



Helsinki Citizens' Assembly -Vanadzor



Open Society Foundations - Armenia

REPORT

ON DEATH CASES IN THE ARMED FORCES DURING 2013

Vanadzor

2014

Pursuant to the findings of the monitoring conducted by HCA Vanadzor, 30 incidents were recorded in the RA Armed Forces in 2013 which led to the death of 31 servicemen. In only 14 incidents the RA and NKR Ministry of Defense served as the primary source for information dissemination, in the meantime, an official release was disseminated in 24 out of 31 death cases. If we compare this rate with previous years, then the death cases in 2013 have substantially dropped, however, the incidents as a result of which the death cases occurred have not changed.

For instance, during the year of 2010 31 incidents were recorded, as a result of which 44 servicemen died/according to official data 54 servicemen/. In 2013 30 incidents were recorded which entailed the death of 31 servicemen (See Table 1).

Table1. The number of death cases in the RA Armed Forces during 2010-2013 and the causes of death

Year	Violation of Cease-fire regime	Safety rules	Suicide	Violation of gun handling rules	Murder			Accidents	Health Problems	Unknown conditions	Negligent attitude towards service	Incident number	Total	Official Data
					Statutory relations	Willful / negligent murder	Breach of combat service rules							
2010	9	3	1	0	24	0	0	2	5	0	0	31	44	54
2011	11	3	9	0	5	1	0	6	2	1	1	36	39	36
2012	12	1	12	0	3	1	0	15	6	0	0	41	50	36
2013	5	0	8	3	2	1	1	7	4	0	0	30	31	-

5 out of the 31 death cases that occurred during 2013 were due to violation of ceasefire regime, 8 were triggered by suicide or causing someone to commit a suicide, 7 cases were caused by accidents, 4 were caused by health-related issues or provision of improper medical care, 4 were triggered by murder, 1 out of which due to willful murder, 1 was caused by breach of combat service rules, 2 due to violation of statutory relations, and 3 cases as a result of breach of gun handling rules (See Table 2).

In conformity with official statistics, criminal cases have been lodged in relation to 26 incidents. 1 out of the criminal cases was sent to another body in a procedure of subordination, while the filing of the criminal case was declined on 3 death cases.

4 proceedings of lodged criminal cases were later terminated, 2 proceedings were suspended, 2 cases were sent to the court, 4 criminal cases are undergoing court trial stage, 1 criminal case was sent to another body in a procedure of subordination, 13 out of the initiated criminal cases are still undergoing a preliminary investigation stage.

Moreover, regarding one of the aforementioned incidents, according to official information, no investigation was conducted at any division of the RA MoD Investigation Service due to absence of such an incident. In case, pursuant to the release disseminated by one of the mass media outlets, RA MoD Investigation Service PR senior officer Meri Sargsyan informed in a talk with NEWS.am that a criminal case had been lodged on the incident under Part 2, Article 376 of the RA Criminal Code.¹

8 out of the criminal cases were filed under Part 1, Article 110 of the Criminal Code on causing somebody to commit suicide or make an attempt at a suicide by indirect willfulness or by negligence, by means of threat, cruel treatment or regular humiliation of one's dignity, 2 were lodged under Part 2, Article 376 of RA Criminal Code on careless attitude to service by an official, which negligently led to grave consequences, 1 criminal case was filed under Part 3, Article 242 of the RA Criminal Code on breach of traffic rules and operation of means of transportation by the driver of a car or other mechanical means of transportation, which negligently caused the death of 2 or more persons, 2 were initiated with the features of Part 1, Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder by illegally willfully and depriving another person of life.²

¹ <http://m.news.am/arm/news/154153.html>

² On 26.01.2013 in the combat post Junior Sergeant Yuri Hrayri Gareginyan opened a fire from a machine-gun ascribed to him in the direction of his fellow serviceman, Junior Sergeant Artak Grigori Galstyan and killed him.

2 criminal cases /death cases resulting from breach of cease-fire regime/ under Paragraph 13 of Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder out of the motives of national, racial or religious hate or fanaticism, 1 criminal case /death case resulting from breach of cease-fire regime/ under Paragraph 13 of Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder out of the motives of national, racial or religious hate or fanaticism and Paragraphs 1, 13, Part 2 of Articles 34-104, 1 criminal case was filed under Paragraph 6, Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code and Part 1 of Article 112 murder in a manner dangerous for the lives of many people, 3 criminal cases were initiated under Paragraphs 6, 13, Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code, 3 criminal cases under Part 3, Article 373 of the RA Criminal Code on breach of rules for handling weapons, ammunition and radioactive materials, explosives and other items and devices dangerous for the environment which negligently caused human death, 1 criminal case was filed with the features of Part 3, Article 365 of the RA Criminal Code on violation of combat duty or combat service rules, which caused grave damage, 2 criminal cases with the features of Part 2 of Article 377 of the RA Criminal Code on breach of rules for driving or operating combat vehicles. On one of the criminal cases, the article of the criminal case is mentioned neither in the press, nor in official sources (according to official data, «the criminal case on the fact of Tovmas Arakelyan's death was sent to another body in a procedure of subordination»), (See table 2).

22 death cases occurred in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, whereas, 9 of them took place in the NKR (See Diagrams and Table 3). The summary, description, and statistics of death cases for January-December, 2013 are presented below.

On 27.01.2013 a criminal case was lodged over the fact under Part 1, Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code. Through the preliminary investigation was revealed and justified that being designated as an observer in the combat post, Yuri Gareginyan opened a fire in the direction of A. Galstyan from a machine gun ascribed to him as a result of performing the observer's duties in a prescribed order.
On 25.06.2013 the proceedings of the criminal case was terminated under Paragraph 2, Part 1, Article 35 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code.

Causes/consequences of death cases in 2013 by months

Table 2.

Month	Breach of ceasefire regime	Violation of gun handling rules	Suicide	Murder			Accidents	Health Problems	Number of incidents	Total	Existence of official releases regarding incidents
				Willful	with breach of statutory relations	with breach of combat service duties					
January			1	1*			1	2	5	5	5
February	2		1						3	3	3
March		1							1	1	1
April			1						1	1	1
May					1		2		3	3	2
June					1		1		2	2	1
July		1	3					1	5	5	4
August	1								1	1	1
September						1	2**	1	3	4	1
October	1	1	1				1		4	4	4
November									0	0	0
December	1		1						2	2	1
Total	5	3	8	1	2	1	7	4	30	31	24

* A criminal case under Part 1, Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code was filed on the fact on 27.01.2013

Through the preliminary investigation it was revealed and justified that being assigned as an observer in the combat post and as a result of performing the duties of an observer in a defined order Junior Sergeant Yu. Gareginyan opened a fire from a machine-gun ascribed to him in the direction of A. Galstyan.

On 25.06.2013 the proceedings of the criminal case filed under Paragraph 2, Part 1, Article 35 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code.

** On September 8, 2013 2 term soldiers Gevorg Hovhannisyan and Ruben Baghyan died in a car crash in Gegharkunik marz.

Chart 1. Causes of Incidents

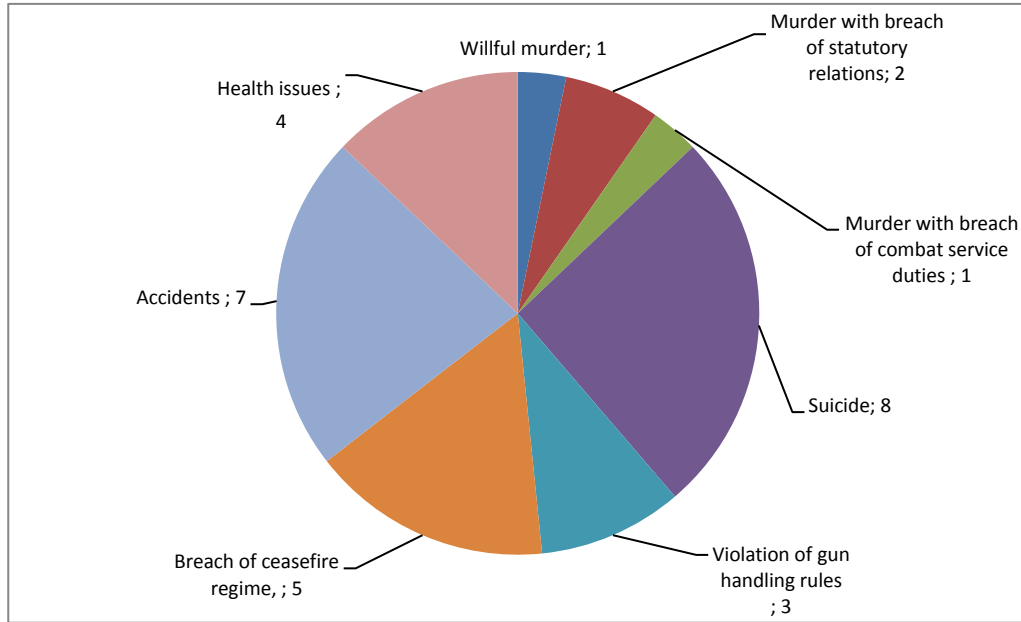
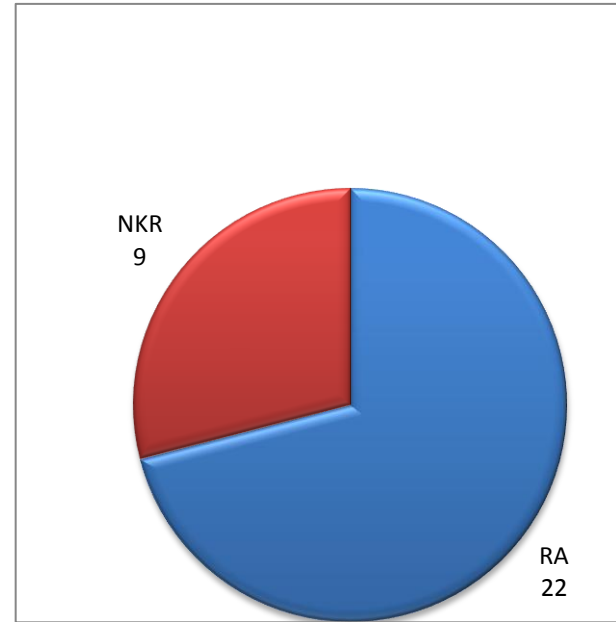


Chart 2. Incident Area



Detailed information regarding deceased servicemen

Table 3.

