



Helsinki Citizens' Assembly

Vanadzor



**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**

SIGRID RAUSING TRUST

REPORT

**ON THE DEATH CIRCUMSTANCES OF SERVICEMEN
PERISHED DURING THE HOSTILITIES OF APRIL 2016 AND
THE STATE OF SOCIAL SECURITY OF THEIR FAMILIES**

VANADZOR

2016

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SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

The hostilities dated April 2-5 of 2016 and the death circumstances of servicemen, perished as a result of them, became a subject for a wide-ranging and heated public discussion. Various publications, articles and footages were disseminated by Mass Media regarding the aforementioned hostilities, however, no complete and comprehensive information in relation to the death circumstances of servicemen, perished as a result of the hostilities, has been published so far.

In view of the commitment by the Government to ensure life, health and security of its citizens, as well as proper public awareness on them, HCA Vanadzor conducted an analysis of the death cases and circumstances triggered by the hostilities during April 2-5 of 2016 (prior to reaching a ceasefire by the Chiefs of General Headquarters of the Republic of Armenia and Azerbaijan), and after the following tensions, the findings of which are delivered in this report.

The complete image of death circumstances of servicemen, perished during April 2-5 of 2016 and April 6-30, was given by combining the information provided by their families, relatives and Mass Media outlets.

The RA Ministry of Defense served as the main source of information regarding the death cases during the period of April hostilities. The RA Defense Ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovhannisyan made regular posts on his Facebook page, giving only the name and surname of deceased servicemen by providing the data of 80 servicemen, who died during April 4-30 period.

Pursuant to the reference published by the RA MoD on April 13, 2016, during April 2-5 period 64 servicemen and 13 militia members and reserve troops were killed, overall 77 persons.¹ At the time the reference was published Argishti Gaboyan was deemed missing, and on April 20 the fact of his death was acknowledged during the exchange of bodies initiated by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In compliance with the information provided to the Organization by the RA MoD MD/510-AG-462 note dated 12.07.2016, *“During April 1-5, 2016 cases of deaths of 70 servicemen were recorded, during the period of April 6-12 7 death cases, while through April 13-30 death cases of 10 servicemen were recorded due to border incidents, breach of safety and traffic rules, non-statutory relations, and accidents.”* The note fails to specify the number of death cases due to the violation of ceasefire regime, and the hostilities.

According to the information provided to the Organization by the RA Central Military Prosecutor’s Office via its 19/852/1-16 note dated 11.07.2016, *“During April 1-5, 2016*

¹ <http://www.mil.am/hy/news/3990>

cases of deaths of 82 servicemen were recorded, 78 out of which were caused by opponent-induced murders on the line of contact, 3 cases were caused by suicide or causing somebody to commit a suicide, 1 case was triggered by an accident. During April 6-12, 2016 13 death cases were recorded, 3 of which were caused by opponent-induced murders on the line of contact, 2 were triggered by the breach of the rules for handling weapons, 1 by the breach of the rules for military service, 4 were caused by murders, 1 was triggered by suicide or causing somebody to commit a suicide, and 2 deaths were caused by accidents. Throughout April 13-30, 2016, 16 death cases were recorded, 9 of which were caused by opponent-induced murders on the line of contact, 3 were triggered by the breach of the rules for handling weapons, 1 by the breach of the rules for military service, 1 was triggered by suicide or causing somebody to commit a suicide and 1 death was caused by an accident.”

Table 1. The number of deceased servicemen in April of 2016 according to the timeframes

Timeframe	Military Prosecutor's office note		RA MoD note	RA MoD reference		RA Defense Ministry spokesman Facebook page	HCAV and Mass Media data	
	Total	By opponent	Total	Total	By opponent		Total	By opponent
April 1-5*	82	78	70	89**	78**	12	80	78
April 6-12	13	3	7	-	-	55	12	5
April 13-30	16	9	10	-	-	13	14	11
Total	111	90	87	89	78	80	106	94

* 1 death case was recorded on April 1, 2016

** The number of deaths in the RA MoD reference are not presented in line with the timeframes contained in the table, therefore, we present the total numbers for the month of April.

