

THE FIGHT FOR POLITICAL STABILITY AND PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL STATEHOOD IN AZERBAIJAN, 1993-1995

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Abstract

This article analyzes the events which took place on June 15, 1995, when the Universal People's Leader Heydar Aliyev returned to power for the second time, the reasons for the beginning of the national liberation movement were clarified, and after the Great Leader regained power, he went on to pursue social-political stability in the country policies have been studied and steps taken to combat national sovereignty have been demonstrated.

After the restoration of the state independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan had to face not only foreign aggressors, but also internal forces. Thus, attempts to make coup d'état in June 1993, October 1994 and March 1995 were disposed by the political will of Heydar Aliyev and afterwards, domestic political stability was largely ensured. Thus, the author rightly notes that the arrival of Heydar Aliyev to the Azerbaijani leadership solved the historical destiny of the republic, the civil war was prevented, the occupation of the land was stopped, the threat of separation of the republic was eliminated and the foundations of Azerbaijan's modern development were laid.

Keywords: *Republic of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, Coup d'état, Political Stability, National Liberation Movement.*

AZERBAIJAN'DA MİLLİ DEVLET'İN KORUNMASI VE SİYASİ İSTİKRARIN SAĞLANMASI MÜCADELESİ, 1993-1995

Öz

Bu makale, Evrensel Halk Lideri Haydar Aliyev'in ikinci kez iktidara döndüğü tarih olan 15 Haziran 1995'te meydana gelen olayları, Aliyev'in sosyo-politik denge siyasetini, ülkede milli egemenliğin tesisi yönünde atmış olduğu adımları ve milli özgürlük hareketinin başlamasının ardında yatan nedenleri analiz etmeyi amaçlamaktadır.

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Bağımsızlığını kazanmasından sonra, Azerbaycan Cumhuriyeti sadece dış saldırılara değil, aynı zamanda iç güçlerin saldırılarına da maruz kalmıştır. Bu iç saldırıların bir sonucu olarak Haziran 1993'te, Ekim 1994'te ve Mart 1995'te darbe girişimleri vuku bulmuş, ancak tüm bu girişimler Aliyev'in siyasi iradesi sayesinde bertaraf edilmiş, içeride siyasi iktidar önemli ölçüde güvence altına alınmıştır. Aliyev'in iktidara dönmesiyle birlikte, ülkede bir iç savaş önlenmiş, cumhuriyetin bölünmesinin önüne geçilmiş ve modern Azerbaycan'ın kurulmasının temelleri atılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Azerbaycan Cumhuriyeti, Heydar Aliyev, Siyasi İstikrar, darbe, Milli Özgürlük Hareketi.

1. The Commencement of the National Liberation Movement.

The socio-political processes taking place in Azerbaijan before June 15, 1993 led to the crisis in the republic, the level of disintegration and the loss of independence. The struggle for political power between the incompetent leaders of the People's Front and the Mutallibov group, which emerged in the waves of popular unrest, made the country a state of chaos and anarchy. The analysis of the socio-political processes of 1992-1993 clearly indicates that in a dangerous environment, people were in search for a leader capable of preventing the country from falling into the abyss, maintaining its independence, moving its out-of-town processes into its natural course. As a result of the illogical policies of the inexperienced leaders leading Azerbaijan, the lands of Azerbaijan have been occupied one after the other, ancient and modern cultural monuments erected by people thousands of years ago, people were expelled from their lands. In society, anarchy and arbitrariness are taking place, people are kidnapped and taken hostage. Political power has put Azerbaijan in danger of losing its independence. The separatist groups, supported by "south" and "north" with the direct support of foreign forces, resorted to armed terrorism.