	Name, Surname	Incident date	Area of the Incident	Venue of the Case (city, village)	Military Unit	Primary Source of information dissemination	Agency filing the criminal case	Official standing of the Criminal Case	Death cause	The stage of the Case
1	Artur Gevorgyan	16.01.2013	RA	Vayots Dzor, on the way to Arpi village		Non- Official	RA Investigation Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 2 of Article 377 of the RA Criminal Code on breach of rules for driving or operating vehicles	Accident/ breach of rules for driving or operating vehicles	Proceedings of the criminal case was terminated
2	Armenak Mkrtchyan	17.01.2013	RA	Yerevan CCMH		Official	RA Investigation Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 2 of Article 376 of the RA Criminal Code on "Careless attitude to service which negligently caused grave consequences"	Health condition (arguably acute myocardial infarction , arguably thrombosis of the pulmonary artery stem acute cardiopulmonary failure)	Proceedings of the criminal case was terminated
3	Artyom Hakobyan	18.01.2013	RA	Yerevan CCMH		Official	RA Investigation Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 2 of Article 376 of the RA Criminal Code on "Careless attitude to service which negligently caused grave consequences"	Health condition (Hemorrhagic stroke, spontaneous subarachnoid hemorrhage in the midbrain, brain swelling with secondary syndrome of cerebrum(second-impact syndrome), a	Proceedings of the criminal case was terminated

									post-chickenpox condition)	
4	Artak Galstyan	26.01.2013	RA			Non- Official	RA Investigation Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 1 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder, illegal willful deprivation of one's life	Murder	Proceedings of the criminal case was terminated
5	Vardan Avagyan	30.01.2013	RA		N 49971	Non- Official	RA Investigation Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 1 of Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code on causing somebody to commit suicide or make an attempt of a suicide through indirect willfulness or negligence, by means of threat, cruel treatment or regular humiliation of one's dignity	Suicide	Preliminary investigation
6	Mher Yeghshatyan	09.02.2013	RA	Movses village Tavoush marz	N military unit, military post	Official		Paragraph 13 of Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder out of the motives of national, racial or religious hate or fanaticism	Violation of ceasefire regime /preliminary data/	Proceedings of the criminal case was terminated

7	Gor Ghazaryan	19.02.2013	NKR	Posts located to the North-East of contact line		Official	RA Investigation Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Paragraph 13 of Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder out of the motives of national, racial or religious hate or fanaticism	Violation of ceasefire regime	Proceedings of the criminal case was terminated
8	Karen Hakobyan	21.02.2013	NKR	Unification military unit located to the North		Official	RA Investigation Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 1 of Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code on causing somebody to commit suicide or make an attempt of a suicide through indirect willfulness or negligence, by means of threat, cruel treatment or regular humiliation of one's dignity	Suicide / Statutory relations/	Preliminary investigation
9	Volodya Avagyan	20.03.2013	NKR	Unification military unit located to the North		Official	RA Investigation Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 3, Article 373 of the RA Criminal Code on breach of rules for handling weapons, ammunition and radioactive materials, explosives and other items and devices dangerous for the environment which negligently caused human death	Breach of gun handling rules	Court trial

10	Raffi Marashlyan	19.04.2013	NKR	Military post located to the North-East sector of NKR Defense Army	"Internat" military unit	Official	RA Investigation Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 1 of Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code on causing somebody to commit suicide or make an attempt of a suicide through indirect willfulness or negligence, by means of threat, cruel treatment or regular humiliation of one's dignity	Suicide / Statutory relations/	Court trial
11	Tovmas Arakelyan	02.05.2013	RA	Yeghegnavan village, Ararat marz		Non- Official			Accident/car crash	The criminal case was sent to another body in a procedure of subordination
12	Lyuks Stepanyan	15.05.2013	RA	Noyemberyan, Tavoush marz		Non- Official	6 th Garrison Investigation Department of the RA MoD Investigative Service	Paragraph 6, Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder in a manner endangering the lives of many people	Murder / Statutory relations: soldier to soldier dispute	Court trial
13	Armen Ghudabashyan	17.05.2013	RA			Non- Official	RA Investigation Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 2 of Article 376 of the RA Criminal Code on "Careless attitude to service which negligently caused grave consequences"	Accident / electrocution	Preliminary investigation

14	Sipan Movsisyan	01.06.2013	RA	Yerevan	Vazgen Sargsyan Military Academy	Official	Investigative Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 1 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder, illegal willful deprivation of one's life	Statutory relations : soldier - soldier dispute	Court trial
15	Aleksandr Atavin	02.06.2013	RA	Gyumri, Shirak marz	Division of RF Armed Forces in the RA	Non- Official			Accident/car crash	Filing of the criminal case was declined
16	Gabriel Lalazaryan	05.07.2013	RA		Military Police	Official	Investigative Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 1 of Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code on causing somebody to commit suicide or make an attempt of a suicide through indirect willfulness or negligence, by means of threat, cruel treatment or regular humiliation of one's dignity	Suicide	Preliminary investigation
17	Narek Hovsepyan	22.07.2013	NKR	NKR, Haykazov village	«Haykazov» military base	Official	Investigative Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 3, Article 373 of the RA Criminal Code on breach of rules for handling weapons, ammunition and radioactive materials, explosives and other items and devices dangerous for the environment which negligently caused human death	Breach of gun handling rules	Case was sent to the court

18	Tadevos Ughoyan/ Ughuryan	22.07.2013	NKR	Stepanakert Hospital		Non- Official			Health-related / acute myocardial infarction /	Filing of the criminal case was declined
19	Arman Muradyan	30.07.2013	NKR	Combat post of Preservation area of one of the military units located to the North-East sector of NKR Defense Army		Official	Investigative Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 1 of Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code on causing somebody to commit suicide or make an attempt of a suicide through indirect willfulness or negligence, by means of threat, cruel treatment or regular humiliation of one's dignity	Suicide / Statutory relations/	Preliminary investigation
20	Manuchar Manucharyan	31.07.2013	RA	Yerevan	Special Appointment Squad	Official	Investigative Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 1 of Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code on causing somebody to commit suicide or make an attempt of a suicide through indirect willfulness or negligence, by means of threat, cruel treatment or regular humiliation of one's dignity	Suicide / Statutory relations/	Preliminary investigation

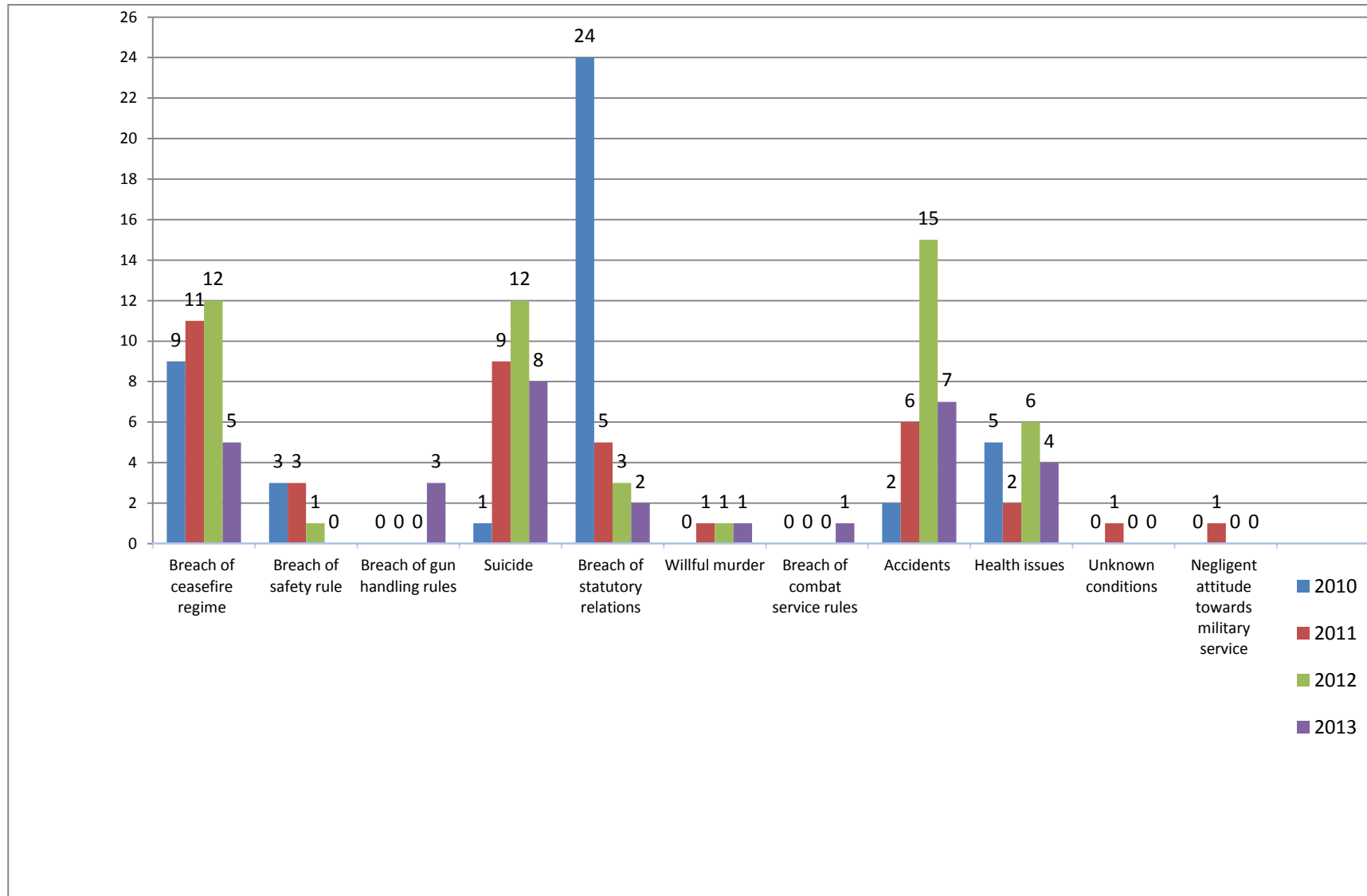
21	Norayr Petrosyan	23.08.2013	RA	Syunik marz	Agarak military unit combat position	Official	Investigative Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Paragraphs 6, 13 of Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder in a manner dangerous for the lives of many people, out of the motives of national, racial or religious hate or fanaticism	Breach of ceasefire regime	Preliminary investigation
22	Alik Janvelyan	03.09.2013	RA	Tavoush marz		Non- Official			Health-related	Filing of the criminal case was declined
23	Gevorg Hovhannisyan	08.09.2013	RA	Gegharkunik marz, Lchap village crossroads		Non- Official	Gegharkunik region investigation division of the RA Police General investigation department	Part 3, Article 242 of the RA Criminal Code on breach of traffic rules and operation of means of transportation by the driver of a car or other mechanical means of transportation, which negligently caused the death of 2 or more persons	Accident/car crash	Case was sent to the court
24	Ruben Baghyan	08.09.2013	RA	Gegharkunik marz, Lchap village crossroads		Non- Official	Gegharkunik region investigation division of the RA Police General investigation department	Part 3, Article 242 of the RA Criminal Code on breach of traffic rules and operation of means of transportation by the driver of a car or other mechanical means of transportation, which negligently caused the death of 2 or more persons	Accident/car crash	Case was sent to the court

25	Khachatur Khachatryan	15.09.2013	NKR	Preservation area military post of one of military units located to the South-East of NKR Defense Army		Official	Investigative Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 3, Article 365 of the RA Criminal Code on violation of combat duty or combat service rules, which caused grave consequences	Violation of combat service rules	Preliminary investigation
26	Zhak Galstyan	11.10.2013	NKR	Preservation area of one of military units located to the East of NKR Defense Army		Official		Part 2 of Article 377 of the RA Criminal Code on breach of rules for driving or operating combat vehicles	Accident/car crash	Preliminary investigation
27	Gevorg Mnatsakanyan	16.10.2013	RA	Control area of the military unit located to the North-Eastern border of the RA		Official	Investigative Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 3, Article 373 of the RA Criminal Code on breach of rules for handling weapons, ammunition and radioactive materials, explosives and other items and devices dangerous for the environment which negligently caused human death	Breach of safety rules	Preliminary investigation
28	Ruben Davtyan	18.10.2013	RA	Proving ground of one of Hoktemberyan military units of the RA MoD		Official	Investigative Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 1 of Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code on causing somebody to commit suicide or make an attempt of a suicide through indirect willfulness or negligence, by means of threat, cruel treatment or regular humiliation of one's dignity	Suicide	Preliminary investigation

29	Garik Poghosyan	22.10.2013	RA	Paravakar section of Berb-ljevan road		Non- Official	Investigative Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Paragraph 13 of Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder out of the motives of national, racial or religious hate or fanaticism and Paragraphs 1, 13, Part 2 of Articles 34-104 murder attempt against two or more people out of the motives of national, racial or religious hate or fanaticism.	Breach of ceasefire regime	Preliminary investigation
30	Vanichka Hovakimyan	10.12.2013	RA	Vayots Dzor marz, city Vayk	Khachik military unit	Official	Investigative Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Part 1 of Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code on causing somebody to commit suicide or make an attempt of a suicide through indirect willfulness or negligence, by means of threat, cruel treatment or regular humiliation of one's dignity	Suicide	Preliminary investigation
31	Hrant Poghosyan	15.12.2013	RA	Tavoush marz, Berd area, (v. Movses)	Berd area, Movses defense posts	Non- Official	Investigative Service of the RA Ministry of Defense	Paragraphs 6, 13, Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder in a manner endangering the lives of many people out of the motives of national, racial or religious hate or fanaticism	Breach of ceasefire regime	Preliminary investigation

Statistics of death causes in the RA Armed Forces during 2010-2013

Chart. 3



DESCRIPTION OF DEATH CASES OF SERVICEMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES IN 2013

A. Due to violation of Ceasefire Regime

1. Gor Ghazaryan

On February 19, 2013 as a result of shooting initiated by the conflicting party, term soldier Gor Arturi Ghazaryan (born in 1992) ³ got deadly injured in one of the military units located to the North-East of contact line of conflicting troops. Gor had been conscripted to the Army from Tavoush marz.

