

Russian Peacekeeping Operation in Nagorno-Karabakh (2020–2023)

Ruzanna E. Gasparyan ^{1a}, Alexander Yu. Skakov ^{2b}

¹ Yerevan State University, Yerevan, Armenia

² Institute of Oriental Studies RAS Moscow, Russian Federation

a ruzanna.gasparyan@ysu.am, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1689-3192>

b skakov09@gmail.com, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1842-2557>

Abstract. The article presents the results of a study of the peacekeeping mission conducted by the Russian peacekeeping forces in Nagorno-Karabakh in 2020–2023 and assesses its effectiveness. According to the trilateral agreement signed on November 10, 2020 by the Presidents of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Russian peacekeepers were introduced into Nagorno-Karabakh. After the signed trilateral agreement, two more agreements followed, which fixed effective activities and strengthened the need for the presence of peacekeepers in the region. In December 2022, Azerbaijani so-called “eco-activists” blocked the only road (the Lachin Corridor) connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia, blocking the free movement of people and goods, hindering the activities of peacekeepers and creating a humanitarian crisis for the population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Keywords: peacekeepers, Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh, Transcaucasia, politics

Acknowledgements: The author expresses gratitude to the management and staff of NIIRK for their help, for the opportunity to work with archival material in the Russian State Library and in the Archive of the Institute of Russian History of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

For citation: Gasparyan R.E., Skakov A.Yu. Russian Peacekeeping Operation in Nagorno-Karabakh (2020–2023). *Russia and the World: Scientific Dialogue*. 2023;3(9): 34–46, [https://doi.org/10.53658/RW2023-3-3\(9\)-34-46](https://doi.org/10.53658/RW2023-3-3(9)-34-46)

Introduction

In 2020, Russian peacekeepers were introduced into the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh to maintain stability in the region and promote peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This was part of a tripartite agreement signed on the night of November 9–10, 2020 by the two countries and Russia. Russian peacekeeping forces use military

equipment such as helicopters and armored vehicles (90 armored personnel carriers) to monitor the ceasefire and ensure the safety of civilians in the region. Peacekeepers control a corridor allowing the free movement of people and goods across the region's borders. Russian peacekeepers are mediators in negotiations between the Armenian and Azerbaijani sides.

The purpose of the article is to present the results of a study of the operation of Russian peacekeeping forces in Nagorno-Karabakh and assess its effectiveness.

The relevance of the topic is related to the need to study regional problems.

The operation of the Russian Federation in Nagorno-Karabakh is not the only peacekeeping operation in the post-Soviet space¹. The international community, led by the UN, during the Cold War was unable to respond to major conflicts due to hostility between the United States and the Soviet Union. At that time, military intervention in the affairs of other states was considered a violation of the norm of non-intervention. During the Cold War, there were three significant cases of intervention by individual states: the Indian intervention in East Pakistan (1971), the Tanzanian intervention in Uganda (1978), the Vietnamese intervention in Cambodia (1979)². After the collapse of the USSR, Russia took on a peacekeeping mission in a number of CIS countries³. Thus, the Russian operational group of troops of the 14th Army, stationed in Transnistria (Moldova) [2:209–210], is carrying out a peacekeeping mission [1]. Russia actively participated in resolving conflicts in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Tajikistan [1]. In addition to peacekeeping missions in Moldova, Georgia and Tajikistan, Russian military personnel participated in UN peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia⁴. Russian military personnel were stationed in Angola as part of the UN Control Commission⁵. 73 Russian military observers were part of UN missions in the Middle East, on the Iraq-Kuwait border, Western Sahara, Yugoslavia, Angola and Georgia. 1,600 Russian airborne troops became part of the NATO Special Forces in the former Yugoslavia (Kosovo).

Russia has its military bases on the territory of the CIS, which is a guarantor of the security of both the state borders of Russia itself and the borders of its allies. There are

¹ Laktionova I.V. Russia's peacekeeping activities in the CIS (1992–1999). Abstract of the theses of the CandSc (Polit.). Moscow, 2004.

² Wheeler N.J., Morris J. Humanitarian Intervention and State Practice at the End of the Cold War. In: Fawn R., and Larkins J. International Society after the Cold War. Basingstoke, Macmillan Press, 1996.