Unfortunately, the identity of national leader, who could protect Azerbaijan from foreign occupation and internal disintegration, was not at stake. The country went into crisis, drifting from civil confrontation, into massacres and robbery. During the reign of Elchibey, establishment of diplomatic relations with Turkey was only a priority. A. Elchibey and his surroundings sounded slogans like "Turks do not have friends other than Turks", in fact set the foundations of an Azerbaijani concept, i.e. Turkism, Azerbaijaniism and the statehood of Azerbaijan. This also contradicted the domestic political life of Azerbaijan, which was the basis for the dissatisfaction of the ethnomials. As a result, national minorities living in the territory of Azerbaijan for centuries, who consider themselves Azerbaijanis and who have no idea of any other country, gradually began expressing their dissatisfaction.

In June 1993, the way to overcome the crisis in the republic was seen predominantly through the return of Heydar Aliyev, the prominent political figure of the era, the rich statehood experience to the republic's political leadership. The people of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, the President of the Supreme Assembly of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Oblast, linked Heydar Aliyev, a well-known and intelligent politician in the world, to all his hopes.

During this period, the Azerbaijani Popular Front (APF) lost its own social base. It also showed its negative results soon and led to the events of June 4. From the current conflict between the people and the authorities, Surat Huseynov skillfully used Ganja's city by order of his foreign-guardians. At the meeting of the Ministry of Defense on May 25, 1993, a decision was made to cancel the military unit No. 709. On June 4, 1993, up to 3,000 live forces and powerful military equipment were deployed to Ganja to carry out a military uprising in the morning. *The barracks of the 709 military unit were destroyed, and the military planes climbed and crashed into the airport. However, the rebels acted more actively as they shot and killed the guards who did not want bloodshed. 68 people were killed and 150 wounded in the blast. 1,200 warriors and the public prosecutor were taken hostage.*¹ Government forces were defeated and the rebel forces began to arrive in Baku, demanding the resignation of the president and the government, and approached the capital without any resistance. They seized local authorities in the streets and brought their men to power. On June 14, the military forces came face to face in Navahi. As a result of negotiations, it was possible to rebuild the rebels near Lokbatan and 75 km of Shamakhi highway. *As a result, the Prime Minister, together with the heads of three power ministries, and the Chairman of the Parliament were forced to resign.*²

Our military forces were facing severe defeats in front-line provinces. Thus, with the help of the Armenian armed forces defenders, he occupied the Shusha district on May 08, 1992, the Lachin region on May 18, 1992, and the Kelbajar region on 2-3 April 1993. The loss of these territories was met with great dissatisfaction in Azerbaijan. On the one hand, the Popular Front-Musavat government, on the other hand, had been deploying the National Army units from the front line to seize power, as S.Huseynov and A.Humbatov had created a new ground invasion of Azerbaijan for Armenian occupiers.

Alikram Humbatov tried to use the armed forces to take over the southern regions and create a "republic". The armed group of "Sadval" separatist organization in the "Lezgistan State" has induced provocations in the north-eastern region, and the failure of the APF-Musavat government's military operation against Suret Huseynov in June once again demonstrated his incompetence.

1 "Бакинский рабочий" qəzeti, 12 iyul 1995-ci il.

2 ARMMA, f.2941, siy.1, iş 152, v. 91.

In May-June 1993, in a state of collapse, the country was facing a threat of civil war and loss of independence, thus the people of Azerbaijan demanded Heydar Aliyev to return to power. *APF-Musavat regime was unable to cope with the difficulties they were facing and could not find a solution to the problems they had created. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Abulfaz Aliyev was forced to invite Heydar Aliyev to Baku.*³

Observing their tragic end, Abulfaz Elchibey urged Heydar Aliyev to be in Baku for fear of the people, so that he could get rid of this desperate situation. Planes sent to Nakhchivan on June 7 and 8 will be returned, Heydar Aliyev refuses to come to Baku. However, Heydar Aliyev saw the situation in Baku quite tense. *Troops controlled by Surat Huseynov were already in 100 kilometers from Baku. He arrives in Baku on June 9 with A. Elechibek's plane.*⁴ Unprecedented son of Azerbaijan, great patriot Heydar Aliyev could not look at this heavy day to the people.