A criminal case was lodged under Paragraph 13, Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder out of the motives of national, racial or religious hate or fanaticism on the death of Gor Ghazaryan.

According to Ararat Gabrielyan, headman of Berdavan village, 19-year old serviceman Gor Ghazaryan returned from Russian Federation to Armenia to perform his military duty before his motherland. "His parents were informed about the incident there and they came upon getting the news. We weren't the ones who broke the news to them. We were shocked, the child returned to the motherland for military service and such a thing happened. Very few people go for such a move. Gor was the family's only son", stated the village head.

According to the RA Military Prosecutor's office, on June 18, 2013 the proceedings of the criminal case were terminated under Paragraph 5, Part 1 of Article 31 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code (insurmountable circumstances [force majeure] arise to temporarily block any further proceedings).

2. Mher Volodyayi Yeghshatyan

According to the preliminary data, at about 09:05am, on February 5, 2013, contract soldier, private Mher Volodyayi Yeghshatyan (born in 1976) got a deadly gunshot injury in the abdominal area as a result of shooting by the opposite party while carrying out military duty in the defense post of Movses village of Tavoush region located to the North-East of Armenian-Azerbaijani border sector. Mher Volodyayi Yeghshatyan had been drafted to the Army from Berd Military Commissariat.⁴

³ http://haynews.am/hy/1361354885?fb_comment_id=fb_c485953351461865_4707398_485953928128474#f15955a8f
<http://pressing.am/?p=1358&l=am>
<http://news.am/arm/news/142289.html>

⁴ http://www.lin.am/arm/armenia_society_158017.html
<http://www.aravot.am/2013/02/10/165467/>

According to the RA Military Prosecutor's office, on 09.02.2013 a criminal case under Paragraph 13, Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code was filed on the death fact of contract soldier, Junior Sergeant Mher Volodyayi Yeghshatyan. It was justified through the preliminary investigation that M. Yeghshatyan had been killed as a result of bullet fired by the opposite party.

On 09.08.2013 a decision to terminate the proceedings on the criminal case was made under Paragraph 5, Part 1 of Article 31 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code (insurmountable circumstances [force majeure] arise to temporarily block any further proceedings).

3. Norayr Ararati Petrosyan

Between the period of 11:00-11:30 am on August 23, 2013 Privates Norayr Ararati Petrosyan and Artur Garniki Asoyan, term soldiers of the same military unit were detected with gunshot bodily injuries in one of the combat bases of the RA MoD N military unit.

The latter were moved to Agarak medical center, where Norayr Ararati Petrosyan/born 1993/ died as a result of received bodily injuries.⁵

According to Kajaran residents, Norayr was an active, initiation-taking, educated, well-brought up person, he always gave a helping hand to those who turned to him, he was loved and welcomed by Kajaran city youth and elderly.

A criminal case was initiated in relation to the fact at the RA MoD Investigation Service under Paragraphs 13, 6, Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code (murder in a manner dangerous for the lives of many people, out of the motives of national, racial or religious hate or fanaticism). According to the data of the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, currently the case is undergoing the preliminary investigation stage.

4. Garik Poghosyan

Between the period of 13:00-14:00 pm, on October 22, 2013 the conflicting party opened a fire at cars processing along Paravakar section of Berd-ljevan road in Tavoush marz. Persons in both civilian and military cars suffered from the opened burst of fire. As a result of shootings fired at the column of military cars transporting

⁵ <http://www.mil.am/1377258446>
<http://www.aravot.am/2013/08/24/279527/>

servicemen for military duty, term soldier, Private Garik Artaki Poghosyan died (Vanadzor's military commissariat, first call-up of 2012, born in 1994).⁶ A criminal case under Paragraph 13, Part 2 of Article 104 and Paragraphs 1, 13, Part 2 of Articles 34-104 of the RA Criminal Code was filed in relation to the fact on 22.10.2013. Preliminary investigation is underway.

5. Hrant Poghosyan

At around 19:30 pm on December 15, 2013 Hrant Poghosyan died from fire opened by an Azerbaijani sniper in Movses defense positions of Berd area. He was a contractual serviceman and Berd city resident.⁷

In a talk with Epress.am RA MoD press secretary Artsrun Hovhannisyan clarified that Poghosyan had died from a bullet fired by the conflicting side, according Hovhannisyan there are no other victims.⁸

In relation to the case a criminal case was initiated under Paragraphs 6, 13, Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder in a manner endangering the lives of many people out of the motives of national, racial or religious hate or fanaticism.⁹ The case is undergoing preliminary investigation stage.

It should be noted that a criminal case was filed only on 3 out of 5 cases on breach of ceasefire regime. On the 2 cases, the proceedings of the case was terminated under Paragraph 5, Part 1 of Article 31 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code (insurmountable circumstances [force majeure] arise to temporarily block any further proceedings).

B. Suicide/ driving to commit suicide

1. Karen Hakobyan

At around 09:30am, on February 21, 2013 an accident occurred in one of the unification military units located to the North, which entailed the death of term soldier Karen Artsvi Hakobyan (born in 1994).¹⁰

⁶ <http://newsbook.am/archives/15040>

⁷ <http://www.slaq.am/arm/news/169483/>

⁸ <http://www.epress.am/2013/12/16/hայ-աղքեղանական-սահմանին-գինձառայոյն.html>

⁹ <http://www.armtimes.com/46712>

¹⁰ <http://operativ.am/?p=8298>

<http://www.mamul.am/am/news/32370/%D5%A6%D5%AB%D5%B6%D5%BE%D5%B8%D6%80-%D5%A7-%D5%B4%D5%A1%D5%B0%D5%A1%D6%81%D5%A5%D5%AC#.USZt7hug5ek.facebook>
<http://www.ilur.am/news/view/9712.html>

A criminal case under Part 1 of Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code on causing somebody to commit suicide or make an attempt at a suicide through indirect willfulness or negligence, by means of threat, cruel treatment or regular humiliation of one's dignity on the death of 19-year old term soldier Karen Artsvi Hakobyan. 19-year old term soldier Karen Hakobyan was a resident of Hrazdan city.

According to the RA Military Prosecutor's office, on 25.06.2013 Warrant officer Eduard Armiki Davtyan was charged with Part 2, Article 358.1 of the RA Criminal Code and own recognizance was selected as a measure of restraint, charges under Part 2, Article 360 of the RA Criminal Code were brought against Lieutenant Sevak Samveli Tovmasyan and own recognizance was selected as a measure of restraint. Lance Corporal Varazdat Gneli Kasemyan was charged with Part 1, article 359 of the RA Criminal Code and own recognizance was selected as a measure of restraint. The preliminary investigation on the criminal case is underway.

2. Vardan Alberti Avagyan

According to the preliminary data, term soldier, Private Vardan Alberti Avagyan /born in 1990/ from N military unit communications company of the RA Ministry of Defense inflicted a self-induced deadly gunshot injury in the arsenal of the same military unit at around 22:20 pm on January 31, 2013. Vardan Avagyan had been drafted from Nor Nork Military Commissariat in 2012.¹¹

A criminal case under Part 1, Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code on driving to suicide was initiated on the death fact in the Investigative Service of the RA Ministry of Defense. By the description of the family members, Vardan was a reserved and balanced guy, he was never seen in depression or displaying unusual behavior. He was always able to tackle his problems and deal with situations without any misfortunes. His sisters-in-law claimed they didn't believe in the suicide hypothesis. But they couldn't think of other versions.

“Everything is so obscure, a few days ago he called very happily and excitedly informing he would definitely be making his way home on the 7th, we got very happy and were looking forward to seeing him. Everything went so well, who would think

¹¹ http://www.galatv.am/news/view/item_45214.html
<http://operativ.am/?p=6135>
<http://www.mil.am/1359972027>

something like this could have happened? He proudly informed he had been awarded with a certificate of appreciation, everything was great, no mood swings, nothing at all ...” told his relatives. The version of love triggered depression was also excluded since he didn’t have a girlfriend.

Regarding his health state it was noted that he had months before undergone a surgery of hernia. "Vardan served in the communications company, he felt great, never complained, we didn’t understand what happened, he spoke to us only several hours before, there was no sign of depression.”

“Go and inquire from the responsible, let them reveal how it happened that a joyful healthy man could have put an end to his life”, another relative intervened in the conversation bursting into tears.

And now if we write that a setting of permissiveness is ruling in our army and sending to the army equals to sending to a battlefield, we’ll be blamed in dishonoring the army by “pouring water into the enemy’s mill”. We claim that those who tolerate this situation are the actual enemies irrespective of what position they hold, what patriotic speeches they make in comfortable offices”, reports the newspaper.¹² The preliminary investigation on the criminal case is underway.

3. Raffi Levoni Marashlyan

*At about 11.40 am, on April 19, 2013, 19-year-old Raffi Levoni Marashlyan (born in 1994) got a deadly gunshot injury in the combat post of protection area of one of the military units located to the North-East of NKR Defense Army.*¹³

A criminal case under Part 1 of Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code (driving to commit suicide) was initiated on the incident.

In compliance with the data provided by “The Army in Reality” initiative, the incident occurred in the famous “Internat” military unit of Martakert, NKR. They family was informed of the incident as being a suicide. Raffi had been conscripted from Qanaqer-Zeytun military commissariat of Yerevan.¹⁴

¹² http://henaran.am/news_view.php?post_id=17039

¹³ <http://www.tert.am/am/news/2013/04/20/soldier-killed/>

<http://news.am/arm/news/149819.html>

¹⁴ <http://news.am/arm/news/149819.html>

Ruben Martirosyan, who participated in the autopsy of the body, noted in a talk with reporters that the gunshot was fired in the area of the throat. Only one bullet had been fired. According to him, there were no signs of violence on the body.¹⁵

The neighbors of Raffi Marashlyan have told the following, “They were two brothers, his brother is a postgraduate student, he entered the department of Applied Mathematics, 1 year later he went to the Army in order to continue his studies upon return. He came home on leave only a few weeks ago and told the neighbors he had no complaints regarding his service, they would go up to the posts with friends and return.”

“He was very modest and a smart boy, he had never raised his voice at anyone, we never heard his voice loud, we are shocked, he grew up before our eyes, Raffo was a smart boy attending our school in Zeytun”, revealed one of the neighbors adding that such a boy couldn’t have ended his life. They told us the whole Zeytun district was shocked.

“You raise the child to that age and send to the Army, so that they give you his dead body”, stated one of the neighbors adding that was the actual Armenian army.¹⁶

Pursuant to the information provided verbally by the Commander of the military unit, that day a shift in the border section was underway and the servicemen of one battalion were replacing those of another and for that purpose the military bus approached the military post.