As table 1 suggests, the number of servicemen perished as a result of the hostilities during April 2-5, 2016 can be with greater accuracy considered 77 (1 serviceman died on April 1). Note that pursuant to the data provided by the RA Central Military Prosecutor's office, the total number of deceased soldiers during April constituted 111, which means that 21 died due to non-combat operations.

Thus, even during the hostilities the cases of deaths triggered by breach of statutory relations and accidents occurred in the Armed Forces/20% out of the total number of deaths/.

With an aim to gather data regarding the death circumstances of deceased servicemen, HCA Vanadzor staff members met with the families of 61 servicemen out of the 94 ones perished in the month of April.

The aforementioned 61 families reside in 8 marzes, including Armavir, Aragatsotn, Ararat, Gegharkunik, Lori, Kotayk, Shirak, Tavush and city of Yerevan /see Map 1/. 13 out of the 61 families live in the city of Yerevan, 22 reside in urban and 26 in rural areas of the above-mentioned marzes.

Map 1. Residential areas of servicemen perished in April, 2016



Apart from the information on the death circumstances, data regarding the health condition of the servicemen during the military service prior to their deaths, and the state of social security of their families were collected during the meetings.

Out of the aforementioned 61 servicemen perished due to the hostilities and breach of ceasefire, 1 died on April 1 (conscript soldier Vladimir Melkonyan), 44 died during the period of April 2-5, 2016, 5 died during April 6-12, and 4 in April 13-30, which makes a total of **54 servicemen**. The remaining 7 soldiers died due to other reasons: murder, suicide, accident. According to the parents, Vladimir Melkonyan, perished on April 1, 2016, died from shrapnel wound, most likely caused by a shelling from the opponent, while

according to the MoD, the death was triggered by shots opened by the opponent.² Pursuant to GALA news website, “20-year-old Vladimir Melkonyan died in the first blows of heated battles of April 1.”³

Thus, it can be assumed that still back on April 1, 2016 the situation on the line of contact was tense, and the possible escalation of hostilities could be foreseen.

The number of casualties according to the dates (See Table 2) shows that the victims were greater on April 2, the first day of the hostilities, which constitutes half of the deceased servicemen visited by us, and which speaks of improper preparedness for the hostilities.

Table 2. Number of deaths according to dates

Date	Quantity
01.04.2016	1
02.04.2016	21
03.04.2016	9
04.04.2016	12
05.04.2016	2
06.04.2016	4
07.04.2016	2
08.04.2016	1
11.04.2016	1
12.04.2016	1
19.04.2016	1
21.04.2016	1
25.04.2016	1
26.04.2016	2
30.04.2016	1
03-06.04.2016	1
Total	61

