true>>. and Press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, UN Doc. A/65/801-S/2011/208, 29 March 2011.

¹⁰ The report is available at <http://mfa.gov.az/files/file/MFA_Report_on_the_occupied_territories_March_2016_1.pdf>.

The Occupied Territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan



Legend

- State boundaries
- Administrative boundaries
- Administrative centers
- Settlements
- Line of Occupation
- Rivers
- Drying rivers
- Names of rivers
- Roads

Former Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (1923-1991)

Occupied districts of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the date of occupation:

- Khojaly – February 26, 1992
- Shusha – May 8, 1992
- Lachyn – May 18, 1992
- Khojavend – October 2, 1992
- Kalbajar – April 2, 1993
- Agdam – July 23, 1993
- Fuzuly – August 23, 1993
- Jabrayil – August 23, 1993
- Gubadly – August 31, 1993
- Zangilan – October 29, 1993

(A) Implantation of settlers and construction of permanent social infrastructure in support of settlement activities

Armenia continues its practice of transferring the Armenian settlers from Armenia and elsewhere into the occupied territories, in breach of international humanitarian law.¹¹ Settlement activities in the occupied territories are carried out in a pre-planned and organized manner with clearly defined objective and geographic focus. Settlements in the areas adjacent to the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, in particular the districts of Lachyn, Kalbajar, Gubadly and Zangilan, stand out as of particular importance to Armenia's colonial enterprise, reportedly due to significant economic potential, including water resources, minerals and energy potential and agricultural opportunities in those areas. Armenia encourages and facilitates resettlement of Syrian Armenians in the occupied territories. Armenians from Syria (many from Qamishli and Aleppo cities in Syria) are settled mainly, but not exclusively in the occupied Zangilan, Gubadly and Lachyn districts.

The scale of construction and renovation of residential buildings/houses and other associated social infrastructure has considerably increased, including in particular in those areas depopulated of their Azerbaijani inhabitants. Building of social infrastructure in the occupied territories is directly linked to promoting settlements in these areas and is yet another testimony of the deliberate efforts towards creating a new demographic situation on the ground and preventing the return of the Azerbaijani displaced persons to their homes and imposing a *fait-accompli*.



"Ariavan" settlement in the occupied Lachyn district
Source: <http://www.ariroots.com> | 2016

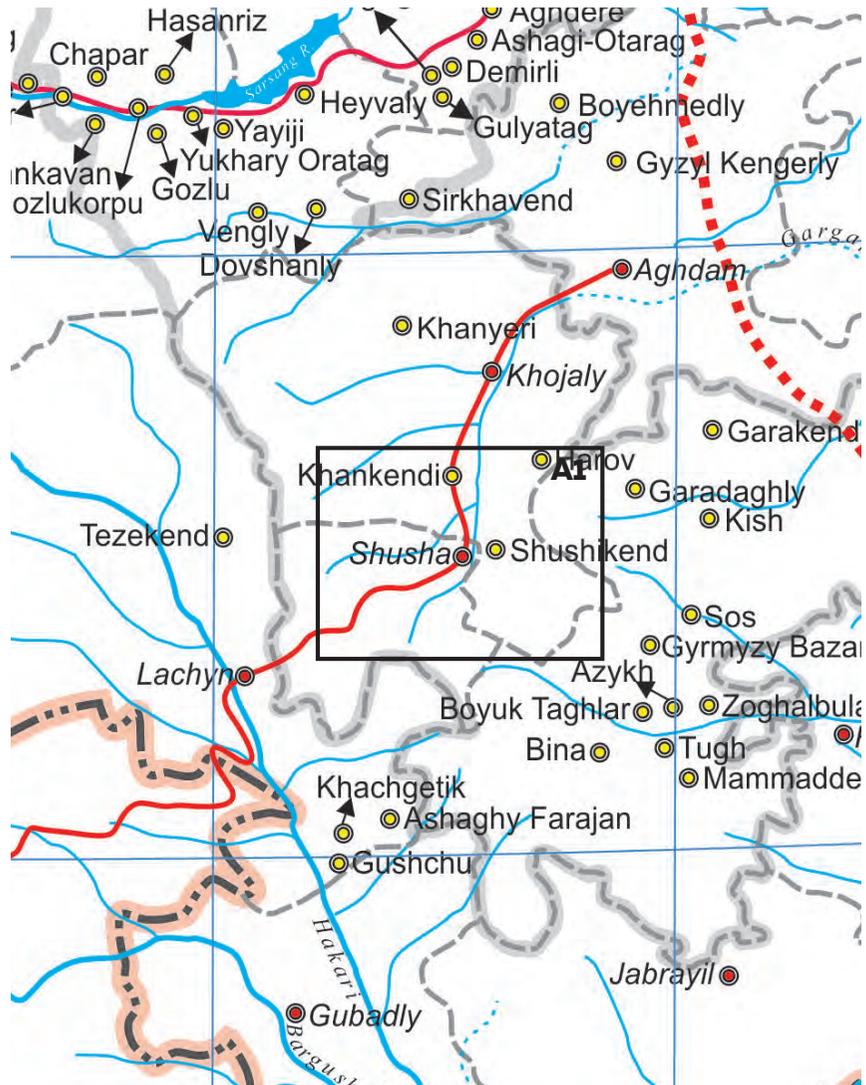


Newly constructed "Arajamugh" settlement in the occupied Jabrayil district
Source: <https://armenianweekly.com> | 2017

¹¹ For more details see Section VIII (Implantation of settlers from Armenia and abroad in the occupied territories) of the Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2016).

(A) Implantation of settlers and construction of permanent social infrastructure in support of settlement activities

1 Newly constructed/renovated buildings and houses in the town of Shusha in the occupied Shusha district
39° 45' 29.13" N, 46° 44' 42.29" E



*Insert in the map is not to scale.



7 June 2005

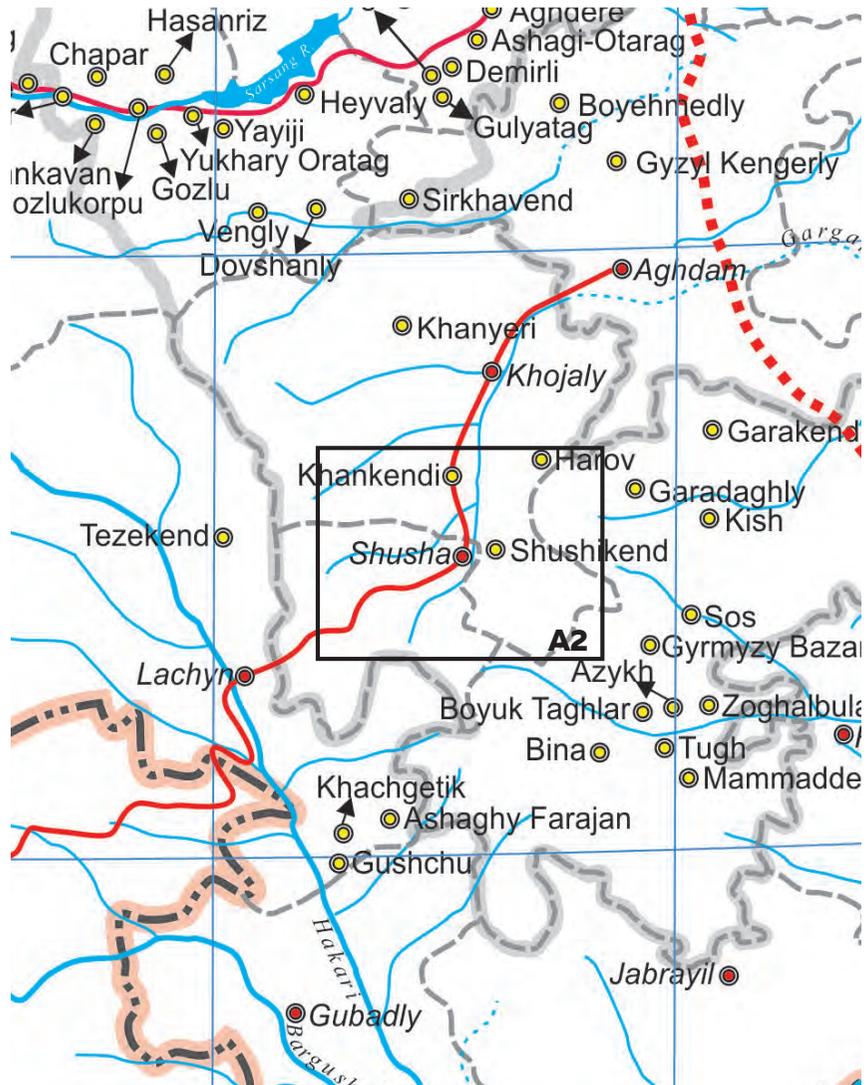


19 July 2017

(A) Implantation of settlers and construction of permanent social infrastructure in support of settlement activities

2. New buildings, houses and other urban landscape changes in the town of Shusha in the occupied Shusha district

39° 45' 29.13" N, 46° 44' 42.29" E



27 June 2010



19 July 2017

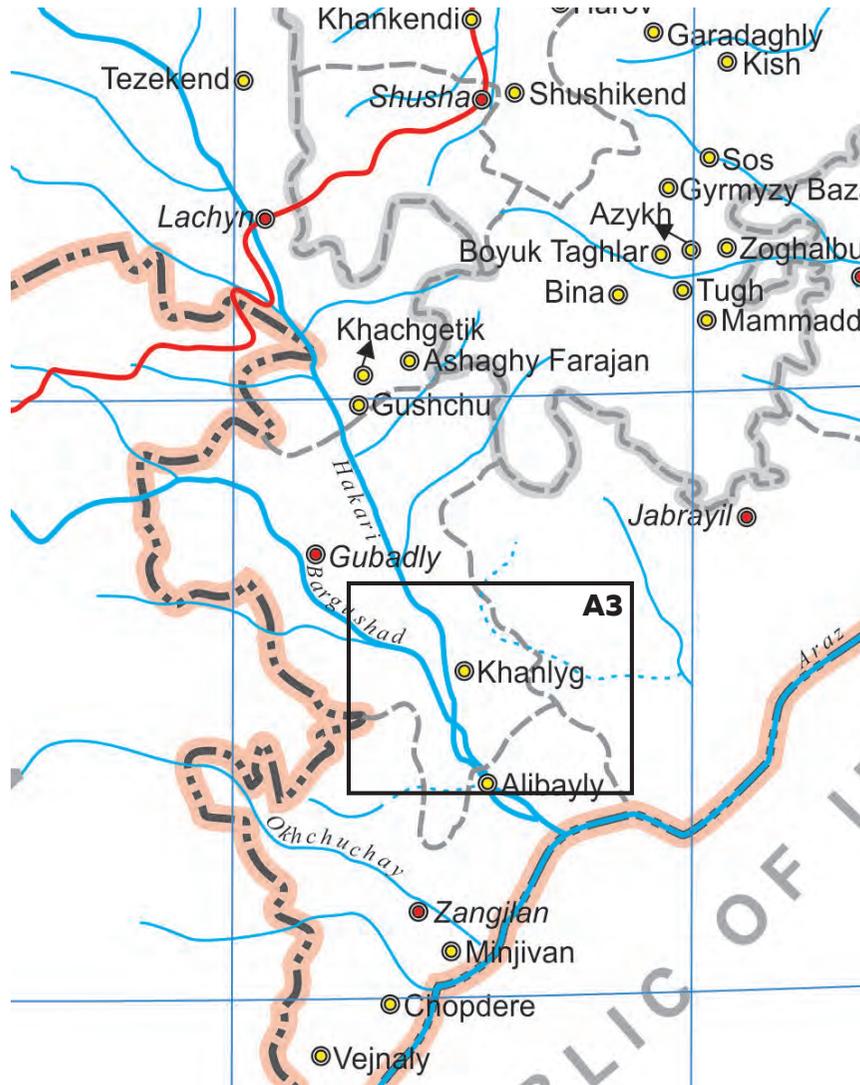
A2



(A) Implantation of settlers and construction of permanent social infrastructure in support of settlement activities

3. New settlement in Khanlyg village in the occupied Gubadly district

39° 16' 3.59" N, 46° 43' 13.12" E



29 September 2002

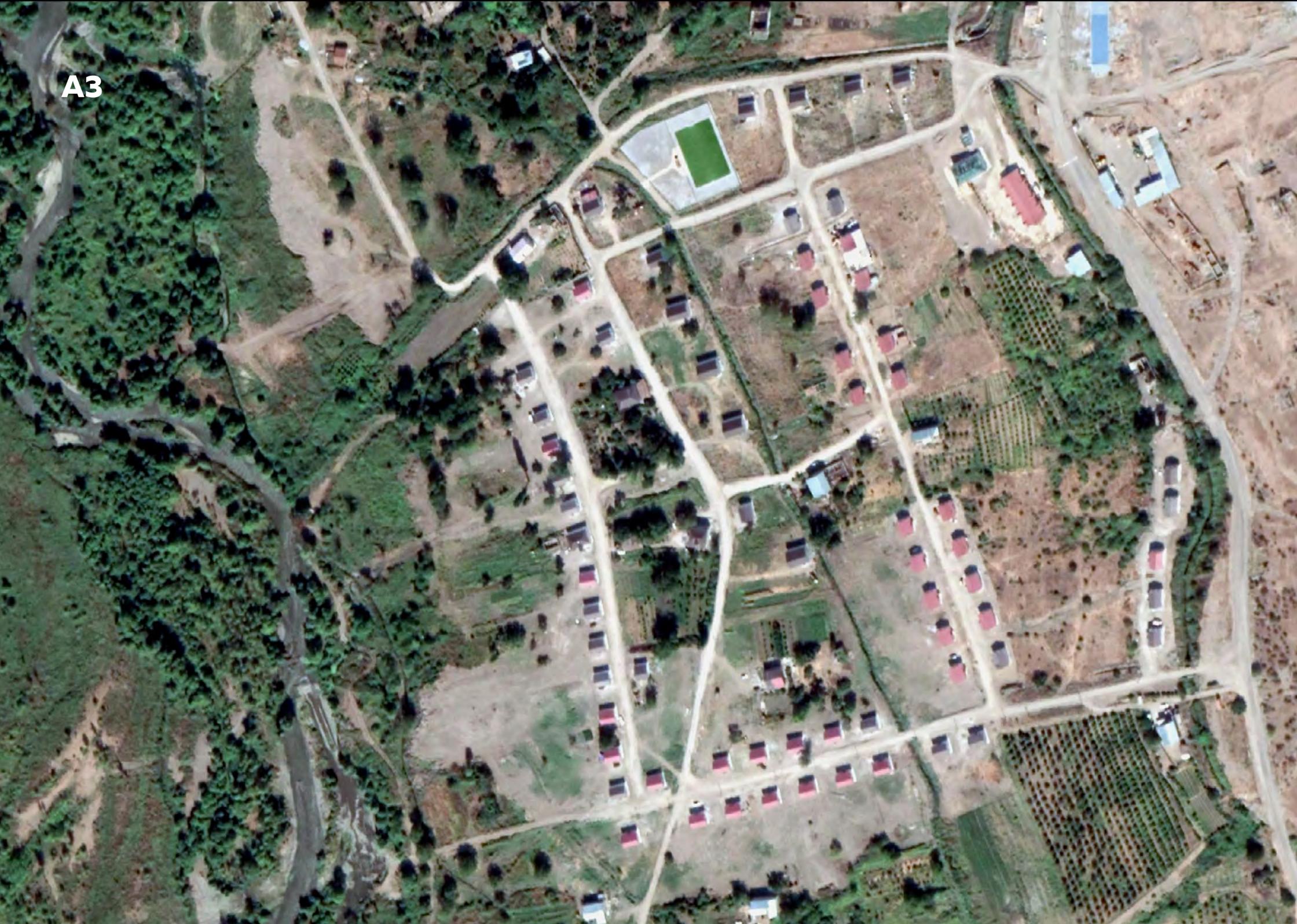


29 September 2002



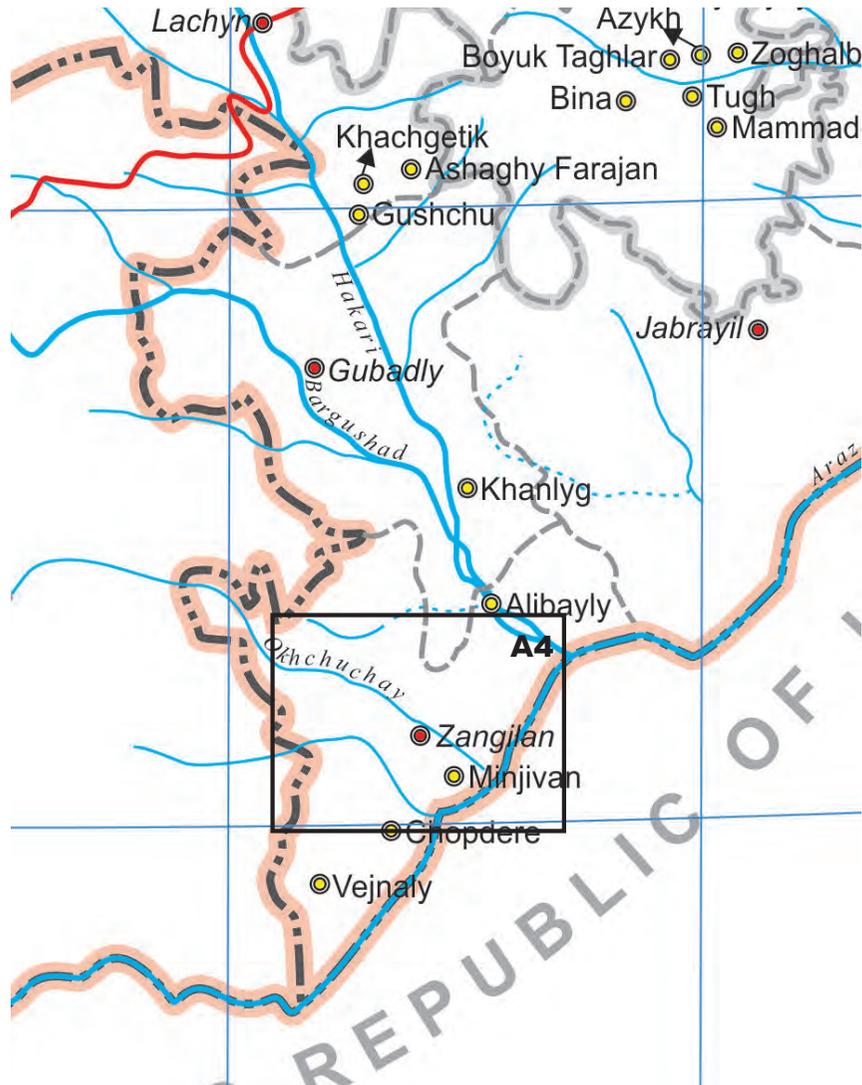
30 September 2018

A3



(A) Implantation of settlers and construction of permanent social infrastructure in support of settlement activities

