



Helsinki Citizens' Assembly  
Vanadzor



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## REFERENCE

ON DEATH CASES IN RA ARMED FORCES AND NK DEFENSE ARMY IN THE FIRST 6 MONTHS  
OF 2017

VANADZOR

2017



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The views, comments and conclusions expressed in the Report are those of the authors and may not coincide with those of the funding organization.

## Executive Summary

HCA Vanadzor collected the data on the death cases in January-June 2017 from the information disseminated by the mass media and official sources as well as provided by the families of the deceased servicemen.

According to the findings of the study by HCA Vanadzor, in January-June 2017, **36 conscript soldiers and contract servicemen**, more exactly 23 conscript soldiers and 13 contract servicemen, deceased in the RA armed forces and NK defense army. Out of the **36** death cases, **16** were caused by ceasefire violations, **4** cases – by murder (breach of the rules for handling weapons), **6** cases – by accidents (4 cases - by car accidents, 1 case – by poisoning and 1 case was qualified as negligent attitude to service that negligently caused death), **6** cases – by suicide or causing somebody to commit suicide and the other **4** cases were caused by health problems. Out of the said 36 cases, there are official reports on 34 and information on the other 2 cases was collected only from the mass media reports.

Out of the identified 36 cases, 33 cases occurred when the servicemen were in service, in 2 other cases servicemen died at the Central Clinical Military Hospital and 1 case occurred on the way to work. Note that on April 22, 2017 a serviceman of the Russian military base in Gyumri was murdered.

To compare, it should be noted that in the same period of 2016, according to HCA Vanadzor's information on the period till January 16, 2017,<sup>1</sup> 136 death cases were identified, 77 of which were caused by the hostilities of April 1-5 and as for the other 59 cases, 23 of them were caused by ceasefire violation, 13 – by accidents (4 – by car accidents, 1 – by electric shock, 2 – by breach of vehicle driving and operation rules, 3 – by natural disasters /1 case was caused by avalanches and 2 cases – by floods/, 2 – by dugout collapse and 1 – by drowning), 11 cases were caused by murder (5 cases - by breach of the rules for handling weapons, 3 cases – by breach of statutory relations, 1 case was caused in circumstances still unclear and 1 case was caused intentionally), 9 cases were caused by suicide or causing somebody to commit suicide, 1 case was caused by breach of combat duty rules and another 1 case was caused by health problems, namely infarction.

<sup>1</sup> <http://hcav.am/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/%D5%8F%D4%B5%D5%82%D4%B5%D4%BF%D4%B1%D5%86%D5%94-2016-%D4%B9-%D5%80%D5%80-%D4%B6%D4%BB%D5%86%D5%8E%D4%B1%D4%BE-%D5%88%D5%92%D4%BA%D4%B5%D5%90%D5%88%D5%92%D5%84-%D4%B5%D5%8E-%D4%BC%D5%82-%D5%8A%D4%B1%D5%87%D5%8F%D5%8A%D4%B1%D5%86%D5%88%D5%92%D4%B9%D5%85%D4%B1%D5%86-%D4%B2%D4%B1%D5%86%D4%B1%D4%BF%D5%88%D5%92%D5%84-%D5%84%D4%B1%D5%80%D4%B1%D5%91%D5%88%D5%92%D4%B9%D5%85%D4%B1%D5%86-%D4%B4%D4%B5%D5%8A%D5%94%D4%B5%D5%90%D4%BB-%D5%84%D4%B1%D5%8D%D4%BB%D5%86.pdf>

*The accurate information on the number of death cases throughout 2016 specified by HCA Vanadzor is provided in the Reference on Updated Information on Death Cases Identified in RA Armed Forces and NK Defense Army in 2016 published on July 6, 2017.*

As we can see in Table 1, out of the 16 death cases caused by ceasefire violation in January-June 2017, 1 case occurred in RA and the other 15 in NK. Table 1 also provides relevant data for 2013-2017.