} 44

² <http://www.mil.am/hy/news/3957>

³ <http://galatv.am/hy/news/2-20-3/>

DEATH CIRCUMSTANCES OF SERVICEMEN PERISHED DURING APRIL 1-30, 2016

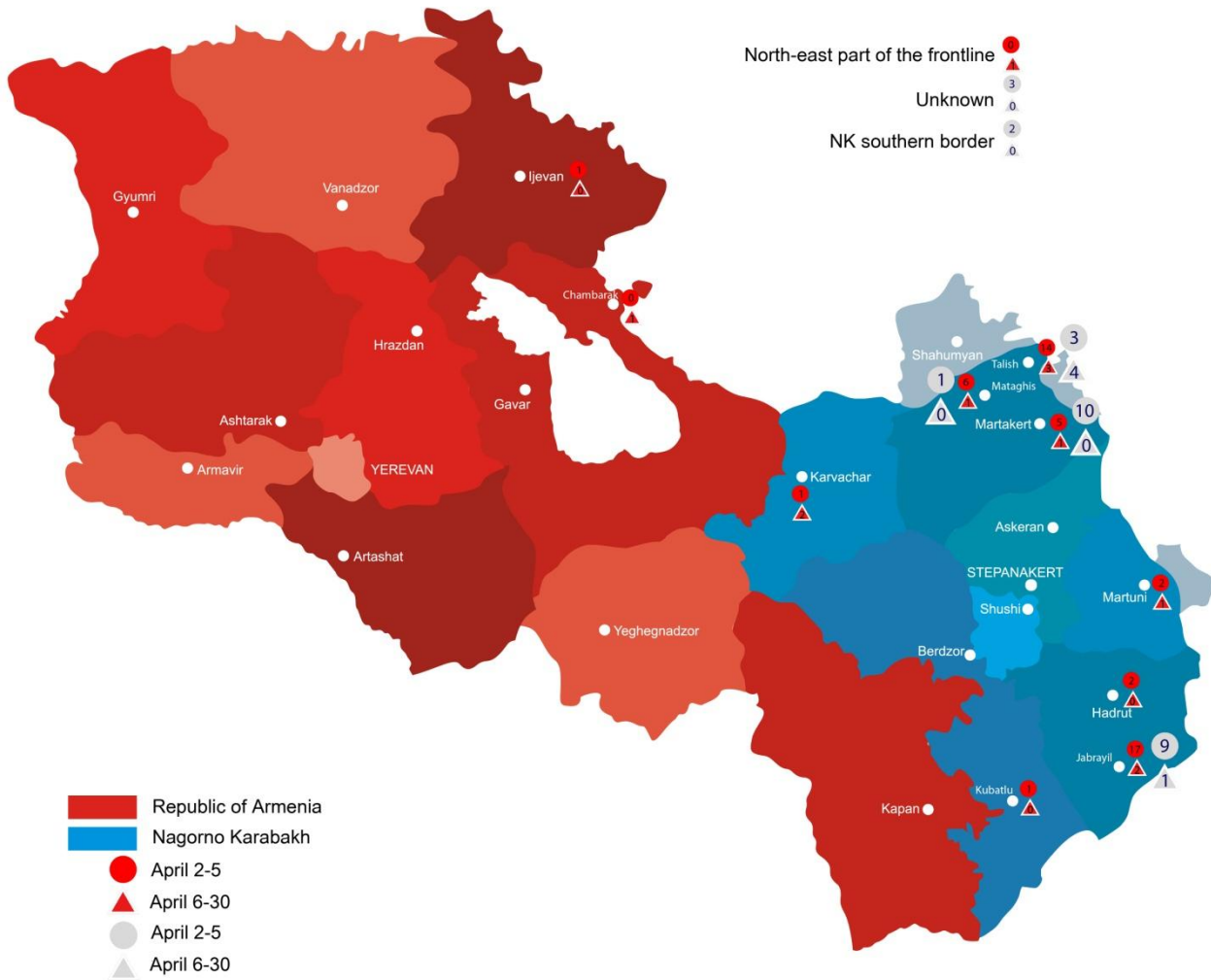
The family members of 23 families of 61 deceased servicemen were notified about the death of their relative by the staff of Territorial Military Commissariat mainly through phone calls or visits, and only in one of the cases the family members were informed about the cause of the death. The families were informed about the death of 6 servicemen by village or town governor's offices without specifying details, the family members of 5 soldiers learned about the fact of their relative's missing after the promulgation of the list of missing soldiers. The family members of 13 servicemen personally went to the scene of incident or their relatives inquired and reported about the incident, the family of 1 serviceman got to know about it from Mass Media, and later was also notified by the Military Commissariat. The families of 13 deceased servicemen either do not recall, or do not disclose the source of information.

Hence, the family members of only 29 out of 61 deceased servicemen received official information regarding the death fact, and only 2 of them knew about the possible cause of the death, but none of the families received official information regarding the place and circumstances of deaths.

It is noteworthy that the relatives and parents of 13 deceased servicemen visited the scene of incident on their own initiative, and attempted to obtain information from the fellow servicemen or other possible sources. Some of the families had not yet visited the scene of incident, but intended to reveal the death circumstances of their relatives on their own initiative.

The places of death of 94 deceased servicemen and those of the 61, whose families had met with the Organization's staff, are presented in Map 2.

- **Map 2. The places of death as a result of April, 2016 hostilities, breach of ceasefire regime and other reasons**



As seen from the map of places of death, the casualties due to hostilities occurred in the north-eastern and south-eastern sections of the line of contact, namely: Talish, Martakert, and Jabrayil areas.

The data obtained by the Organization regarding the death circumstances of servicemen according to the periods are presented below.