4. Newly built houses in the town of Zangilan in the occupied Zangilan district
39° 4' 55.67" N, 46° 39' 24.07" E



9 February 2004



9 February 2004



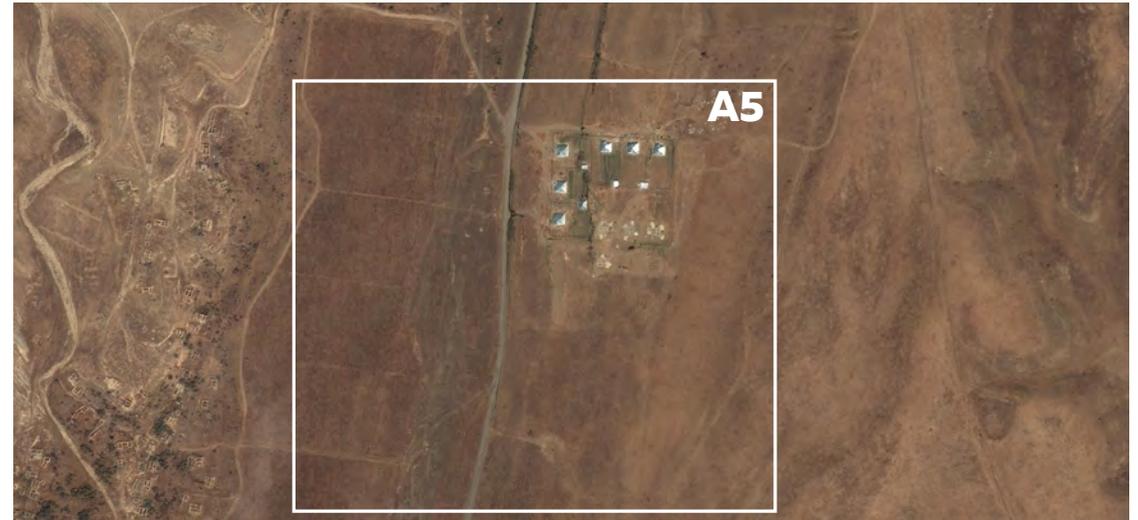
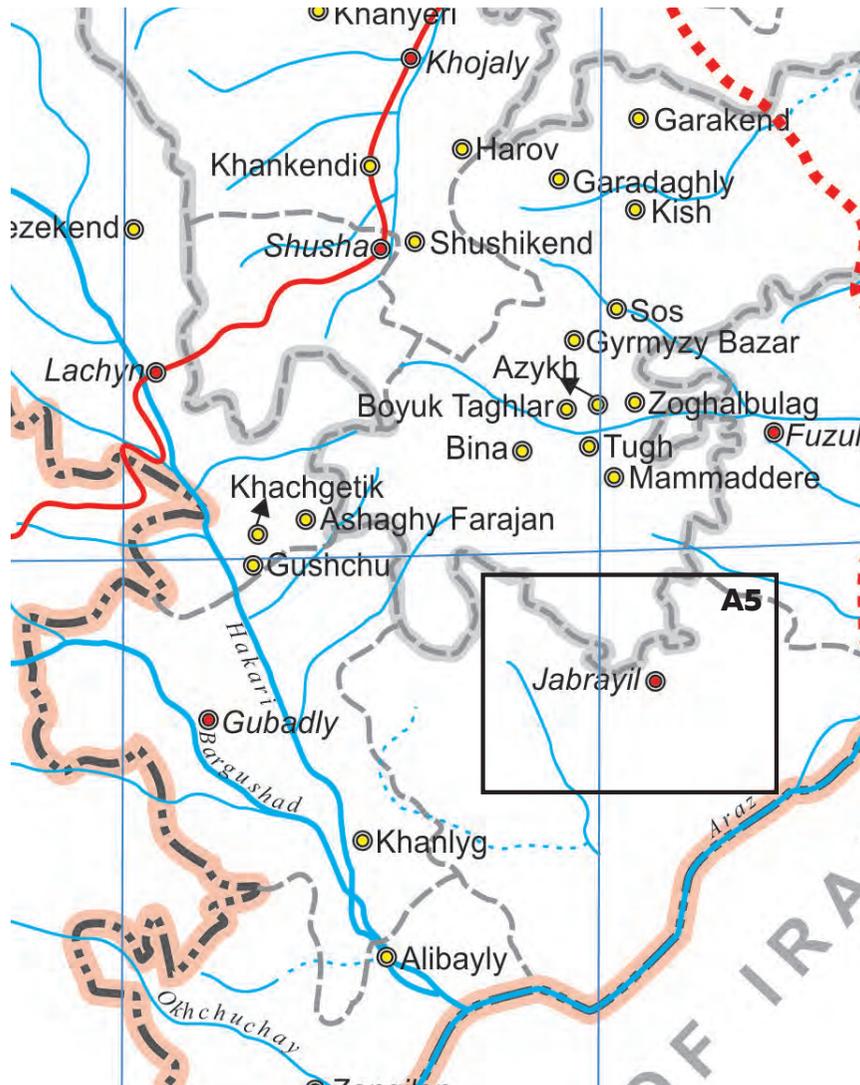
3 August 2017

A4



(A) Implantation of settlers and construction of permanent social infrastructure in support of settlement activities

5. Newly established "Arajamugh" settlement in the occupied Jabrayil district
39° 21 '34.45" N, 47° 2' 3.54" E



19 July 2005



19 July 2005

19 July 2017

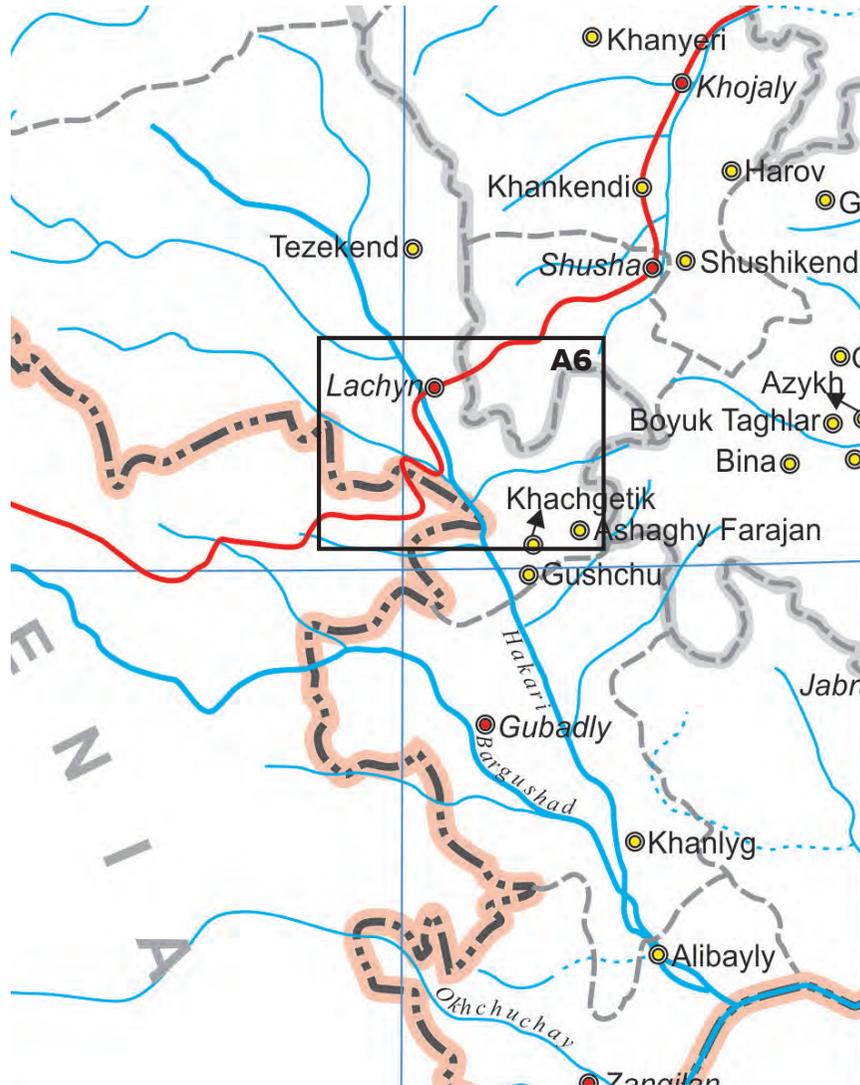
A5



(A) Implantation of settlers and construction of permanent social infrastructure in support of settlement activities

6. Newly established "Ariavan" settlement near Zabukh village in the occupied Lachyn district

39° 35' 27" N, 46° 32' 36.33" E



27 June 2010



27 June 2010



21 July 2017

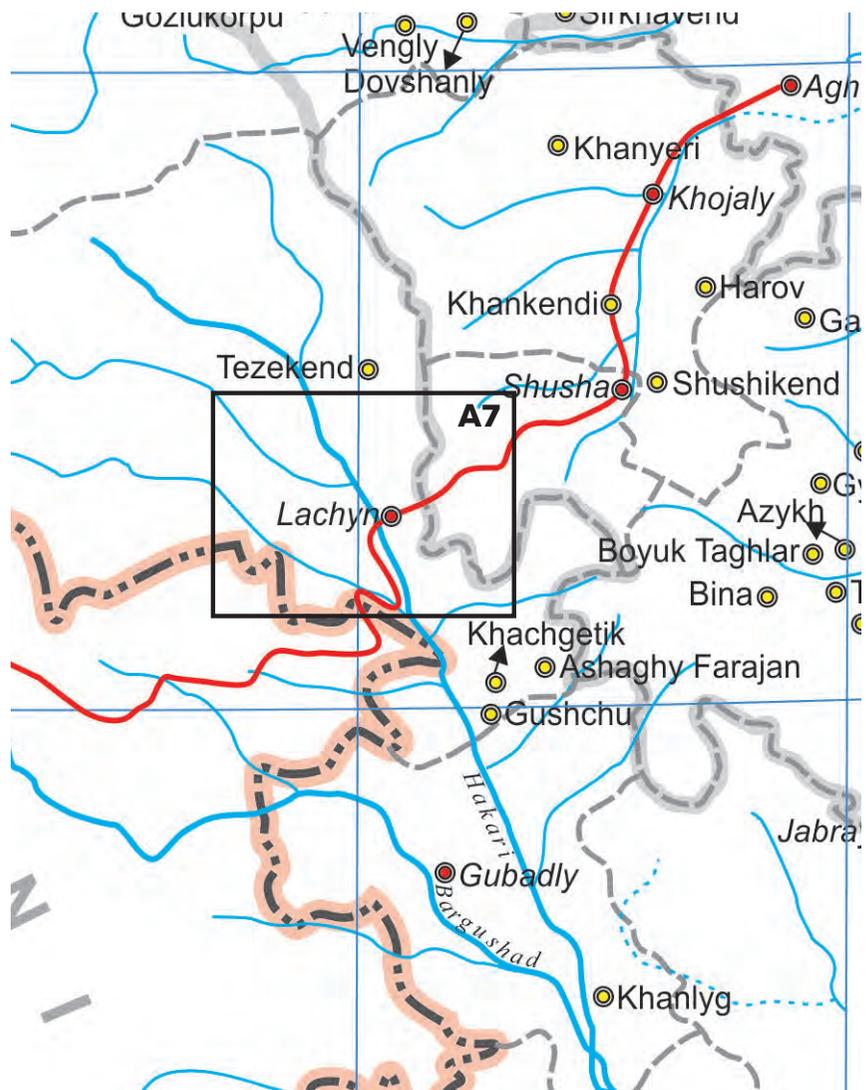
A6



(A) Implantation of settlers and construction of permanent social infrastructure in support of settlement activities

7. New buildings and houses in the town of Lachyn in the occupied Lachyn district

39° 38' 18.29" N, 46° 33' 12.54" E



19 July 2005



21 July 2017

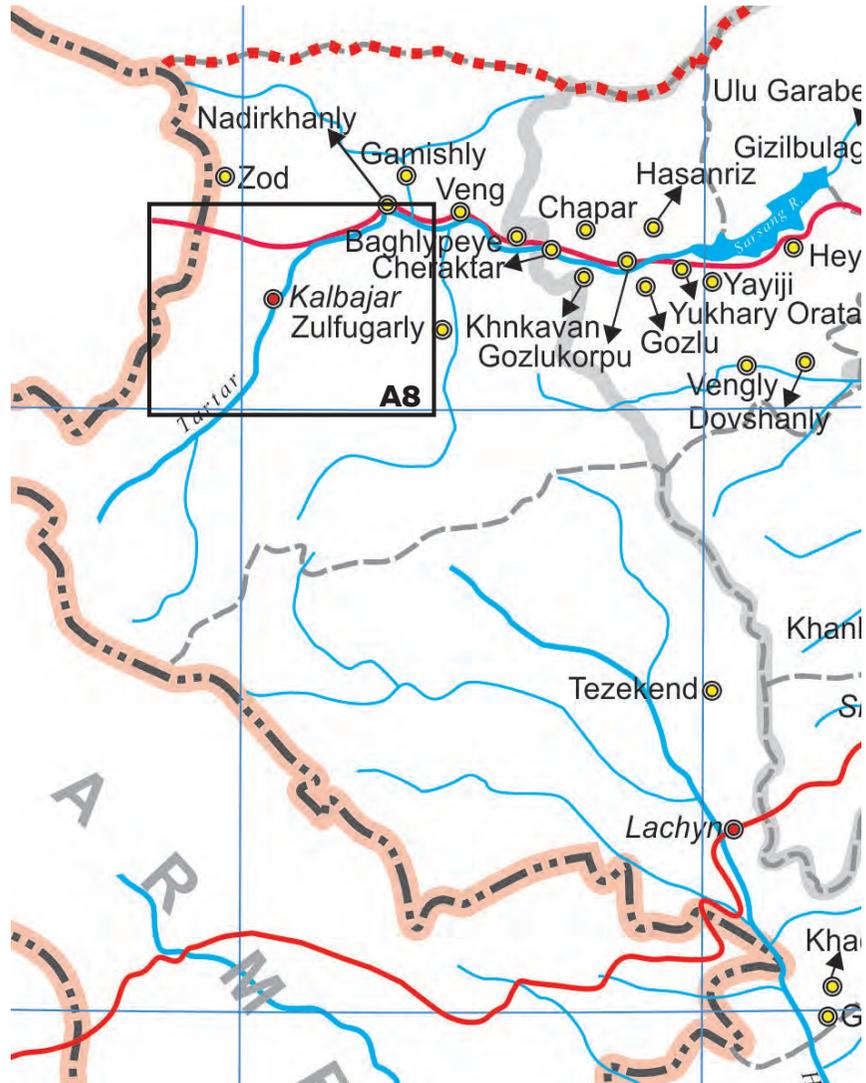
A7



(A) Implantation of settlers and construction of permanent social infrastructure in support of settlement activities

8. Newly constructed buildings in the town of Kalbajar in the occupied Kalbajar district

40° 6' 35.50" N, 46° 2' 42.07" E



30 November 2005



16 July 2015

A8



(B) Exploitation and pillage of natural resources

Armenia and the subordinate unlawful regime it has set up in the occupied territories are profiteering economically and financially from the armed conflict and occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan. Armenia is directly involved in exploitation and pillage of natural resources in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan for its own economic benefit.¹² Armenia-registered companies and entities and their subsidiaries are heavily engaged in mining of minerals and metals, which is one of the main enterprises in the occupied territories. Armenia and its entities supply technology, heavy engineering machinery and equipment utilized in mining and other forms of exploitation of natural resources.

Exploitation of natural resources is directly linked to illegal settlement enterprise. Finances accumulated from unlawful exploitation of natural resources are allocated to settlement programmes that ultimately serve the purpose of prolongation of occupation and preventing the Azerbaijani internally displaced persons from returning to their homes and properties in the occupied territories.



Exploitation of Demirli open pit copper-molybdenum mine in the occupied part of Tartar district

Source: www.miningmetal.am | 2013



Mining facilities of copper and gold mine near Heyvaly village in the occupied Kalbajar district

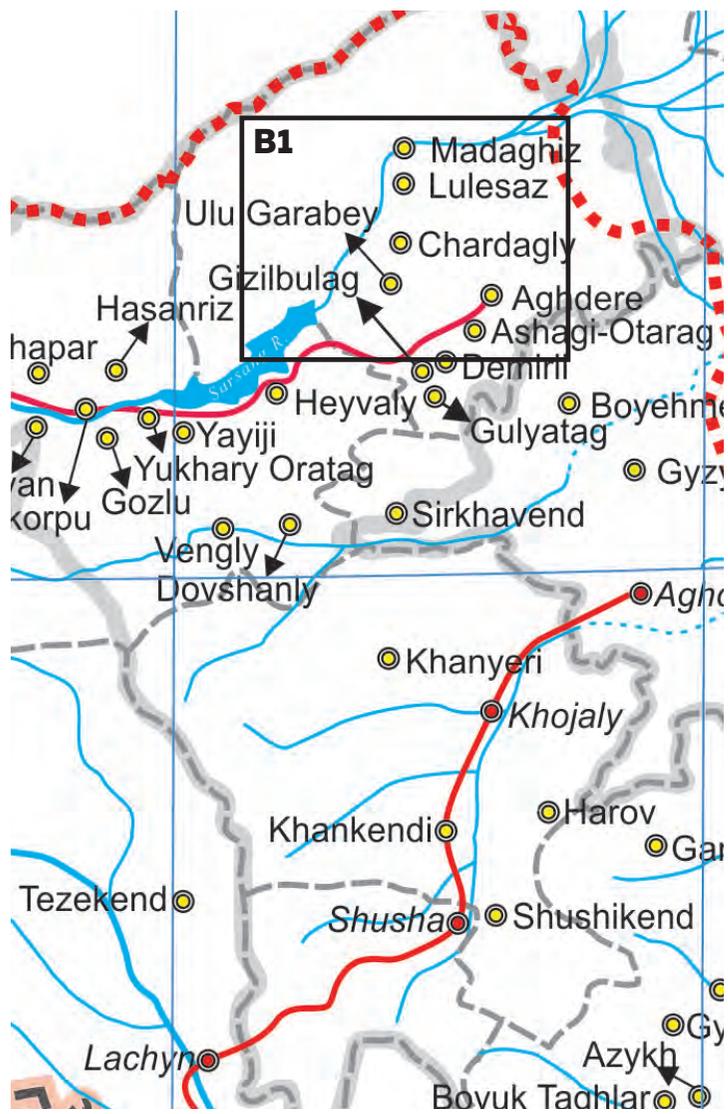
Source: www.azatutyun.am | 2012

¹² See Section XIII (Systematic pillaging, exploitation of and illicit trade in assets, natural resources and other forms of wealth in the occupied territories) of the Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2016).

(B) Exploitation and pillage of natural resources

1. Mining activities on 44.78 hectares near Chardagly village in the occupied part of the Tartar district

40° 14' 04" N, 46° 41' 49" E



2 July 2017



15 November 2010



(B) Exploitation and pillage of natural resources

2. Mining and ore processing facilities on 253.32 hectares of copper-molybdenum mine near Demirli village in the occupied part of the Tartar district | 40° 09' 03" N, 46° 47' 21" E



2 July 2017



27 July 2005

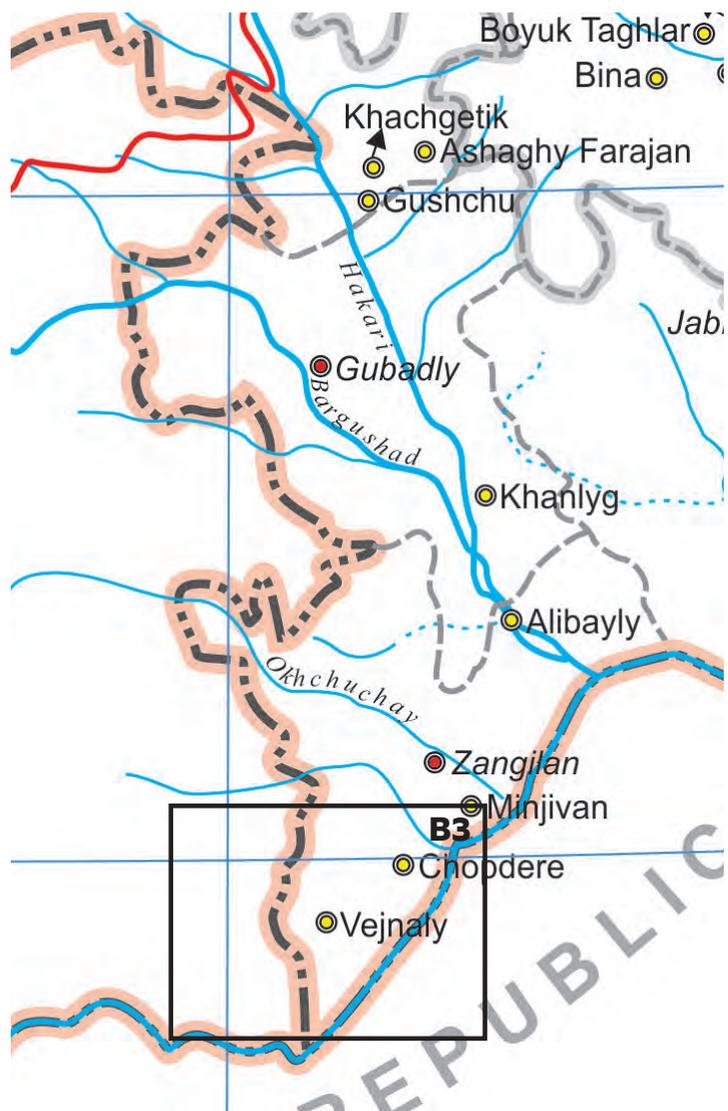


B2

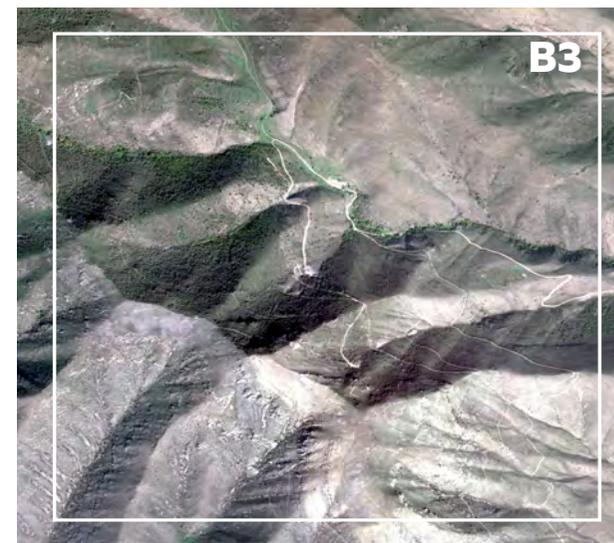


(B) Exploitation and pillage of natural resources

3. Mining and ore processing facilities on 70.10 hectares of gold mine near Vejnaly village of the occupied Zangilan district
38° 55' 52" N, 46° 31' 40" E