According to the Commander, the servicemen having fulfilled their duty were one by one moving to the bus with a distance of 40 meters from each other. The shooting sound was heard right then, the servicemen approached running and saw Raffi, who had committed a suicide.¹⁷

According to official data, a criminal case on the incident was filed under Part 1 of Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code on causing to commit a suicide, but during the preliminary investigation company commander Captain Z. Nazaryan was charged with Part 1 of Article 375 of the RA Criminal Code on abuse of power, transgression of authority or administrative dereliction, if these acts were committed for mercenary or group-interest motives, by a commander or official. Detention was selected as a measure of restraint.

¹⁵ http://www.galatv.am/news/view/item_695584.html
<http://168.am/2013/04/22/213620.html>

¹⁶ <http://Iragir.am/index.php/arm/0/right/view/81867>

¹⁷ <http://www.epress.am/2013/04/25/«Հրահրման անսարք-սուտ-հեթադէ-է-պատմել»-փո.html>

On April 29, 2013 Captain Z. Nazaryan was detained with a term of two months.¹⁸ While the military unit Commander Smbat Grigoryan's position was lowered as a punishment.¹⁹

On 14.10.2013 the criminal case was sent to the court with accusatory verdict. The court trial on the criminal case is underway.

4. Gabriel Abriki Lalazaryan

*At around 22:10 pm on July 5, 2013 the body of term soldier, Private Gabriel Abriki Lalazaryan/born in 1994/ was detected hanging with a sheet from the cell phone antenna tower located in the area of the RA MoD N military unit.*²⁰

A criminal case was filed in the RA MoD Investigation Service under Part 1, Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code on causing to commit a suicide and preliminary investigation is underway.

Gabriel had been recruited to the army from Sisian military commissariat in autumn call-up of 2012. According to the soldier's relatives, his parents reside in Moscow. Gabriel served in Armavir military unit from where he was assigned to the military police. According to certain sources, Gabriel suffered from mental health problems. During his military service in Armavir he once made a suicide attempt by cutting his veins with a razor. After that incident, he underwent relevant treatment in the military hospital and Kanaz mental hospital and returned to service.²¹

In a talk with NEWS.am Gabriel's uncle Arayik expressed an opinion that although a criminal case had been lodged under the article on suicide on the death fact, but the other side of the issue should also be studied.

According to Gabriel's cousin, the reasons of his inpatient treatment in Kanaz mental hospital before his death were out of their comprehension. A separate investigation is underway on that fact. He assured that prior to the army, Gabriel did not suffer from any mental health problems.

By the words of headman of Shaghat village Tigran Khachatryan, about 7 years ago Gabriel left the village to reside in Russia with his parents and 3 brothers, but he had months before returned for military service. Before Gabriel, his elder brother came to serve and left, while, his youngest brother was to return for military service 1 year later.

¹⁸ <http://haynews.am/hy/1368459619>

¹⁹ <http://www.aravot.am/2013/09/13/385300/>

²⁰ <http://haynews.am/hy/1373096500>

<http://www.aravot.am/tag/%D5%A3%D5%A1%D5%A2%D6%80%D5%AB%D5%A5%D5%AC-%D5%A1%D5%A2%D6%80%D5%AB%D5%AF%D5%AB-%D5%AC%D5%A1%D5%AC%D5%A1%D5%A6%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%B5%D5%A1%D5%B6/>

²¹ <http://168.am/2013/07/06/247352.html>

By the words of the headman, Gabriel was very reserved, inoffensive and a man of good character. He was engaged in construction in Russia.²²

Shaghat village mayor's office staff manager Hovhannes Arzumanyan mentioned that Gabriel was raised before their eyes and did not have any mental health problems, as they attempted to disseminate. He was very balanced and quite person, "he was even very smart, today one should not be so smart", he stated. Hovhannes Arzumanyan claimed that the version of being hanged with a bed sheet cannot exist, since Gabriela's body has been examined and no sign of hanging was identified, instead, there were bruises in the area of his chest, the rope seems to be pulled around his neck just below his jaw. "It is my personal opinion, how could he have hanged himself with a bed sheet? If he is wrapped with a sheet with on 10 cm diameter, it means it becomes about 4 inches wide, how is it possible", stated Hovhannes Arzumanyan.²³

On July 10, 2013 the RA Minister of Defense received Gabriel Lalazaryan's parents: Abrik Misaki Lalazaryan and Anahit Bagrati Hayrapetyan. The RA Minister of Defense extended his condolences to the deceased soldier's parents and assured that all necessary measures defined by law were being undertaken by the MoD Investigation Service and Military Police to unveil the case circumstances and reveal the objective truth through comprehensive and full investigation. A. Lalazaryan and A. Hayrapetyan informed they trusted the Minister of Defense as well as MoD law-enforcers and they would also support the preliminary investigation.²⁴

In compliance with the data provided by the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, the preliminary investigation on the criminal case is underway.

5. Arman Hovsepi Muradyan

*According to preliminary data, on July 30 serviceman Arman Hovsepi Muradyan, born in 1993, received a deadly gunshot injury in one of the combat posts of the preservation area of one of the military units located to the North-East sector of NKR Defense Army.*²⁵

In a talk with NEWS.am reporter, headman of Tsamaqasar village, Aragatsotn marz, Gor Grigoryan stated that Arman Muradyan was supposed to return home 3 months later. By the words of the headman, the boy's father went to Russia for outgoing job

²² <http://news.am/arm/news/161418.html>

²³ http://www.lin.am/arm/armenia_society_197678.html

²⁴ <http://168.am/2013/07/11/248505.html>

²⁵ <http://razm.info/16676>

after selling their house and land in the village, while his mother lived in the house of relatives in Ejmiatsin with the younger brother of the departed.

To the question whether knowing Arman he thought the latter would go for a suicide, the headman replied, “He was a child from a very quite family. He was a very poor serving soldier, he could not get adapted. He grew up before our eyes; he was from a very quiet family with good manners. Once an incident occurred when he escaped from the army and we took him back. He could not get adapted with his service. He was a Sergeant by rank, why he would take such a move, I do not understand”, revealed the headman.²⁶

In a talk with “Zhoghovurd” Arman Muradyan’s father Hovsep Muradyan revealed accurate data that his son had issues with one of the servicemen relatives of NKR N military unit Regiment Commander Emil Avetisyan, “It struck me strange that Emil Avetisyan, who was never on military duty in the posts where my son used to be and I do not exclude that he went to the posts to take revenge. How could a soldier having served for 20 months go for a suicide, it is excluded. Do you know how much that Emil Avetisyan tortured the soldiers, made them run and do many other things? Whatever evidence his fellow servicemen give, I refuse to believe, since they may threaten those guys to the point that if they fail to write whatever they are told, they will take revenge of them and they may end up like Arman. It was not my son but Avetisyan who fired the shot from his gun and I will demand justice and struggle for justice”, noted the soldier’s father.²⁷

On the fact a criminal case was lodged in the RA MoD Investigation Service under Part 1, Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code on causing somebody to commit suicide or make an attempt of a suicide through indirect willfulness or negligence, by means of threat, cruel treatment or regular humiliation of one’s dignity.

According to the information provided by RA Military Prosecutor’s Office, on 05.08.2013 charges were brought up against Mayor Emil Avetisyan under Paragraph 2, Part 3 of Article 358.1, Part 2 of Article 358.1, Part 1 of Article 375 and detention as a measure of restraint was chosen in relation to him.

The preliminary investigation on the criminal case is underway.

Actions undertaken by HCA Vanadzor in relation to the incident

²⁶ <http://news.am/arm/news/165021.html>

²⁷ <http://operativ.am/?p=31397>

As a result of studies conducted by Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vanadzor certain details were also revealed. Namely, after serving 6 months in Lusakert Arman, who was conscripted to Lusakert educational battalion from Talin military commissariat on November 28, 2011, received a rank of Junior Sergeant in May of 2012 and was moved to Askeran on May 12, 2012, where after spending 1 day, he was moved to N49971 "Internat" military unit of Martakert: anti-tank battalion. By the words of his parents, Arman studied with honors at Crises Management State Academy of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia. After his second year of studies he went for military service.

By the words of H. Muradyan, "The bullet hit him only in the lung. His lung was all filled with blood. Arman died of internal hemorrhage". In the regional mortuary forensic expert told Arman's relatives Arman's life could have been saved if he was in time taken to the medical unit, since his heart was not injured. Chairman of HCA Vanadzor was involved in the case as the representative of the victim's legal successor.

6. Manuchar Meruzhani Manucharyan

The RA Ministry of Defense disseminated information that according to the preliminary data, being in the duty post watchtower around 13:20 pm on July 31, term soldier, Private Manuchar Meruzhani Manucharyan from N military unit/born in 1993/ induced a self-inflicted deadly gunshot injury from AKS-74 type gun assigned to him.²⁸

On July 31, 2013 a criminal case under Part1, Article 110 of the RA Criminal code on causing a suicide was filed on the incident at the RA MoD Investigation service. According to official data, on 04.10.2013 during the preliminary investigation of the criminal case charges were brought up against Babken Grigori Gaboyan with the features of Part 1, Article 358.1 of the RA Criminal Code.

On 29.10.2013 Leonid Sedraki Harutyunyan was charged with Part 1, Article 182 of the RA Criminal Code.

On 29.10.2013 were brought up against Arman Arturiki Stepanyan with the features of Part 1, Article 358.4 of the RA Criminal Code.

The preliminary investigation is underway.

Actions undertaken by HCA Vanadzor in relation to the incident

²⁸ <http://www.Iragir.am/index/arm/0/country/view/86285>
<http://www.mil.am/1375301842>

HCA Vanadzor's staff members attempted to clarify details of the incident at Manuchar Manucharyan's apartment.

According to the words of Manuchar's mother she was informed that her son was allegedly a member of a "sectarian" movement because of which he committed a suicide. However, the mother denied such information by claiming that her son was a follower of Armenian Apostolic Church, and even went to church not so often, and besides, he was very busy.

According to the data provided by the relatives, they received information as if a burned paper had been detected near the body, which was again ascribed to the sectarian phenomena.

According to his mother, they family had gone through numerous challenges and issues, and their issues were only recently solved and it was impossible that her son could take this move after overcoming all the issues.

She described her son as full of vitality, and a respected and honored person among his friends.²⁹

Their family was comprised of 3 children; Manuchar has an elder brother and a younger sister. Their parents were divorced and the children lived with their mother. Since the family was in a socially needy condition, the boy used to work from the age of 15 to take care of the family.

7. Ruben Davtyan

According to preliminary data, term soldier, Private Ruben Eduardi Davtyan inflicted a self-induced gunshot wound from the machine gun assigned to him in the proving ground of N military unit of the RA MoD at around 13:30pm on October 18, 2013.³⁰

The latter died on the way to hospital. In relation to the fact a criminal case was initiated in the RA MoD Investigation Service under Part 1, Article 110 (causing to commit a suicide) of the RA Criminal Code, a preliminary investigation is underway.

"GALA" tried to verify information whether there are suspects or a scope of people suspected of driving Kapan's resident serviceman to commit a suicide. Officer of Public Relations of the RA MoD Investigation Department Meri Sargsyan said there were yet neither suspects, nor such a scope on the case.

²⁹ <http://hayeli.am/article/341596/>

³⁰ <http://www.mil.am/1382099023>

“GALA” also talked to Kapan’s “Hunan” condominium chairperson Elmira Grigoryan, who told she had been living next doors with the deceased soldier for already 18 years and knew the latter’s family and musician parents well. She also said that people living in Kapan found it hard to believe that Ruben had committed suicide.

They are my neighbors, I have been working in the condominium for over 18 years, they are wonderful people, his mother has graduated from Conservatory, and so his father has. Currently, his father is in Moscow, since their 3 children and smart and study in Yerevan, the father left for Russia so that they could pay the tuition fees.