On July 4, 1993, Heydar Aliyev explained his return to Baku in the program of the Interstate Broadcasting Company "Ostankino": *"Abulfaz Elchibey also insisted on me. He sent a special plane to Nakhchivan three times - on June 7, 8, 9, and insisted through phone conversations that I came to Baku. I gave up on June 7, and 8. Finally, on June 9, I accepted this invitation and came to Baku, hearing that the situation was getting worse. I have not come here as a leader of the party. I came here because of the situation, rather than the people's pressure, because the fate of the people was solved"*.⁵ Heydar Aliyev saw as a genius leader in the direction of socio-political processes in the country, and if he did not interfere with these processes, Azerbaijan, which had restored its independence, would lose it again and again in smaller regions of Azerbaijan and implement slaughter against each other smaller entities will be available.

On June 11, 1993, Isa Gambarov resigned from the position of the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet. On June 13, 1993 the Milli Majlis adopts the resignation of the chairman of the Supreme Soviet Isa Gambarov.⁶ Member of the Milli Majlis R.Gaziev, MPs, not included in the Milli Majlis, suggests that Heydar Aliyev go to Ganja with the participation of A.Alizade and others. T. Garayev is trying to justify this, so it is not surprising that Heydar Aliyev's departure is related to his choice of the Supreme Council President. Haydar Aliyev, who correctly understood the situation and managed to draw conclusions, responded to the proposals: *"I do not want my visit to Ganja to be a visit of the deputy group. I was invited to this place and participated in this process, and I just want to do it myself. You wanted to*

3 Hüseynova İ. *Müstəqil Azərbaycan dövlətinin yaranması və möhkəmlənməsində Heydər Əliyevin rolu*: Tarix elm.dok. dis. Bakı, 2003, 426 s., s.148.

4 Əliyev H. *Qayıdış 1990-1993*. Bakı, 1996. 817s., s.777.

5 *Heydər Əliyev yolu: Azərbaycan inkişafın yeni mərhələsində*. Konfrans materialları. Bakı: Azərnaşr, 2008. 838 s., s.187.

6 "Şərq qapısı" qəzeti, 16 iyun 1993-cü il.

send a deputy group, you sent it before, and send it there, please do not mix it up ...".⁷ The purpose of this proposal was that if success is achieved, it should not only be written in the name of Heydar Aliyev and not to increase its influence among the people. The great leader also understood this intention in time and did not agree with this proposal.

On June 13, when Heydar Aliyev was in Ganja, he saw signs of war, demolished buildings, burnt houses. Afterwards, he returned to Baku and accepted the proposal of the Milli Majlis in order to overcome the threat of civil war and on June 15, he was elected President of the Supreme Soviet with a large majority -. It was during that time that the return of Heydar Aliyev to management led to the liberation of Azerbaijan.

2. Heydar Aliyev's Return to Power.

The arrival of Heydar Aliyev to the Azerbaijani leadership solved the historical destiny of the republic, the civil war was prevented, the occupation of the land was ceased, the threat of breaking the republic was eliminated. During the period after June 15, letters from various parts of the republic to the Presidential Administration, Milli Majlis, and other state bodies appealed to declare Heydar Aliyev's return to political power - June 15, 1993 as the National Salvation Day of the Azerbaijani people. *Considering all proposals and appeals of the Milli Majlis, on June 27, 1997, June 15 proclaimed National Salvation Day.*⁸ Since then, every year, on June 15, the nation celebrates with great gratitude its Great Leader.

At the meeting of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan held on June 15, 1993, Heydar Aliyev stated that the situation in Ganja was extremely tense and that he was next to Abulfaz Aliyev, the President of Azerbaijan, immediately after returning from Ganja and gave all information to Abulfaz Aliyev.⁹ APD-Musavat government, which had ruled for 13 months, had created chaos in form of anarchy in the country, so that the country had to be taken under control. Abulfaz Aliyev was also unable to handle the processes which took place as a president, and in a few days an event that proved that was happening.