19 June 2017



24 October 2005

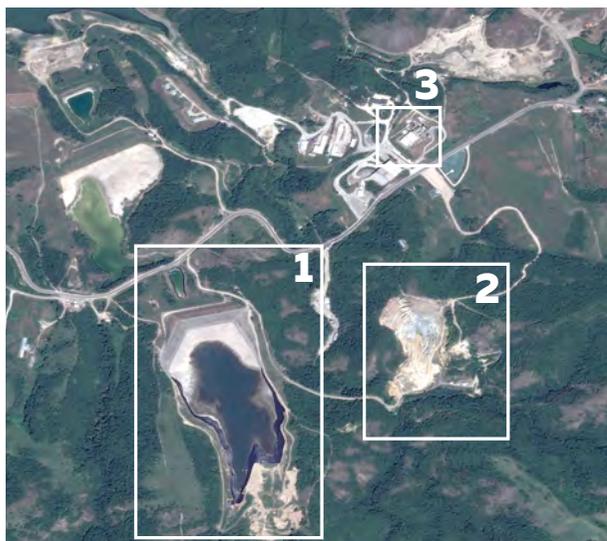
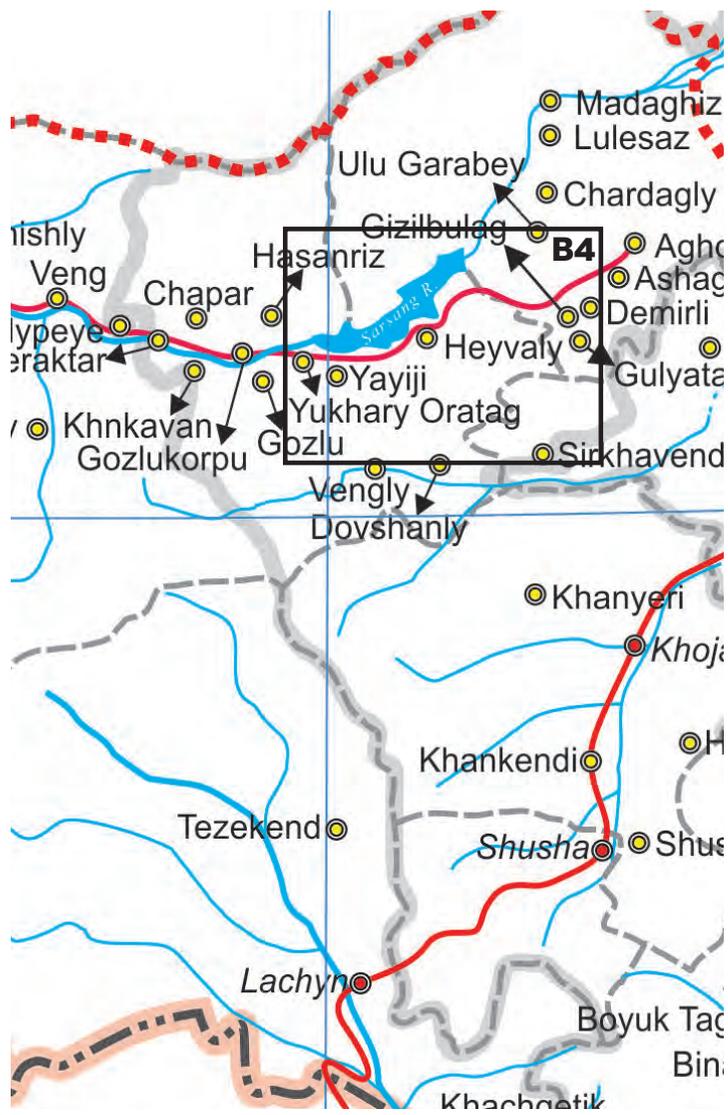


B3



(B) Exploitation and pillage of natural resources

4. Mining and ore processing facilities on 63.78 hectares of the Gyzybulag underground mine near Heyvaly village in the occupied Kalbajar district | 40° 08' 29" N, 46° 35' 38" E



2 July 2017



27 July 2005

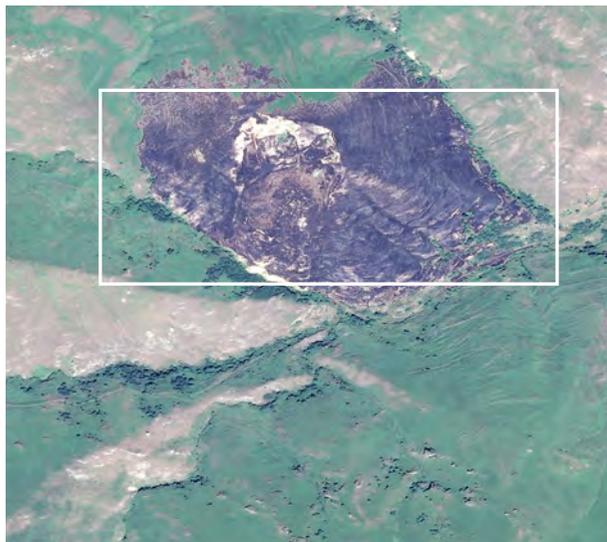


B4



(B) Exploitation and pillage of natural resources

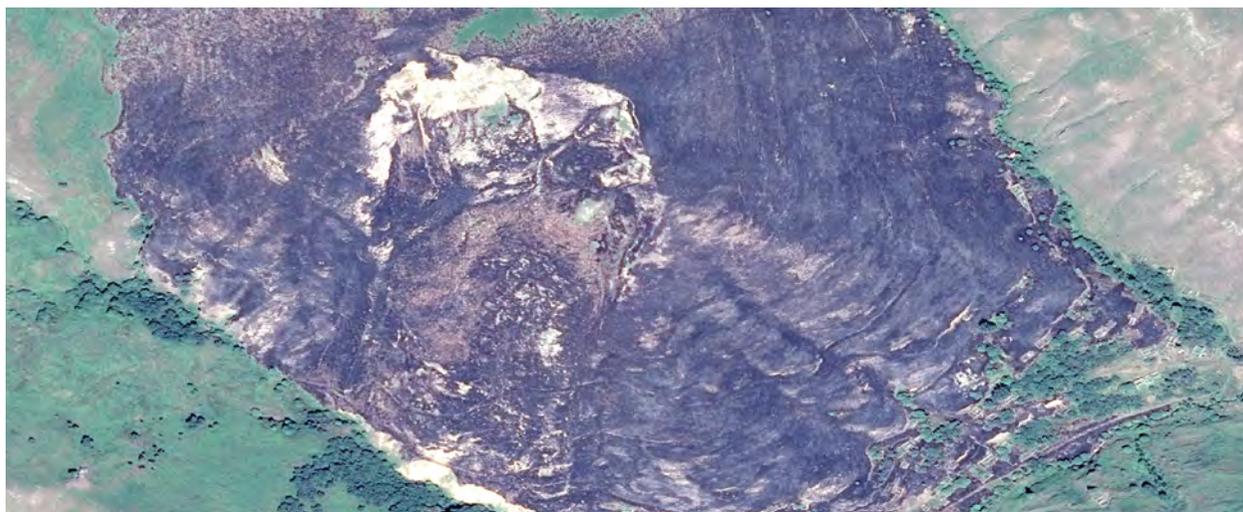
5. Mining activities in the Tutkhum gold-molybdenum deposit in the occupied Kalbajar district
40° 01' 14" N, 46° 09' 36" E



4 August 2017

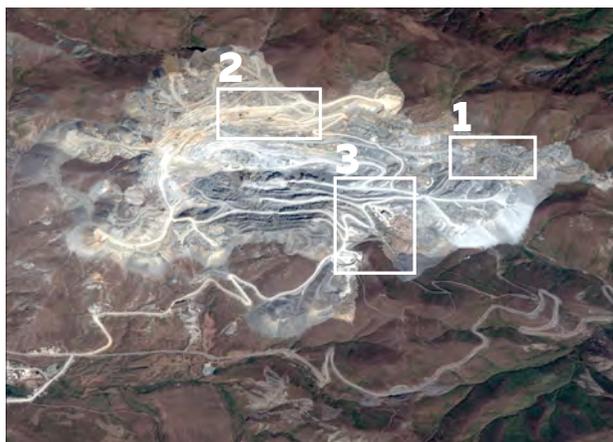


7 August 2015



(B) Exploitation and pillage of natural resources

6. Mining activities on 442.17 hectares of Soyudlu gold mine in the occupied Kalbajar district
40° 14' 01" N, 45° 58' 17" E



28 August 2017



15 June 2006



B6





(C) Permanent infrastructure changes

Armenia continues permanent energy, agriculture, social, residential and transport infrastructure changes in the occupied territories, including the construction of irrigation networks, water supply systems, roads, electrical transmission lines and other economic and social facilities.¹³ Building of infrastructure in the occupied territories is linked directly to supporting the maintenance of settlements and to bringing and keeping more Armenian settlers in those territories.

Infrastructure development in the occupied territories includes, inter alia, construction/reconstruction of network of roads envisaged exclusively for connecting Armenia and the occupied territories and the Armenian settlements within the occupied territories. Through that infrastructure Armenia exercises pervasive control over the entire economic and commercial system in the occupied territories, including inbound and outbound trade flows and economic resources. There is an illegal traffi in natural resources across the occupied section of the international border between Azerbaijan and Armenia that is controlled by the armed forces of Armenia. Armenia is a transport base for trafficking f minerals and other wealth from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan to international markets.



Vardenis (Armenia)-Aghdara highway passing through the occupied Kalbajar district
Source: www.armenianfund.org | 2017



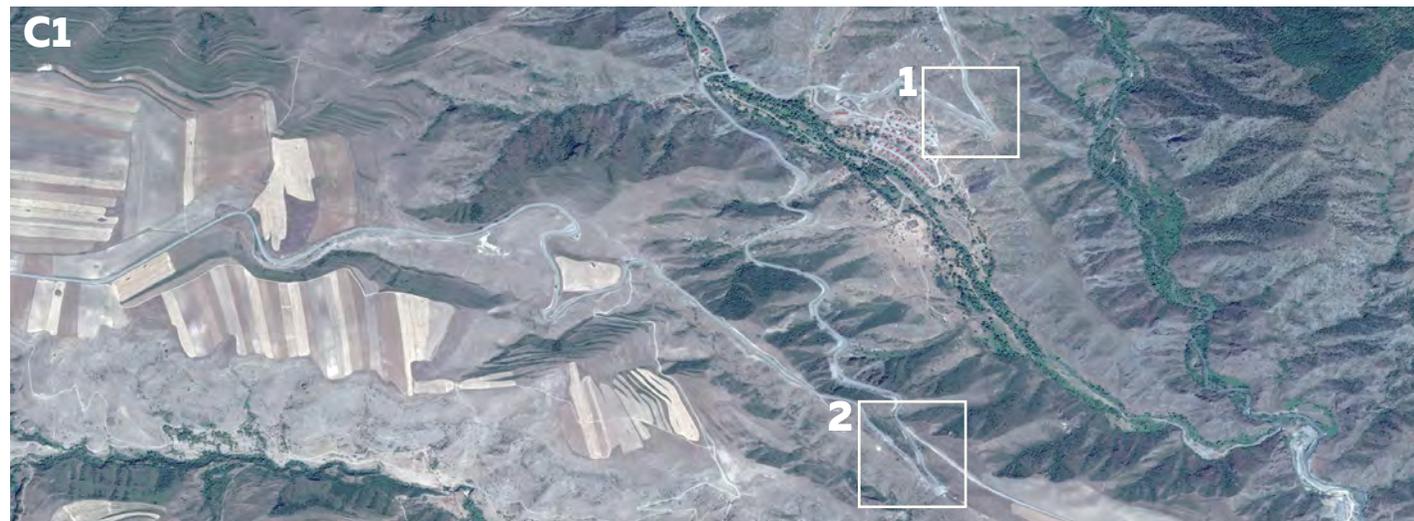
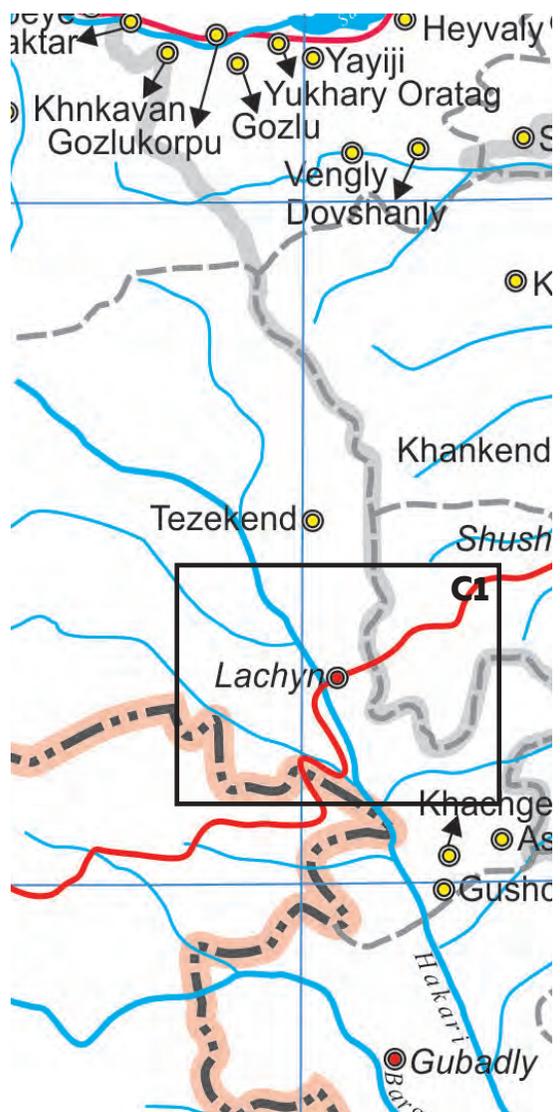
Construction of water infrastructure in the town of Kalbajar in the occupied Kalbajar district
Source: www.armenianfund.org | 2013

¹³ See Section XII (Extensive exploitation of agricultural and water resources) of the Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2016).

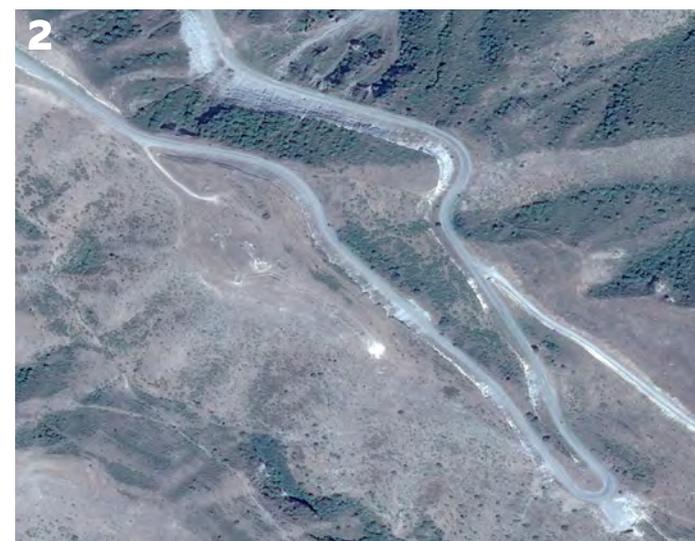
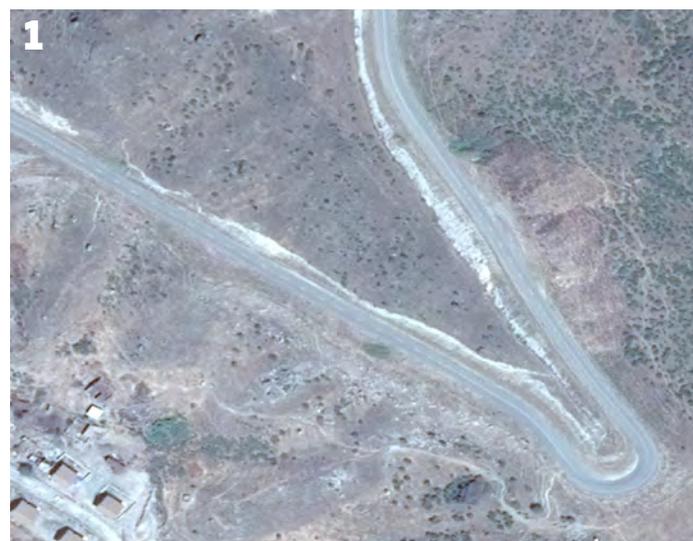
(C) Permanent infrastructure changes

1. Reconstruction of Goris (Armenia)-Khankandi road passing through the occupied Lachyn district

39° 36' 17" N, 46° 32' 43" E

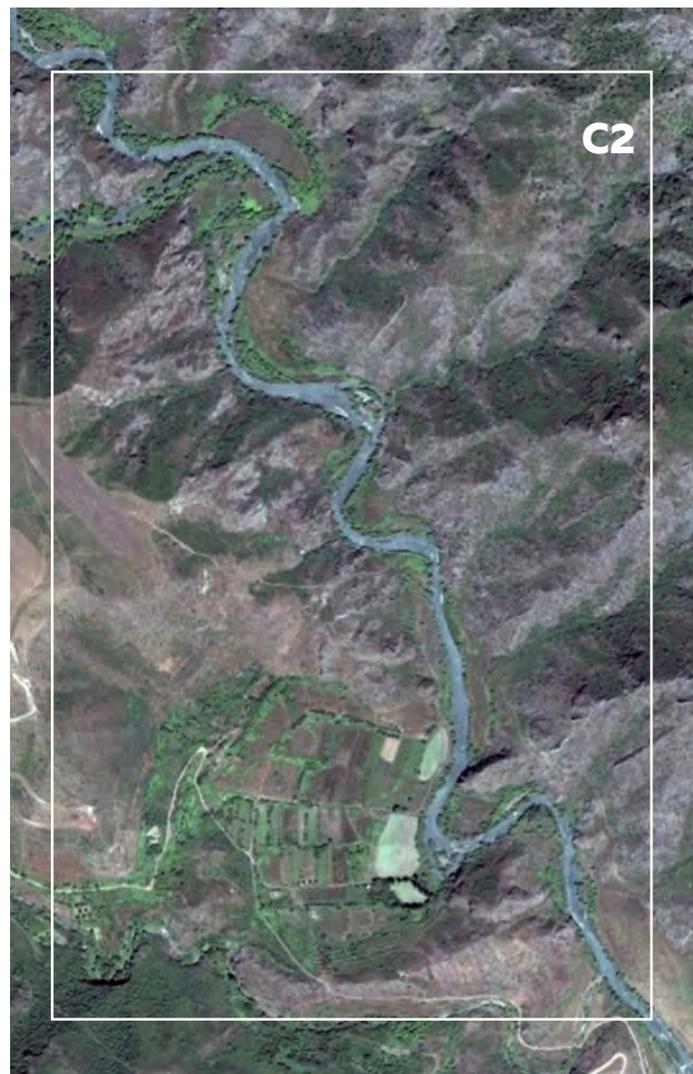
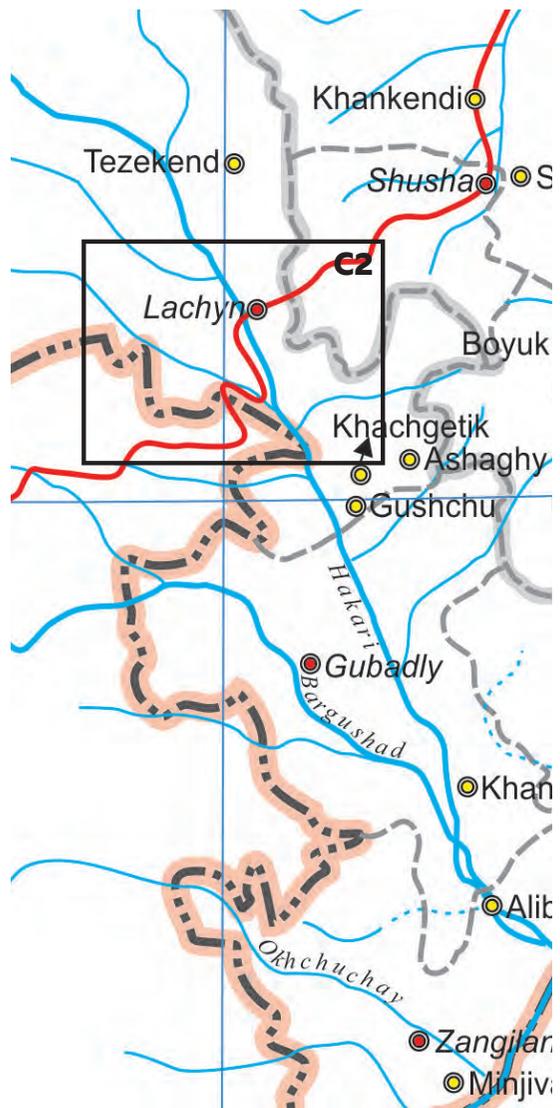


21 July 2017

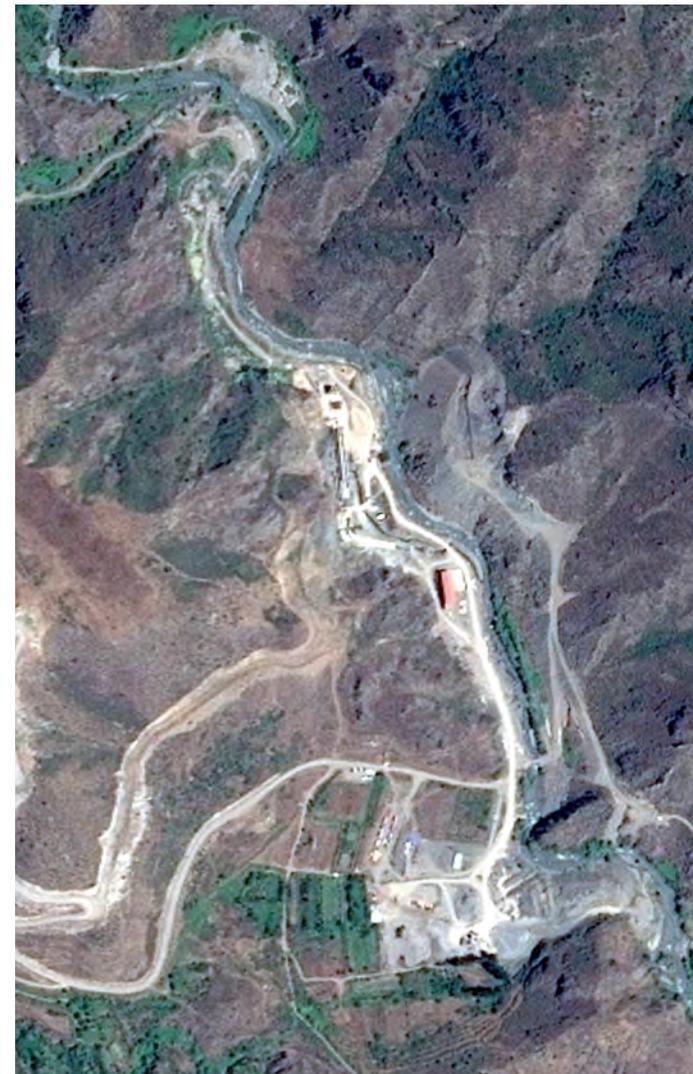


(C) Permanent infrastructure changes

2. Construction of a new water reservoir at the intersection of the Hakari and Zabukhchay Rivers in the occupied Lachyn district
39° 34' 20.97" N, 46° 33' 54.91" E



