



Helsinki Citizens' Assembly-
Vanadzor



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REFERENCE

**ON DEATH CASES IN THE ARMED FORCES
IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 2014**

VANADZOR

2014

In the period of January-September 2014, 38 servicemen of the RA Armed Forces and Defense Army died due to 36 incidents.

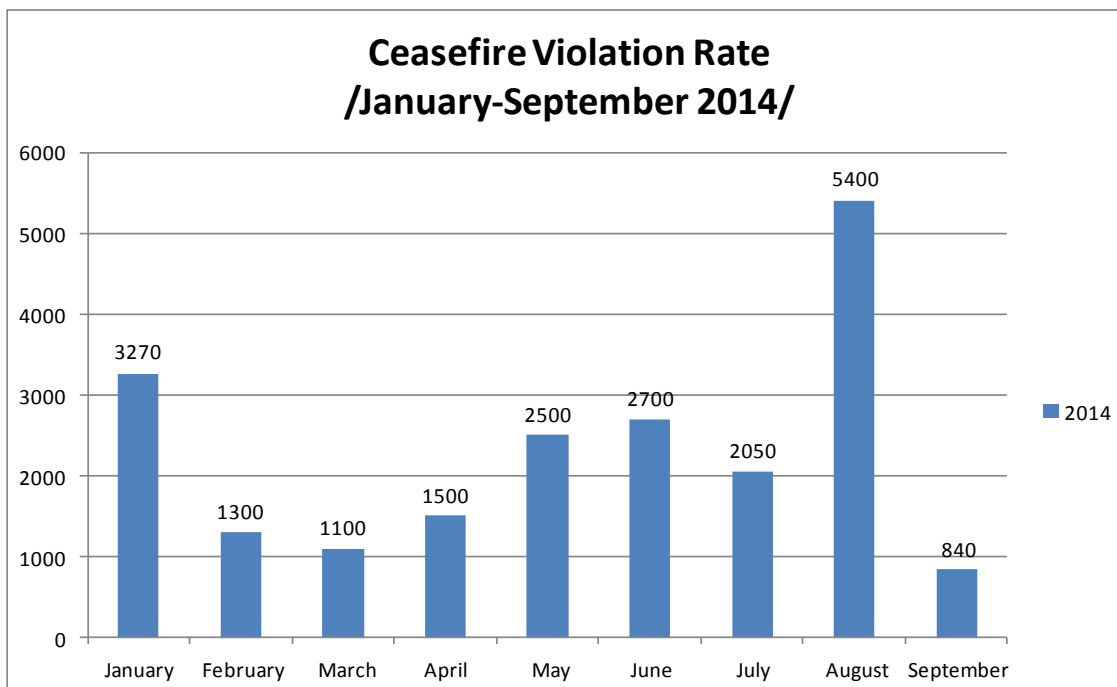
The rate of death cases in the armed forces in the similar period of 2013 was 25, i.e. the death rate has increased by 13 cases this year.

20 out of the 38 recorded death cases in the period above were caused by ceasefire violations; 6 cases – by accidents; 4 cases - murder /2 intentional murder cases and the other 2 caused by breach of weapon use rules/; 3 cases - by violation of combat duty or combat service rules; 3 cases – by health problems and lack of adequate medical services; 1 case – by breach of weapon use rules; 1 case - suicide (as stated in the criminal case).

It should be noted that unlike in the recent 5 years when the death cases caused by ceasefire violations made about 22% of the total death rate in the armed forces, the rate of such cases recorded in the first 6 months of 2014 rapidly climbed up to constitute 52%. 9 of the 20 servicemen who fell victim to the ceasefire violation were killed in the intelligence diversion attempts of the enemy, and 5 servicemen were killed in actions following the intrusion of 1 diversion group. It is quite noteworthy that the ceasefire violation rate also doubled in the same period.

As we can see in Diagram 1 below, the ceasefire violation rate increased sharply from May through August. At the same time, the data in Table 1 suggest that the rate of death cases caused by the ceasefire violations also rose in that period.

Diagram 1.



11 of the death cases occurred in the Republic of Armenia, and the other 27 in Nagorno-Karabakh.