April 2-5, 2016

As mentioned above, during this period we met with the families of 44 servicemen perished as a result of the hostilities. 4 out of 44 family members did not prefer to disclose information or provided general information. 23 out of 44 families received official information/ Military Commissariat, village or town governor's offices/ about the fact of death of their relative. Regarding 1 out of 23, the family members were also notified that the serviceman died during the removal of his fellow servicemen's bodies out of the battlefield,

while in the case of the other, they were informed that the serviceman had died from a mine explosion, in yet unclear circumstances. 9 families learned about the death of their relatives through various non-official sources: acquaintances, relatives, and fellow servicemen. 5 families first learned about the fate of their relatives after the publication of the list on 18 missing persons disseminated by Mass Media outlets, and then they got to know about the fact of death after the exchange of their bodies by the support of International Red Cross.

Thus, only 1 out of the families of 44 deceased soldiers was more or less aware of the death circumstances of their relative. The family members of 2 servicemen, perished during hostilities, reported they were unsure that the corpses contained in the coffins were their sons. The mother of 1 of them claimed that the police officers kept watch on their son's coffin for 3 days, preventing them from opening the coffin.

April 6-30, 2016

During the aforementioned timeframe we met with the families of 9 servicemen perished during the hostilities. Out of the 9 families, the members of 1 family preferred not to provide information or gave out very general information, 6 families received official information/ Military Commissariat, village or town governor's offices/ about the fact of death of their relative.

Based on the data obtained from meetings with the family members and relatives of 53 servicemen perished during the period of April 2-30, we can record that as of May- June, 2016, minimum 2 months after the hostilities,

- None of the families of the 53 deceased servicemen has complete information regarding the death circumstances of their relatives.

The description of separate cases in relation to the insufficient quantity of arms and ammunition at the disposal of the servicemen during April, 2016 hostilities, as well as the lack or delay of supporting forces are presented below:

1. Serviceman 1, died in Martakert on April 2, 2016. The relatives of the serviceman link the great number of Jabrayil with the insufficient quantity of armament, arms and ammunition, as well as the lack of information on intelligence data regarding the outbreak of hostilities.

According to the relatives, the adversary party brought its tanks to the fore, causing the bordering villages to be emptied.

2. Serviceman 2, perished in Jabrayil on April 2, 2016. The relatives visited the place of death and pursuant to the obtained information, none of the servicemen on the military duty in that section survived, since they were unprepared and did not have sufficient weapons to withstand the attack. The opponent's tanks went out undetected in their direction. The serviceman's family members saw deliberation in the fact that no efforts had been made to fortify the combat positions and to provide the servicemen with necessary ammunition. According to them, "Jabrayil was all neglected, the tanks were out of order. There were quite a number of defective tanks on the way from Kubatlu to Jabrayil, many of which were filled with water, instead of fuel, and when the engine was turned on to start to the frontline, it broke down." The fellow servicemen, who met with the deceased soldier's relatives, said they had "a lot to say", but they could not speak of it during their military service.

3. Serviceman 3, killed in Jabrayil on April 2, 2016. The family members notified that during the hostilities their son was not provided with sufficient ammunition, which led to a great number of casualties.

4. Serviceman 4, perished in Jabrayil on April 2, 2016. The relatives reported that after being taken aback, the servicemen entered into a long-lasting fight with the opponent until they contacted the commanding headquarters at 7:30 am, April 2, requesting support and notified about further operations, but did not receive a reply command.

5. Serviceman 5, killed in Talish, on April 2, 2016. According to the father, his son immediately began to occupy Talish combat positions, they successfully completed reclaiming of 2 positions, after which his son's machine gun broke down, and got clogged, he asked the other machine gunner to take up the other's weapon and go out to a battle, but receiving a negative response, he dismantled and repaired it at night under the light of a flashlight, and started out with the others for the seizure of the third most important position located on the hill. After the serviceman's death, his fellow servicemen had almost occupied the aforementioned position, but an order of retreat was given, and they withdrew. Pursuant to the information reported by the serviceman's father, the position is currently under the opponent's control.

6. Serviceman 6, perished in Jabrayil on April 2, 2016. The father expressed his discontent regarding the insufficient quantity of ammunition, and malfunctioning of military

equipment. From April 2 through April 10 he was in Artsakh and personally saw what actually happened, “Why the tanks didn’t go out there to fight, because the batteries were missing, since they are out for sale in the markets.” BMPs could not reach their destinations, since they were filled with water instead of fuel. The volunteers could not be provided with bullets of necessary quantity, only 60 bullets were provided for each, which could be used only in 1,5 minutes.