³ Zagorsky A.V. Russia in the European security system. Moscow: IMEMO RAS, 2017:139.

⁴ Nikitin A.I. International conflicts: intervention, peacekeeping, resolution. Moscow: Aspect Press, 2017:384.

⁵ Consideration by the Security Council of issues in accordance with its responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. The situation in Angola. Compendium of the Practice of the Security Council - Supplement for the years 1993–1995. Chapter VIII. Responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international law and security. The situation in Angola. Available from: https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/ru/sc/reperoire/93-95/93-95_08.pdf

several Russian military facilities in Belarus⁶. Until 2014, the Crimean naval base operated in Ukraine⁷. In Armenia, in the city of Gyumri, the 102nd military base of Russia has been permanently located since 1995⁸. The Gabala radar station is located in Azerbaijan, which was leased to Russia from 1994 to 2012⁹. Until 2009, Russian military bases were permanently located in Georgia¹⁰. Military installations of the Russian Federation are located on the territory of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan¹¹.

Materials and Methods

The authors' research materials included published documents, statements by politicians, interviews and media publications.

The variety of sources promotes the use of different methods. The main research methods were content analysis, event analysis, historical retrospective method, and comparative analysis.

Results

Events in the region and the activities of Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh from November 10, 2020 to January 31, 2023

The war started by the Republic of Azerbaijan against the Defense Army of Nagorno-Karabakh (Republic of Artsakh) on September 27, 2020, ended on November 10, 2020 with a tripartite agreement signed by the Presidents of the Russian Federation V.V.Putin, the Republic of Azerbaijan I.G.Aliyev and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N.V.Pashinyan. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Declaration provided for the deployment of Russian peacekeeping forces in Nagorno-Karabakh along the line of contact and the Lachin (Berdzor) corridor for a period of five years, with an automatic extension for the next 5 years, unless one of the parties declares its intention to terminate the application of the

⁶ Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia on Russian military bases on the territory of the Republic of Georgia dated September 15, 1995. In: Legislation of the CIS countries. Available from: https://base.spininform.ru/show_doc.fwx?rgn=25425

⁷ Crimean naval base of the Black Sea Fleet. In: Nevsky Bastion. Available from: <https://tass.ru/spec/black-sea-fleet>

⁸ 102nd Russian military base. Available from: https://gyumri.mid.ru/ru/sootchestvenniki/102_aya_rossiyskaya_voennoy_baza/

⁹ Russia and Azerbaijan agreed to lease the Gabala radar station for three years. Available from: <https://www.vedomosti.ru/politics/news/2012/09/28/rossiya-i-azerbajdzhan-dogovorilis-ob-arende-gabalinskoy-rls-na-tri-goda>

¹⁰ Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia on Russian military bases on the territory of the Republic of Georgia dated September 15, 1995. Available from: https://base.spininform.ru/show_doc.fwx?rgn=25425

¹¹ Lukin M. All Russian bases. Kommersant. 21.05.2007. Available from: <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/766827/>; Nersisyan L. There is nowhere else to retreat: Russian military bases, 2015. Regnum. 24.03.2015. Available from: <https://regnum.ru/news/polit/1908336.html>.

agreement in 6 months before the end of the term^{12*}. At that time, the participation of other countries in the peacekeeping mission was not discussed.

The Humanitarian Response Center of the Russian peacekeeping contingent is actively working in Stepanakert (the capital of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic)¹³. Within the framework of the Center, humanitarian aid is delivered to the population, demining of territories is organized, and assistance is provided in the search for missing persons. The center provides necessary humanitarian assistance¹⁴, promotes employment and solving other social problems¹⁵.

At a trilateral meeting held on January 11, 2021 in Moscow with the participation of the President of the Russian Federation V.V.Putin, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N.V.Pashinyan and the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan I.G.Aliyev, it was announced that more than 48 thousand displaced persons and refugees have returned to Nagorno-Karabakh¹⁶, and that most of the prisoners who returned to Armenia were transported with the help of peacekeeping forces. As of February 16, 2022, 150 people were released from captivity¹⁷.