6 of the victims were contract servicemen /1 serviceman at the Russian Federation military unit in the RA/.

10 of the dead servicemen were officers/1 lieutenant, 4 senior lieutenants, 2 captains, 1 major, 1 lieutenant colonel and 1 colonel/ and the other 22 were conscript soldiers.

Official messages were disseminated only on 29 of the 38 death cases. No official message was released on the 2 death cases /namely Captain Armen Hayrapetyan and Lieutenant Gor Grigoryan/ in the Defense Army late in July of 2014. Only a few websites detailed on the officers above mostly to inform that they were posthumously awarded.

It should be noted that the list /with the names of the 4 victims of the enemy's diversion attacks of July 31 and August 2 and 1 victim of the enemy's sniper shot of August 1/ of the servicemen posthumously awarded by the RA president includes the name of Lieutenant Gor Grigoryan (to award 'Combat Service' medal for his personal courage and devotion to the defense of the barriers of the Motherland and selfless performance of his military duty in life-threatening conditions).¹

¹ <http://www.hayzinvor.am/27607.html> , <http://www.president.am/hy/decrees/item/1224/>

Meanwhile, no particular official message was originally released on Gor Grigoryan's death. That is to say, the public first learned about his death from the name-list of the posthumously awarded soldiers.

Furthermore, at the award ceremony of a number of soldiers and officers for suppressing the diversion attempts of August 19, 2014 in Martakert and adequately repulsing the attack, the NKR Defense Minister Movses Hakobyan² mentioned the names of only 5 victims that did not include that of Gor Grigoryan.

According to an *Aravot.am* website reporter, *when asked why G. Grigoryan's name was not included in the list of awardees, Senior Hasratyan, the NKR Defense Army Press Officer, said that G. Grigoryan died due to the breach of weapon use rules by his fellow serviceman during their combat duty.*³ As the journalist insisted that according to all the information sources, the serviceman was killed in diversion attack, S. Hasratyan stated that he had never disseminated such information and could not speak for others and that was what really happened.⁴

Likewise, contradicting information was disseminated on the death of serviceman Grisha Khachatryan on June 20, 2014.

Originally, A. Hovhannisyan, the Defense Ministry spokesman⁵ said that G. Khachatryan's death was caused by the violation of the ceasefire, whereas Seyran Ohanyan, RA Defense Minister stated that according to initial data, G. Khachatryan had incurred a fatal injury by breaking the weapon use rules.

² aravot.am

³ <http://www.aravot.am/2014/08/21/490341/>

⁴ In answer to the journalist's next question why Gor Grigoryan was awarded a Combat Medal by the RA President, S. Hasratyan said: "Gor Grigoryan did his service at the most complicated front line of the 7th defense zone, he defended the barriers of our country and was killed during his combat duty, *Does it make a difference that he was killed due to the breach of weapon use rules by his fellow serviceman, he defended out frontiers at hardest times, and the State*

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⁵ <http://armlur.am/187617/>

Thus, the 2 cases above come to show that at an active stage /June-August/ of ceasefire violation, some death cases were recorded during combat duty that were not caused by the ceasefire violation.

It is noteworthy that 8 of the 18 death cases caused by non-combat operations also occurred in May-August 2014, i.e. at an active stage of ceasefire violation by the enemy.

Hence, even in times of active military operations by the enemy, the requirements of the military discipline, combat duty rules and safety requirements were not met.

Criminal cases were instigated on 24 out of 38 death cases:

- 10 criminal cases were instigated under *Article 104(2)(13) of the RA Criminal Code: murder out of motives of ethnic, racial or religious hatred or fanaticism;*
- 3 criminal cases were instigated under *Article 365(3) of the RA Criminal Code: violation of combat duty or service rules that may lead to grave consequences;*
- 2 criminal cases were instigated under *Article 104(1) of the RA Criminal Code: murder by illegal willful deprivation of one's life;*
- 2 criminal cases were instigated under *Article 376(2) of the RA Criminal Code: negligent attitude to service by a commander or official, which negligently caused grave consequences;*
- 2 criminal cases were instigated under *Article 242(2) of the RA Criminal Code: 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 human death;*
- 1 criminal case was instigated under *Article 365(1) of the RA Criminal Code: breach of the rules of combat duty or combat service aimed at ensuring the security of the RA;*
- 1 criminal case was instigated under *Article 376(1) of the RA Criminal Code: negligent attitude to service by a commander or official, which caused essential damage;*