27 June 2010



19 July 2018

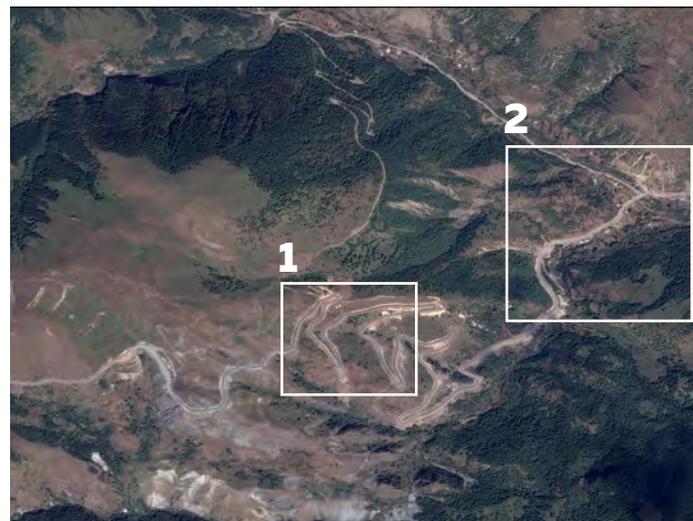
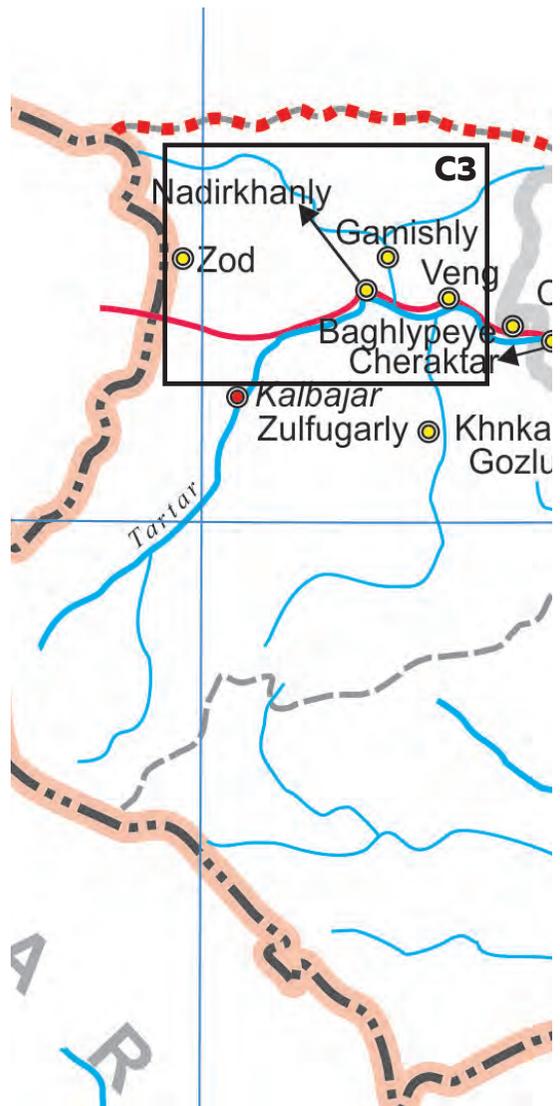
C2



(C) Permanent infrastructure changes

3. Construction of Vardenis (Armenia)-Aghdara highway passing through the occupied Kalbajar district

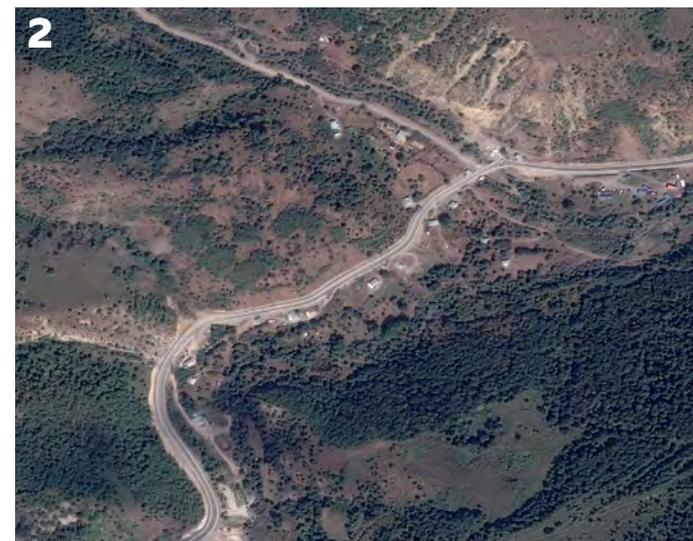
40° 13' 18" N, 45° 58' 59" E



28 August 2017



27 July 2005

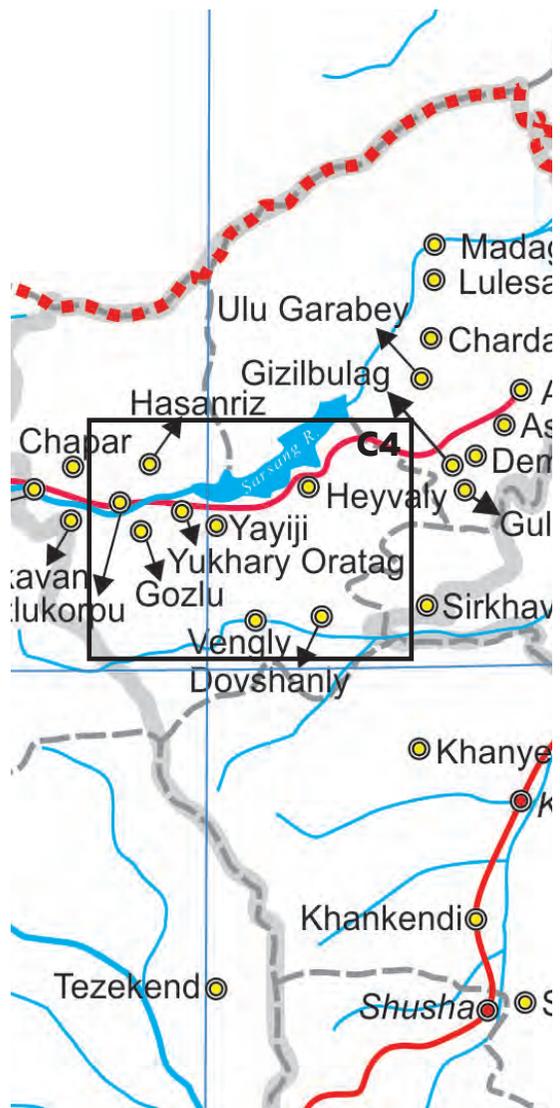


C3



(C) Permanent infrastructure changes

4. Infrastructure in support of exploitation of Gyzybulag underground gold and copper mine near Heyvaly village in the occupied Kalbajardistrict | 40° 08' 43" N, 46° 35' 50" E



2 July 2017



27 July 2005



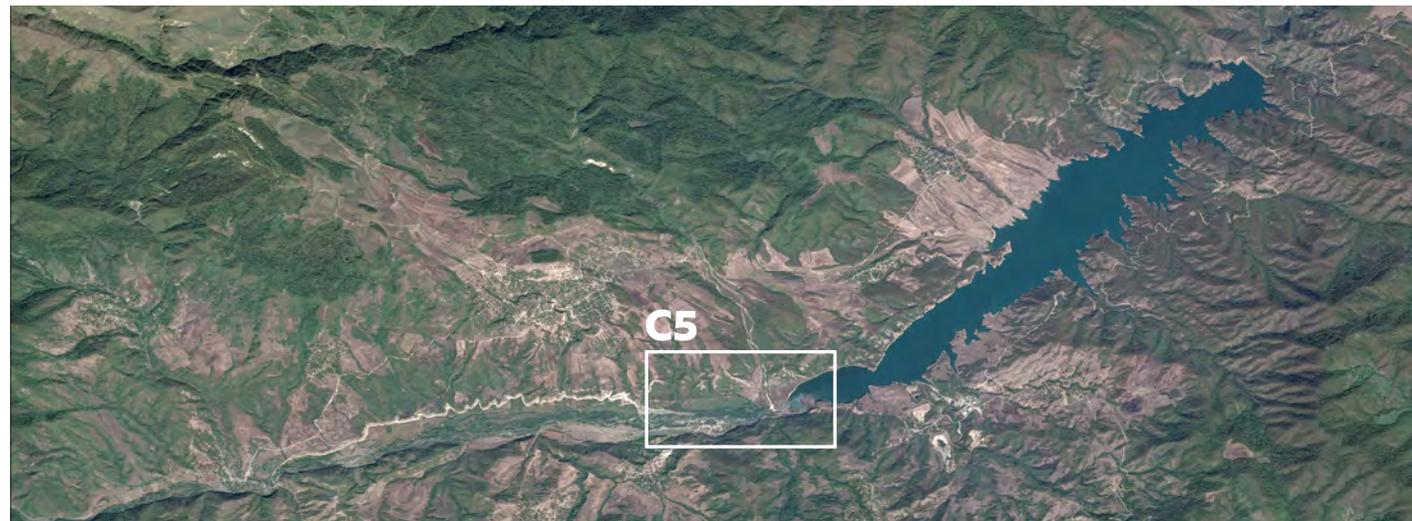
C4



(C) Permanent infrastructure changes

5. Hydroelectric power plant in the west of the Sarsang Water Reservoir in the occupied part of the Tartar district

46° 32' 0.862" E, 40° 8' 38.201" N



19 July 2018

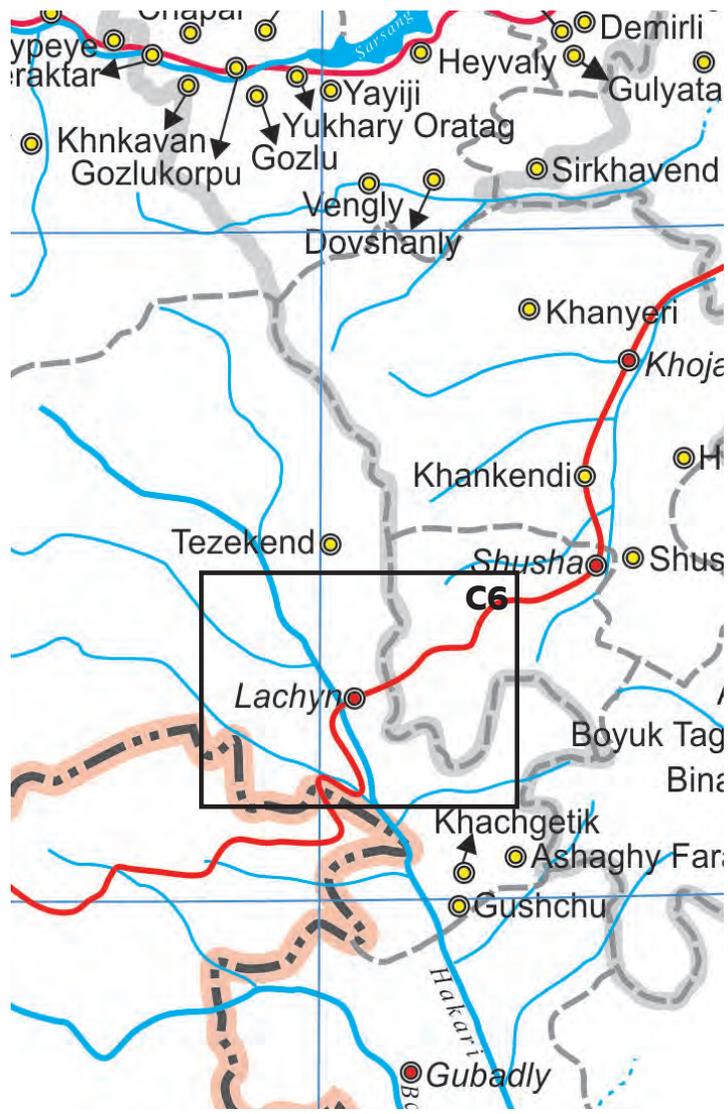


C5



(C) Permanent infrastructure changes

6. Armenia through its armed forces and subordinate unlawful regime controls access to the occupied territories. The image exposes control point on the Goris (Armenia)–Khankandi road near Zabukh village in the occupied Lachyn district | 39° 35' 36" N, 46° 32' 10" E



2 July 2017



(C) Permanent infrastructure changes

7. Infrastructure in support of exploitation of copper-gold and molybdenum mine near Demirli village in the occupied part of the Tartar district | 40° 08' 59" N, 46° 47' 12" E



02 July 2017



27 July 2005



C7





(D) Exploitation of agricultural and water resources

Farmlands in the occupied territories, specifically in Zangilan, Gubadly, Jabrayil, the occupied parts of the Fuzuli and Aghdam districts, abandoned by the fleeing Azerbaijani population, have been illegally appropriated and extensively exploited.¹⁴

Exploitation of agricultural resources is pursued not only for economic, but also demographic reasons. Illegal settlements in the occupied territories rely primarily on agriculture development, and the existence of many settlements is dependent on access to arable lands and water resources. Armenian settlers are transferred into the arable lands in the Araz River Valley and in particular along the Hakari River in the occupied Zangilan and Gubadly districts due to their agricultural potential, climate, water and other resources. Settlement of Syrian Armenians in the occupied territories is also largely driven by their experience in agriculture development in their home country that Armenia hopes will be a significant boost to the colonization of those territories.

Access to and control of water resources, in particular in the occupied Kalbajar, Lachyn, Zangilan and Jabrayil districts is an important factor in the colonial enterprise of Armenia. Armenia's occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan allowed it to capture and divert waters of the Araz River and other rivers and their headwaters, and construct new and using existing artesian wells, pump-stations and irrigation canals to service the settlements and farming in the Araz River Valley and elsewhere or to use their hydropower.



Grain harvesting in the occupied Gubadly district
Source: video footage from <http://artsakhtimes.am> | 2017



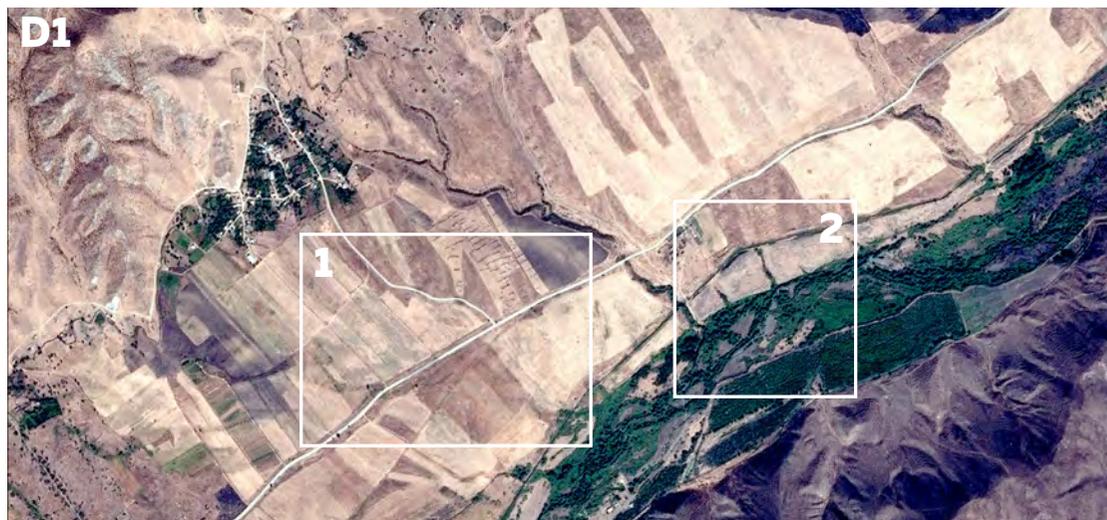
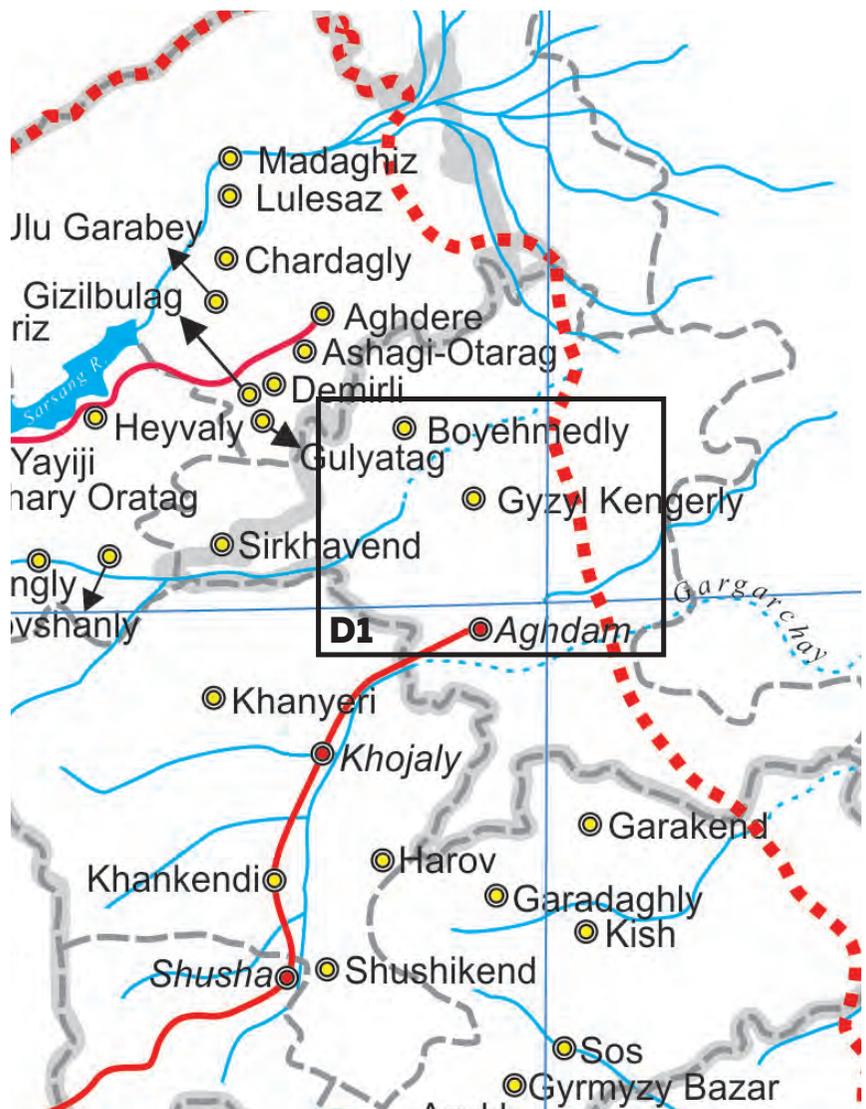
The Asmaryan family from Syria's Aleppo started a farm in the occupied Khojaly district
Source: www.hetq.am | 2015

¹⁴ See Section XII (Extensive exploitation of agricultural and water resources) of the Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2016).