In total, 22 groups of prisoners were returned after the war, 18 of them through the mediation of the Russian Federation and 4 through the mediation of other countries - the USA, EU, France, Hungary and Georgia. Through the mediation of the Russian Federation, 111 Armenian prisoners of war were released from captivity (we note the return of 15 Armenian prisoners of war in exchange for a map of 97,000 anti-personnel and anti-tank

¹² Statement by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation. Available from: <http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64384> * Ознакомиться с картами дислокации миротворческих войск можно на сайте Минобороны РФ: Архив карт обстановок в районе проведения миротворческой операции. Available from: https://mil.ru/russian_peacekeeping_forces/infograf/.htm

¹³ Russian peacekeepers received more than 3.5 thousand requests for help at the Citizens Reception Point, and also began targeted distribution of humanitarian aid in Stepanakert. Available from: https://z.mil.ru/spec_mil_oper/brief/briefings/more.htm?id=12351938@egNews; Около 2,5 тыс. человек обратились за помощью в пункт приема граждан российского миротворческого контингента в Нагорном Карабахе. URL: <https://stat.mil.ru/et/news/more.htm?id=12347339@egNews>

¹⁴ Russian peacekeepers donated about 40 liters of blood for patients in Nagorno-Karabakh. Available from: https://contract.mil.ru/sel_contract/news/more.htm?id=12376920@egNews. Find the fallen, help the living. Available from: <https://zvezdaweekly.ru/news/2021451353-lnG65.html>

¹⁵ Russian peacekeepers carried out a humanitarian action in a kindergarten in the village of Ashan in Nagorno-Karabakh. Available from: https://mil.ru/russian_peacekeeping_forces/news/more.htm?id=12410426@egNews

¹⁶ Russian Ambassador: Russian peacekeepers played an important role in the return of prisoners from Azerbaijan. Available from: <https://tass.ru/politika/11713111>

¹⁷ *ՀՀ Ազգային անվտանգության ծառայությունից հայտնել են, որ 44-օրյա պատերազմից մինչև 2022 թվականի փետրվարի 16-ը գերությանից ազատվել է 150 հոգի: Նրանցից մեկը՝ լիբանանահայ Մարալ Նաջարյանը, 2021-ի մարտին ուղարկվել է Լիբանան, ևս մեկը 2021-ի փետրվարին իր ցանկությամբ ուղարկվել է ՌԴ. ըստ այդմ՝ հայրենադարձված ռազմագերիների թիվը կազմում է 148: Ըստ ԱԽՍ տվյալների՝ առաջին գերուն Ադրբեյջանը վերադարձրել է դեռևս պատերազմի օրերին՝ 2020 թվականի հոկտեմբերի 28-ին. [The National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia reported that during the 44-day war until February 16, 2022, 150 people were released from captivity. One of them, Maral Najarian, an Armenian of Lebanese origin, was sent to Lebanon in March 2021, and the other was sent to the Russian Federation at her own request in February 2021: accordingly, the number of repatriated prisoners of war is 148 people. According to the National Security Service, Azerbaijan returned its first prisoner during the war, on October 28, 2020] (in Armenian). Available from: <https://www.aravot.am/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/geriner.jpg>

mines installed in the Agdam region¹⁸), 39 Armenian prisoners were released through the mediation of the mentioned countries and organizations. Later, in September 2022, 5 more prisoners were returned to Armenia¹⁹.

The clashes that occurred in the zones of the Armenian-Azerbaijani and Azerbaijani-Karabakh (Artsakh) conflicts after the trilateral statement on November 10, 2020 show that the situation in the region is far from a peaceful settlement. Already on December 11, 2020, the ceasefire was violated in the area of the settlements of Khitsaberd and Khin Tager, Hadrut region. As a result of the actions of Russian peacekeeping forces, the violation was stopped²⁰.

Azerbaijani aggression is aimed not only at Nagorno-Karabakh, but also at the sovereign territory of Armenia. On May 12, 2021, the Azerbaijani military advanced deep into the Syunik region of Armenia and tried to gain a foothold in the Black Lake area (Sevlich)²¹.