**Table 1. Number of death cases in the period between 2013 and first 6 months of 2017 in peacetime and due to ceasefire violation, by location**

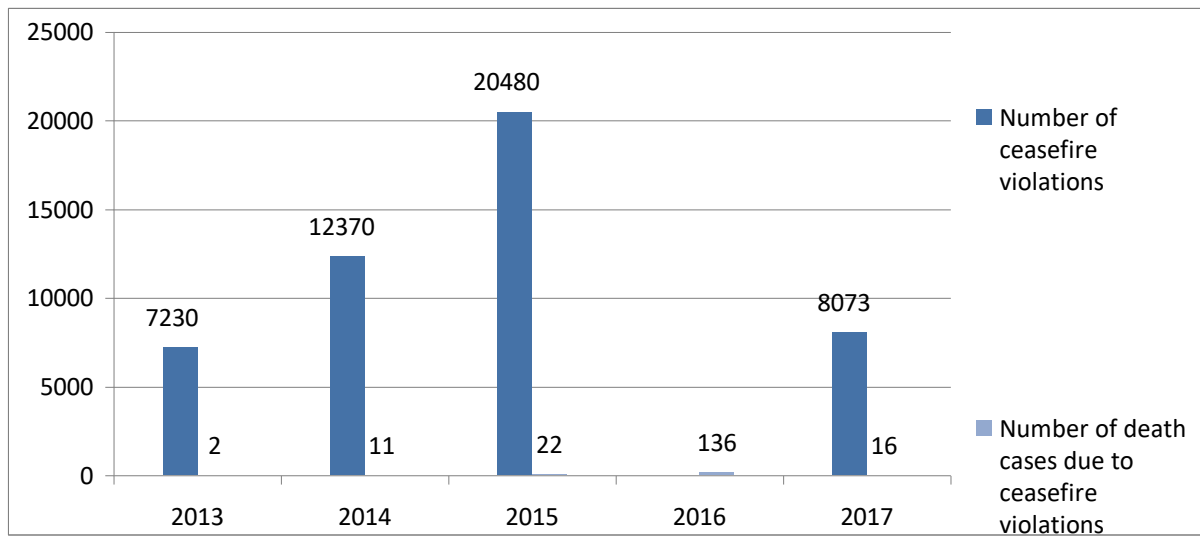
Year	RA		NK		Total
	Peacetime	Ceasefire violation	Peacetime	Ceasefire violation /April hostilities	
2013	10	1	3	1	15
2014	7	3	4	8	22
2015	6	6	8	16	36
2016	15	2	19	23   7 7	136
2017	10	1	10	15	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>245</b>

Note that in the period between 2013 and first 6 months of 2017, the number of death cases totaled 245, with 92 death cases in peacetime and 153 death cases caused by ceasefire violations including due to the hostilities in April 2016 /77 death cases/.

Note that if we consider the death cases in this period without those caused by the hostilities of April 2-5, 2016, we can see that in 2013-2017 more death cases were registered in peacetime /92/ than due to ceasefire violation /76/.

Chart 1 shows the ceasefire violation in January-June 2017 by the years 2013-2017 and the statistics of the death cases it caused.

**Chart 1. Ceasefire violations and statistics of the resulting death cases in the period between 2013 and first 6 months of 2017**



If we

consider the number of ceasefire violations per death case caused by such violations /see Table 2/ in the period between 2013 and first 6 months of 2017, we can see that in 2017 the number of ceasefire violation per death case has reduced significantly. This suggests a higher level in safety rules and security measures.

**Table 2. Number of ceasefire violations and shots per death case in the period between 2013 and first 6 months of 2017**

Year	Number of ceasefire violations <sup>1</sup> per death case	Number of death cases due to ceasefire violation
2013	3615	2
2014	1124	11
2015	930	22
2016	- <sup>2</sup>	23
2017	504	16

**Table 3. Arms used by the enemy and frequency of their use during ceasefire violations in 2016 and first 6 months of 2017**

Arms used during ceasefire violations				
	Frequency of use of arms in the first 6 months of 2016	Quantity of used shells in the first 6 months of 2016	Frequency of use of arms in the first 6 months of 2017	Quantity of used shells in the first 6 months of 2017
Grenade launchers	55	497	29	207
RPG-7	14	37 shells	6	17 shells

<sup>2</sup> Every year, except that of 2016 and December 18-31, 2015 the official website of the NK Defense Army provided data on the number of the ceasefire violations. And in 2016 and on December 18-31, 2015, the website showed only the number of shots.



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AGS-17	31	388 shells	11	76 shells
GP-25	2	7 shells	-	-
HHN-9	4	6 shells	2	1 shells
RPG-7	-	-	2	2 shells
Heavy machine-automatic	2	57 shells	-	-
Heavy machine- antitank	-	-	8	111 shells
Hand-antitank	2	2 shells	-	-
<b>Mortar (artillery)</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1091</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>831</b>
60 mm	36	367 shells	27	184 shells
60 and 82 mm	6	113 shells	23	462 shells
60, 82 and 120 mm	2	No data	1	21 shells
82 mm	23	606 shells	11	70 shells
120 mm	1	5 shells	2	94 shells
<b>Firearms</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>6</b>	
AK	1	No data	-	-
SVD	1	No data	2	No data
'Black Arrow'	-	-	1	No data
Istigal	1	No data	3	No data
DShK	1	No data	-	-
<b>Missile stations</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1183</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
TR-107	2	49 shells	2	5 shells
TR-107 and MM21	1	270 shells	-	-