- 1 criminal case was instigated under *Article 373(3) of the RA Criminal Code: breach of rules for handling weapons which negligently caused human death;*
- 1 criminal case was instigated under *Article 377(2) of the RA Criminal Code: breach of rules for driving or operating combat, special or transportation vehicles, which negligently caused human death;*
- 1 criminal case was instigated under *Article 110(1) of the RA Criminal Code: 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.*

There is no data available on whether there were criminal proceedings instigated on the other 14 cases as well, and if there were, under which articles.

It must be noted that while the number of victims of ceasefire violation was 20, criminal proceedings were instigated only on 10 cases under *Article 104(2)(13) of the RA Criminal Code.*

According to the available information, the 24 criminal cases are currently under preliminary investigation. The Organization will provide follow-up comprehensive information on the criminal cases in its further reports.

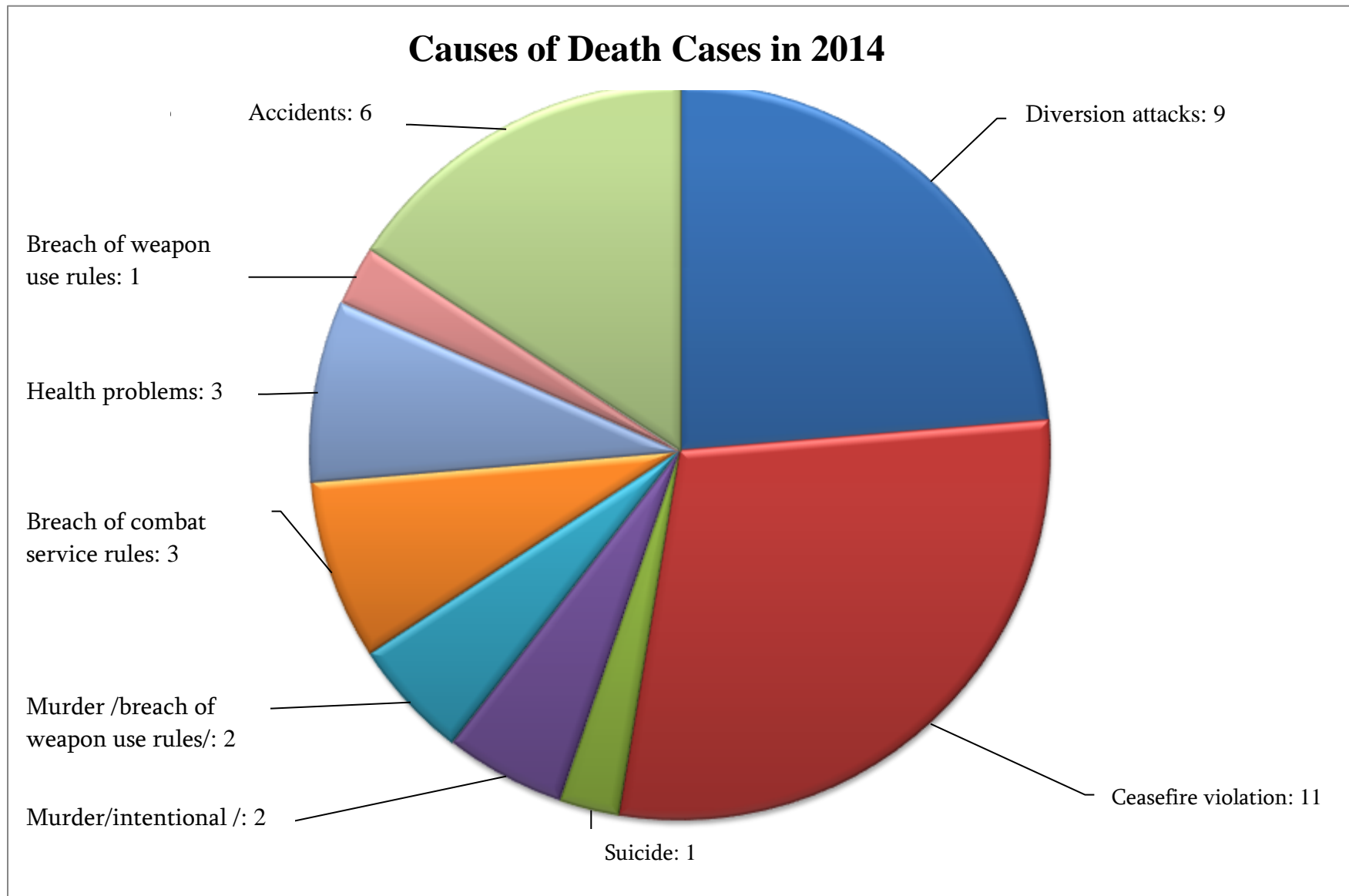
The tables and diagrams below provide statistical data and summary information of the death cases recorded in January-September 2014.