In 2022, the Azerbaijani armed forces violated agreements and carried out military operations in areas under the control of Russian peacekeeping forces²².

On March 24-25, 2022, Azerbaijani troops captured the village of Parukh (Farukh), this threatened to escalate into a new military conflict, Azerbaijan used a Turkish-made drone “Bayraktar-TB2”, striking the positions of the armed forces of Nagorno-Karabakh²³.

After these events, military clashes began between Azerbaijan and Armenia on September 13, 2022. During the September escalation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, a week of fighting, according to official data, killed 207 Armenians and 77 Azerbaijanis²⁴.

The humanitarian situation around Nagorno-Karabakh escalated on December 12, 2022, when Azerbaijani so-called “eco-activists” blocked the Stepanakert-Goris road, the only highway that connects Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia. The command of the Russian peacekeeping contingent negotiated with representatives of Azerbaijan on opening

18 Baku and Yerevan exchanged prisoners and maps of minefields. Available from: <https://www.rbc.ru/politics/12/06/2021/60c4e88b9a79472eef8c0095>

19 Azerbaijan returned five prisoners of war to Armenia: Available from: <https://ru.armeniasputnik.am/amp/20220908/azerbaydzhan-vernul-armenii-pyatelykh-voennoplennyykh-oni-uzhe-na-rodine-47934222.html>

20 The Ministry of Defense denied reports that peacekeepers were surrounded in Karabakh: Available from: https://ria.ru/20201216/karabakh-1589572684.html?utm_source=yxnews&utm_medium=desktop; Yerevan stated that the Russian Federation helped the Armenian military escape from encirclement: Available from: <https://www.interfax.ru/world/741639>

21 The actions of the Azerbaijani side in the Black Lake area are unacceptable, this is an encroachment on the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia: Nikol Pashinyan at a meeting of the Security Council. Available from: <https://www.primeminister.am/ru/press-release/item/2021/05/12/Nikol-Pashinyan-Security-Council-meeting/>; Baku explained the situation on the border with Armenia by the relocation of the military. Available from: <https://www.kavkaz-uzel.eu/articles/363886/>

22 Yesterday, the Azerbaijani armed forces opened fire in the direction of Nerkin Hand. According to the head of the community, one person was injured. Available from: <https://rus.azatutyun.am/a/32044574.html>; MO: Units of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces opened fire from small arms in the direction of Armenian positions near the village of Nerkin Hand. Available from: panorama.am/ru/news/2022/12/09/МО-Подразделения-ВС-Азербайджана-Неркин-Ханд/2766693

23 The toponymic war has escalated in Karabakh. Available from: <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/5281162>

24 The United States wants to become the main moderator of negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Will the new mediators help Yerevan and Baku reach an agreement? More details on RBC: Available from: <https://www.rbc.ru/politics/29/09/2022/63356c749a7947718f34cca8>

the road for civilian transport. Many countries, including France, India and the United States, called on the Azerbaijani side to unblock the Lachin corridor (Berdzor). However, Nagorno-Karabakh, with a population of 120,000 people, is still under blockade and faces a humanitarian catastrophe²⁵.

Summing up the operation of the peacekeepers of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation in the region, we note that since November 23, 2020, 2,433 hectares of territory, 689.5 km of roads, 1,939 buildings have been cleared of unexploded mines and shells, 26,540 explosive objects were detected and neutralized²⁶.

Official view of the activities of peacekeepers

The official assessment of the Republic of Armenia of the presence of Russian peacekeepers is positive. Despite the provocative disinformation being spread, Armenia wants to see the presence of peacekeeping forces in Nagorno-Karabakh. The closure of the Lachin corridor leads to an increase in anti-Russian sentiment and discontent²⁷. The Republic of Armenia invites Russia to apply to the UN Security Council to obtain a mandate for the Russian peacekeeping mission²⁸. In his speech at the congress of the “Civil Contract” party, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia stated that an important point of the agreements of the trilateral meeting held on January 11, 2021 is that the Russian Federation is the guarantor of the security of Nagorno-Karabakh and the Republic of Armenia:

...this is very important, and we agreed on this scenario and plan <...> yes, also about Russian peacekeepers, do we want Russian peacekeepers to continue their activities in Nagorno-Karabakh, of course we do <...>. I officially declare that I am ready to sign a document in Sochi that the Russian peacekeeping presence in Nagorno-Karabakh will be unconditionally extended for 10 years, 15 years, 20 years...²⁹

Studying the official position of Azerbaijan, which was reflected in the statements of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding peacekeepers at different times, one

25 The humanitarian consequences of blocking the only road connecting artsakh with armenia and the world: December 26, 2022. Available from: <https://ombuds.am/images/files/c01555c03620fb8494eaeef308fe9ca15.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3yAEBlapS7WlgrCgFZ8zZ6SeKRvFh8b9H2rONXKQ3geyZ4hVR2H89n1eM>

26 Information bulletin of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation on the activities of the Russian peacekeeping contingent in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone (as of February 5, 2023). Available from: <http://surl.li/esvmd>

27 Pashinyan said that Armenia does not criticize Russian peacekeepers in Karabakh. Available from: <https://ria.ru/20230110/mirotvortsy-1843887159.html>; <https://tass.ru/mezhdunarodnaya-panorama/16766059>

28 Pashinyan named difficulties with Armenia's appeal to the UN Security Council. Available from: <https://www.rbc.ru/rbcfreenews/63bd66f49a7947317f012cc2>

29 Պատրաստ եմ ստորագրել փաստաթուղթ, որ ռուս խաղաղապահների ներկայությունը ԼՂ-ում երկարացվի 20 տարով. և Փաշինյան [I am ready to sign an extension of the Russian peacekeepers' mission in Artsakh for 20 years. N. Pashinyan] (in Armenian). Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn6JHDlmc78>

can understand that Baku considers the activities of peacekeepers a problem.³⁰ Azerbaijan would like to withdraw peacekeepers from the region. Recently, these statements have become more clear and harsh³¹, and after the closure of the Lachin (Berdzor) corridor, the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) is “offered” to accept Azerbaijani citizenship or leave Nagorno-Karabakh³².

The population of Nagorno-Karabakh highly appreciates Russian peacekeepers, this is expressed in statements by the President of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) Arayik Harutyunyan and the Minister of State of Nagorno-Karabakh Ruben Vardanyan³³. “The Russian Federation continues to ensure the security of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, although it is fragile and relatively stable,” said the President of Nagorno-Karabakh³⁴. In his video message, he stated:

Because Russia is busy, the guarantees of Russian peacekeepers are not implemented, which Azerbaijan takes advantage of. On the other hand, all foreign hostile forces carry out military and information provocations with the aim of undermining the role of Russian peacekeepers and creating distrust of Russia among the people of Artsakh. I am confident that the people of Artsakh will not succumb to provocations; a striking example is the special attitude towards Russian peacekeepers in Artsakh. Despite the geopolitical restructuring and challenges in the world and the region, the Russian Federation continues to provide fragile, but still relatively stable security for the people of Artsakh. We hope that it will be possible to increase the effectiveness of Russia’s peacekeeping mission and ensure the indefinite presence of peacekeepers in Artsakh as the most important guarantee of the security of our people³⁵.

One girl (Astghik), who remained in Armenia before the closure of the Lachin corridor, told how Russian peacekeepers helped them return to Artsakh:

30 Ilham Aliyev voiced claims against Russian peacekeepers and mediators Available from: <https://www.kavkaz-uzel.eu/articles/368522/>; Aliyev spoke about Azerbaijan’s claims to Russian peacekeepers Available from: https://lenta.ru/news/2021/09/27/aliev_karb/

31 President Ilham Aliyev: Karabakh is our land. Russian peacekeepers are stationed there temporarily. Available from: <https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3666784.html>; Ilham Aliyev: Russian peacekeepers are there temporarily, and if the Armenians are counting on someone, they will again face tragedy. Available from: <https://1news.az/news/20221108034424760-Ilkham-Aliyev-Rossiiskie-mirotvortsy-nakhodyatsya-tam-vremenno-i-esli-armyane-na-kogo-to-rasschityvayut-oni-snova-stolknutsya-s-tragediei>

32 Ilham Aliyev to the Armenians of Karabakh: accept Azerbaijani citizenship or leave. Available from: <https://www.bbc.com/russian/news-64241011>

33 Vardanyan called the situation in Karabakh too difficult for the emergence of new peacekeepers. Available from: <https://tass.ru/mezhdunarodnaya-panorama/16824091>; Ruben Vardanyan demands to stop criticizing Russian peacekeepers. URL: <https://rus.azatutyun.am/a/32220729.html>.