(D) Exploitation of agricultural and water resources

1. Newly-sown agricultural areas near Gyzyl Kengerly village in the occupied part of the Aghdam district

46° 50' 19.228" E, 40° 3' 58.835" N



10 September 2018



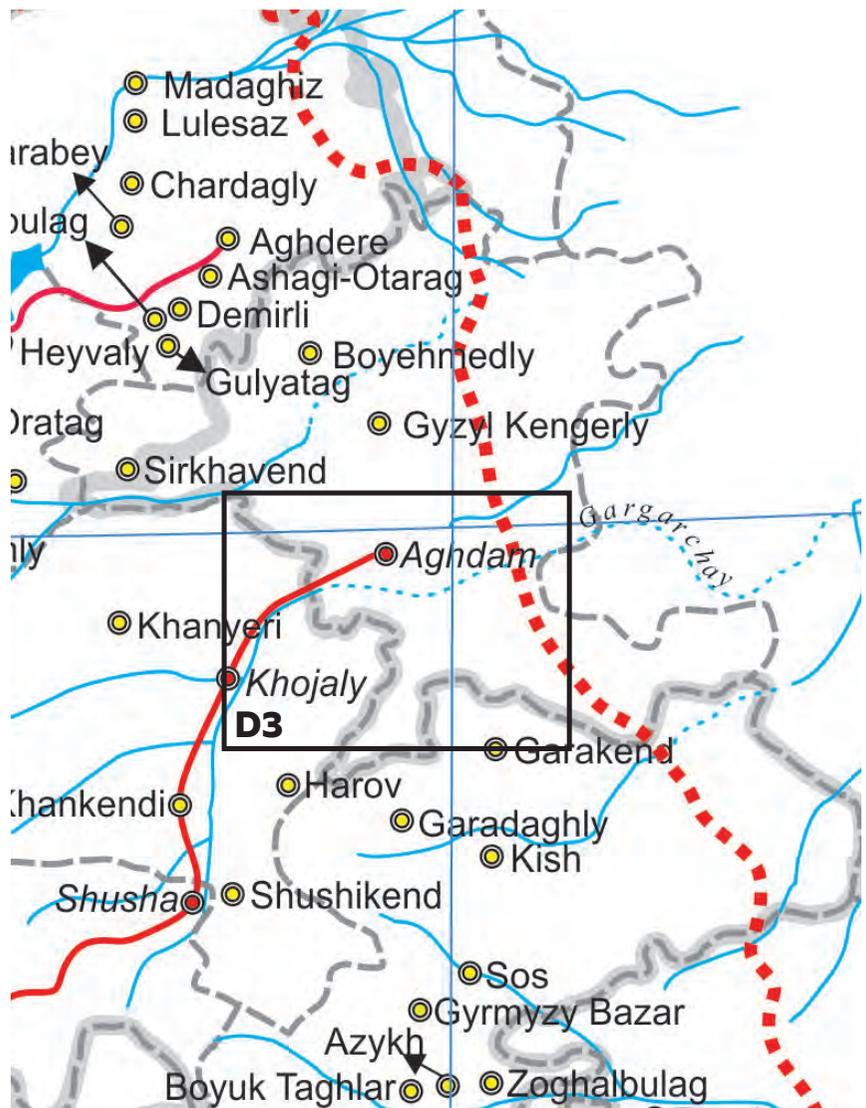
D2



(D) Exploitation of agricultural and water resources

3. Newly-sown agricultural areas near Shelly village in the occupied part of the Aghdam district

46° 54' 46.658" E, 39° 57' 18.185" N



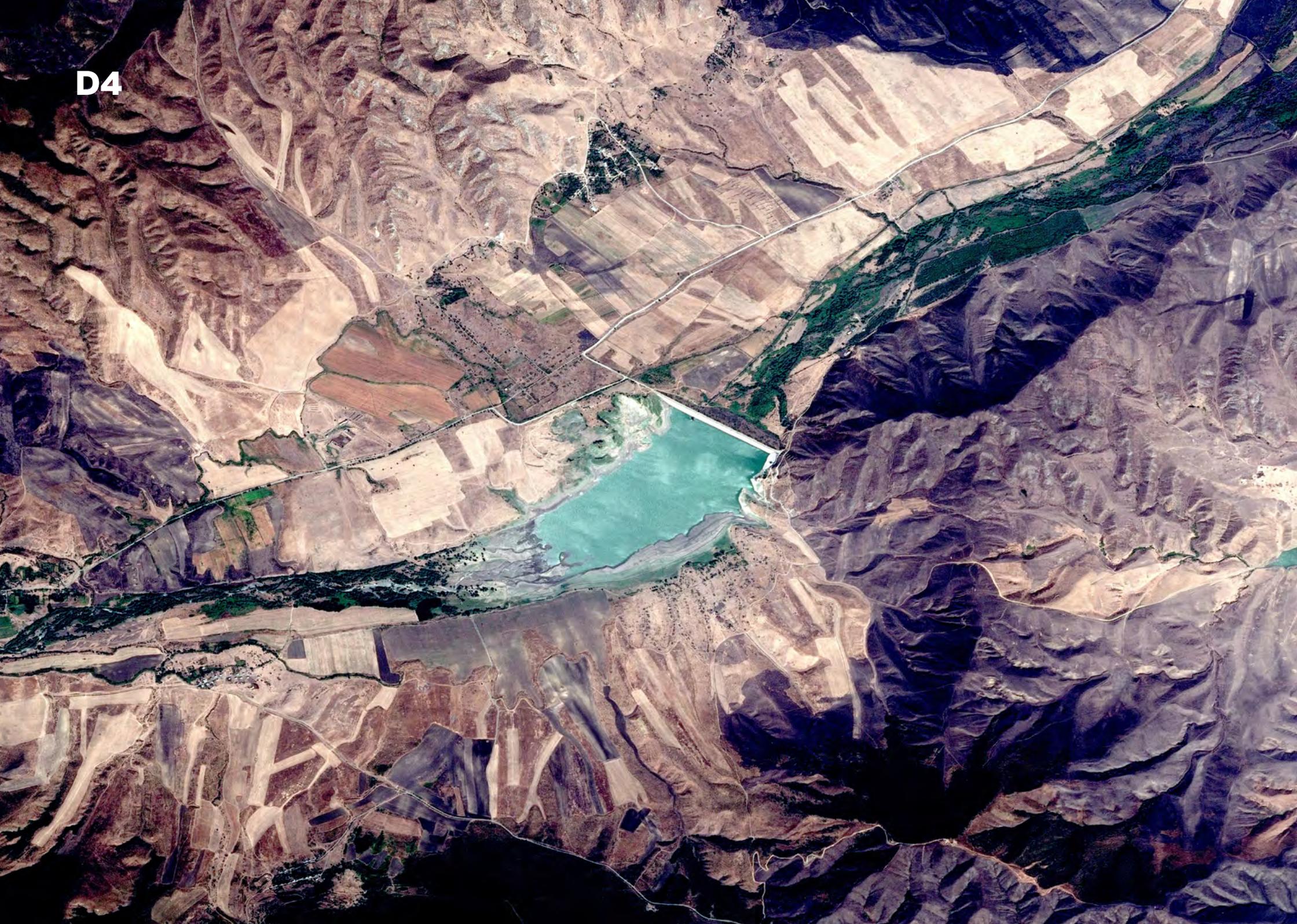
10 September 2018



D3



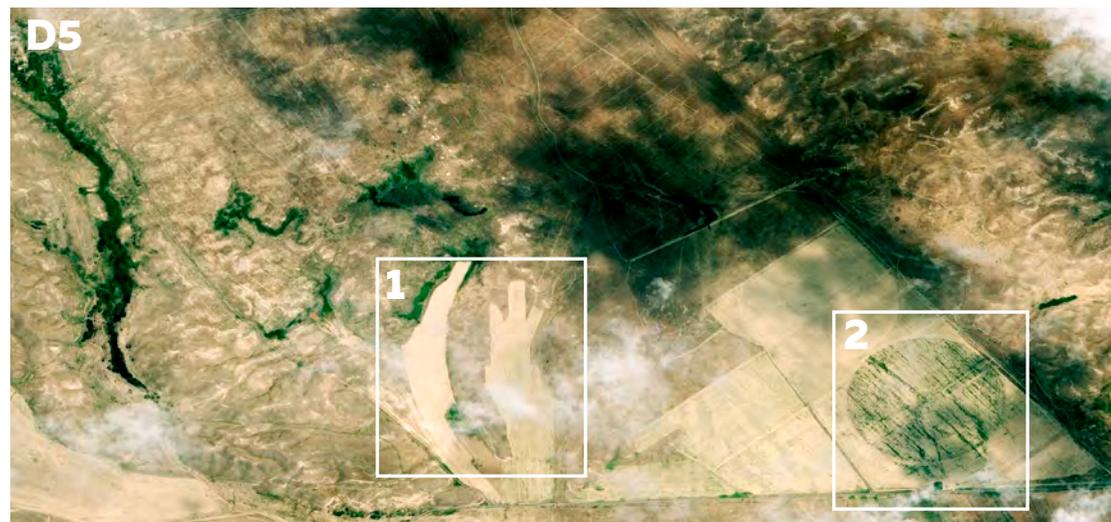
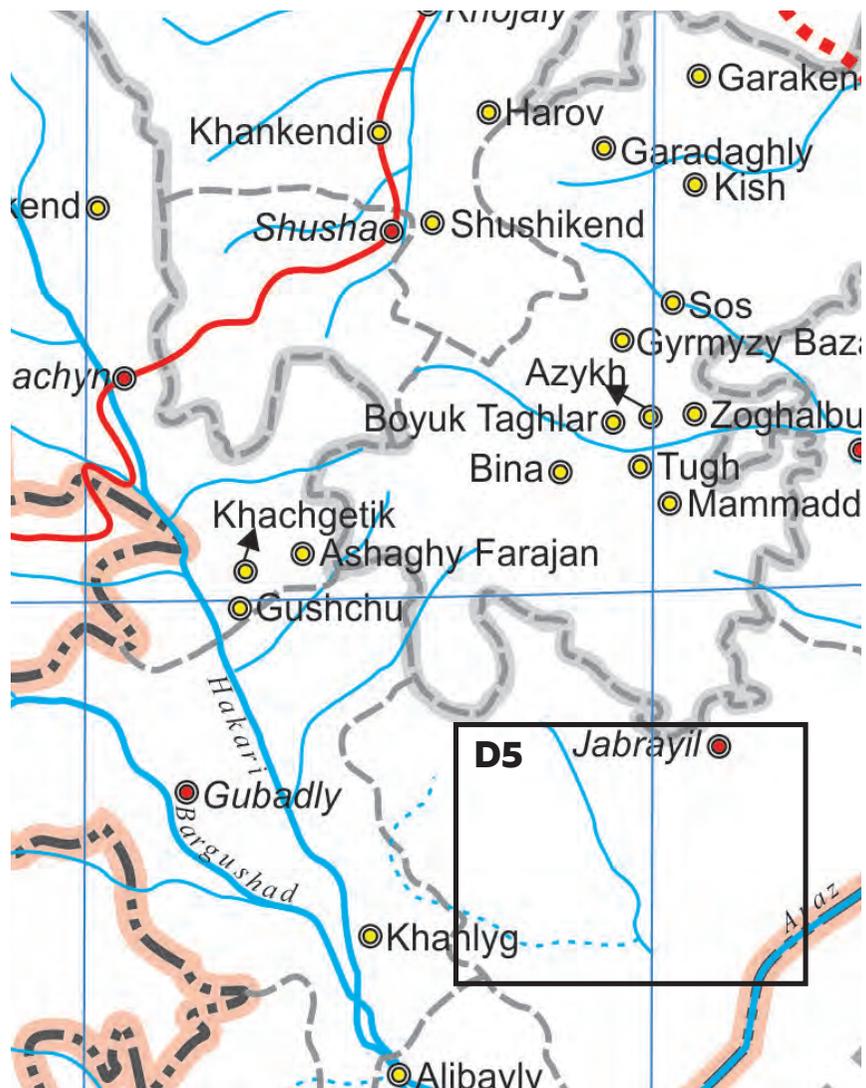
D4



(D) Exploitation of agricultural and water resources

5. Exploitation of agricultural lands along the Araz River in the occupied Jabrayil district

47° 2' 8.634" E, 39° 15' 52.574" N



19 July 2018



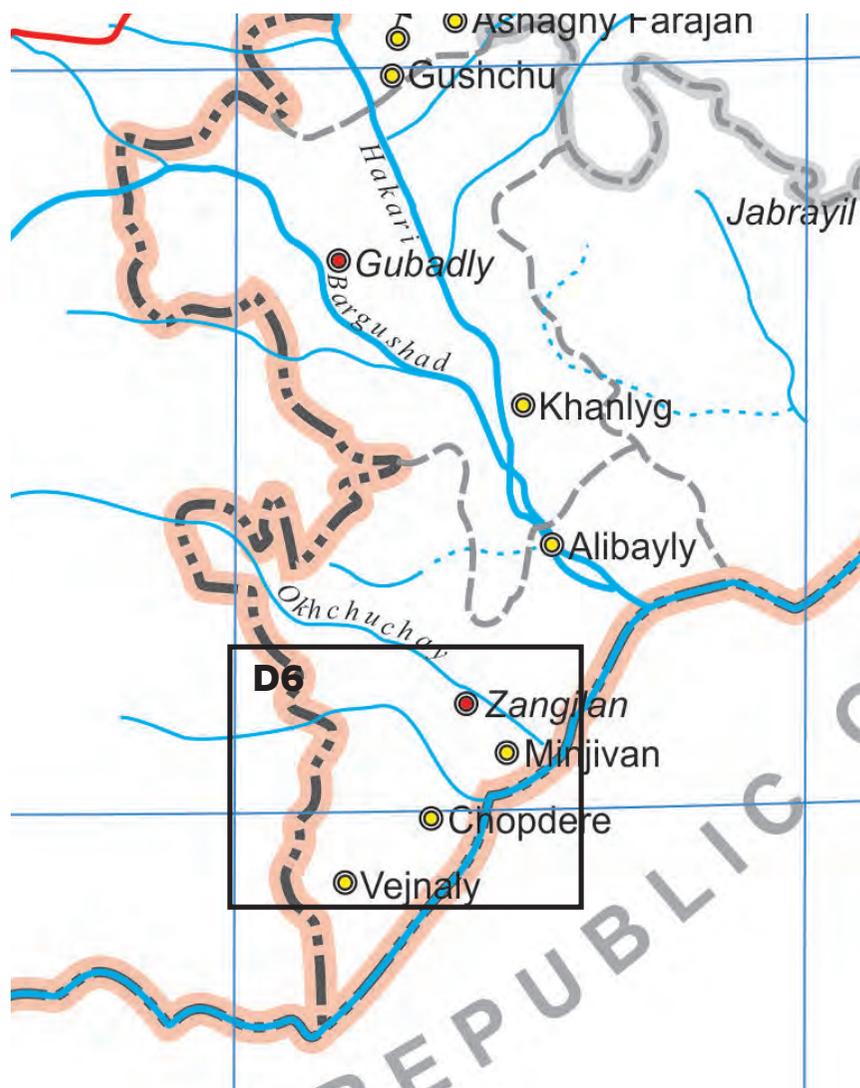
D5



(D) Exploitation of agricultural and water resources

6. Exploitation of agricultural lands along the Araz River near Bartaz village in the occupied Zangilan district

46° 38' 41.184" E, 38° 57' 52.196" N



19 July 2018

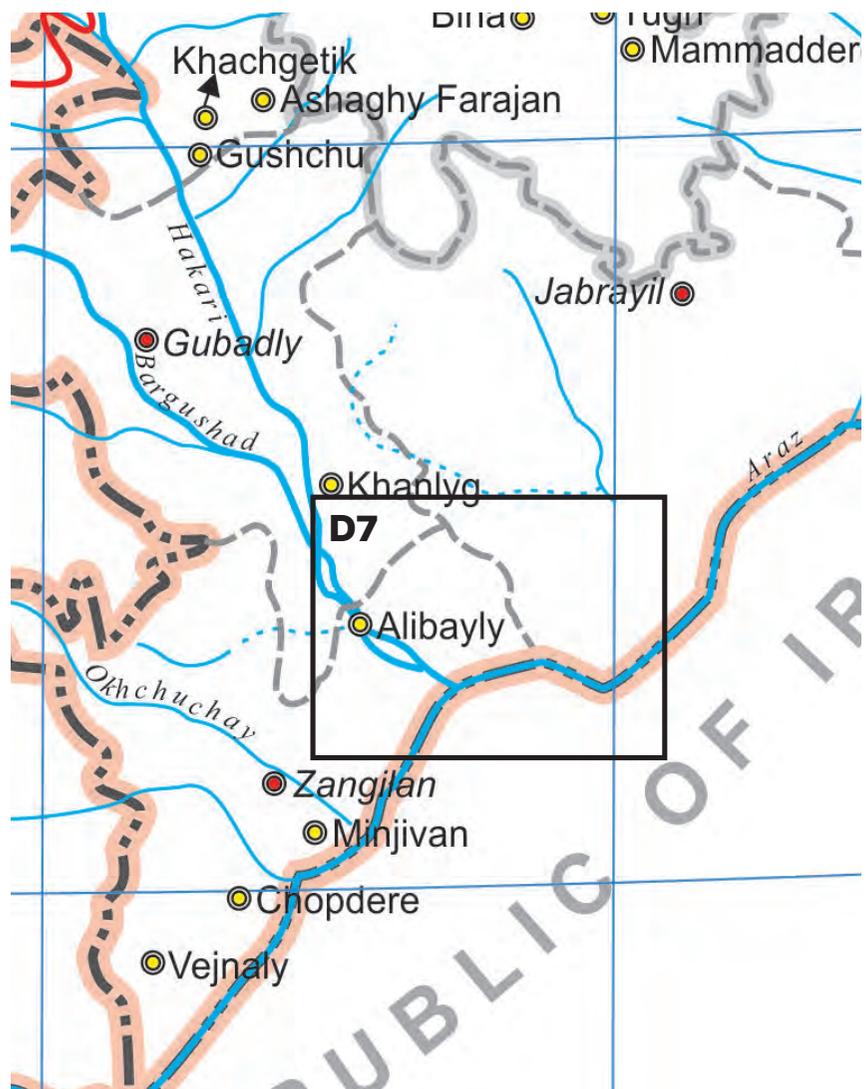


D6

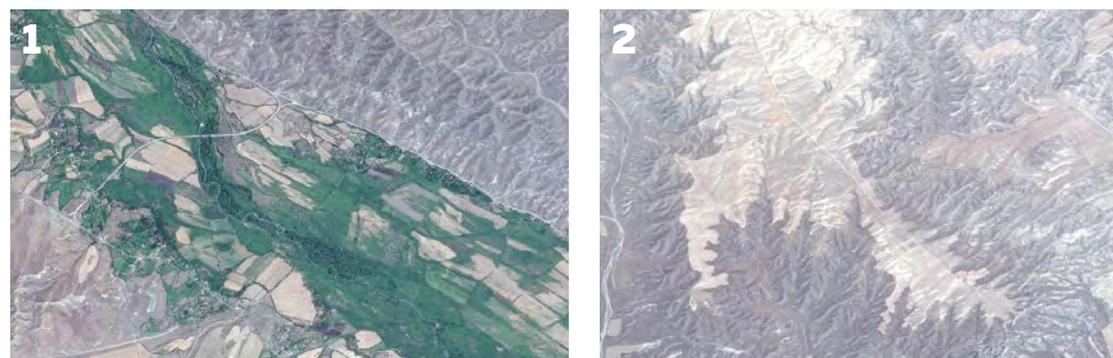


(D) Exploitation of agricultural and water resources

7. Exploitation of agricultural lands along the Bazarchay River near the Khudafarin Water Reservoir in the occupied Zangilan district
46° 46' 19.134" E, 39° 15' 14.131" N