On the night of June 17 to 18, Abulfaz Elchibey left Baku and went to Kelaki, a village of Ordubad. Presidential press service reported later: *"The President A. Elchibey has fled from Baku's Bina airport to Nakhchivan without taking charge of his duty to prevent the expected massacres and to ensure their security in Baku on the night of 17 to 18 June"*.¹⁰ Abulfaz Aliyev himself justified this move so that the president could handle the state from anywhere in Azerbaijan. However, facts indicated that it was impossible, and this movement was to avoid problems.

7 ARMMA, f.2941, siy.l, iş 204, v.19.

8 "Xalq" qəzeti, 28 iyun 1997-ci il.

9 Mehdiyev Ə.B. *Azərbaycan 1993. Anarxiyadan sabitliyə*. redaktəsi ilə. Bakı, 2000. 416 s., s.23.

10 ARMMA, f.2941, siy.l, iş152, v.106-107

In June 1993, when the Azerbaijani people relied on Heydar Aliyev to control the state, powerlessness and strife took place in the country: *the rate of manat was rapidly falling, the level of industrial and agricultural production declined day by day, humiliating shifts for bakery and other essential foodstuffs, the separatist mood in some regions is intensifying, criminal elements are being squashed, people are exposed to ethnic persecution, intelligentsia flies off the country, armed conflicts arise between the groups claiming power, and the war on self-defense with the Armenian armed forces. There were no military discipline and subordination on the front line between the Popular Front and the armed groups created by individuals.*¹¹ Before all these problems, even politician and manager Heydar Aliyev stalled, and he quickly began to take practical steps to stabilize the situation in the country.

The Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, held a consultation on June 20 as one of such steps. This meeting focused on the socio-political situation in Ganja events and the expansion of the Armenian offensive operations in Upper Karabakh. It was a decision that the next meeting of the Milli Majlis had to be called and the situation in the country will be discussed again. It was a great idea that Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elchibey should return to Baku. He is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan and he has to fulfill his duties both as President and Supreme Commander-in-Chief. Heydar Aliyev noted that, *"as the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet, I see all the measures within my authority. I try to get tension and generally get rid of it"*.¹² The great endeavor of the great leader Abulfaz Aliyev to return to Baku once again demonstrated that his goal was not only to occupy himself but also to save the Azerbaijani state from this difficult situation.

As a result of negotiations with Surat Huseynov on June 27-29, military subdivisions subordinated to him were taken from Baku and sent to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zone. On June 30, Surat Huseynov was credited with becoming the Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Thus, the wise politician Heydar Aliyev prevented civil confrontation and saved the country from real fragmentation. Heydar Aliyev appointed him prime minister to cease the ongoing civil war and to control Surat Huseynov, who had no real political power in the hands of the special bodies of the foreign state, but had power of the armed forces?

At the Supreme Council's meeting on July 15-16, the question of dissatisfaction with Abulfaz Elchibey was raised. *Heydar Aliyev advised not to hurry, to give restraint, to allow him to think again.*¹³ On June 23, 1993, the President issued a decree to extradite the majority of his powers to the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and on 24 June, the Milli Mejlis decided to give all the powers of the President to the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet. On June 24, 1993, the

11 Qurbanı A. *Heydər Əliyev və Azərbaycan ordusu*. Bakı: Əbilov, Zeynalov və oğulları, 2002. 390 s., s.183.

12 Mehdiyev Ə.B., a.g.e., s.27.

13 ARMMA, f.2941, siy.1, iş 215, v.43

Presidential powers were entrusted to the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev with the decision No 630 of the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan. Despite the fact that the Supreme Soviet gave Presidential powers to Heydar Aliyev, he argued that a referendum on Abulfaz Elchibey's post would be held. On August 29, after the Supreme Soviet adopted a decision on holding a referendum on confidence in the President, a referendum on confidence was held on 29 August. *97.5 percent of participants in the referendum showed dissatisfaction.*¹⁴