34 Ռուսական խաղաղապահների երաշխիքները ճեղքման են ենթարկվել, ինչից օգտվում է Ադրբեյջանը. Արայիկ Հարությունյան [The guarantees of Russian peacekeepers were violated, which Azerbaijan takes advantage of. Arayik Harutyunyan] (in Armenian). Available from: <https://www.pastinfo.am/hy/news/2022/09/19/axjqv26y1/1463140>.

35 We hope to ensure the indefinite presence of Russian peacekeepers in Artsakh. Arayik Harutyunyan (in Armenian). Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUz275oafg0>

...when the Russian peacekeepers wanted to enter the car, they knocked on the door, we opened it, but suddenly, without knocking, the Azerbaijanis opened the door, tried to enter the car and take a video, the Russian peacekeepers did not let in, and during this commotion, one of our girls it got worse. And when we passed this section of the road, we started calling our parents to meet us...³⁶

This is one of many facts that reflect the behavior and attitude of Azerbaijanis towards Armenians, even minors.

The Russian side, despite enormous efforts aimed at a peaceful resolution of the problem and stability in the region (tripartite statements of November 9, 2020, January 11 and November 26, 2021, October 31, 2022³⁷) and calls³⁸ to the opening of the Lachin corridor, Azerbaijan continues to ignore tripartite agreements and continues to blockade Nagorno-Karabakh (depriving the population of gas supply for several days in winter). This calls into question the effectiveness of peacekeepers.

Conclusion

It is clear that depriving for months the 120,000 residents of Nagorno-Karabakh of freedom of movement, daily food supplies and other essentials is a serious violation of human rights from a legal point of view³⁹, and it can be assumed that the Azerbaijani side, judging by the warning of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to the Armenian side of other statements⁴⁰, is preparing the basis for the withdrawal of Russian peacekeeping forces from the region. But the Armenian side positively assesses the presence of Russian peacekeeping forces in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Russian peacekeepers provide in the region:

- public safety,
- stability,
- solving emerging humanitarian problems,

36 Ադրբեյջանցիները հանկարծակի դուռը բացեցին, փորձեցին մտնել մեքենան, ռուսները չթողեցին. պատմում է Արցախի վերադարձած աղջիկը. «Ռուս խաղաղապահները, երբ ուզում էին մտնել մեքենա, ծեծում էին դուռը, մենք բացում էինք, բայց հանկարծակի, առանց ծեծելու. ադրբեյջանցիները դուռը բացեցին, փորձեցին մտնել մեքենան ու տեսանկարահանել, ռուս խաղաղապահները չթողեցին, հենց այդ իրադրությունում ժամանակ էլ մեր աղջիկներից մեկի ինքնազգացողությունը վատացավ: Իսկ երբ այդ ճանապարհահատվածն անցանք, սկսեցինք զանգել ծնողներին, որ մեզ դիմապահեն» [The Azerbaijanis suddenly opened the door and tried to enter the car, but the Russians did not let them in] (in Armenian). Available from: <https://politik.am/am/adrbejancinery-hankartsaki-dury-bacecin-pordzecin-mtnel-megenan-rusnery-ctoxecin-patmum-e-arcakh-veradardzats>

37 Statement by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation. Available from: <http://www.kremlin.ru/supplement/5860>

38 Lavrov called for the nearest unblocking of the Lachin corridor. Available from: <https://ria.ru/20230117/koridor-1845578693.html>; Pashinyan and Putin discussed the closure of the Lachin corridor and the activities of Russian peacekeepers. Available from: <https://tass.ru/mezhdunarodnaya-panorama/16928667>

39 European Convention on Human Rights. Available from: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/european-convention-on-human-rights>; <https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-convention/reference-texts>

40 Armenia’s position is flawed! President Ilham Aliyev accused Armenia of trying to disrupt peace talks. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1NJOQcWkPk>.

