

Armenian vandalism against immovable historical and cultural monuments of Shusha

The conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region remains to be one of the most controversial issues of the modern history of the South Caucasus. Nagorno-Karabakh has been a historical territory of Azerbaijan and majority of population were ethnic Azerbaijanis for the past several centuries. Armenian population could prevail only during the last two centuries after the settlement of the Armenians in this region as a result of the treaties signed between Russian-Persian and Russian-Ottoman empires at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Although the Versailles Peace Conference recognized Nagorno-Karabakh as part of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic of 1918-1920, Armenia did not abandon its demand on the territory. After two years controversies between Azerbaijan and Armenia, when the South Caucasus countries became part of the Soviet Empire at the beginning of 1920s, Nagorno-Karabakh was again flagged as a topic of discussion. Therefore, while referring to pre-existing reality, plenum of Kavbureau CC RCP(b) (Caucasus Bureau of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party of the Bolsheviks) decided to leave Nagorno-Karabakh within the territory of Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic according to the decree of the July 5, 1921. Further in 1923, it was granted with an autonomous status.

On the eve of the collapse of Soviet Union at the end of 1980s, the Regional Soviet of Nagorno-Karabakh decided to transfer the region to the sovereignty of Armenia, which was rejected not only by Azerbaijan SSR, but also by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Central committee of the CPSU with reference to the Article 78 of the USSR Constitution. The Article 78 clearly signified that territorial alterations were unacceptable without the agreement of the affected union republic. Despite this fact, Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh followed a secessionist policy and began to create their political structures with the direct support of the Armenian SSR. They elected a Congress of Authorized Representatives of the Population of the NKAO in the summer of 1989. The congress was comprised exclusively of Armenian deputies, elected by local soviets or by village councils. On 24 August of 1989, the congress elected National Council, featuring 78 members, and its Presidium became the de facto government of Karabakh.

Furthermore, Armenian side used the Soviet Law of 3 April 1990 “on the Procedures for Resolving Questions Related to the Secession of Union Republics from the USSR” as a legal basis to justify its separatist actions. These endeavors explicitly violated not only above-mentioned article of the Soviet Constitution, but also the 1990 April Law *per se*.

From that time on, Armenians possessed unconstitutional government over one fifth of the territory of Azerbaijan about 30 years, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent districts at the result of the First Karabakh War of 1991-1994. However, at the result of the Second Karabakh War that lasted 44 days between 27 September to 10 November 2020, Azerbaijan managed to liberate its territories from Armenian occupation and restore its sovereignty over Nagorno-Karabakh.

However, 30 years occupation had devastating influence over occupied territories of Azerbaijan in all meaning. Having succeeded in realizing its territorial claims militarily, Armenia spares no effort to consolidate the results of the use of force and politically promote its annexationist aspirations. To this end, Armenia undertakes measures to illegally change the demographic, cultural and physical character of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, thus gravely violating the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other applicable norms and principles of international humanitarian law. Over the period passed since the beginning of the conflict, tens of thousands settlers have moved to the occupied areas depopulated of their Azerbaijani inhabitants. Illegal activities in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan include also exploitation, plunder and illicit trade of assets, natural resources and other forms of wealth, permanent infrastructure development, extensive exploitation of agricultural and water resources, timber exporting, archaeological excavations, embezzlement of artifacts etc.

The occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan has also had catastrophic consequences for the country's cultural heritage in the occupied territories. The policy of purposeful destruction of this legacy following the occupation has been an irreparable blow both to Azerbaijani culture and world civilization. As has clearly been demonstrated in the deliberate change of the cultural look of Shusha and other towns and settlements of Karabakh, by destroying the monuments, changing architectural features and making "archaeological" excavations, Armenia pursues far-reaching targets of removing any signs heralding their Azerbaijani origins.

Shusha, which is considered as the pearl of the Caucasus, the cradle of our culture, and the mugham-singing heart of Azerbaijan, was occupied on May 8, 1992, by Russian and Armenian invaders. The occupation date of Shusha was a heavy blow to Azerbaijan's morality and severe grief for all of us. During invasion, aggressors demolished our historical monuments and razed them to the ground as reported. Armenian military forces plundered 15 ethnographic examples, 5 copper goods, 2 silver daggers, 1 stone pot, 20 different objects and valuable possessions from Shusha city museum, 5 precious ancient carpets, 4 kilims, 5 saddle-bags, 1 valuable lamp, the portrait of Uzeyir Hajibeyov, and several historical items from Karabakh history museum, many possessions and unique objects from memorial house museums of Mir Mohsun Navvab and Bulbul.