Although Surat Huseynov had a high position, he realized that he could not achieve his goal under the rule of Heydar Aliyev, and thus created a headquarter in Ganja. Here, former Defense Minister Rahim Gaziyeu started to implement plans to aggravate the situation in the frontline, to create a political panic in the society, to force the head of state to abdicate and to return Ayaz Mutallibov to power again, on June 15, with the help of military units in Lankaran. *Surat Huseynov made a statement from Ganja that he "takes the issue of solving the fate of the people and the state."* Alikram Humbatov welcomed this statement.¹⁵

At that time there was a very tense situation in the southern regions of the republic. Illegal armed formations using the political crisis in the republic have come to conspiracy against Azerbaijan's statehood. It was impossible to speak of state building without disarming them. Some of the illegal armed units were headed by A.Humbatov in Lankaran. Relying upon the Prime Minister S. Huseynov and Defense Minister R.Gaziyeu, A. Humbatov wanted to put pressure on the new management of the republic. *On June 15, 1993, he captured the building of the executive power of Lankaran region. He called the session the next day and declared himself the head of executive power. He then held a congress in Lankaran on August 6, 1993, made an unreasonable decision on the creation of the Talysh-Mugan Republic, proclaimed himself "President", with the help of S. Huseynov and R.Gaziev.*¹⁶ The situation had already reached the level of separation of Azerbaijan and urgent measures had to be taken to prevent it.

The situation in the southern regions of the republic was discussed at the meeting of Milli Majlis on August 16-17, 1993. *On August 17, the Milli Majlis adopted a decision on the situation in Lankaran, Astara, Masalli, Lerik, Yardimli, Jalilabad and Bilasuvar raions of the Republic of Azerbaijan.*¹⁷ The Milli Mejlis declared A. Humbatov, his mafia, and rebel group as a potential threat against the local population, due to acts of terrorism, human rights abuses, harassment, and despotism. As he violated the constitutional laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan, territorial integrity of the republic, and statehood, he was condemned as a betrayer.

14 *Qətiyyətin təntənəsi (sənədli xronika)*. Tərtibçi Ş. Yaqubov. Bakı: Qorqud, 1995. 846 s.,s.494.

15 "Xalq" qəzeti, 21 iyul 1993-cü il.

16 *Dövlət müstəqilliyimizdə Heydər Əliyev amili*. Bakı: Oskar NPM, 2003. 272 s., s.189.

17 Əliyev H. *Qayıdış 1990-1993*. Təkmilləşdirilmiş və yenidən işlənmiş ikinci nəşr. Bakı: Azərbaycan, 2008. 840 s., s.469.

The decision of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan on this issue was noted that, *the military unification of A. Humbatov must be subject to the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan without any conditions. In the southern regions of the Republic, the Republic has to take measures to fully ensure the functioning of the constitutional rights and to prevent any criminal offenses and to inform the supreme legislative bodies on the consequences of bringing the perpetrators to criminal responsibility. At the same time, the Milli Mejlis instructed the Ministry of Justice to analyze its activity and take necessary measures, taking into consideration the fact that the party of the people of the people of Azerbaijan (the Chairman Hilal Mammadov) was based on nationalism.*¹⁸

On August 22, 1993, a resolution was adopted at a rally in Lankaran, where more than 10,000 people participated. *It was deemed necessary for the immediate and unconditional implementation of the resolution of the Milli Majlis on August 17, 1993.*¹⁹ Under the pressure of the people, Humbatov left Lankaran and was later captured by law enforcement agencies.

The historical significance of Heydar Aliyev's coming to management confirms the fact that from the very beginning of his activity as the head of state he was exposed to the purposeful influence and pressure of foreign and internal forces. Armenian Armed Forces, who realized that the return of Heydar Aliyev to the government was abolished, occupied Agdam, Jabrail, Fuzuli, Gubadli and the Zangilan regions. The treachery and decentralization of the previous leaders, and the subsequent saturation of the internal forces, made a real ground for their easy occupation of our lands. Along with various movements, the aim of this action is to show the potential power of Heydar Aliyev, to demonstrate that he could not guarantee the security of the country, to remove him from the government, to assign new Vezirovs, Mutallibovs to power, or to confront the forces of the country, to commit. During this chaotic era, the national wealth of the country resisted even more against the national legal statehood principles that began to be established in the country by the arrival of Heydar Aliyev.