The deployment of Russian peacekeepers is seen as an important step towards resolving the protracted conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The presence of peacekeepers will help prevent further escalation of the conflict and create an atmosphere of cooperation between the two countries; Russia's actions in the region are seen as an important step towards regional stability and peace. The presence of Russian peacekeepers will help end decades of violence and allow both sides to focus on development and reconstruction of the region.

It can be stated:

- for the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, the presence of peacekeepers is a guarantee of survival;
- this is a guarantee of security for Nagorno-Karabakh and regional stability for the Republic of Armenia.
- Russian peacekeepers will not allow Azerbaijan to completely oust ethnic Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh.

The presence of a peacekeeping contingent in Transcaucasia is currently the only guarantee of peace and stability.

*The organization has been recognized a terrorist organization by the Russian Supreme Court. Unified federal list of organizations, including foreign and international organizations, recognized as terrorist in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation (as of June 25, 2023). URL: [http:// www.fsb.ru/fsb/npd/terror.htm](http://www.fsb.ru/fsb/npd/terror.htm); 18+

References

1. Zagorsky A. V. Russia in the system of European security. Moscow: IMEMO RAN, 2017:139. Available from: https://www.imemo.ru/files/File/ru/publ/2017/2017_024.pdf [In Russian].
2. Laktionova I. V. Peacekeeping activity of Russia in the CIS 1992-1999. Abstract. Moscow, 2004 [In Russian].
3. Nikitin I. A. International conflicts: intervention, peacemaking, settlement. Available from: [http:// dcaf.ch/sites/default/files/publications/documents/bm_peacesupportops_rus.pdf](http://dcaf.ch/sites/default/files/publications/documents/bm_peacesupportops_rus.pdf) [In Russian].
4. Pryakhin V. V. Regional conflicts in the post-Soviet space (Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Nagorno-Karabakh, Transnistria, Tajikistan). Moscow: LLC "Publishing house GNOM and D", 2002:344. Available from: <http://apsnyteka.org/105-prjakhin.html> [In Russian].
5. Kharitonova N. I. The role of Russia in the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict (2014–2018): political aspects. Public administration. Electronic Bulletin. 2019 February; №72:209-224. Available from: <file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/rol-rossii-v-uregulirovanii-pridnestrovskogo-konflikta-2014-2018-gg-politicheskie-aspekty.pdf> [In Russian].
6. Shamarov P., Lavrenov S. Russian peacekeeping in Transnistria (On the 25th anniversary of the beginning). Observer-Obcerver. 2017, №10. Available from: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/rossiyskoe-mirotvorchestvo-v-pridnestrovie-k-25-letiyu-so-dnya-nachala/viewer> [In Russian].
7. Wheeler N. J., Morris J. Humanitarian Intervention and State Practice at the End of the Cold War // International society after the Cold War: anarchy and order reconsidered / ed. by Rick Fawn, Jeremy Larkins. Basingstoke, Macmillan Press, 1996. (In English).

About the authors

Ruzanna E. GASPARYAN – Junior Researcher at the Department of Armenian-Russian Relations of Yerevan State University, Institute of Armenian Studies, Postgraduate Student at the Department of History/Genocide Studies of Yerevan State University, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1689-3192>. Address: 1 Alex Manoogian, Yerevan, 0025, Republic of Armenia, ruzanna.gasparyan@ysu.am

Aleksandr A. SKAKOV – CandSc (Hist.) Institute of Oriental Studies, RAS, Deputy Director for Development, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1842-2557>. Address: 12 Rozhdestvenka St., 107031, Moscow, Russian Federation, skakov09@gmail.com

Contribution of the authors

The authors contributed equally to this article.

The authors declare no conflicts of interests.

Article info

Submitted: 12 February 2023. Approved after peer reviewing: Match 14, 2023.

Accepted for publication: April 12, 2023. Published: September 15, 2023.

The authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

Peer review info

«Russia & World: Scientific Dialogue» thanks the anonymous reviewer(s) for their contribution to the peer review of this work.