They carried precious objects from Shusha museums to Armenia – art and architectural works, carpet productions, folk applied art examples, archeological findings, necessary documents, and memorial possessions of Azerbaijan's outstanding personalities. All those things are sold in auction or presented to the public as Armenian cultural samples in exhibitions and museums.

List of historical and cultural monuments of Shusha (that faced Armenian vandalism until its liberation by the Glorious Army of Azerbaijan on November 8, 2020).

Immovable historical and cultural monuments of world importance

Name of the monument	Construction date	Location
Shusha state historical-architectural reserve	XVIII-XIX cc.	Shusha town

Immovable historical and cultural monuments of state Importance

ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENTS

Name of the monument	Construction date	Location
Walls of the fortress	1750	Shusha city
Palace of Panah Khan	XVIII c.	Shusha city, general Guliyev St.
Tower of Gara Boyukkhanim Khanim	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Ojaggulu St.
Mausoleum of Heydar	XIX c.	Shusha city, Ojaggulu St.
Estate of Hajigulu	XIX c.	Shusha city, F.Amirov St.
House of Natavan	XIX c.	Shusha city, Rasulzadeh St.
House of Asad bey	XIX c.	Shusha city, A.Garasharov St.
Mosque of Yikhari Govharagha	Was built in 1768-1769, basically repaired in 1837-1838	Shusha city, Chamahzaminli St.
Mosque of Ashaghi Govharagha	Was built in XVIII c., basically repaired in 1874	Shusha city, Govharagha St.
Two-floor Karvansaray	XIX c.	Shusha city, Govharagha St.
The estate complex of Mehmandarovs: mosque, small living house, large living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, F.B.Kocharli St.
Tower of Ibrahim khan	XVIII c.	Shusha city, A.Garasharov St.
Isa spring	XIX c.	In 7 km from Shusha city
Castle of Ibrahim khan	XVIII c.	Shusha city Dashalti village

THE STATE HISTORICAL-ARCHITECTURAL RESERVE OF SHUSHA

Name of the monument	Construction date	Location
House of Uzeyir Hajibayov	XIX c.	Shusha city, in the cross of Niyazi and U. Hajibayov St.
Khanlig Mukhtar Karvansaray	XVIII c.	Shusha city, M.F.Akhundov St.
Karvansaray of Agha Gahraman Mirsiyab oghlu	XIX c.	Shusha city, M.F.Akhundov St.
House of Zulfugar Hajibayov	XIX c.	Shusha city, Sadigjan St.
Saatli mosque (the first religious school where M.P.Vagif taught)	XIX c.	Shusha city, M.F.Akhundov St.
Ganja gateway	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Niyazi St.
House of A.Hagverdiyev	XVIII c.	Shusha city, A.Hagverdiyev St.
Gazanchi church		Shusha city, A.Hagverdiyev St.
House of Y.V.Chamanzaminli	XVIII c.	Shusha city, N.b.Vazirov St.
The medrese of the Yukhari Mosque	XVIII c.	N.Nazirov St
Karvansaray of Safarov brothers	XVIII c.	Ojaggulu St.
House of Sadigjan	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Sadigjan St.
House of Ughurlubey	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Karbalayi Safikhan St.
Palace of Khan	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Sadigjan St.
Shirin su bathroom	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Sadigjan St.
House of Seyid Shushinski	XIX c.	Shusha city, Sadigjan St.
Mausoleum of M.P. Vagif	XX c.	Shusha city, G.Guliyev St.
House of Gasim bey Zakir	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Q.b.Zakir St.
The medrese of Ashaghi Govharagha	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Govharagha St.
House of Behbudovs	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Kocharli St.
House of Firudin bey	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Q.Pirimov St.
House of M.M.Navvab	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Navvab St.
House of Bulbul	XIX c.	Shusha city, F.Amirov St.

House of F.B.Kocharli	XIX c.	Shusha city, 20 YanvarSt.
House of Huseyn bey	XVIII c.	Shusha city, T.Aliyev St.
House of Kechachioghlu Mahammad	XIX c.	Shusha city, T.Aliyev St.
Karvansara	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Vagif St.
House of Garay Asadov	XVIII c.	Shusha city, G.Asadov St.
House of S.S.Akhundov	XIX c.	Shusha city, U.Hajibeyov St.
House of J.Garyaghdioghlu	XVIII c.	Shusha city, J.Garyaghdioghlu St.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONUMENTS

Name of the monument	Construction date	Location
Barrow	The Bronze Age	To the north-west from Shusha town
Shusha and Shushakand stone box graves	Late Bronze and Early Iron Age	Near Shusha town and Shusha village
Shusha cave camp	The Stone Age	In the South of Shusha city, on the left shore of Dashalti river
Stone box necropolis	The Iron Age	Garabulag village
Necropolis	Late Bronze and Early Iron Age	Dolanlar village

Immovable historical and cultural monuments of local Importance

ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENTS

Name of the monument	Construction date	Location
Building of Realny School	XX c.	Shusha city, V.Jafarov St.
Building of hospital	XIX c.	Shusha city, Kocharli St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, Kocharli St.
Girl School	XIX c.	Shusha city, V.Jafarov St.
Living house of Aslan Garasharov	XIX c.	Shusha city, G.Asgarov St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, G.Asgarov St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, G.Asgarov St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, G.Asgarov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Panah Khan St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, U.Hajibayov St.