7. Serviceman 7, perished in Jabrayil on April 2, 2016. The fellow servicemen told the parent that their son fought with another serviceman until around 9 am on Aril 2 in hill 19. He continued fighting alone sending his fellow serviceman back. The father is of the opinion that in case they had good tactical efficiency, had not wasted the army means, and had sufficient military armament, everything could have been different.

8. Serviceman 8, died in Jabrayil on April 3, 2016. He began a fight in a battle tank of 1970s against 5 tanks of the opponent, which, according to the relatives, were destroyed by him. Pursuant to the data possessed by the serviceman's brother, the serviceman and his personnel were in #321 tank, which was the military equipment assigned to that serviceman, but the latter died in another battle tank.⁴

9. Serviceman 9, perished in Martakert on April 2, 2016. The family members report that their son and fellow servicemen died as a result of inability to withstand incomparably large number of adversary due to insufficiency of ammunition.

10. Serviceman 10, died in Talish, on April 4, 2016. The relatives consider the wrong command as the cause of the death, mentioning that “higher authorities know what is going on”.

11. Serviceman 11, perished in Talish on April 2, 2016. Regarding the death of their son the family members note that he had run out of ammunition, and a new supply of arms was not provided.

12. Serviceman 12, perished in Martakert on April 26, 2016. The parents of the serviceman met with the commander and inquired why their son was not wearing a ballistic vest at the time he was in the 3rd line of the military position, to which the latter replied that the number of bullet-proof vests was limited, therefore, the front-line servicemen were first provided with it. The parents are certain that even after all those tragic events, the servicemen are not provided with safety measures.

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTpMuMwFGto>

Information on death circumstances disseminated by Mass Media regarding the death circumstances of the servicemen, the lack of arms and ammunition as well as proper conditions in the Armed Forces is presented below.

1. Commander of "Arabo" detachment Manvel Yeghiazaryan, who was a volunteer in Karabakh, informed that there is a huge need to regulate the border positions, as the trenches remind "the times of the Great Patriotic War." He speaks of wasting funds, adding that numerous roads have not been fixed, which make it merely impossible to move the soldiers. Besides, according to Yeghiazaryan, there is "almost no connection" in Mataghis, Talish and Martakert, and upon necessity it is impossible to contact fellow combat servicemen via the phone. The same issues were also voiced by volunteer Razmik Petrosyan.⁵
2. Reserve force General Gagik Melkonyan also noted that if the weapons were modern, it would be possible to avoid casualties.⁶
3. Answering the question why it was impossible to detect the movement of the opponent's troops and military equipment prior to the actual attack, so that, as often stated by soldiers, to avoid a sudden attack, former intelligence officer with long years of experience Gevorg Azoyan stated there are many nuances of which he does not want to speak. He considers it imperative that the army should be cleansed of certain officials by highlighting, "Some of the commanding staff, some mama's boys, who have pulled strings to become colonels, but have never left headquarters in life. They should all be cleansed, yes, exactly the commanding staff, it has already stagnated; they should be cleansed and purified. Fighting boys should be in the army. They get a young lad and call him some general's cousin, or some department chief's relative, godfather and godson and whatsoever, and it goes like take it for granted, someone that never left the building of the Ministry issues an order via the phone... come and see what order you gave if it suits the geographical location, will it do or not...".⁷
4. Lieutenant Colonel Aleksan Arakelyan's father mentions about numerous gaps.⁸ Namely, he points out, "He sent my son under a meat-grinder, he should give an answer. Who sold and ate the money of tank batteries if not Hovik Abrahamyan? Who is

⁵ <http://www.azatutyun.am/a/27701546.html>

⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrQ59Bx-7eg>

⁷ <http://www.azatutyun.mobi/a/27686254.html>

⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQM9FB9Q-As>
<http://galatv.am/hy/news/16-18-2/>

to blame that the BMPs were fueled with water instead of diesel, it is again Hovik Abrahamyan. Whose are the swine walking in the battalion and regiment, the commander's." The Servicemen have repeatedly mentioned if they had quality military equipments, they would not get injured.⁹ While, the fact of running out of bullets and failure to supply them in time has been repeatedly mentioned by the servicemen in their interviews, highlighting that otherwise the situation could have a different outcome, and the number of casualties could be minimum.¹⁰