19 July 2018

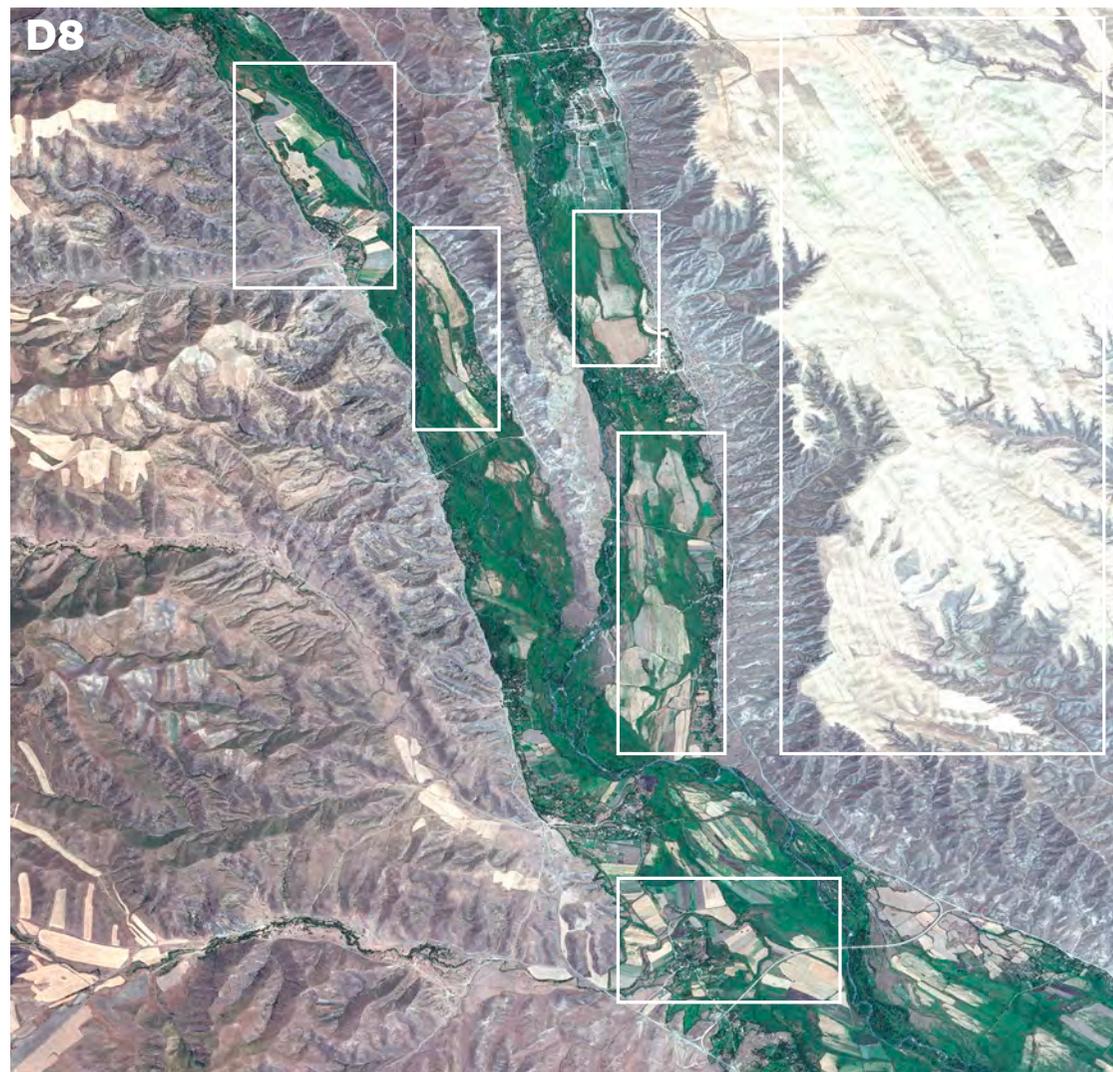
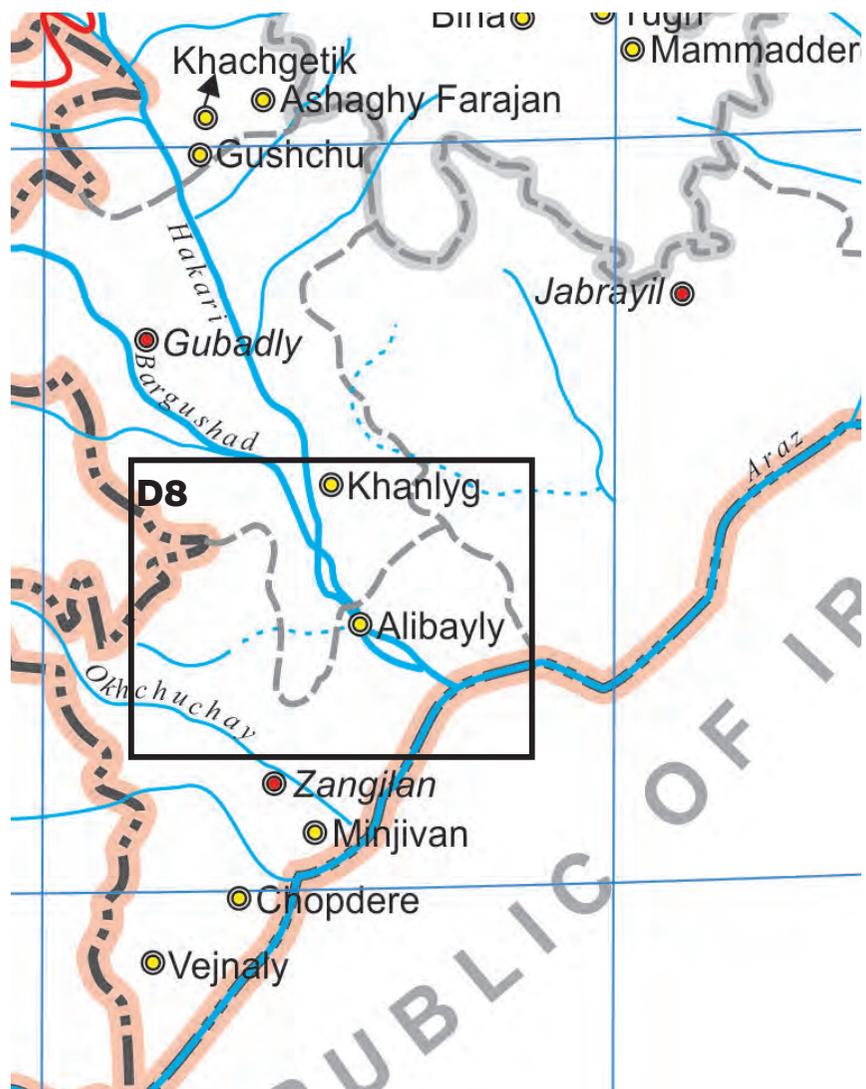


D7



(D) Exploitation of agricultural and water resources

8. Exploitation of agricultural lands along the Hakari River in the occupied Zangilan and Gubadly districts
39° 36' 17" N, 46° 32' 43" E



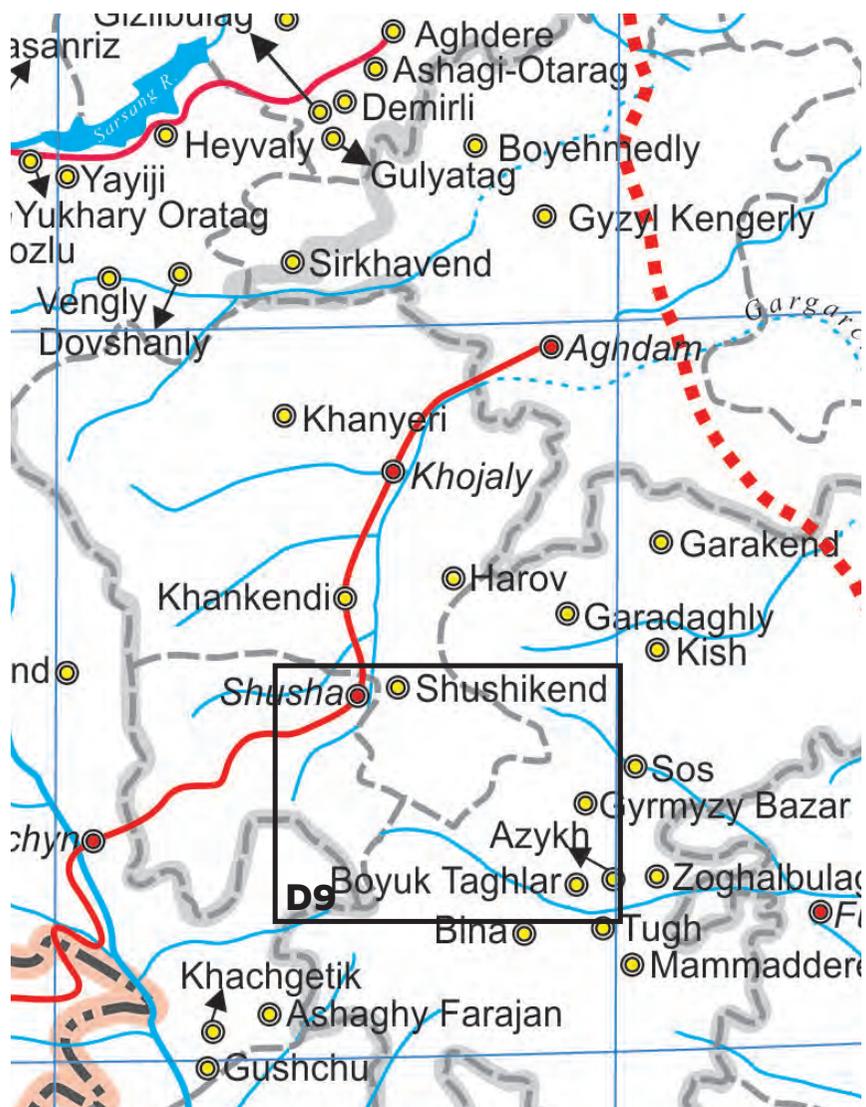
19 July 2018

D8



(D) Exploitation of agricultural and water resources

9. Exploitation of agricultural lands near Chanagchi, Khanyeri, Khanabad and Shushikend villages in the occupied Khojaly district
46°50'27.382"E, 39°43'54.474"N



10 September 2018



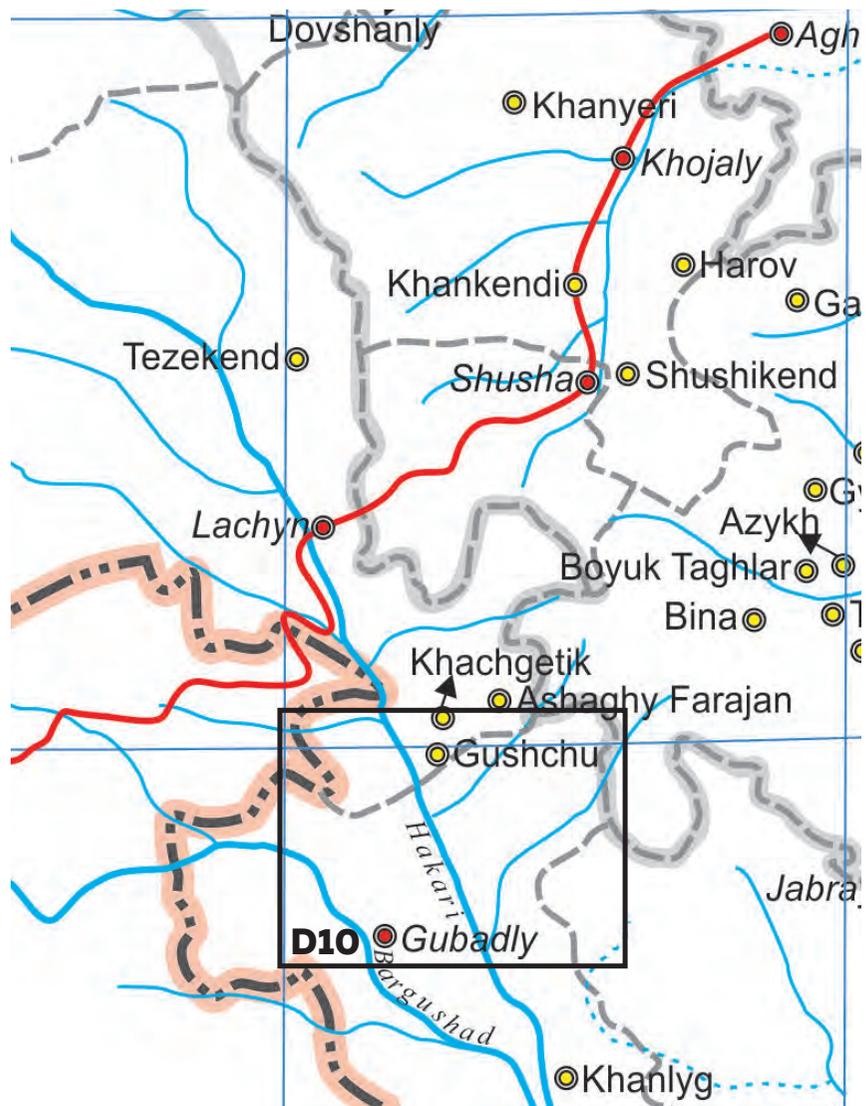
D9



(D) Exploitation of agricultural and water resources

10. Exploitation of agricultural lands near Khanlyg and Ishygly villages of the occupied Gubadly district

46° 33' 23.017" E, 39° 30' 0.713" N



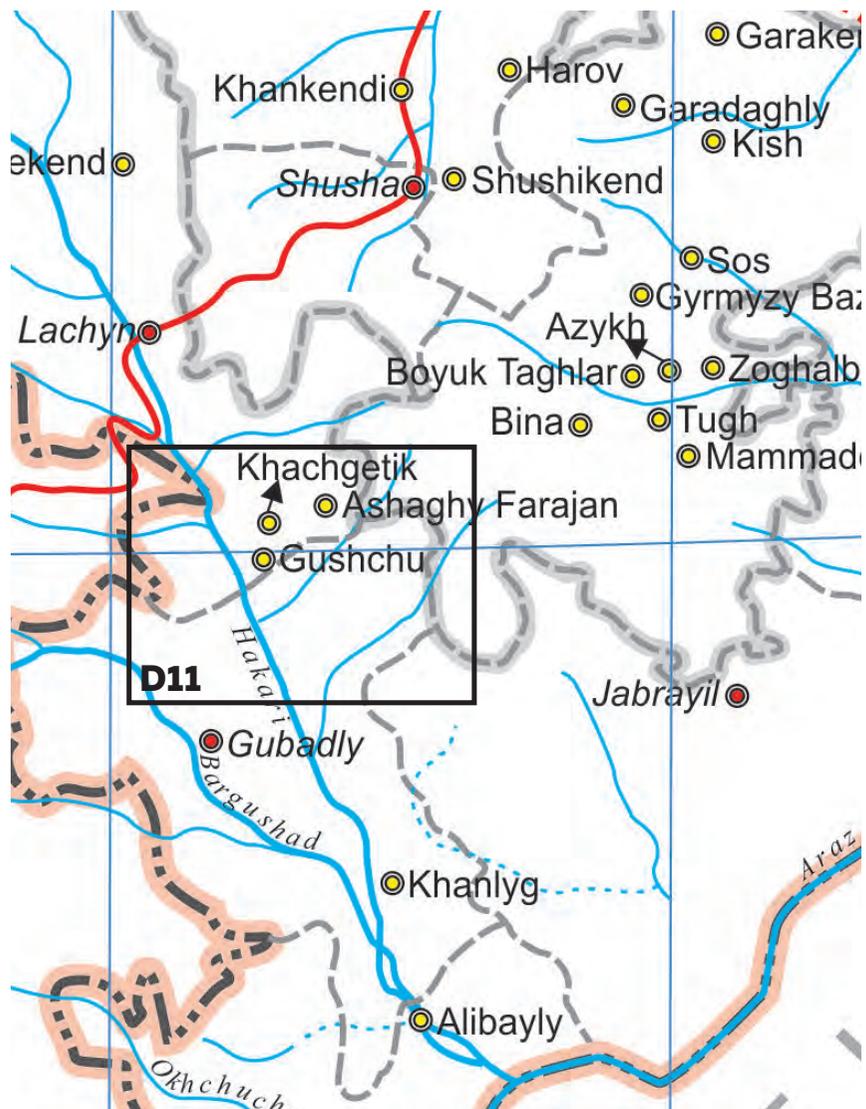
19 July 2018



(D) Exploitation of agricultural and water resources

11. Exploitation of agricultural lands near Gushchu village in the occupied Lachyn district

46° 34' 53.899" E, 39° 26' 50.665" N



19 July 2018



D11





(E) Destruction of public and private property, including historical and cultural heritage

Occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan has been accompanied with serious and systematic interference with property rights, which include extensive destruction and appropriation of public and private property, appropriation of land, dismantling of abandoned houses or public buildings for use as construction materials, building of new houses on lands and properties of the Azerbaijani displaced persons.¹⁵

Armenia takes consistent measures aimed at altering the Azerbaijani historical and cultural features of the occupied territories. Purposeful destruction and looting of the cultural heritage in the occupied territories, including archeological, cultural and religious monuments, and archeological excavations pursue the goal of removing any signs of their Azerbaijani cultural and historical roots.



Destroyed neighborhood in the occupied town of Shusha
Source: www.mfa.gov.az



Ruins of Juma mosque in the destroyed town of Aghdam used as a barn
Source: www.mfa.gov.az

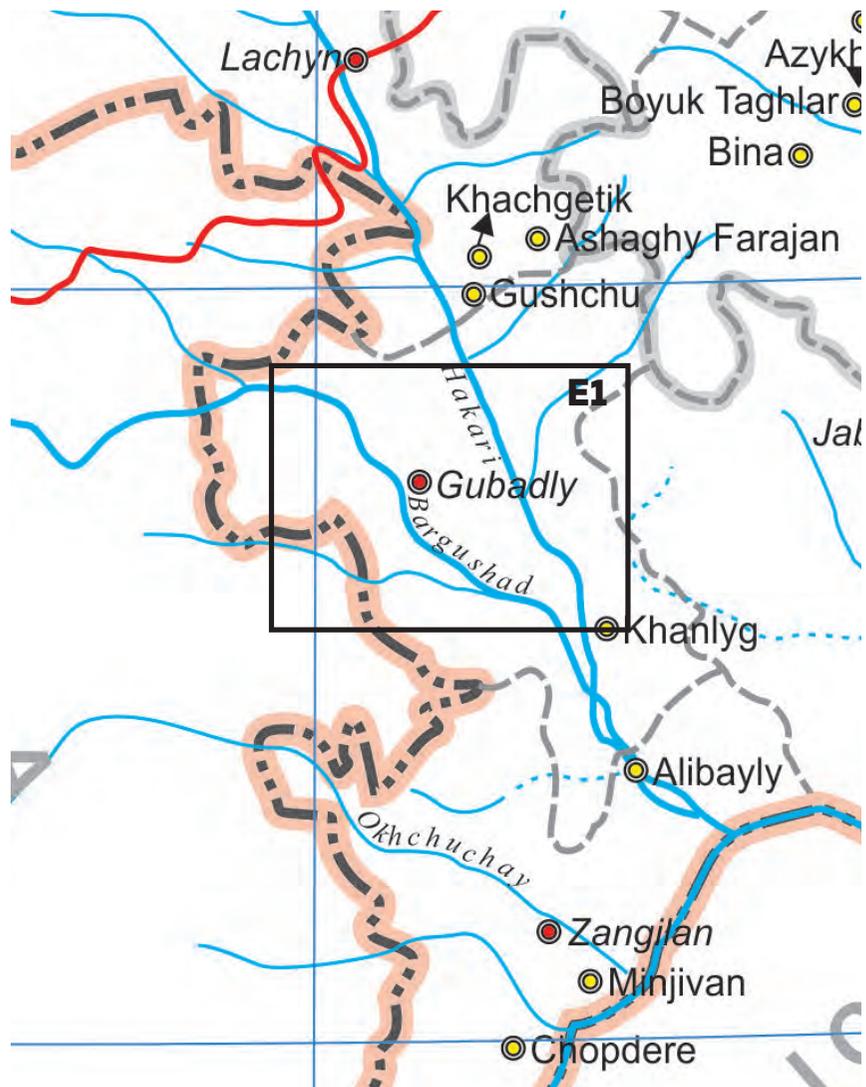


¹⁵ See Section XIII (Systematic pillaging, exploitation of and illicit trade in assets, natural resources and other forms of wealth in the occupied territories) and Section XVI (Archaeological excavations, embezzlement of artefacts, altering of cultural character of the occupied territories) of the Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2016).

(E) Destruction of public and private property, including historical and cultural heritage

1. Ruins of Dondarli and Damirchilar villages of the occupied Gubadly district

39° 18' 27" N, 46° 36' 28" E



3 July 2017



(E) Destruction of public and private property, including historical and cultural heritage

2. Destroyed town of Fuzuli of the occupied Fuzuli district

39° 35' 56" N, 47° 08' 49" E



3 July 2017



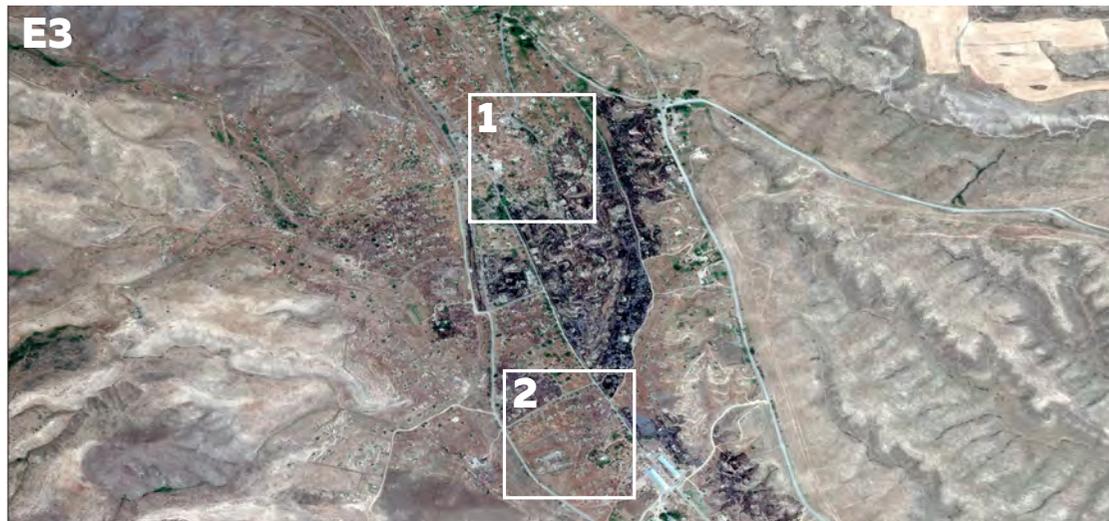
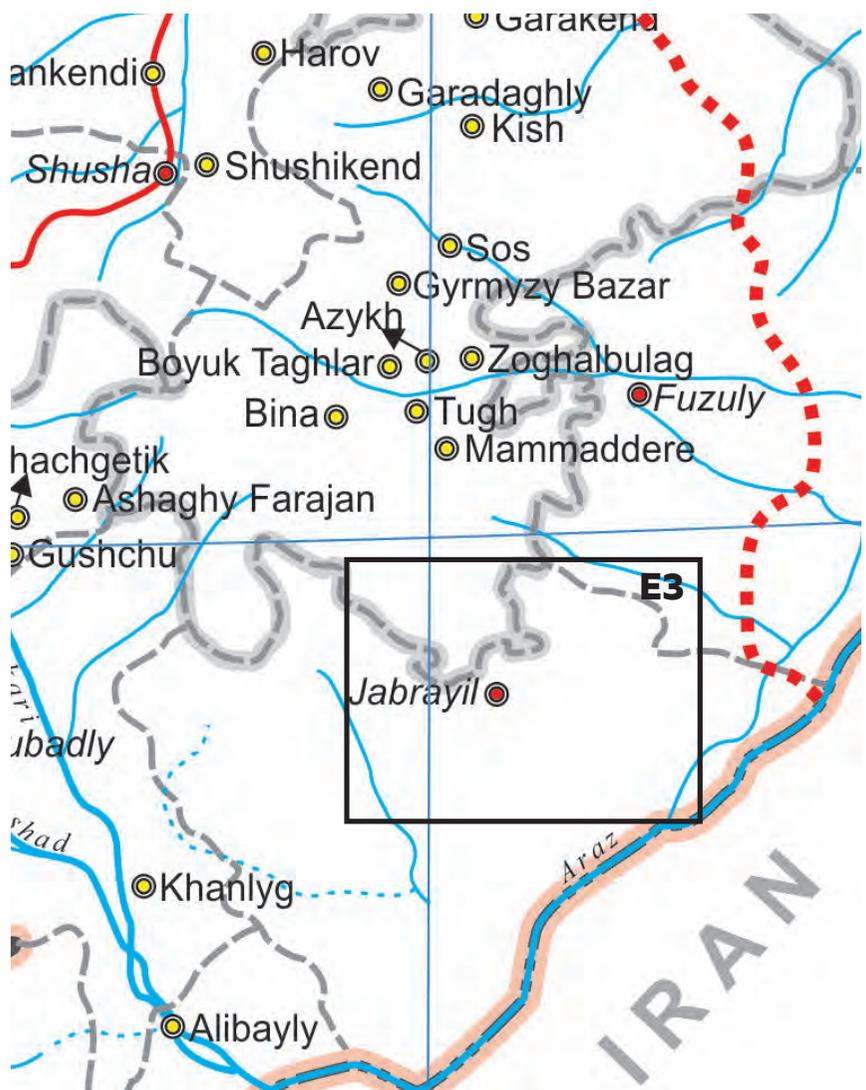
E2