After the referendum, the presidential election was appointed. Heydar Aliyev appealed to the Popular Front, Abulfaz Elchibey, to television and to participate in their presidential elections. On October 3, 1993, Heydar Aliyev was elected President of the Republic of Azerbaijan during the extraordinary presidential elections. *3,919,923 people voted for Heydar Aliyev, 98.8 per cent of voters cast their votes.*²⁰ On October 10, at the inauguration ceremony at the Republican Palace, President Heydar Aliyev swore to homeland, state and nation. President Heydar Aliyev said: *"The Azerbaijani people live in the most complicated and tragic period of their history. Just in this period, I fully understand the responsibility of this task and I want to assure you that I will dedicate all my work to justify this confidence and justify the people's hopes".*²¹

18 ARMMA, f.2941, siy.l, iş 154, v.58

19 Əliyev H., a.g.e., s.475.

20 A.g.e., s.778.

21 Azərbaycan Respublikası (1991-2001). Bakı: Azərənəşr, 2001. 317 s., s.56.

At the insistence of the people, Heydar Aliyev was prevented from a brutal massacre. The Azerbaijani state with the help of health forces to stabilize the extremely tense situation in the country after coming to power for the second time, hence the political line controlled to the national unity to be begun.

The analysis shows that Heydar Aliyev has taken a comprehensive approach to the solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and has taken into account internal and external factors. To do this, he is primarily concerned with the formation of a fierce army, the establishment of stable power structures, economic recovery and economic reforms, and the conclusion of the oil contract. Heydar Aliyev said: *"It took me two and a half years to get things done". He admitted that between 1993-1994 "80 percent of his long working day" was devoted to the solution of this problem.*²²

3. Acquiring Internal Political Stability

Heydar Aliyev worked hard to protect the state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to develop democracy, to create conditions for the country's market economy, to end the people's fair war against the Armenian aggressors, and to restore the territorial integrity of the republic. It began with the strengthening of the state discipline, the rule of law, the law-enforcement bodies, the army, the complicated work such as the restoration and development of the Azerbaijani statehood, the provision of public-political stability and territorial integrity.

After the restoration of the state independence, Azerbaijani people faced many obstacles. The outward aggression that began before the restoration of independence was accelerating. However, Azerbaijani people were forced not only to attack the alien aggressors, but also to fight the internal enemies of statehood. In spite of the improvements achieved in the years 1993-1994 in strengthening the statehood of Azerbaijan, the forces that sought the path of armed political struggle emerged again. The way to power was chosen as a non-democratic and hard-working way. *Attempts to undermine the statehood of Azerbaijan took place three times in 1993-1995.*²³ In each of these attempts, the socio-political situation in Azerbaijan, the violation of stability and the provocations aimed at the statehood were at the forefront of civil war.

Some of the people living in Azerbaijan interfered with the foreign forces and turned into a tool in their hands and tried to persecute the struggle for power. The events in Ganja on 4 June 1993, 4 October 1994, and finally, on 13-17 March 1995, were aimed at the coup d'état in Baku.

22 Hüseynova İ. *Müstəqilliyimizin təminatçısı*. Bakı, 2003, 485 səh., s.87.

23 "Azərbaycan" qəzeti, 20 may 1995-ci il.