5. The relatives of deceased serviceman 19-year-old Arman Andreasyan claim that the servicemen did not have sufficient quantity of ammunition for self-defense, or that the servicemen fought with weapons of the 80-ies. ¹¹
6. NA MP Hrant Bagratyan also expressed an opinion regarding the issues and shortcomings during April hostilities, singling out the absence of night surveillance security devices along the border, outdated means of communication, which entails additional casualties.¹²
7. In his interview with Bloomberg agency RA President Serzh Sargsyan also addressed the opponent attack, which had it that, "Of course, we did not possess precise information that April 1 could develop into such events, and in case we had such information, the Azeri side would certainly suffer great losses, and they would not have occupied these several meters".¹³ Whereas, RA Minister of Defense Seyran Ohanyan declared that Armenia possessed intelligence data about the possible attack of Azerbaijan at Nagorno-Karabakh.¹⁴

Based on the analysis of the data disseminated via Mass Media and revealed by the families of deceased servicemen, we can infer that the following issues were recorded during the hostilities:

1. Malfunctioning of military equipment,
2. absence of fuel for military vehicles,
3. insufficient quantity of weapons, and lack of restocking ,
4. delay of supporting forces,
5. lack of intelligence data,

⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrQ59Bx-7eg>

¹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vznTnqOEBqg>

¹¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAFQlp95Oto>

¹² <http://yelaket.am/?p=4285&l=am>

¹³ <http://www.panorama.am/am/news/2016/04/25/%D5%8D%D5%A5%D6%80%D5%AA-%D5%8D%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%A3%D5%BD%D5%B5%D5%A1%D5%B6-Bloomberg/1568915>

¹⁴ <http://armlur.am/512970/>

6. improper fortification of positions

The information revealed by the family members of the perished/killed servicemen about their relative's injury during the hostilities and lack of timely medical support is a separate issue of study.

During our visits at least 3 families provided information that their relative got wounded and due to the malfunctioning of the ambulance car they were unable to move him to a proper location for medical assistance.

Particularly:

1. Pursuant to the information possessed by the brother of Vladimir Melkonyan (patronymic Ashot) deceased as a result of breach of ceasefire on April 1, 2016, when Vladimir was wounded, his fellow servicemen tried bringing him down the positions in an ambulance car to take to hospital. During the whole period the serviceman was in consciousness, and it was due to the improper functioning of the ambulance car that proper medical support was not provided in time. On the way down the positions, the car broke down and Vladimir's co-servicemen took him down in a military stretcher. On half way the ambulance car reached them again, and Vladimir was moved down the positions in a car, but 1,5 hours later, remaining without medical support, Vladimir died due to internal and external bleeding.
2. According to the preliminary information provided by the parent, the co-servicemen of Tigran Poghosyan (patronymic Mkhitar), injured in Martakert on April 26, 2016 due to the breach of ceasefire, attempted to take him to hospital in an Ambulance car, but the car broke down several times, and on the way he died of hemorrhagic shock. However, according to the information provided later, Tigran Poghosyan (patronymic Mkhitar) died in hospital.
3. Hayk Minasyan (patronymic Samvel) was injured on April 26, 2016 due to the breach of ceasefire, and died not receiving medical support 5 hours after his injury.

Thus, based on the aforementioned data, as a result of the violation of ceasefire regime in April, 2016 at least 3 servicemen died due to the failure to provide proper medical assistance. It means that the situation of providing proper medical assistance is also concerning in the Armed Forces, especially during the hostilities and emergency situations.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE OF DECEASED SERVICEMEN'S FAMILIES

The majority of 61 perished servicemen's families live in socially disadvantaged conditions, and some of them in most difficult conditions.