Their 3 children are bookworms, they have smart children.

Ruben is the youngest son. I know his mother and mother’s side better: his mother was my classmate. His mother’s side is all engineers and doctors. His mother used to tutor in Kapan Musical College, but left it on her own accord and went to Yerevan to take care of her student children. In Kapan everybody feels sorry about this incident and also is taken aback by it”, said Elmira Grigoryan.³¹

8. Vanichka Hovakimyan

*At around 18:10 pm on December 10, 2013 the body of term soldier, Private Vanichka Aramayisi Hovahimyan, who was enrolled as an orderly in the daily duty, was found with a gunshot injury in the area of lower jaw in the territory of the RA MoD N military unit.*³²

As informed from the press service of the RA Ministry of Defense, a criminal case under Part 1, Article 110 of the RA Criminal Code was lodged on the incident at the RA MoD Investigation Service and preliminary investigation is underway.³³

As [NEWS.am](#) reports, Private Vanichka Aramayisi Hovakimyan called his father in the evening of December 10 and told they would never see him again and disconnected the phone. According to the rumors in Chinari, the father quickly called back, but his son was already dead.

His father Aramayis, who had lost his leg in a mine explosion, continues working and keeping his family. In a talk with NEWS.am Chinari residents stated that everyone was shocked and did not believe that a smart and educated child like Vanichka could go for

³¹ <http://www.galatv.am/news/view/kapan-zinvor.html>

³² <http://lurer.com/?p=124328&l=am>

³³ <http://www.tert.am/am/news/2013/12/11/Conscript-death/>
<http://news.am/arm/news/184853.html>

that move. According to the rumors in the village, Vanichka left a note before committing a suicide the contents of which are not known to anyone.³⁴

Previously arrested two servicemen were detained within the frames of the criminal case filed on the death of Vanichka Hovakimyan. RA MoD Investigation service senior officer Meri Sargsyan revealed about it in a talk with Epress.am. According to the investigation version, the serviceman was driven to commit a suicide.

“Charges were brought up against 19-year-old Shmavon Kyureghyan under Part 3, Article 359 of the RA criminal Code on breach of relations, prescribed by field manuals, between servicemen not subordinated to each other by using weapons or other items used for inflicting bodily injuries and Part 1, Article 182 on extortion, while 20-year-old Paruyr Mkrtchyan was charged with Part 3, Article 359. Detention with a term of 2 months was selected as a measure of restraint against both of the servicemen”, noted Sargsyan.³⁵

Already in January of 2014 the third person, Captain Arman Atabeki Muradyan, was detained within the framework of the criminal case filed on the death case of Vanichka Hovakimyan³⁶

Charges were brought up against A. Muradyan under Part 1, Article 375 of the RA Criminal Code on abuse of power, transgression of authority or administrative dereliction, if these acts were committed for mercenary or group-interest motives, by a commander or official, and if these inflicted essential damage are punished with imprisonment for 2-5 years.

It should be noted that the majority of death cases is suicides. By the way, one out of 8 recorded cases is undergoing court trial stage; the preliminary investigation on all the other cases is still underway.

C. Murder

Due to breach of statutory relations

1. Lyuks Stepanyan

On May 15 of 2013 a tragic incident occurred in one of the military units located in the territory of Noyemberyan. One of the term soldiers opened a fire in the smoking area of

³⁴ <http://news.am/arm/news/184923.html>

³⁵ <http://www.epress.am/2013/12/16/qhluqnp-h-ufwhdwl-qnq-n-2-ufwn-1-lywl-wlwl-n.html>

³⁶ <http://aysor.am/am/news/2013/12/21/vanichka-hovakimyan-court/>

the military unit due to which term soldier Lyuks Stepanyan (born in 1994), a resident of Verin Getashen village of Martuni region, died.³⁷

Resident of Mrgashat village of Armavir marz, term soldier Hrachya Sargsyan (born in 1994) was gravely injured in the aforementioned shooting. The latter was transported to Noyemberyan medical center with a gunshot injury in the area of his head at around 16:00 pm and later at 20:00 pm he was moved to the military hospital of Yerevan.

A criminal case under Part 2 of Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder committed in a dangerous manner for the lives of many people was lodged in the RA MoD Investigation Service. David Khachatryan has been arrested. With accusatory verdict the criminal case was sent to the court on 22.11.2013. The criminal Case is undergoing court trial stage.

According to the available data, David Khachatryan had a dispute with Lyuks Stepanyan during which he shot the latter.³⁸

In order to stage a protest in relation to the incident which occurred to his son on May 18 Lyuks Stepanyan's father decided to take his son's body to Yerevan and hold a protest action in front of the Government building.

Regarding the incident, the MoD blocked the road by impeding the relatives of soldier Lyuks Stepanyan to continue their way to Yerevan. In spite of the created obstacles, the relatives of murdered soldier Lyuks Stepanyan attempted to continue their way to Yerevan and reached the State Vehicle Inspection of Sevan.

As News.am reports, obstacles were also created on Sevan-Yerevan highway: the Police collided with the relatives of murdered soldier Lyuks Stepanyan, who were transporting the body of their son to Yerevan. According to the media outlet, a brawl began between them.

In order to break through the barricade of the cars of the military officials, the soldier's relatives damaged their cars. Pursuant to the source, they succeeded in breaking through the barricade and continuing their way. It is also reported that officials came all the way from Yerevan in new military and traffic police cars for a meeting with them in order to prevent the entry of the murdered soldier's relatives to Yerevan.

The father of the deceased soldier stated that the aim of such an undertaking was the revelation of his son's murder, "I have no information what happened to my child, nobody would tell me the truth, they tell me many different things, I was told one thing in

³⁷ <http://operativ.am/?p=17470>

³⁸ <http://news.am/arm/news/153708.html>

the military unit and another one on the way, and yet another story in the village”, reports [Tert.am](http://tert.am).³⁹

The mother of the murdered was mourning, “Once he shot, he would have shot him in his leg and turned him into a handicapped, how should I console now? Once he got shot, he should have been shot by the Turks and I would say he died like a hero, how should I console myself now?”

The villagers, mainly elderly and women, were also outraged. According to them, Lyuks Stepanyan was the 6 of all the soldiers in the village, who died in non-combat conditions.

“Why are we taking this soldier to bury? For what, there is no war, is there? Wasn’t there a commander in that military unit? I ask a question, Serzh Sargsyan, why was he murdered? Why should you continue living and my son gets buried?” a villager was crying.

By seeing the high- rank officials and the line of vehicles, the women got agitated.

“What is this state for, only for collecting money? By his honest earnings, he raised his child to the age of 18, so that he buries him today? “Why haven’t we ever heard of any official’s child serving on the border, what is all this? Only the child of a land cultivator or an animal breeder dies”. “Was it a Turk’s bullet, why should an Armenian die from his compatriot’s bullet?”, “My brother fought in Karabakh war, but now he is in Russia in a foreign land, while our officials live on with their ranks and our children are taken and killed.”

Even the village Military Commissar Gagik Harutyunyan, didn’t hide his indignation.

“Upon each call-up I come, gather and take the boys from the village... once they turn 18, we send them to defend Armenia’s borders, but we don’t get the results, here is the result before us so that we don’t know what to do”, shared Harutyunyan in an interview with us.

“I also have three sons. The eldest will be drafted to the army in autumn. I just told the military commissar not to come after him. God forbid a war breaks out so that I send the 3 of them, but like this... let them come and convict me and my sons... it is better to put us to prison than be like this”, noted one of the villagers.

Another villager has three sons in the draft age: “My sons are in the draft age, two of them are twins. I must find a way to exempt them from military service”, he stated.

“What do you mean by saying finding a way, do you want to give \$10.000 to an official and enrich him?” objected his fellow villager, “Why should we be in such a situation so

³⁹ http://jifhr.am/?ln=1&id =10&page_id=62

that we enrich the Government with the little money we hardly earn, so that they don't take our sons and kill."⁴⁰

Ashkharik Stepanyan, the father of murdered term soldier, private 19-year-old Lyuks Stepanyan shares that during his son's memorial service, the employees from the Ministry of Defense, commanding staff came to their place and no one replied to the question what they could say regarding their son and the incident.

"The commander and others, over 6-7 persons, were present, we (me and my wife) asked all of them to say something about my son, but they said nothing", stated Lyuks' father by adding they dismissed them from their place.

Later Lyuks' father got to know they had given 300.000AMD to his cousin and he immediately returned the money. "You wanted to have a meal, go to the restaurant and have you meal. I am a poor of the millions but not of 300.000AMD. Should I have done my son's funeral with their money?", he stated in excitement.

He noted that he and his wife wanted to take their son's body to Yerevan. "We are planning to leave the country", he noted.⁴¹

By the way, as to the case, human rights defender Artur Sakunts criticizes the statement of the Defense Ministry of Armenia spokesman Artsrun Hovhannisyan on transporting Lyuks Stepanyan's body to Yerevan saying that "it was all organized".

"According to the official version, it was instigated and incited. I am asking a question who instigated or incited it, who did it? The Defense Ministry spokesman should publish the information source. Who was the one to go? If you say there was an instigator, and it was done by a human rights organization, then be so kind as to publish the name. There are a great number of human rights organizations or NGOs, let him publish the name of the instigator.

I consider this as misinformation and intention to create a chaos, misinformation, the aim of which, is to distract attention from the core issue. Definitely, that human rights organizations is not responsible for the causes entailing the incident", told Aravot.am human rights defender Artur Sakunts by explaining the accusations directed at human rights organizations, according to which, the latter had instigated the parents of the murdered soldier to take his body to Yerevan.

He considers misinformation another statement issued by the Defense Ministry spokesman, according to which, based on preliminary data, the murdered soldier

⁴⁰ <http://ilur.am/news/view/13672.html>

⁴¹ <http://zham.am/am/news/6437.html>

himself caused the incident by swearing at the guardsman. “He exceeds his own powers, because in such cases, when we raise questions based on studies and we say they will be revealed through the investigation and now, prior to the investigation, they express biased treatment, which is also assessed as an expression of misinformation.”

By taking into account the experience of investigations on the death cases in the Army, A. Sakunts suspects whether objective and comprehensive investigation will be conducted.

“Moreover, in one case they accuse and direct the wave of discontent to already arrested serviceman and nobody reveals the causes and circumstances entailing the application of firearms. Again not waiting for the investigation results, evaluations are provided at the highest official level, in fact, a prognosis on the investigation outcome is given. This is already suspicious and a subjective approach.”⁴²

It is worth noting that until present the spokesman of the RA Ministry of Defense has not yet published the names of the human rights defenders, who, according to him, had organized the transportation of murdered soldier Lyuks Stepanyan’s body to Yerevan.

Actions undertaken by HCA Vanadzor in relation to the incident

During the protest action regarding the ongoing death cases in the RA Armed Forces organized by the parents, relatives and co-villagers of term soldier Lyuks Stepanyan on May 18, 2013, who was killed on May 15 in the military unit based in Noyemberyan, over hindering their procession on Sevan-Yerevan highway by special forces of the RA Police and Military Police, including RA Military Prosecutor Gevorg Kostanyan, RA Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan, and Police Chief Vladimir Gasparyan, HCA Vanadzor recorded on May 25 that:

1. Through application of violence against protestors, the right of citizens to freedom of movement and assembly was restricted.
2. Subdivisions of the Armed Forces were subsequently used against the participants of the peaceful assembly, which is deemed to be a grave violation of constitutional norm.

With the aforementioned statement HCAV claimed that the RA Prosecutor General should:

1. Conduct a relevant investigation and reveal who had issued an order to dislocate the subdivisions of Armed Forces from their permanent location to Yerevan-Sevan Highway.