MM21	2	572 shells	-	-
Zenith system ZU-23-2	5	257 shells	-	-
Zenith-rocket complex 9M33 M3	1	No data	-	-
Infantry fighting vehicle, IFV	1	34 shells	-	-
Anti-tank guided missile SPIKE	1	1 shells	1	No data
85, 100, 122 and 152 mm cannons	1	No data	-	-

The data on the types of the arms and number of the shells used in 2016 and in the first 6 months of 2017 show a rapid increase in the types and number of the arms and shells used during the hostilities of April 2016. During the first 6 months of 2016, missile station was used mostly during the April hostilities. The general picture shows that as compared to the first 6 months of 2017, in the first 6 months of 2016 most frequently were used 60 and 82 mm mortars and grenade launchers RPG-7, AGS-17 and HHN-9. And some arms were not used at all in the first 6 months of 2017.

It should be noted that the official website of the NK Defense Army published information on the used arms but did not always publish information on the quantity of the used shells.

### **Criminal cases initiated on death cases in January-June 2017**

Criminal cases were initiated under the articles below of the RA Criminal Code on 30 death cases in January-June 2017:

- 12 criminal cases were initiated under Article 104(2)(13), RA Criminal Code, i.e. murder out of motives of national, racial or religious hatred or fanaticism;
- 5 criminal cases were initiated under Article 110(1), RA Criminal Code, i.e. 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;



- 3 criminal cases were initiated under Article 104(2)(1, 6 and 13), RA Criminal Code, i.e. murder causing death of 2 and more persons and committed in a manner dangerous for the lives of many people out of motives of national, racial or religious hatred or fanaticism;
- 3 criminal cases were initiated under Article 373(3), RA Criminal Code, i.e. breach of rules for handling weapons; murder;
- 3 criminal cases were initiated under Article 377(3), RA Criminal Code, i.e. breach of rules for driving or operating military, special or transport vehicles which negligently caused the death of 2 or more persons;
- 2 criminal cases were initiated under Article 376(2), RA Criminal Code, i.e. negligent attitude to service if it caused grave consequences;
- 1 criminal case was initiated under Article 373(2), RA Criminal Code, i.e. breach of rules for handling weapons;
- 1 criminal case was initiated under Article 377(2), RA Criminal Code, i.e. breach of rules for driving or operating military, special or transport vehicles which negligently caused human death.

*As for the other 6 death cases, 3 of which were caused by health problems and 1 was caused by ceasefire violation, there is no information available on whether any criminal proceedings were initiated. On 1 death case caused by health problems, there is information that criminal proceedings were initiated but there is no mention of the article of the RA Criminal Code under which they were initiated. And according to the statement on 1 of the death cases posted on the RA Investigative Committee's official website, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Garrison Investigative Division investigates the case but again there is no mention of the article of the Criminal Code.<sup>3</sup>*

### Statistical data and outline of death cases in first 6 months of 2017

Out of the 36 servicemen who died in January-June 2017, 13 were contract servicemen and 23 were conscript soldiers. There are official reports on 33 out of 36 death cases; the primary source for sharing such information were the official website of the NK Defense Ministry,<sup>4</sup> the official website for the RA Investigative Committee<sup>5</sup> and in some cases the mass media as well.

<sup>3</sup> <http://investigative.am/news/view/lernik-osyan.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://nkrmil.am/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://investigative.am/military-investigation/military-newsfeed.html>



Below are the statistical data for the death cases in the first 6 months of 2017, by their causes (see Table 4 and Chart 2), brief data on such cases (see Table 5) and the available data on death circumstances.

**Table 4. Statistics of death cases in the RA Armed Forces and NK Defense Army in 2017, by HCA Vanadzor’s study**

Month	Ceasfire violations	Suicide/ causing somebody to commit suicide	Murder/ Breach of rules for handling weapons	Accidents			Health problems	Number of incidents	Total
				Negligent attitude to service	Car accident	Poisoning from carbon monoxide			
January	3	1	1				1	7*	6
February	2	1	0				0	6	6
March	3**	0	1				0	3	4
April	2	1	1				1	5	5
May	2	2	1				0	6	8
June	4	1	0				2	5	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>				<b>4</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>36</b>

\*The serviceman injured in a ceasefire violation incident in January died in March.

**Chart 2. Causes of death in January-June 2017**