Causes of Death Cases in 2014 (January-September)

Table 1.

Month	Ceasefire violation	Breach of weapon use rules	Suicide	Murder		Breach of combat service rules	Accidents	Health problems	Number of incidents	Total	Available official message
				Intentional	Breach of weapon use rules						
<i>January</i>	2							2	4	4	3
<i>February</i>							1	1	2	2	0
<i>March</i>	2					1	2		5	5	4
<i>April</i>							1		1	1	0
<i>May</i>	3				1	1			5	5	3
<i>June</i>	4			1		1			5	6	6
<i>July</i>	5	1		1					7	8	6
<i>August</i>	3				1		1		4	4	4
<i>September</i>	1		1				1		3	3	3
<i>Total</i>	20	1	1	2	2	3	6	3	36	38	29

Diagram 2.



Summary Information on Death Cases

Table 2.

N	Name and surname	Date /year/ of the incident	Region of the incident	Location of the incident (town, village, hospital, road segment...)	Military unit	Primary information source	Agency responsible for instigating a criminal case	Official qualification of the criminal case	Cause of the incident	Stage of the case
1	Hayk Makaryan	15.01.2014	NKR	A Defense Army military unit located in the northern direction	A Defense Army military unit located in the northern direction	Official	RA Defense Ministry Investigation Service	RA Criminal Code, Article 376(1): negligent attitude to service by a commander or official, which caused essential damage	Health problems	Preliminary investigation
2	Armen Hovhannisyan	20.01.2014	NKR	North-Eastern (Jraberd) and South-Eastern (Korgan) directions of the contact line of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan opposing troops		Official			Ceasefire violation/ Diversion attack	
3	Edik Shahnazaryan	20.01.2014	RA	Vagharshapat hospital		Non-official	RA Defense Ministry Investigation Service	RA Criminal Code, Article 376(2): negligent attitude to service by a commander or official, which negligently caused grave consequences	Health problems	Preliminary investigation
4	Karen Galstyan	28.01.2014	NKR	Combat position of defense area at the North direction (Martakert area) military unit	Protection area of a Martakert military unit	Official	RA Defense Ministry Investigation Service	RA Criminal Code, Article 104(2)(13): murder out of motives of ethnic, racial or religious hatred or fanaticism	Ceasefire violation	Preliminary investigation
5	Arshak Zadayan	12.02.2014	RA	Muratsan hospital/ 'Arabkir' Medical Center	a military unit in Ararat	Non-official	RA Defense Ministry Investigation Service	RA Criminal Code, Article 376(2): negligent attitude to service by a commander or official, which negligently caused grave consequences	Health problems /acute pneumonia/	Preliminary investigation
6	Grigory Vardanyan (contractor, Russian Federation military unit in the RA)	26.02.2014	RA	Stepanavan-Lori Berd highway, 2 nd km sector	Russian Federation military unit in the RA	Non-official	Lori Region Investigatory Department, Stepanavan Investigatory Division	RA Criminal Code, Article 242 (2): 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 human death	Accident /road accident/	Preliminary investigation
7	Yesayi Yesayan (contractor)	08.03.2014	RA	Yerevan-Ashtarak highway, near Kasakh village	A military unit near Yerevan	Non-official			Accident /road accident/	