⁴² <http://www.aravot.am/2013/05/20/245547/>

2. Lodge a criminal case and subject those, who have abused their official power, to liability.⁴³

Since impeding the peaceful protest action of citizens and moreover, the inclusion of armed forces in it is unconstitutional, on May 29, 2013 Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vanadzor sent a inquiry to the RA Defense Minister with a request to clarify by whose order the divisions of armed forces were moved from their permanent location to Sevan-Yerevan highway.

A response from the RA Ministry of Defense was received on June 18, 2013, pursuant to which, "No order either to impede or prevent the protest action held on 18.05.13 was given to the Military Police subdivisions of the RA Defense Ministry, moreover, there was no such intention. When Sevan Garrison Military Police Department of the RA Ministry of Defense received information that there was overcrowding of people on Yerevan- Sevan highway which could pose substantial obstacles not only to the strategic moving of the line of military vehicles but also to the undertaking of urgent operative measures on the part of MoD Military Police staff, the relevant staff of MoD Military Police Department arrived at site and merely attempted to "clarify things."

In fact, it turns out that citizens moving along Yerevan-Sevan highway could theoretically impede the strategic progression of the line of military vehicles (by the way, neither such strategic progression, nor necessity for it was noticed in that area in the mentioned time period) that is why the moving of a great number of divisions to that very area was considered permissible merely "for clarification". Whereas, the fact that the aforementioned "clarification" was combined with application of violence against the relatives of Lyuks Stepanyan was perhaps considered secondary or else an accepted strategic means of "clarification" by the Defense Department.

Perhaps it would be more acceptable if the RA Defense Department explained this illegal order by the necessity of moving the military divisions in order to partake in Lyuks Stepanyan's funeral ceremony and also mentioned that by the initiative of the MoD such attention would be paid to all of the servicemen who died during military service and their families irrespective of the death triggers and actions undertaken by the family members. Instead, the Defense Department once again justifies the illegal application of armed forces against its own citizens and as justification presents at least illogical reasons.

⁴³ <http://hcav.am/events/%D5%A6%D5%AB%D5%B6%D5%BE%D5%A1%D5%AE-%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%AA%D5%A5%D6%80%D5%AB-%D6%85%D5%A3%D5%BF%D5%A1%D5%A3%D5%B8%D6%80%D5%AE%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B4%D5%A8-%D5%A2%D5%B8%D5%B2%D5%B8%D6%84%D5%AB-%D5%A1%D5%AF/>

Based on the response it may be inferred that the residents of Gegharkunik and Tavush marzes should in advance receive information from the RA MoD regarding the possible moving of military vehicles prior to travelling along Yerevan-Sevan highway; otherwise, they might be subjected to unexpected blockade on the part of the Military Police and military divisions.⁴⁴

2. Sipan Movsisyan

Cadet Sipan Movsisyan died from a gunshot injury at Military Academy named after Vazgen Sargsyan on June 2, 2013

S. Movsisyan came from Vanadzor city and was the eldest of 3 brothers. The cadet's body was taken to the Military Academy, where his parting ceremony was held after which Sipan's body was moved to Vanadzor.

In relation to the fact a criminal case was lodged at the RA MoD Investigation Service under Part 1, Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder.

Charges were brought up against Armen Vladiki Melkumyan for the fact that serving in the RA MoD N military service as a cadet and being assigned as a guardsman in the military unit's internal guard on June 1, 2013, he took on duty at 19:00 pm on 01.06.2013 after performing a shift by cadet, guard commander of the same guard Sipan Gagiki Movsisyan and at around 21:05 pm, while escorting the guards to the guardhouse near, the parking lot entrance of the same military unit he had a dispute with S. Movsisyan around the issue of quicker going to the guardhouse for supper and after using sexual profanities in each others' address, Armen Vladiki Melkumyan killed S. Movsisyan by willfully opening a fire in the latter's chest area from the gun assigned to him by illegally depriving S. Movsisyan of life.

On 17.09.2.013 the criminal case was sent to the court with accusatory verdict and the court trial is underway.

Sipan's relatives tell that he used to be an exceptional young man, his upbringing was such that he would never use swear words or insult anyone. Whereas, the relatives don't believe the initial version of committing a suicide. By their words, Sipan wasn't the kind of guy to initiate disputes.

According to the initial data obtained during the preliminary investigation of the criminal case, during an argument that arose between S.Movsisyan and A. Melkumyan at the

⁴⁴ <http://hcav.am/events/%D5%BD%D6%87%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%A5%D6%80%D6%87%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%B4%D5%A1%D5%B5%D6%80%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B2%D5%AB%D5%B6-%D5%A6%D5%AB%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%BE%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%AA%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%A9%D5%B5%D5%B8%D6%82/>

shift, they used profanities in each other's address, and A. Melkumyan fired one shot in S. Movsisyan's direction by inflicting him a gunshot bodily injury as a response to the instigation initiated by S. Movsisyan through use of foul language.

S. Movsisyan was taken to "Surb Grigor Lusavorich" Medical Center, where around 22:20 pm he died.⁴⁵

The staff of HCA Vanadzor twice attempted to talk with the relatives, friends and neighbors of the deceased cadet, but the person present, who introduced himself as a family relative, and other cadets didn't allow talking with anyone and specifying details on the incident. The Organization's staff was constantly being watched not only by the aforementioned person, but also by some of the gathered people trying to control each their move.

After being under the "control" of numerous people for about half an hour, the Organization's staff tried to talk with one of the neighbors, who was entering her apartment, however, minutes later, probably, Sipan's fellow students, who were also cadets of RA MoD Military Institute named after Vazgen Sargsyan, surrounded the woman and tried to quit the conversation with the Organization's staff by justifying that it wasn't the right place and time for the conversation.

A dozen of high-rank military officials and cadets along with Vanadzor's Mayor, a number of high-rank officials from Vanadzor, and the spiritual leader of Gugark Diocese, Revered Bishop Sepuh Chuljian were constantly gathered there during the whole time the Organization's staff was present.⁴⁶

Intentional murder/ Due to negligence

1. Artak Galstyan

*In conformity with the preliminary data, term soldier, Junior Sergeant Yuri Hrayri Gareginyan from N military unit of the RA Ministry of Defense inflicted a deadly injury to term soldier, Senior Sergeant Artak Grigorii Galstyan in the area of his chest from a gun assigned to him in the combat post at around 23:40 pm, on January 2013.*⁴⁷

On the murder of Artak Galstyan a criminal case under Part 1, Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code on murder was initiated in the RA MoD Investigation Service.⁴⁸

Pursuant to the data provided by the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, it was revealed as justified through the preliminary investigation that being assigned as an observer in the

⁴⁵ <http://haynews.am/hy/1370205457>

⁴⁶ <http://hcv.am/events/%D5%B9%D5%B0%D5%A1%D5%BB%D5%B8%D5%B2%D5%BE%D5%A5%D6%81-%D5%B3%D5%B7%D5%BF%D5%A5%D5%AC-%D5%A4%D5%A5%D5%BA%D6%84%D5%AB-%D5%B4%D5%A1%D5%B6%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%B4%D5%A1%D5%BD%D5%B6%D5%A5%D6%80%D5%A8/>

⁴⁷ <http://lurer.com/?p=72233&l=am>

⁴⁸ <http://www.chi.am/index.cfm?objectid=A8E54500-6AEC-11E2-8121F6327207157C>

combat post and as a result of performing his observer's obligations in a prescribed order Yu. Gareginyan fired a shot in the direction of A. Galstyan from the gun assigned to him.

On 25.06.2013 the proceedings of the criminal case were terminated under Paragraph 2, Part 1, Article 35 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code (if the alleged act contains no corpus delicti).⁴⁹

According to "Solak" village headman, Artak went to the army with his twin brother. It has been 1 year and 2 months since the beginning of their military service. They last came home on leave 1,5 year ago on the funeral of their grandfather. Pursuant to the headman, their family lives under social average conditions and they were 3 brothers. "Prior to military service they helped their father, worked as workmen. They were extremely modest guys. The commander that came told they were very smart and phenomenal guys", highlighted the village chief. As the village head told, Artak's brother came on leave to partake in his brother's funeral but he is in great shock. The bother is in such a bad state that even the village head does not dare to ask him questions.⁵⁰

Due to breach of combat service rules

1. Khachatur Koryuni Khachatryan

*At around 03.10 am in the night of September 14, 2013 Khachatur Koryuni Khachatryan, born in 1994, got a fatal gunshot injury in the preservation area combat post of one of military units located to the South-East of NKR Defense Army.*⁵¹

According to the data provided by the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, during the performance of observer's duties Tigran Meliki Hakobyan noticed a human silhouette in the trench and by breaching the combat duty rules, fired one shot from the machine gun assigned to him without warning actions, as a result of which compulsory term soldier from the same post, observer on duty, Private Khachatur Koryuni Khachatryan died from the gunshot bodily injury, thereby, causing a grave consequence.

On 15.09.2013 a criminal case was initiated under Part 3, Article 365 of the RA Criminal Code on breach of combat duty or combat service rules on the fact, which caused grave consequences.

⁴⁹ [Official \(RA Military Prosecutor's Office\), note \(Para. 25\)](#)

⁵⁰ <http://asekose.am/news/4/115137-news-armenia.html>

⁵¹ <http://www.tert.am/am/news/2013/09/15/conscript-killed/>
<http://nkrmil.am/main/am/newsMore615.html>

On 21.09.2013 charged were brought up against T. Hakobyan under Part 3, Article 365 of the RA Criminal Code, against A. Zohrabyan under Part 1, Article 375 of the RA Criminal Code, whereas, against A. Martirosyan under Part 2, Article 365 of the RA Criminal Code. On the same day detention was selected against T. Hakobyan as a measure of restraint, while handing A. Zohrabyan and A. Martirosyan to the military unit's command control. The preliminary investigation is underway.

Pursuant to the data of "Zhoghovurd" daily, Tigran and Khachatur carried out service on the border together. At a late hour in the night Tigran had a nap, while, Khachatur went upstairs to check up the situation to make sure everything is in control. During that period Tigran woke up and heard footsteps coming from the border and noticed a moving silhouette and immediately asked the password, "Say the password, password". However, not getting a response and terrified by the silence, he fired a few gunshots in the direction of the silhouette approaching him. Later it turned out that the silhouette approaching from the border was his fellow serviceman.⁵²

Khachatur Koryuni Khachatryan born in 1994 managed to serve in the Armenian army only 9 months. He was conscripted in autumn of 2012. He was a freshman at Armenian National Agrarian University, he had an elder brother, while, his father was abroad on an outgoing job. The family leased an apartment in Yerevan.

As "1in.am" reports, Khachatur was a grandson of Davitashen village, therefore, he was buried in Davitashen's cemetery.

By the words of headman of Davitashen village Grigor Vardanyan, "Khachatur used to visit the village, he was calm by character, was not at all cantankerous, he was known by everyone as very clam by nature".

He noted that Koryun Khachatryan had two sons, one of them had already been demobilized and left for an outgoing job to Russian Federation to his father, the other was Khachatur, who had gone to his father to work there prior to the army and returned to go to the army. The headman also noted that Khachatur had been conscripted to the army from Ajapnyak community military commissariat.

By the words of one of the villagers, the boys had a conflict, which had been settled, while the incident occurred in the evening, when failing to notice that Khachatur had fallen asleep, Tigran fired a few gunshots in the direction of the approaching person assuming the person was from the conflicting side.

According to another version, Khachatur had informed his mother to displace him from that military unit; otherwise, something bad would happen to him. His mother wrote a

⁵² http://www.1in.am/arm/press_parmenia_214925.html

letter to Seyran Ohanyan but could not get it to the addressee; his son's death news was broken to her.⁵³

Within the frames of the criminal case filed on the death of Khachatur Khachatryan charges were brought up against 3 servicemen: Tigran Hakobyan, Artur Zohrabyan and Artur Martirosyan.