- 1 of the 12 adult members has a permanent job in the government system/ school, MoD, hospital, service sector/,
 - 4 out of which have also a labor migrant,
 - 1 also has a pensioner member,
 - 2 have an employer in the private sector,
- 1 of 5 family members works in private sector/store, market, and etc./,
- The main living of 15 families is earned through labor migration, 1 family of which also has a pensioner member,
- 10 families have non-permanent jobs,
- 14 families have no jobs of any type:
 - Of which only 1 family receives a poverty family benefit,
 - The only source of income of 6 families is either old age labor pension or disability pension.

Thus, only 17 out of 61 perished servicemen's families have permanent financial income based on the wages of 1 employee, 12 in budget institutions, 5 in private sector, which, however, is insufficient to meet the families' financial needs.

14 families have no jobs at all, the financial means of 6 families are from old age labor pension or disability pension, and 1 family lives on poverty family benefit.

The remaining 30 families survive on labor migration and non-permanent jobs.

Taking into account the number of family members according to the sources of financial revenues (see table 3), we can see that the families of 61 deceased servicemen are mainly socially disadvantaged.

Table 3. The number of family members of 61 servicemen perished during April, 2016 according to employment

The number of family members	The number families having jobs in budget institutions	The number families having jobs in private sector	The number of unemployed families	The number of families having labor migrants and non-permanent jobs	Total
1			1		1
2	2	1	2	4	9
3	4	2	3	12	21
4	2		3	6	11
5	1	2	3	3	9
6	1		1		2
7	2			2	4
11			1	1	2
12				1	1
13				1	1
Total	12	5	14	30	61

Housing conditions of servicemen's families

The families of servicemen mainly have housing issues. The quarters of the families residing even in their own apartments or private houses need renovation or reconstruction.

Thus, out of 61 families visited by the organization,

- 32 reside in private houses, 10 of which are in extremely bad housing conditions: half-constructed, dilapidated and lacking basic living conditions;
- 17 reside in apartment blocks, 2 of which live in extremely bad housing conditions,
- 3 live in temporary shelters,
- 3 in rented apartments,
 - 1 family resides in the building of former canteen owned by the community,
 - 1 family resides in relatives' place as they do not have their own shelter,
 - 4 families do not have apartments, and they live in the Russian Federation.

Pursuant to housing and home conditions, 20 /35%/ out of 57 families residing in Armenia live in bad housing conditions

THE DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH AND OTHER ISSUES OF PERISHED/DECEASED SERVICEMEN DURING THE CALL-UP AND MILITARY SERVICE

During the visits to the servicemen's family members we have also addressed the health issues of the servicemen before the call-up and during the military service.

15 out of 61 servicemen had health problems, moreover, 11 of them had those issues prior to the call-up, which continued during their military service.

Namely,

1. Andranik Zohrabyan, perished in the very beginning of the hostilities, had vision problems, but he served as a machine gunner, and heavy weapons were assigned to him.
2. Deceased serviceman Sasha Galstyan's (patronymic Vachagan) vision in the right eye was 10% before the call-up, after treatment it increased up to 70%, but during the medical examination he asked to be recognized fit for military service.
3. Prior to the military service, Vladimir Melkonyan's (patronymic Ashot) vision in one eye was quite low, but he willfully took up military service.
4. The medical examinations of deceased serviceman Robert Abajyan determined that he had flat feet and spine curvature due to which he was prevented from participation in driving lessons, however, as a result of the final examination Robert Abajyan was recognized fit for military service. In January 21, 2015 he was drafted to the military unit of NK Martakert. 10 days after the conscription he was not given military boots and he had his civilian shoes on. During the military drills he often complained of pains in the spine, and mentioned that there was no point in turning to the medical unit, since they only cured with "paracetamol in such cases".
5. Deceased serviceman Aramayis Mikaelyan (patronymic Grigor) had flat feet, bone curvatures and pectus excavatum, which caused his feet to swell constantly while wearing military boots. The serviceman's mother regularly sent him medications.
6. Perished serviceman Gevorg Vardanyan (patronymic Gagik), who was serving as a gunner, had two fractures to the arm and flat feet before military service. He underwent a medical examination, but was found fit for military service.
7. Perished serviceman Adam Sahakyan (patronymic Khachatur) had allergy before conscription. During the military service he developed sinusitis, but was not treated, only during the vacation, the parents administered the treatment with their own financial means.