8	Arman Ghukasyan	19.03.2014	NKR	Combat position in Martakert	Military unit in Martakert	Non-official	RA Defense Ministry Investigation Service	RA Criminal Code, Article 365(3): violation of combat duty or combat service rules (negligent or bad faith attitude to combat duty or combat service rules) which caused grave consequences	Violation of combat duty or combat service rules	Preliminary investigation
9	Garnik Torosyan	24.03.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at the military unit located to the Eastern direction of the contact line of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan opposing troops		Official	RA Defense Ministry Investigation Service	RA Criminal Code, Article 104(2)(13): murder out of motives of ethnic, racial or religious hatred or fanaticism	Ceasefire violation	Preliminary investigation
10	Arayik Babayan	27.03.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at the military unit located to the Eastern direction of the contact line of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan opposing troops		Official	RA Defense Ministry Investigation Service	RA Criminal Code, Article 104(2)(13): murder out of motives of ethnic, racial or religious hatred or fanaticism	Ceasefire violation	Preliminary investigation
11	Harutyun Safaryan (Senior Lieutenant)	31.03.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at the military unit located to the Southern direction of the contact line of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan opposing troops		Official			Accident /explosion, according to initial data/	
12	Hovhannes Hovhannisyan (Colonel)	26.04.2014	RA	Yerevan-Sevan highway		Non-official		RA Criminal Code, Article 242 (2): 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 human death	Accident /road accident/	Preliminary investigation
13	Nerses Karapetyan	10.05.2014	RA	Military unit in Ijevan town, Tavush Region	Military unit in Ijevan	Non-official		RA Criminal Code, Article 365(3): violation of combat duty or combat service rules (negligent or bad faith attitude to combat duty or combat service rules) which caused grave consequences	Violation of combat duty or combat service rules	Preliminary investigation

14	Meruzhan Harutyunyan (Senior Lieutenant)	11.05.2014	RA	Near Areni village, Vayots Dzor Region	Vayk military unit, Vayots Dzor Region	Non-official		RA Criminal Code, Article 365(1): Violation of combat duty or combat service rules for provision of security of the Republic of Armenia	Violation of combat duty or combat service rules	Preliminary investigation
15	Artur Ohanjanyan	20.05.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at a military unit located to the Southern direction of the contact line of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan opposing troops		Official		RA Criminal Code, Article 104(2)(13): murder out of motives of ethnic, racial or religious hatred or fanaticism	Ceasefire violation	Preliminary investigation
16	Garik Balayan (Lieutenant Colonel)	25.05.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at a military unit located to the Southern direction (Fizuli) of the contact line of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan opposing troops		Non-official		RA Criminal Code, Article 104(2)(13): murder out of motives of ethnic, racial or religious hatred or fanaticism	Ceasefire violation	Preliminary investigation
17	Erik Gasparyan	28.05.2014	NKR	to the Southern direction of the contact line of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan opposing troops		Official			Ceasefire violation / Diversion attack	
18	Andranik Yeghoyan (contractor)	05.06.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at a military unit located to the South-Western direction of the border line of Armenia and Azerbaijan		Official		RA Criminal Code, Article 104(2)(13): murder out of motives of ethnic, racial or religious hatred or fanaticism	Ceasefire violation	Preliminary investigation
19	Boris Gasparyan (contractor)	05.06.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at a military unit located to the South-Western direction of the border line of Armenia and Azerbaijan		Official		RA Criminal Code, Article 104(2)(13): murder out of motives of ethnic, racial or religious hatred or fanaticism	Ceasefire violation	Preliminary investigation
20	Derenik Manukyan	11.06.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at a military unit of the Defense Army to the Southern direction (Gyulistan)	"Yeghnikner" military unit	Official	RA Defense Ministry Investigation Service	RA Criminal Code, Article 373(3): breach of rules for handling weapons which negligently caused human death	Murder /Breach of weapon use rules/	Preliminary investigation