The murder cases basically took place as a result of breach of statutory relations, intentional murders and breach of combat duty rules.

D. Death cases triggered by health problems/ provision of improper medical care

1. Armenak Manuchari Mkrtchyan

Term soldier Armenak Manuchari Mkrtchyan from the RA MoD N military unit died from acute myocardial infarction and arguably thrombosis of the pulmonary artery stem, acute cardiopulmonary failure in the RA Central Clinical Military Hospital at about 05:30 am on January 17, 2013.

A criminal case under Part 2 of Article 376 of the RA Criminal Code on “Careless attitude to service, which negligently caused grave consequences” on the fact was lodged at Investigative Service of the RA Ministry of Defense and preliminary investigation is underway.⁵⁴

According to the data provided by the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, it was justified through the investigation of the case that A. Mkrtchyan's death occurred as a result from bacterial infection of unknown origin accompanied by pervasive damage of internal organs triggered by organism's general intoxication from which the deceased suffered while alive and which was directly connected with his death.

A. Mkrtchyan's diagnoses, placement at the military hospital and admission to the intensive care unit as well as the administered medical interventions and treatments were adequate. A. Mkrtchyan's death was conditioned by his disease and the prognosis of such illnesses was impossible from the medical-clinical standpoint.

Pursuant to the data provided by the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, on 11.10.2013 a decision was reached not to conduct criminal prosecution and terminate the proceedings of the criminal case under Paragraph 2, Part 1, Article 35 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code (Criminal case cannot be instituted and criminal prosecution may not be started and the instituted criminal case is subject to suspension, if the

⁵³ http://www.lin.am/arm/armenia_society_215350.html

⁵⁴ http://www.lin.am/arm/armenia_society_150620.html

<http://www.epress.am/2013/01/17/9խնծառայողը-մահացել-է-հասպիտանում-ը.html>

alleged act contains no corpus delicti⁵⁵).

18-year old soldier Armenak Mkrtchyan from the RA MoD N military unit had come down with chickenpox before he was taken to hospital. Nver Vardanyan, uncle of Armenak Mkrtchyan, revealed about this in a talk with [NEWS.am](http://news.am) reporter.⁵⁶

“We sent a healthy child but he contracted chickenpox during that period. Within one day he was taken to the Medical Care Unit, where during the night his state aggravated and he was moved to the intensive care unit. He was there for 5 days and we don’t know what happened later”, added Armenak Mkrtchyan’s uncle saying that he could say no more until they got the results of the medical forensic examination, which were expected to be ready by the end of January.

Earlier [NEWS.am](http://news.am) reported that 18-year old soldier Armenak Mkrtchyan from the RA MoD N military unit, who died in the RA Central Clinical Military Hospital on January 17, had been conscripted to the Army in December and suffered from darkness phobia.

Artur Margaryan, head of Svarants village of Syunik region told in an interview with [NEWS.am](http://news.am) reporter about it. The village head shared that on 1.5 years he would never leave his place after it got dark. “According to Armenak’s mother, one night the dog came across Armenak on the way and barked of which he was badly scared”, unveiled the village headman. Artur Margaryan also noted that in spite of the short term of Armenak’s service they received letters of appreciation from the military unit stating that he was a very good serviceman. “On January 12 it was Armenak’s swearing in. However, his mother went to the military unit where she was told he was in coma. Whereas, Armenak’s mother talked with Armencho on January 9 right from our place and they arranged to go to Jrarat to celebrate his swearing in at his aunt’s place after the military swearing”, told the village head.

2. Artyom Hakobyan

*Private Artyom Gagiki Hakobyan/born 1994/, term soldier from the RA MoD #N military unit, who had been undergoing treatment at the CCMH since 13.01.2013, died at the RA Central Clinical Military Hospital at 20:55 pm on January 18, 2013. Artyom Hakobyan was drafted from Kapan Military Commissariat in 2012.*⁵⁷

According to the data provided by the RA Military Prosecutor’s Office, through the case investigation it was justified that A. Hakobyan’s death was triggered by the organism’s

⁵⁵ <http://www.parliament.am/legislation.php?sel=show&ID=1450> (RA CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE)

⁵⁶ <http://news.am/arm/news/137459.html>

⁵⁷ <http://news.am/arm/news/136599.html>

general intoxication, which was conditioned by well-expressed serous-purulent bronchopneumonia developed in the brain hemispheres after chickenpox, hepatitis, pyelonephritis and multiple organ dysfunction syndrome from which the deceased suffered while alive and which served as direct causes for his death.

A. Hakobyan's diagnoses in the military hospital, his placement at the CCMH intensive care unit as well as the administered medical interventions and treatments were adequate, but it was impossible to prevent his death. Pursuant to the data provided by the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, on 11.10.2013 a decision was reached not to conduct criminal prosecution and suspend the proceedings of the criminal case under Paragraph 2, Part 1, Article 35 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code since the alleged act contained no corpus delicti.

Artyom Gagiki Hakobyan originated from Kajaran village of Syunik region. The head of Kajaran village informed that Artyom had graduated from the technical school and left for service.

He noted that there were various versions regarding the child's death, he is said to have died from chickenpox. His cousin mentioned that Artyom was a healthy young man and never had any health-related complaints.

It should be noted that Private Artyom Gagiki Hakobyan, compulsory term soldier from the RA MoD #N military unit was admitted on January 13 with the diagnosis of "Hemorrhagic stroke, spontaneous subarachnoid hemorrhage in the midbrain, brain swelling with secondary syndrome of cerebrum, a post- chickenpox condition".

3. Tadevos Ughoyan⁵⁸

*On July 24, 2013 Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vanadzor received reliable data, according to which, a serviceman died from heart failure on July 22, 2013 in one of the military units of NKR. The RA Ministry of Defense had not disseminated any information about this.*⁵⁹

⁵⁸ Officially (RA Military Prosecutor's Office) Ughuryan

⁵⁹ <http://hcav.am/events/ԷԼՎ-ՄԵԼԿ-Մահվան-դեպ-ընդ-զոքաբանական-մե/>
http://www.lin.am/arm/armenia_society_201399.html

Later it turned out that the deceased was 27-year-old contractual soldier, warrant officer Tadevos Ughoyan (pursuant to the data of the RA Military Prosecutor's Office the surname was Ughuryan). He died of acute myocardial infarction. Ughoyan had been conscripted from the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic.

The additional details on the case were not mentioned through mass media outlets. Pursuant to the data provided by the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, at around 17:25 pm on 22.07.2013 while performing the duties of the military unit's assistant on duty Warrant officer Tadevos Ughuryan died in a room designated for the man on duty was taken to Stepanakert Military Hospital with diagnosis of "double myocardial infarction". Through the materials prepared on the fact a decision was made on 02.08.2013 under Paragraph 1, Part 1, Article 35 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code to decline filing of the criminal case.

There is no data available whether or not the decision to file the criminal case has been appealed.

4. Alik Hayki Janvelyan

Between 13:00 pm on September 3, 2013 contractual soldier, resident of Koti village, Tavoush marz Alik Hayki Janvelyan /born in 1983/ died of sudden heart failure in the border zone after exercising on horizontal bars.⁶⁰

Koti community head Feliks Melikyan informed NEWS.am that the youngest of his 5 children was born several months before. Moreover, this year the Minister of Defense allocated the contractual soldier money to buy a house as a socially needy, multi-sibling family and a good serviceman. The young but the large family had moved into a new house only several months before. He had been serving on contract since 2009.⁶¹

According to official data and preliminary version, heart failure was the cause of Alik Janvelyan's death. A forensic medical expertise is appointed. Later, pursuant to the data provided by the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, through the materials regarding the death fact of contractual soldier, Private Alik Hayki Janvelyan it was justified that he had died from disproportionate myocardial hemorrhage and that of heart vessel blood circulation.

⁶⁰ <http://ilur.am/news/view/17910.html>

⁶¹ <http://m.news.am/arm/news/169567.html>

In compliance with the data provided by the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, a decision under Paragraph 1, Part 1, Article 35 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code to decline filing of the criminal case was reached on 13.09.2013.

By the way, on the recorded 4 death cases a decision was reached either not to conduct criminal prosecution (under Paragraph 2, Part 1, Article 35 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code if the alleged act contains no corpus delicti) and suspend the proceedings of the criminal case, or to decline filing of the criminal case (under Paragraph 1, Part 1, Article 35 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code in the absence of any criminal act).

On the aforementioned cases there is no information whether objective investigation has been conducted to find out if the servicemen received proper medical care and service, had health issued before conscription and whether or not the decisions made on these cases have been appealed.

E. Due to Accidents

1. Artur Gevorgyan

A car crash occurred in Vayots Dzor marz on January 16, 2013. At around 15:30 pm "Ural" model with registration number of 33 16 S went off the roadway in the sector of 115 kilometers of Yerevan- Yeraskh- Meghri highway, on the way to Arpi village and rolled down into the canyon over 40-50 meters.⁶²

A resident of Vayk city Artur Gevorgyan, contractual soldier from the RA MoD #N military unit died, who, according to the preliminary data, was the driver and Husik Stepanyan, a resident of Armash village of Ararat marz was injured in the car crash.

A criminal case under Part 2, Article 377 of the RA Criminal Code ("Breach of rules of driving or operating vehicles, which negligently caused human death) was initiated at the RA Ministry of Defense Investigative Service and preliminary investigation was conducted.⁶³ According to the data of the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, the

⁶² http://henaran.am/news_view.php?post_id=15956

<http://www.epress.am/2013/01/16/Զինվորական-«Ռուսարք»-զորավել-է-ձոռք-կա.html>

⁶³ <http://www.ilur.am/news/view/6738.html>

proceedings of the criminal case were terminated on 13.05.2013 under Paragraph 10, Part 1, Article 35 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code.⁶⁴

2. Tovmas Arakelyan

At 06.01am on May 2, 2013, information was received, according to which, a car fell into the canal in Yeghegnavan village of Ararat marz, there were injured who needed help.

It turned out that “Opel” model with state registration number of 35 OT 105 went off the roadway and rolled into the adjacent Kakhanov canal.

Firefighter-rescuers took out the car from the canal through special equipment: the body of junior sergeant T. Arakelyan, born in 1990, /Verin Artashat village of Ararat region/ contract soldier of RF #N tollgate.⁶⁵

In an interview with NEWS.am, headman of Verin Artashat village Ashot Ghazaryan informed that Tovmas had an elder brother and a younger sister.

The boy’s father worked in Moscow on an outgoing job and was notified about the accident through a phone call and he would be probably return to Armenia today. “He used to come home once a week. That day he was either going for shift or coming back. The car fell into the canal, there were 3 injured, while the remaining two managed to get out of the car and nothing threatens their lives, whereas, Tovmas unfortunately died”, the village head gave the details.⁶⁶

Pursuant to the article published through 168.am on May 7, 2013, it was revealed during the preparation of the materials that Tovmas Arakelyan and resident of Vedi city, Ararat marz, 29-year-old Karo Barseghyan were the passengers, while resident of Artashat city, 25-year-old Armen Karapetyan was the driver. According to the available data, when the car fell into the canal A. Karapetyan and K. Barseghyan managed to get out of the car and later tried to help their friend but they could not and when they made sure Arakelyan was dead, they left the accident scene and did not tell anyone about it assuming when the car was found, the law-enforcers would lead the

⁶⁴ <http://www.parliament.am/legislation.php?sel=show&ID=1450> (neither a criminal case can be initiated, nor criminal prosecution can be conducted, while the proceedings of the criminal case are subject to termination, if the person died, with the exception of those cases, when the case proceedings are necessary for the restoration of the deceased person's rights or for resuming the case against other people in connection with newly revealed circumstances)

⁶⁵ <http://operativ.am/?p=15701>

⁶⁶ <http://m.news.am/arm/news/151698.html>

investigation according to the version that he was alone in the car and could not get out of the car found in the canal.⁶⁷

In compliance with the data provided by the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, the criminal case on the death of Tovmas Arakelyan was sent to another body in a procedure of subordination. There are no details available on this case.