(E) Destruction of public and private property, including historical and cultural heritage

3. Destroyed town of Jabrayil of the occupied Jabrayil district

39° 23' 56" N, 47° 01' 39" E



3 July 2017



E3



(E) Destruction of public and private property, including historical and cultural heritage

4. Ruins of Garadaghly village of the occupied Khojavand district

39° 47' 47" N, 46° 58' 42" E



10 May 2017



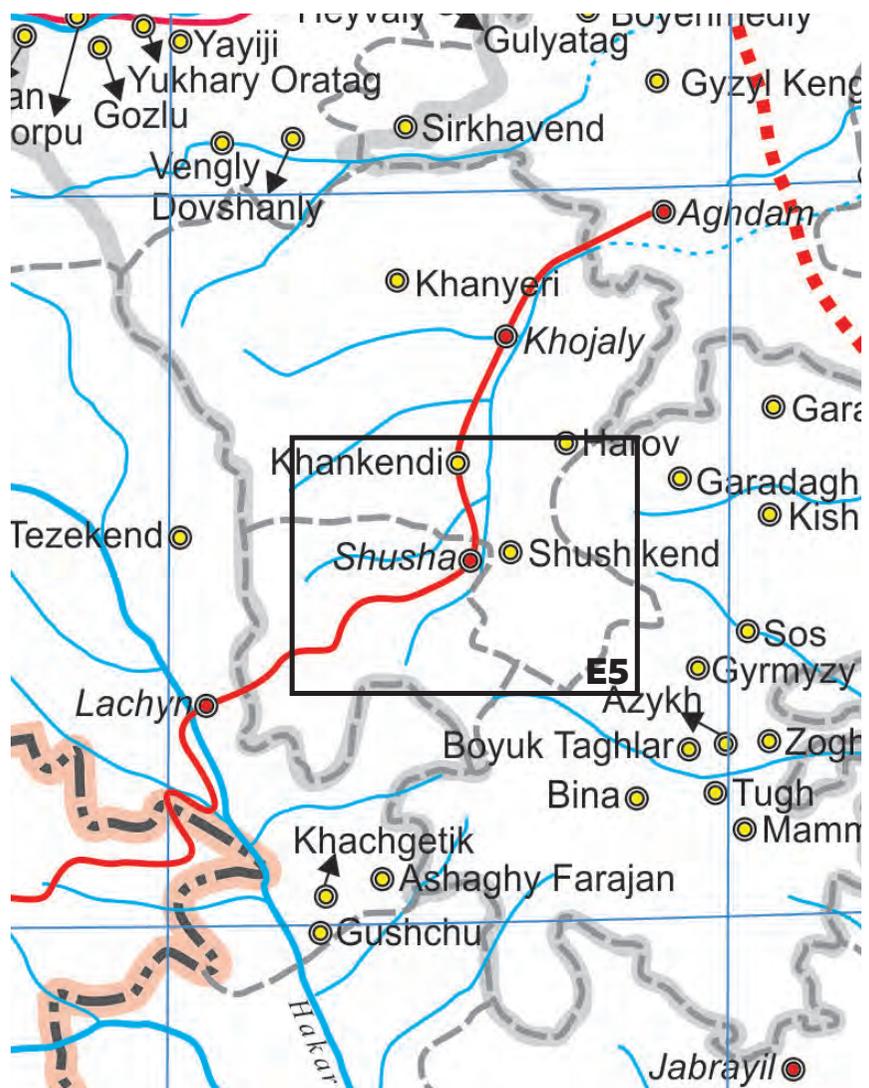
E4



(E) Destruction of public and private property, including historical and cultural heritage

5. Severely damaged Saatly Mosque in the town of Shusha in the occupied Shusha district

39° 45' 45.26" N, 46° 45' 3.49" E



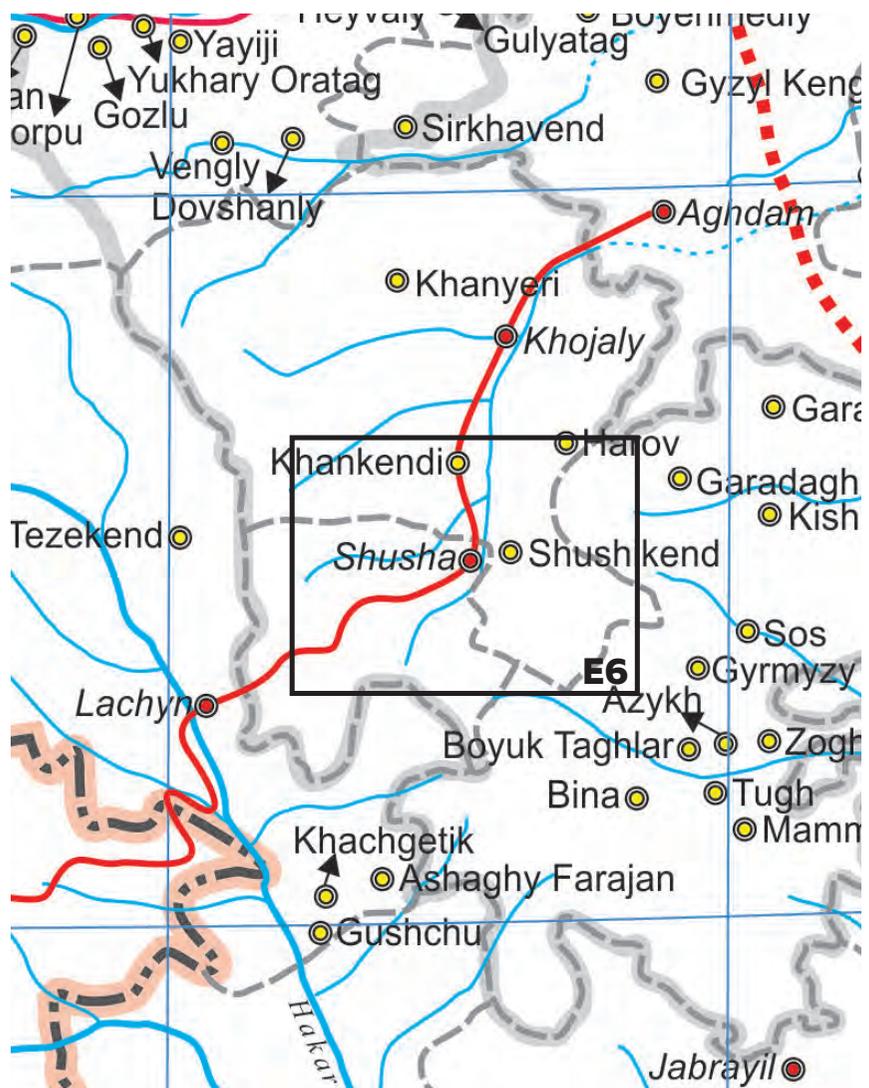
3 August 2017



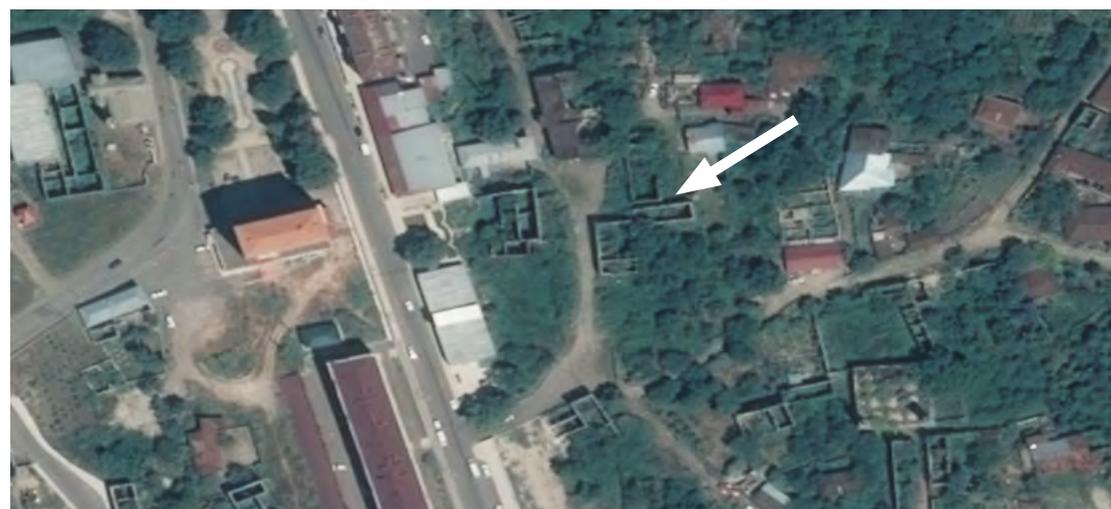
(E) Destruction of public and private property, including historical and cultural heritage

6. Ruins of Mardinli Mosque in the town of Shusha in the occupied Shusha district

39° 45' 44.48" N, 46° 45' 10.26" E



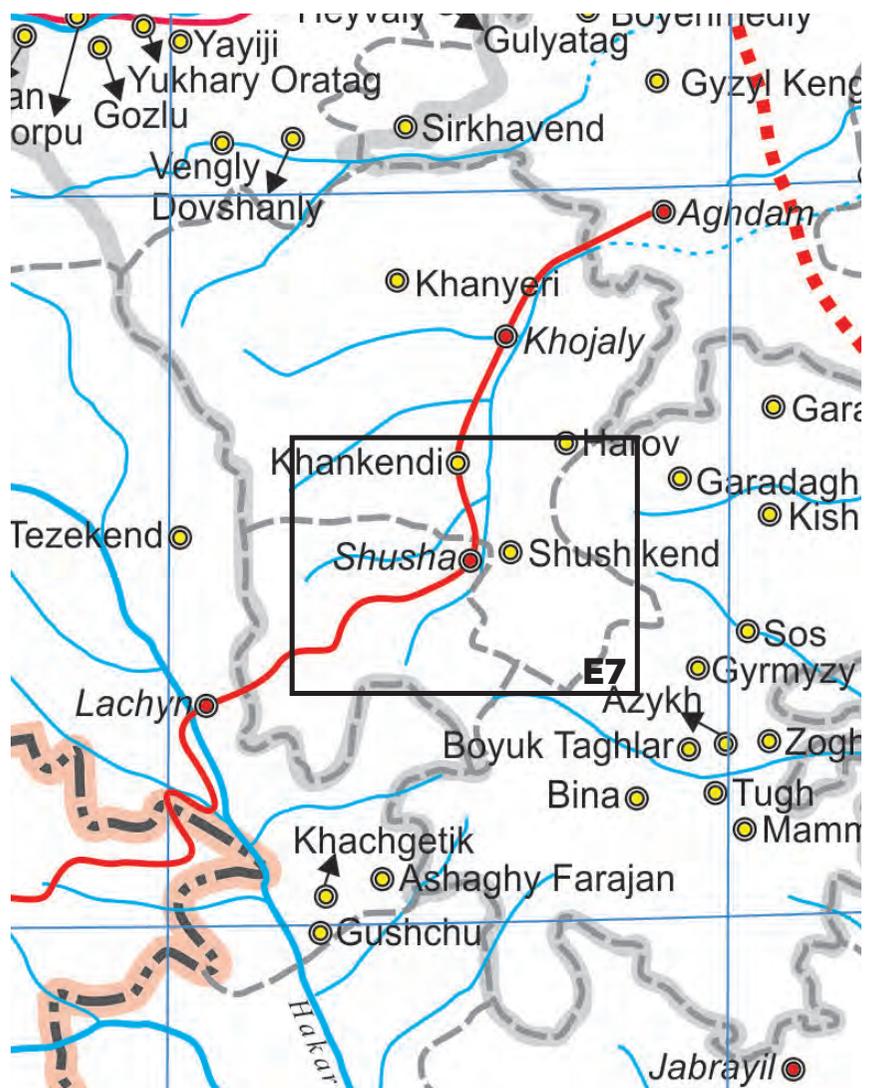
3 August 2017



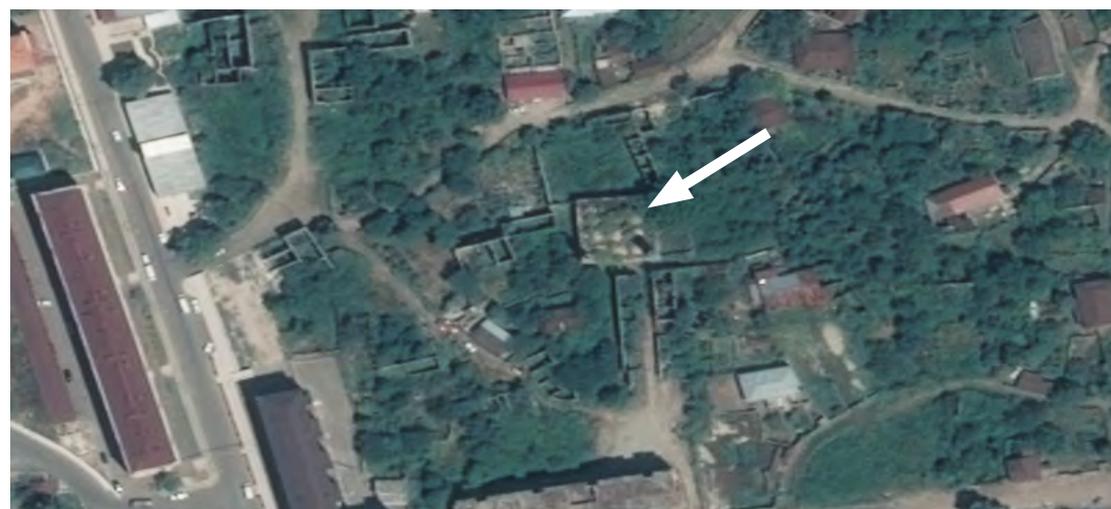
(E) Destruction of public and private property, including historical and cultural heritage

7. Destroyed Ashaghy Govhar Agha Mosque in the town of Shusha in the occupied Shusha district

39° 45' 42.31" N, 46° 45' 14.22" E



3 August 2017



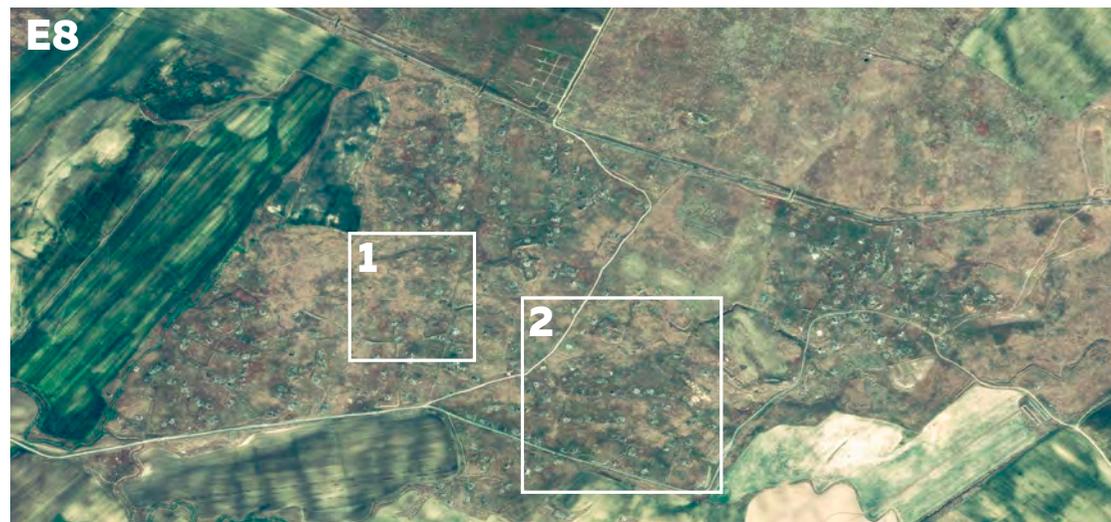
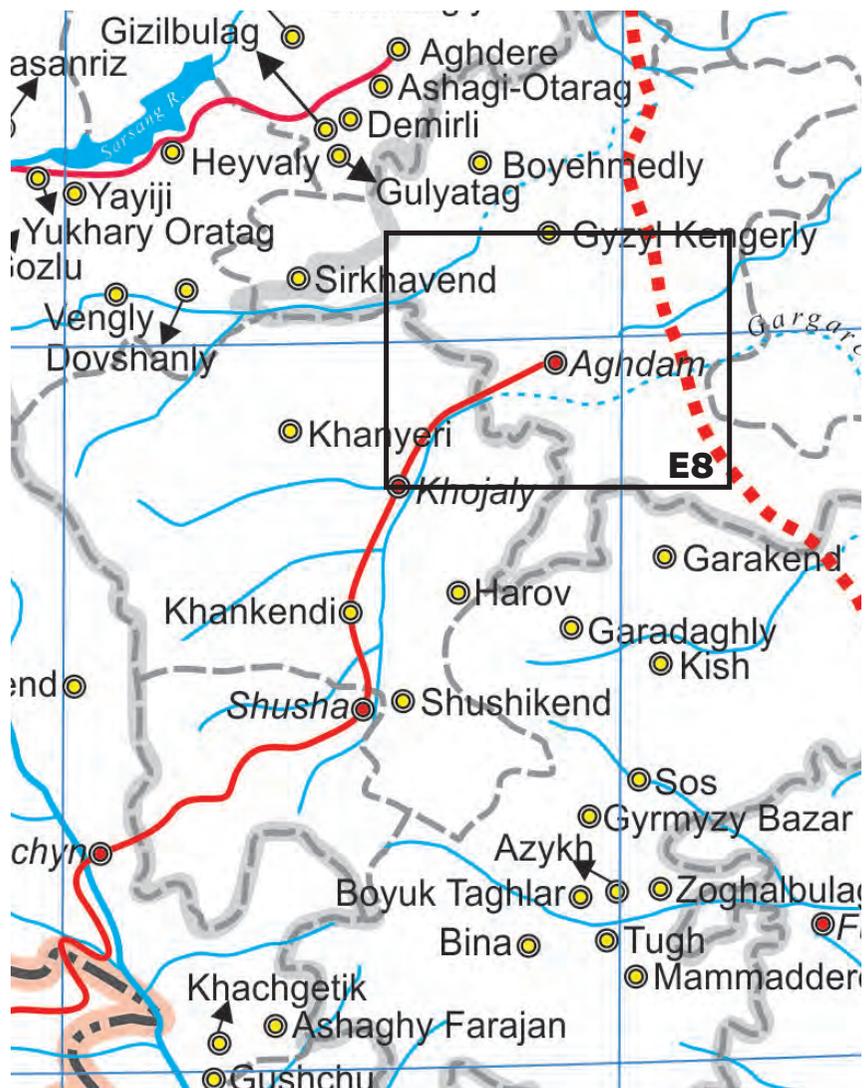
E7



(E) Destruction of public and private property, including historical and cultural heritage