8. Serviceman Bagrat Aleksanyan (patronymic Artur) suffered from obesity (120 kg), because of which a 1-year deferment was issued in 2013, but in 2015 he was drafted to military service.
9. Mher Yerznkyan (patronymic Aramaysis) had cardiac dysrhythmia, knee pains, spinal curvature: a 1-year deferment was issued twice. During 2016 winter call-up he applied to the military commissariat with a request to be drafted, irrespective of his health issues. He was found fit for military service with restriction, but in every way he tried to show that he was healthy, did not have problems, and participated in physical trainings.
10. Sargis Sahakyan (patonymic Armenak) needed a maxillofacial surgery for which he was given a deferment, but the latter chose to reject, and was drafted. During the military service he had chewing problems.
11. The medical examination during the call-up revealed that perished serviceman Arman Andreasyan (patronymic Seyran) had a callus on the lung, but he was drafted without solving the health problem.
12. During the military service deceased serviceman Zhora Yesayan became sick with pneumonia, and chickenpox. He was hospitalized and received several treatments in the military unit's medical point. In all of the photos taken in the combat positions Zhora Yesayan had slippers on, which indicated that he could not wear standard military shoes.
13. Initially during the service in Armavir academic military unit deceased serviceman David Hayrapetyan (patronymic Razmik) got sick with pneumonia, during the vacation he was extremely emaciated, and had difficulties in breathing. During the 10-day vacation the parents attempted to treat him, but he was moved to Mataghis military unit incompletely recovered. He served as a tank gunner.
14. During the military service perished serviceman Hayk Minasyan (patronymic Samvel) got sick with pneumonia, in relation to which a 20-day vacation was issued to undergo home-based treatment.
15. Deceased serviceman Norik Sargsyan (patronymic Zaven) regularly got sick during the military service.

Thus, at least 15 of the deceased 61 soldiers had health-related issues.

Analyzing the data provided by the relatives of the perished servicemen regarding their health issues prior to the conscription and military service, we can categorize the health issues according to the following diseases:

- Acute Respiratory Infection
- Eye diseases: eyesight problems,
- Foot deformities,
- Bone diseases,
- Heart disease
- Allergies,
- Maxillofacial pathologies

5 of the aforementioned 15 servicemen had 2 or more co-morbid illnesses before the call-up, but despite it, they served in the frontline.

Pursuant to the information provided by the relatives, it can be inferred that the call-up of servicemen with health issues was also problematic, since many of them continued having health problems also during the military service.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summarizing the data acquired regarding the death circumstances of the servicemen perished due to the April 2-5, 2016 hostilities and breach of ceasefire during April 6-30, we can conclude:

1. The family members of the servicemen are not properly informed about the death circumstances and causes of their relatives.
2. A great number of shortcomings and gaps relating to the organization of military service stand among the reasons for the casualties triggered by the hostilities, among them being improper provision of arms and ammunition, failure to use intelligence data in time, malfunctioning of military equipment.
3. Personal safety measures are not properly ensured,
4. Proper medical support is not provided,
5. Servicemen with serious health issues are enrolled in military service requiring high tactical efficiency.
6. Some of the servicemen's relatives were faced with issues relating to the identification of the corpses.

Based on the aforementioned conclusion, we find that,

1. The RA Ministry of Defense should conduct an internal investigation regarding the death circumstances of the servicemen perished during the April hostilities, and deceased due to the breach of ceasefire, as well as provide the conclusions and investigation outcomes to the relatives.
2. The RA Central Military Prosecutor's Office, and the RA Investigative Committee should institute criminal cases in relation to,
 - The facts of malfunctioning of the military equipment, lack of ammunition and improper provision of medical aid and support;
 - The facts of lack or inadequate provision of ammunition and personal safety measures;
 - The deaths triggered by the failure to provide adequate medical support;
 - The facts of drafting servicemen with serious health problems,

3. The RA NA Standing Committee on Defense, National Security and Internal Affairs should hold public hearings on the death circumstances of the servicemen perished due to and during the April hostilities.
4. RA Human Rights Defender should conduct a study over the death circumstances of the servicemen perished due to the April hostilities, and the fulfillment of the obligations by the RA Ministry of Defense and the RA Armed Forces General Headquarters.