3. Armen Rustami Ghudabashyan

*Being included on the duty detail, Private Armen Rustami Ghudabashyan, term soldier from the RA MoD # N military unit, was electrocuted and not gaining consciousness he died at about 20:30 pm on May 17, 2013.*⁶⁸

This information was disseminated through mass media outlets and it was noted that a criminal case had been initiated under Part 2 of Article 376 of the RA Criminal Code.

However, according to the data provided by the RA Ministry of Defense and the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, no investigation in connection with Armen Ghudabashyan's death was conducted at any division of the Investigation Service of the RA Defense Ministry due to absence of such a precedent.

4. Aleksandr Atavin

On June 2, 2013 a car crash happened in Shirak region. At around 20:40pm by riding a car of BMW model with registration number of 34 VO 060 27-year-old Aleksandr Atavin, RF citizen, a resident of Krasnodar city, rolled over in the car on the sector of the road from Bulvar to Mush districts of Gyumri city.

A. Atavin served in the division of the RF Armed Forces in the RA, and was a Senior sergeant.⁶⁹

According to the data provided by the RA Military Prosecutor's office, taking into account that Aleksandr Viktori Atavin had violated the requirements of Article 65 of the "Road Traffic rules" and nobody except for him got bodily injuries as a result of the accident, and he died due to the car crash, therefore, on 12.06.2013 a decision was made to decline filing of the criminal case under Paragraph 2, Part 1, Article 35 of the RA Criminal Procedure Code. There is no information available whether or not the decision to refuse filing of the criminal case has been appealed.

⁶⁷ <http://168.am/2013/05/07/221795.html>

⁶⁸ <http://lurer.com/?p=101186&l=am>

⁶⁹ <http://lurer.com/?p=104787&l=am>

5. Gevorg Hovhannisyan

6. Ruben Baghyan

On September 8, 2013 a tragic car crash occurred in Gegharkunik marz. At around 06:00 am the driver of Opel Vectra model with registration number of 32 OS 479 went off the roadway in 17th section of Sevan-Martuni-Getap road in the intersection of Lchap village and rolling upside down appeared on the rocks in the middle of the field. As a result of the crash, 2 persons died at place, 2 persons: 51-year-old Zaven Hakobyan and 25-year-old Aram Hakobyan were taken to Gavar's medical center with bodily injuries. The deceased Gevorg Hovhannisyan and Ruben Baghyan were term soldiers.⁷⁰

In relation to the fact, a criminal case was filed under Part 3, Article 242 of the RA Criminal Code on breach of traffic rules and operation of means of transportation by the driver of a car or other mechanical means of transportation, which negligently caused the death of 2 or more persons.

According to the data of the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, on 04.11.2013 # 40107813 criminal case was sent to the RA Gegharkunik Region Court of Common Jurisdiction.

7. Zhak Galstyan

As a result of traffic accident which occurred on October 11, 2013 in the preservation area of one of the military units located to the East of Defense Army term soldier Zhak Gevorgi Galstyan /born in 1993/ died in the military hospital at around 13:30pm.⁷¹

According to the data of the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, a criminal case was filed on 11.10.2013 on the case under Part 2, Article 377 of the RA Criminal Code.

16.11.2013 a forensic vehicle technical examination was appointed and its results have not been received so far.

The preliminary investigation of the case is underway.

F. Due to breach of weapon handling rules

1. Volodya Sedraki Avagyan

At about 19.05pm, on March 20, 2013, Volodya Sedraki Avagyan /born in 1993/ got a deadly gunshot injury in the combat post of protection zone located to the North-East of NKR Defense Army.⁷²

⁷⁰ <http://shamshyan.com/arm/2013-09-08-crash-martuni-getaph.html>

⁷¹ <http://nkrmil.am/main/am/newsMore623.html>

⁷² <http://operativ.am/?p=11138/9հնվոյն-է-սպանվել>

*According to mass media outlets, a criminal case was filed on the death fact of Volodya Sedraki Avagyan under Part 3, Article 373 of the RA Criminal Code on Part 3, Article 373 of the RA Criminal Code on breach of rules for handling weapons, ammunition and radioactive materials, explosives and other items and devices dangerous for the environment which negligently caused human death.*⁷³

According to the data provided by the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, charges were brought up against Serob Sosi Budaghyan on 25.03.2013 under Paragraph 10, Part 2, Article 104 of the RA Criminal Code and detention was selected as a measure of restraint.

On 28.09.2013 the criminal case was sent to the court with accusatory verdict. The court trial on the criminal case is underway.

Volodya Sedraki Avagyan was from Katnarat village of Lori, after finishing school he immediately left for military service.

His fellow villagers told NEWS.am that Volodya Avagyan was already a serviceman of 1.5 years and was to be demobilized in autumn. He was the youngest in the family, had two married sisters. Their family is in socially poor condition, they don't have jobs, instead his parents have loans.

The parents and his relatives were told that the incident was caused by negligence. The soldiers went up to the posts and during the charging of the weapons, due to the breach of weapon handling rules, a gunshot was fired in his direction by his fellow serviceman and he died at place.

Within the frames of the criminal case filed on the death fact of Volodya Avagyan charges were brought up against Private S. B, term soldier from the same military unit. The latter was arrested. V. Avagyan's parents do not know the details about their son's death.

They were only told their son became a victim of an accident, but it is yet unknown what accident is meant.

2. Narek Zhoriki Hovsepyan

*As a result of an accident, which took place in one of the military units under the DA central jurisdiction, 19-year-old Narek Hovsepyan/born in 1994/ got deadly injured at around 12:30 pm on July 22, 2013.*⁷⁴

⁷³ <http://aysor.am/am/news/2013/03/26/volodya-sedraki-avagyan/>

⁷⁴ <http://www.epress.am/2013/07/23/լիւ-պաշտպանութիւն-բանակում-զինամայ.html>
<http://nkrmil.am/main/am/newsMore593.html>

Pursuant to the data of iLur.am, the incident occurred in “Haykazov” military unit located not far away from Stepanakert. Term soldier Narek Hovsepyan originated from Vanadzor. Upon finishing school he was conscripted to military service in November, autumn of 2012, he had been serving for 9 months. After Narek’s conscription his father, mother and brother left for RF. After the incident the relatives returned to Armenia.

The relatives only revealed they were told Narek was self-injured, but later they were notified that the weapon was fired by one of his fellow serviceman.

On the death case of Narek Hovsepyan a criminal case was initiated under Part 3, Article 373 of the RA Criminal Code on breach of rules for handling weapons, ammunition and radioactive materials, explosives and other items and devices dangerous for the environment which negligently caused human death. According to official version, Narek Hovsepyan’s fellow serviceman 20-year-old Andranik Melkonyan was arrested on the case.

In compliance with the data provided by the RA Military Prosecutor’s Office, on 26.07.2013 charges were brought up against Andranik Marzpeti Melkonyan under Part 3, Article 373 of the RA Criminal Code and detention was selected against him as a measure of restraint.

On 07.11.2013 the criminal case was sent to the court with accusatory verdict for further trial.

Measures undertaken by HCA Vanadzor on the case

Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly Vanadzor had a talk with Narek’s relatives and prior to autopsy gave them some advice.

According to rumors, the incident took place during gun cleaning, however, according to Chairperson of Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly Vanadzor Artur Sakunts, the incident would not have occurred if the military unit’s officers’ staff had been more careful and all of the safety rules of weapon handling were adhered.

On the day of the incident the soldiers were in the rifle range, and one of the guns was clogged. The malfunctioning was not corrected in the rifle range and the soldiers brought the weapons with them to the armory, where they tried to fix the malfunctioning on their own which should have been done in a safe area by an expert.⁷⁵

⁷⁵ <http://hcav.am/events/%D5%BD%D5%BA%D5%A1%D5%B5%D5%A1%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%B6-%D5%AF%D5%A1%D5%A6%D5%B4%D5%AB-%D5%A1%D5%B6%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B7%D5%A1%D5%A4%D6%80%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%A9%D5%B5%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B6%D5%A8%D5%9D-19-%D5%A1%D5%B4/>

The spread rumors suggest that the incident took place after military drills (according to some sources also during the military drills). Pursuant to them, his fellow serviceman fired by accident not noticing Narek standing in front of him. Another soldier has mentioned that the incident occurred during gun cleaning, when unaware that there was still cartage in the gun magazine, the gunman negligently fired a gunshot.⁷⁶

The gunman was Narek's fellow serviceman Andranik Melkonyan from Charentsavan. By the words of Narek's mother, the commanders' staff notified the victim's family about the incident cause by describing it as a consequence of negligence.

"3 persons were as if taking a shooting exam, they were making their ways to become officers or something, I do not know the titles correctly, one of them passed the exam and the 2 failed. Later they got an order to stop firing since it was a break. And he had received 20 cartridges, 18 out of which had been fired, he had 1 cartridge in his pocket and that 1 remained inside the gun magazine. My Narek and some other child were term soldiers, they were told to bring the weapons. He was not the one to shoot. He was coming with the machine gun in his hand and when he failed to take the cartridge out and put in its place, there was an orderly standing, he asked if the latter could help him. Imagine the weapons reached the military unit and children played with guns. I assimilate it with a recess, when the teacher has left and the children can do whatever they want. Who is the guilty and is there an innocent person there? A child not mastering firearms, played with the gun. And now I must suddenly state my son was victimized in peace time, how can I state that", Mrs. Ruzanna got outraged.

Narek's death certificate states gunshot injury of right and left lungs, injury of back wall of the heart. No medical care was provided to Narek and he died in the military unit. The mother is not aware whether the death arrived immediately or later.

"They cannot provide me the answer to that question. He was shot in the direction of his arm, his two lungs were injured, it emerged out through the heart back wall side. If it penetrated through the heart, I would assume there was no chance to save him, but if it passed by the heart back wall and emerged outside, I do not know. The death was triggered by hemorrhagic shock, it means, from blood loss. But loss of blood could not cause such an instant death. Nothing has been done. What company was it, what commander's staff, they had no saline solution, no blood substitutes, nothing to administer an intravenous therapy to keep his blood circulation to take him to

⁷⁶ <http://news.am/arm/news/163853.html>

Stepanakert, which was only 6 km away. I am yet going to find out what medical equipment and services our army has".⁷⁷

The commanders' staff considers the incident as an accident, however, the family members are of the opinion that the accident was caused by double negligence of the commander's staff.

3. Gevorg Mnatsakanyan

At around 20:30 pm on October 16, 2013 while performing a military task in the control area of the military unit located to the North-Eastern border of the RA, Commander of the RA MoD N military unit's engineer-sapper company, Captain Gevorg Gagiki Mnatsakanyan (born in 1988, had been serving since 2005, conscripted from Gavar) got a deadly mine-explosion triggered injury.

Senior lieutenant Garush Veriki Hambardzumyan, compulsory term soldier, Private Narek Ararati Hakobyan, contractual serviceman, Private Edgar Vardani Harutyunyan were taken to Yerevan CCMH with various degrees of injuries.⁷⁸

According to the data of the RA Military Prosecutor's Office, a criminal case was filed on 17.10.2013 under Part 3, Article 373 of the RA Criminal Code. The preliminary investigation is underway.

⁷⁷ http://www.lin.am/arm/armenia_society_202624.html

⁷⁸ <http://www.mil.am/1381988836>