8. Ruins of Ismailbayli village of the occupied Aghdam district

39° 56' 02" N, 47° 00' 19" E



10 May 2017



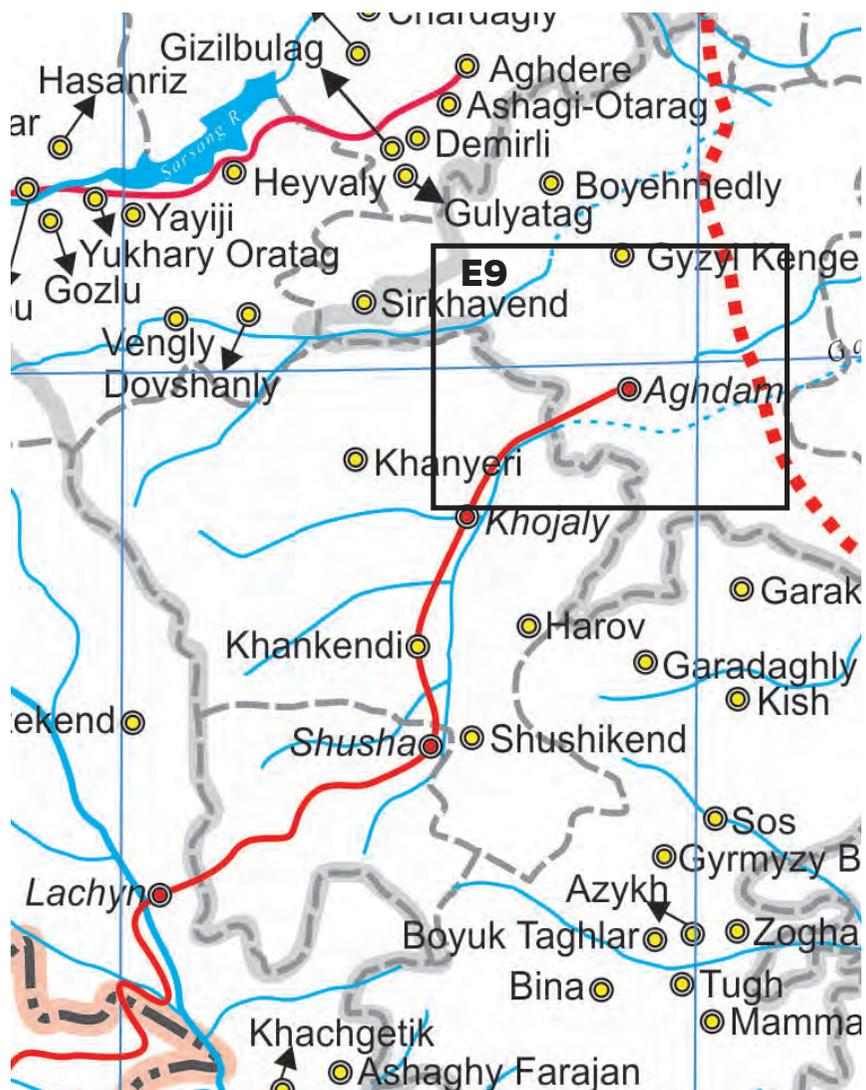
E8



(E) Destruction of public and private property, including historical and cultural heritage

9. Wanton destruction of the town of Aghdam in the occupied Aghdam district

39° 59' 30" N, 46° 55' 52" E



2 July 2017



(E) Destruction of public and private property, including historical and cultural heritage

10. Destroyed Juma Mosque in the town of Aghdam in the occupied Aghdam district

39° 59' 35.91" N, 46° 55' 53.88" E



2 July 2017



(F) Environmental damage

The illegal activities in the occupied territories raise serious environmental concerns. Forests in the occupied territories are subject to cutting for timber, which is trafficked out of the occupied territories for furniture, barrel and rifle production in Armenia and abroad. Many species of trees are on the verge of disappearance.¹⁶

Depredatory exploitation and depletion of the natural resources severely damage the environment. Thousands of hectares of forests are cut due to exploitation of new mines. There are already millions of tons of tailings in tailing dumps across the occupied territories, as a result of extensive mining activities. Hazardous leaks from tailing dumps and ponds at the mining sites are polluting the occupied territories and destroying the fragile ecosystems there.

Relentless exploitation of farmlands in the occupied territories for many years has led to their depletion.



Millions of tons of waste in tailing dumps as a result of extensive mining activities in the occupied territories
Source: www.hetq.am | 2013

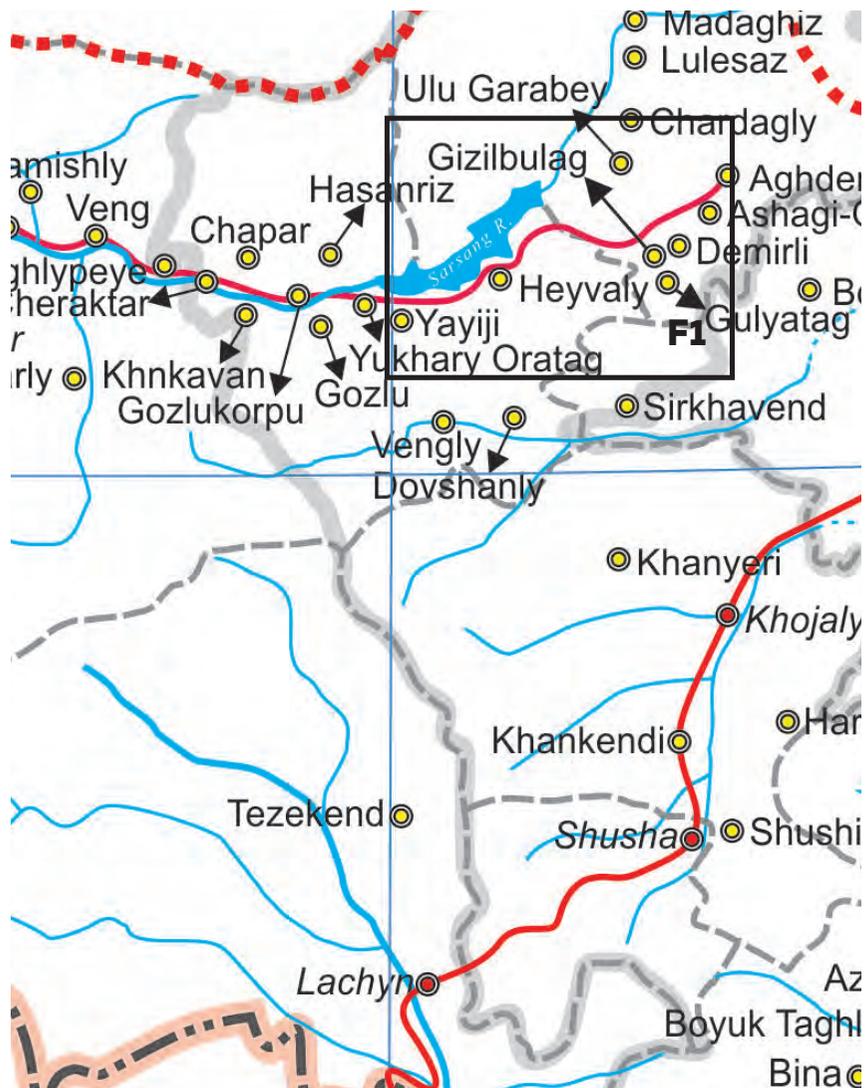


Unlawful timber cutting in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan
Source: www.hetq.am | 2012

¹⁶ See Section XV (Cutting of rare species of trees for timber and other damage to the environment) of the Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2016).

(F) Environmental damage

1. Tailing dump caused by exploitation of Gyzybulag underground copper-gold mine near Heyvaly village in the occupied Kalbajar district
46° 35' 43.645" E , 40° 8' 34.632" N



26 July 2015



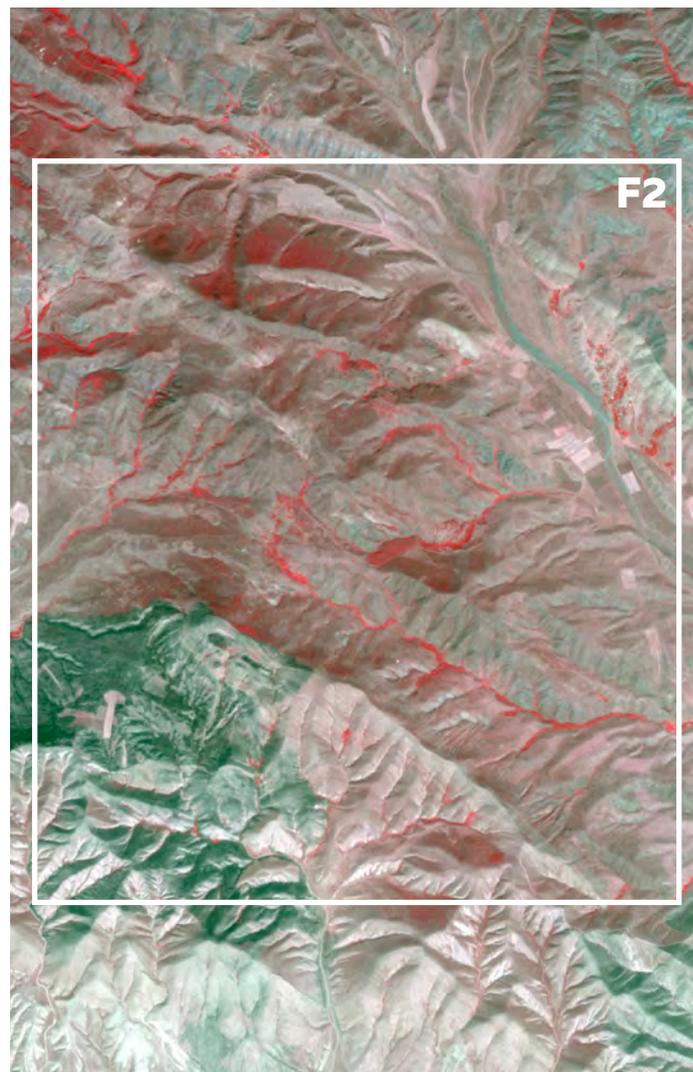
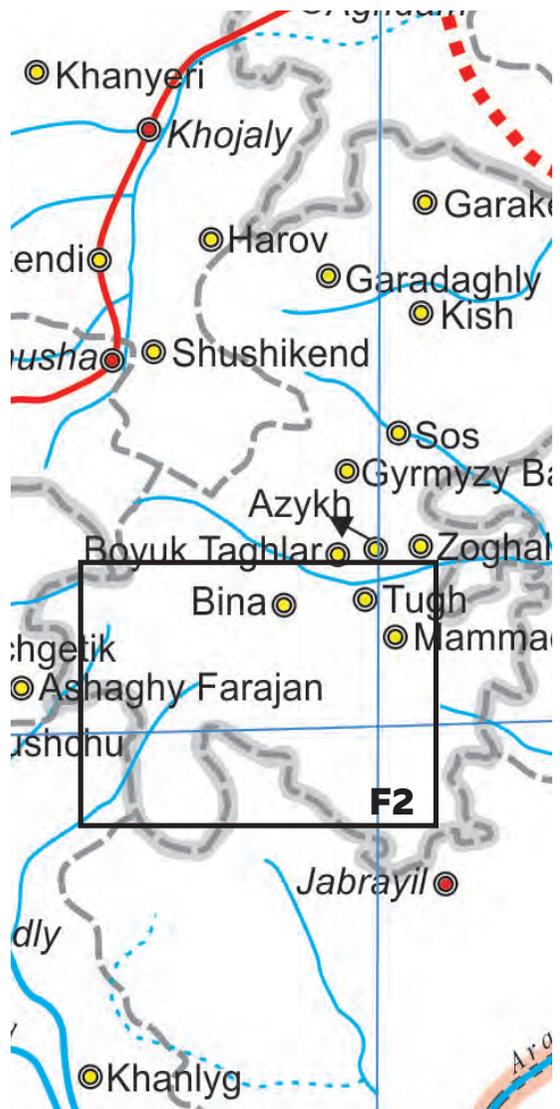
26 July 2015



2 July 2017

(F) Environmental damage

2. Burned area covering 26 km² affecting Jilan and Bunyadli villages of the occupied Khojavand district and Khalafly, Khybyarli, Kurds and Qarar villages of the occupied Jabrayil district | 39° 28' 29.04" N, 46° 47' 18.24" E

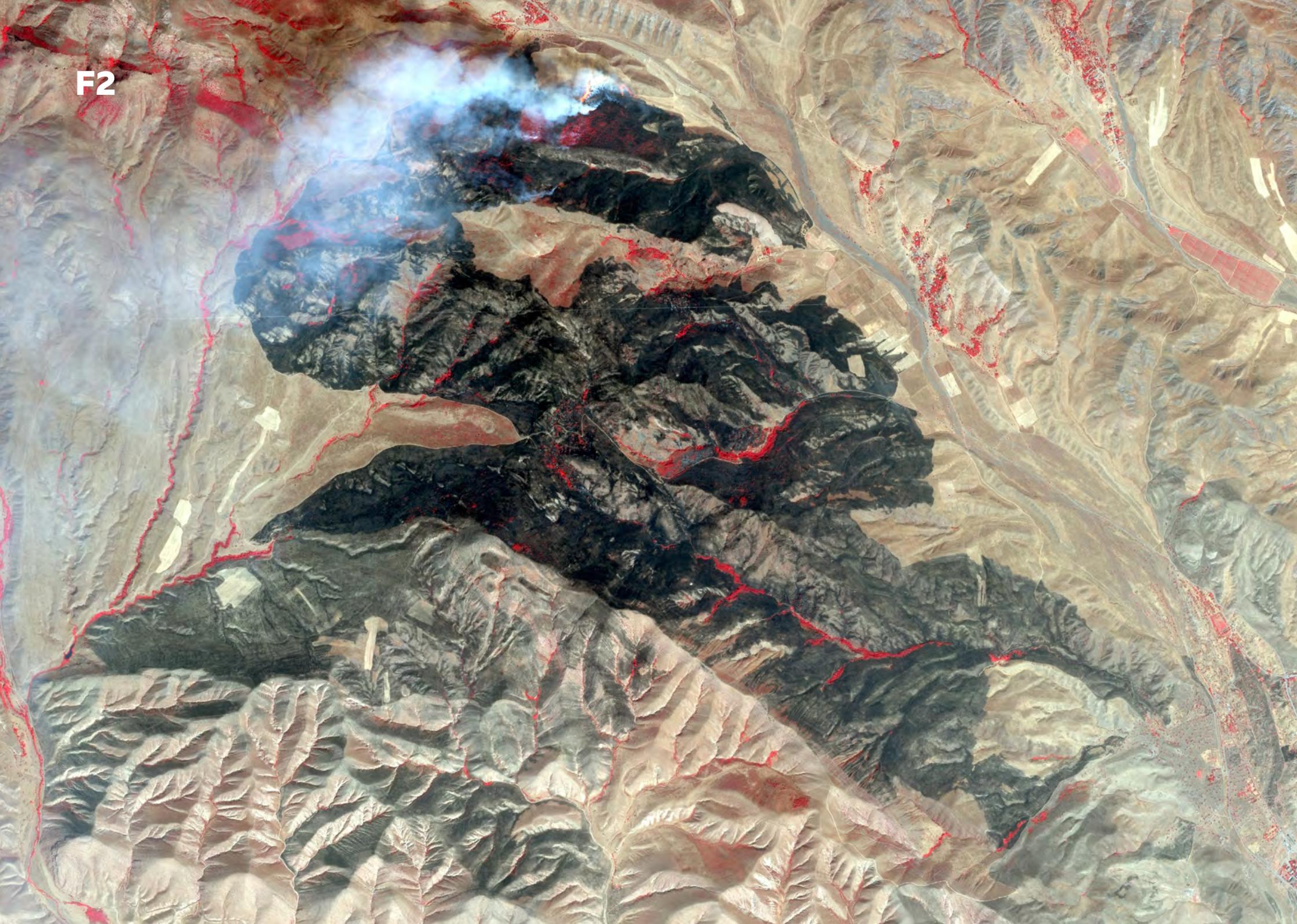


6 September 2018 (before fire)



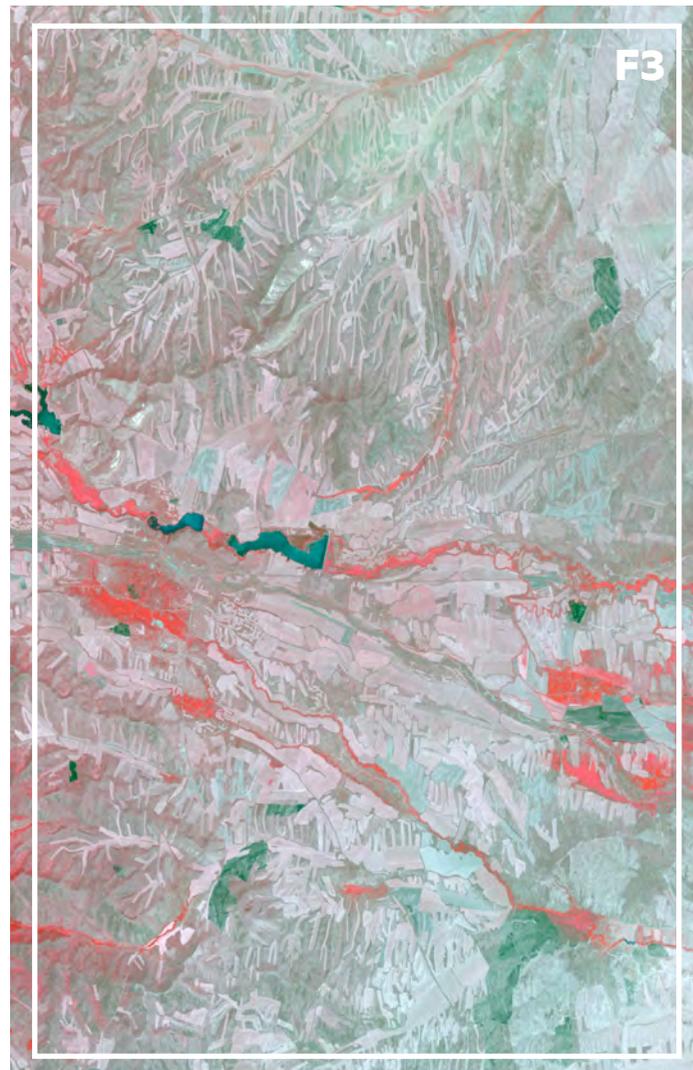
10 September 2018 (after fire)

F2

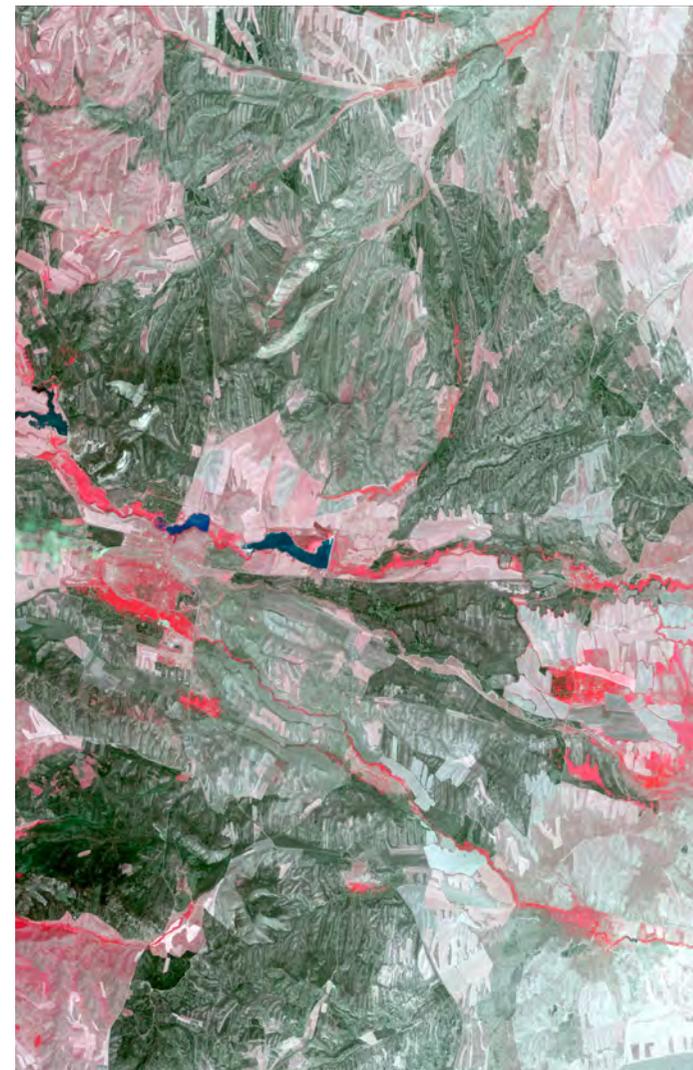


(F) Environmental damage

3. Burned area covering 347 km² and affecting 25 villages in the occupied Fuzuli district stretching 22 km from the South to the North and 17 km from the East to the West | 39° 36' 24.92" N, 47° 06' 26.71" E



13 July 2018 (before fire)



2 August 2018 (after fire)

F3



(F) Environmental damage

4. Forest cutting for construction of water canal near the Sarsang Water Reservoir in the occupied part of the Tartar district

46° 30' 30.882" E, 40° 8' 45.486" N



24 October 2016



24 October 2016



25 September 2018

F4



(F) Environmental damage

5. Expansion of tailing dump caused by exploitation of Demirli open-pit copper molybdenum mine near Demirli, Gulyatag and Janyatag villages in the occupied part of the Tartar district | 46° 46' 16.713" E, 40° 9' 2.801" N



26 July 2015



26 July 2015



2 July 2017

(F) Environmental damage

6. Deforestation caused by mining activities near Chardagly village in the occupied part of the Tartar district

46° 41' 33.965" E, 40° 14' 9.393" N



26 July 2015



2 July 2017

F6





**ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN THE TERRITORIES OF AZERBAIJAN UNDER ARMENIA'S OCCUPATION:
EVIDENCE FROM SATELLITE IMAGERY**

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