Living house of Mashadi Ibrahim	XIX c.	Shusha city, V.Jafarov St.
Living house of Mashadi Novruz	XIX c.	Shusha city, Panah Khan St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, G.B.Zakir St.
Living house		Shusha city, G.B.Zakir St.
Living house of Hasan Agha	XIX c.	Shusha city, Hagverdiyev St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, Aghadadali St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, Aghadadali St.
Living house of Shukurbey	XIX c.	Shusha city, Aghadadali St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, H.Hajiyev St.
Living house		Shusha city, H.Hajiyev St.
Living house		Shusha city, Ojaggulu St.
Living house of Jafargulu agha	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Bulbul St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Bulbul St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Bulbul St.
Ruins of church		Shusha city, G.Pirimov St.
Mausoleum		Shusha city, M.F.Akhundov St.
Khan gizi spring		Shusha city, M.F.Akhundov St.
Mardinli spring		Shusha city, Sadigjan St.
Spring	XVIII c.	Shusha city
Aghadadali spring	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Aghadadali St.
Girl monastery	XVIII-XIX cc.	Shusha city, GorkySt.
Spring	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Sabir St., in the Kocharli quarter
Spring	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Kocharli quarter
Spring	XIXc.	Shusha city, Govharagha St.
Lachin water reservoir	XIXc.	Shusha city, Garabakh St.
House of Suleyman Vazirov	XIXc.	Shusha city, Novrast St.
Gurdlar spring	1900	Shusha city, in the cross of general Guliyev and Hagverdiyev St.
Bath	XIX c.	Malibayli village
Novluspring	XIX c.	Malibayli village
Mosque	XIX c.	Malibayli village
Church	XIX c.	Dashalti village
Administrative building	XIX c.	Malibayli village

Church	XIX c.	Geybali village
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THE STATE HISTORICAL-ARCHITECTURAL RESERVE OF SHUSHA

Name of the monument	Construction date	Location
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, M.F.Akhundov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, M.F.Akhundov St.
Living house of Mamay bey	XVIII c.	Shusha city, M.F.Akhundov St.
Living house of Mashadi Teymur	XVIII c.	Shusha city, M.F.Akhundov St.
Salty (Shor) Spring	XIX c.	Shusha city, Kh.Mammadov St.
Living house of Khudu Mammadov	XIX c.	Shusha city, Kh.Mammadov St.
House of Alakbar bay	XIX c.	Shusha city, A.B.Hagverdiyev St.
Spring	XVIII c.	In the Chukhur quarter, Vazirov St.
Mosque	XVIII c.	In the Chukhur quarter, Vazirov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, L.Imanov St.
Living house of Latif Imanov	XVIII c.	Shusha city, L.Imanov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, L.Imanov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, L.Imanov St.
Mosque and karvansaray of Haji Abbas	XVIII c.	Shusha city, N.B.Vazirov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, N.B.Vazirov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, N.B.Vazirov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, N.B.Vazirov St.
Mardinli mosque	XIX c.	Shusha city, A.Garasharov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, A.Garasharov St.
Living house of Jahangir bay	XIX c.	Shusha city, A.Garasharov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, A.Garasharov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, A.Garasharov

		St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, A.Garasharov St.
Living house of Haji Mammad	XVIII c.	Shusha city, A.Garasharov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, A.Garasharov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, A.Garasharov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, A.Garasharov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, A.Garasharov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Guiiyev St.
Mosque of Haji Yusifli	XVIII c.	Shusha city, G.ismayiiov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, G.ismayiiov St.
House of Mashadi Salman	XVIII c.	Shusha city, G.ismayiiov St.
Juifalar mosque	XIX c.	Shushacity, U.Hajibayov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Govharagha St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Govharagha St.
Spring	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Govharagha St.
Mill	XX c.	Shusha city, A.Aghaoghlu St.
Living house of Haji Alibala	XIX c.	Shusha city, A.Aghaoghlu St.
Living house of Kabla Azad	XIX c.	Shusha city, A.Aghaoghlu St.
Hamamgabaghi spring	XIX c.	Shusha city, A.Aghaoghlu St.
Living house of Haji Sadigh	XVIII c.	Shusha city, A.Aghaoghlu St.
“Chol Gala” spring	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Shakhriyar St.
House of Haji Ibad	XIX c.	Shusha city, Fatma khanim Kamina St.
Chol Gala mosque	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Shakhriyar St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, L.Karimov St.
House of Meshedi Suleyman	XVIII c.	Shusha city, L.Karimov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, L.Karimov St.

Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, L.Karimov St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, L.Karimov St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, L.Karimov St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, L.Karimov St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, L.Karimov St.
House of Musavi	XVIII c.	Shusha city, L.Karimov St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, L.Karimov St.
Living house of Haji Mammadbaghir	XIX c.	Shusha city, Karbalayi Safikhan St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Karbalayi Safikhan St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Karbalayi Safikhan St.
Living house of Husu Hajiyev	XIX c.	Shusha city, Karbalayi Safikhan St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, Karbalayi Safikhan St.
House of Mashadi Zeynal Hatamov	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Kocharli St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Kocharli St.
House of Mashadi Ali	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Kocharli St.
House of Mashadi Sahliyar	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Kocharli St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Kocharli St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Kocharli St.
House of Haji Dadash	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Kocharli St.
House of A.Azimov	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Kocharli St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, G.Pirimov St.
House of Mashadi Ibrahim	XVIII c.	Shusha city, G.Pirimov St.
House of Mashadi Jalal	XVIII c.	Shusha city, G.Pirimov St.
Square spring		Shusha city, Rasulzadeh St.
Living house of Haji Bashir	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Rasulzadeh St.
Living house of Tailor Bakhram	XIX c.	Shusha city, Nizami St.
Living house of Mashadi Husu	XIX c.	Shusha city, Nizami St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Navvab St.
House of Mammad Hasan oghlu	XVIII c.	Shusha city, F.Amirov St.
Living house of Kalba Mahammad	XIX c.	Shusha city, F.Amirov St.
Mosque of Khoja Marjanli	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Sabir St.
Spring of Khoja Marjanli	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Sabir St.

Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Sabir St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, 20 Yanvar St.
Living house of Bahman Mirza	XIX c.	Shusha city, 20 Yanvar St.
Food storehouse of Bahman Mirza	XIX c.	Shusha city, 20 Yanvar St.
Living house of Gulam Shah	XIX c.	Shusha city, 20 Yanvar St.
Living house of H.B. Vazirov	XIX c.	Shusha city, 20 Yanvar St.
Kocharli mosque	XIX c.	Shusha city, 20 Yanvar St.
Guyulug mosque	XVIII c.	Shusha city, G.Asgarov St.
House of Seyid Majid	XVIII c.	Shusha city, G.Asgarov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, G.Asgarov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, G.Asgarov St.
Spring	XVIII c.	Seyidli quarter
Seyidli mosque	XIX c.	Shusha city, in the cross of general Guliyeu and J.Garyaghdioghlu St.
House of Mashadi Gara	XIX c.	Shusha city, J.Gayaghdioghlu St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, Shakhyiray St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, Shakhyiray St.
Living house of Kabla Yusif	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Shakhyiray St.
Living house of Zohrabbeyov	The beginning of XVIII c.	Shusha city, Ojaggulu St.
Living house	XIX c.	Shusha city, Ojaggulu St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Ojaggulu St.
House of Mashadi Ibish	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Chamanzaminli St.
House of Mashadi Zulfugar	XIX c.	Shusha city, Chamanzaminli St.
House of Haji Aslan	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Chamanzaminli St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Chamanzaminli St.
House of Haji Malik oghlu	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Chamanzaminli St.
Living house of Mir Hasan Vazirov	XIX c.	Shusha city, Chamanzaminli St.
Mamay spring	XX c.	Shusha city, Akhundov St.
Mosque of Mamayi	XVIII c.	Shusha city, G.Askarov St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Fizuli St.
Living house	XVIII c.	Shusha city, Fizuli St.

Living house of Faramazovs	XIX c.	Shusha city, Dada Gorgud St.
Living house	XX c.	Shushacity, Dada Gorgud St.

GARDEN-PARKS, MONUMENTAL AND MEMORIAL MONUMENTS

Name of the monument	Construction date	Location
Bust of M.P.Vagif	1967	Shusha city, Vagif St.
House-museum of Bulbul (369 exhibits)	1978	Shusha city, Shakhriyar St.
House-museum of U.Hajibeyov (300 exhlbits)	1974	Shusha city, in the crossing of Niyazi and U.Hajibeyov St.
House-museum of Mir Mohsun Navvab (100 exhibits)	1990	Shusha city, Navvab St.
On-grave monument of Mir Mohsun Navvab	1957	Shusha city, general Guliyev St.