21	Narek Poghosyan (contractor)	20.06.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at a military unit to the South-Western direction of the border line of Armenia and Azerbaijan		Official			Ceasefire violation / Diversion attack	
22	Grisha Khachatryan	20.06.2014	RA	Military unit in town Ararat, Ararat Region		Official	RA Defense Ministry Investigation Service	RA Criminal Code, Article 104(1): murder by illegal willful deprivation of one's life	Murder /intentional/	Preliminary investigation
23	Armen Avetisyan	24.06.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at a military unit to the Eastern direction of directions of the contact line of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan opposing troops		Official	RA Defense Ministry Investigation Service	RA Criminal Code, Article 104(2)(13): murder out of motives of ethnic, racial or religious hatred or fanaticism	Ceasefire violation	Preliminary investigation
24	Movses Gasparyan	11.07.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at a military unit to the South-Eastern direction of the contact line of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan opposing troops		Official		RA Criminal Code, Article 104(2)(13): murder out of motives of ethnic, racial or religious hatred or fanaticism	Ceasefire violation	Preliminary investigation
25	Sargis Abrahamyan (Major)	12.07.2014	NKR	Karavachar area		Official			Ceasefire violation / Diversion attack	
26	Gevorg Avagyan	18.07.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at a military unit to the Southern direction of the NKR Defense Army		Official	RA Defense Ministry Investigation Service	RA Criminal Code, Article 104(1): murder by illegal willful deprivation of one's life	Murder /premeditated/	Preliminary investigation
27	Khachatur Badasyan	26.07.2014	NKR	NKR Martakert region defense positions		Official			Ceasefire violation / Diversion attack	
28	Armen Hayrapetyan (Captain)	29.07.2014	NKR	NKR, defense area 9		Non-official			Accident /mine explosion/	

29	Ararat Khanoyan	31.07.2014	NKR	Defense area at a combat duty military unit in the Northern part of NKR		Official			Ceasefire violation / Diversion attack	
30	Azat /according to initial data: Ashot/ Asoyan	31.07.2014	NKR	Defense area at a combat duty military unit in the Northern part of NKR		Official			Ceasefire violation / Diversion attack	
31	Gor Grigoryan (Lieutenant)	31.07.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at a military unit in the Northern part of NKR		Official			Breach of the weapon use rules	
32	Zorik Gevorgyan (Senior Lieutenant)	02.08.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at a military unit in the direction of NKR Martakert	Defense area at a military unit of Martakert	Official			Ceasefire violation / Diversion attack	
33	Sargis Movsisyan	02.08.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at a military unit in the direction of NKR Askeran		Official			Ceasefire violation / Diversion attack	
34	Aram Grigoryan (contractor)	04.08.2014	NKR	Karavachar area		Non-official			Ceasefire violation	
35	Vladimir Hayrapetyan	28.08.2014	RA	Combat position at the RA Defense Ministry military unit N		Official		RA Criminal Code, Article 365(3): violation of combat duty or combat service rules (negligent or bad faith attitude to combat duty or combat service rules) which caused grave consequences	Murder /Violation of combat duty or combat service rules/	Preliminary investigation
36	Samvel Harutyunyan	08.09.2014	RA			Official		RA Criminal Code, Article 110(1): 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	Causing someone to commit a suicide	Preliminary investigation

37	Mher Hakobyan (Senior Lieutenant)	18.09.2014	NKR	Military stronghold of defense area at a military unit to the Southern direction of the contact line of Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan opposing troops		Official	RA Investigation Committee General Military Investigation Department	RA Criminal Code, Article 104(2)(13): murder out of motives of ethnic, racial or religious hatred or fanaticism	Ceasefire violation	Preliminary investigation
38	Pavlik Manukyan (Captain)	19.09.2014	RA	Road near Artsvaberd village, Tavush Region		Official	RA Investigation Committee General Military Investigation Department	RA Criminal Code, Article 377(2): breach of rules for driving or operating combat, special or transportation vehicles, which negligently caused human death	Accident /road accident/	Preliminary investigation