In a state that was strengthened by the statehood of Azerbaijan, the authorities, both domestically and abroad, did not hesitate to slander the Azerbaijani statehood and its sovereignty. *On September 22, 1994, four people were detained in the isolation ward of the Ministry of National Security against the Azerbaijani state – R. Gaziyeu, B. Nazarli, A. Humbatov, A. Pashayev.*²⁴ While President H. Aliyev was in the United States on September 29, two state figures - Deputy Chairman of the Parliament Afiyeddin Jalilov and Chief of the Special Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Shamsi Rahimov were murdered. In connection with this assassination, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H. Aliyev stated in his statement in New York on 30 September 1994 that these acts of terrorism have been a new line of crimes against Azerbaijan's independence.²⁵ On the same day, 10 detainees who were sentenced to death were kidnapped by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Bayil.²⁶ These events were the first stage of the preparation of certain destructive forces to destabilize Azerbaijan. Their goal was to seize power by force, creating chaos and arbitrariness in the country.

In his speech on television and radio on October 3, 1994, the President of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, called on the people to stand up for the protection of our statehood and national sovereignty. *On October 03, H. Aliyev met with leaders of political parties and public organizations in the republic.*²⁷ On 4 October, he again appealed to the National Television and Radio. Moreover, on October 4, H. Aliyev went to all countries, governments and international organizations. The President said that, *"the Republic of Azerbaijan, which has established a democratic legal state, has an open policy with the whole world, is in danger. I urge you to use all of our opportunities to protect Azerbaijan's legitimate leadership, the independence and sovereignty of its people, and to prevent the consequences of violence and rebellion"*.²⁸

In the appeal of the President to the public, it was said: *"Dear compatriots, Azerbaijani citizens! I assure you that I'm in my own place till the last breath until my last breath is to protect the statehood of Azerbaijan. I'm with the people. I will try to protect the security of the people. I will take advantage of this opportunity. At the same time, dear compatriots, I rely on you and rely on you. I do not want these days to be bloodshed. I do not want it. That's why I invite you to go out into the streets with a peace plan, to gather around me"*.²⁹ Hundreds of thousands of people, who voted for the Great Leader, gathered in front of the Presidential Palace with hundreds of thousands of people, portraits of Heydar-Xalq, Xalq-Heydar, slogans of Azerbaijan, the national flag of Azerbaijan, President Heydar Aliyev. The people clearly demonstrated their solidarity with their president and supported him.

24 Mehdiyev Ə.B., a.g.e., s.98.

25 Orucov H.X. *Azərbaycan oktyabr - 94, mart - 95. Qəsd*. Bakı, Azərənəşr, 1995, s.816., s.82.

26 A.g.e., s.92.

27 Orucov H.X., a.g.e., s.115.

28 *Azərbaycan Respublikası Xarici İşlər Nazirliyinin Arxivi.*, 5.X.1994, 117/52 sayılı sənəd.

29 Orucov H.X., a.g.e., s.129.

Finally, the President signed a decree on establishing a state of emergency in Baku in order to suppress the tragic events that took place in connection with the extreme situation that emerged from September 22 to October 3, 1994, and prevent them from being repeated. The parliament approved this decree on October 05.³⁰

National statehood to be formed was a very serious test on October 4, 1994. This time the coup attempt took place in Ganja. Several reasons can be listed for the coup attempt to take place in this location: Firstly, in Ganja and surrounding districts, robbers had a lot of time guarding the squares, which had been under the protection of the different levels of demonstrators. The law enforcement agencies did not take their time in advance and disarmed and punished them. Impunity resulted in new crimes. Secondly, Nijat, created under the name of helping the disabled in Nagorno-Karabakh, played a role of a material basis for a new coup d'état, collecting funds from volunteers and sometimes by threats. Thirdly, after the start of the popular movement, it became a tradition sitting on two chairs between political leaders. Finally, after the events of June 4, 1993, the appetite for power came into being by force and did not play a minor role. Those who were not punished in time did not lose their hopes for achieving that goal. One of them was Prime Minister S. Huseynov. He decided to use illegal armed groups created by him. Eldar Israfilov, the Deputy Chief of the Military and Administrative Authorities Department of the Cabinet of Ministers, Vahid Tacibov, the chief of the Interpol's National Center, and Colonel-lieutenant Ilgar Safikhanov sent a special order to Ganja on 4 October. On the same day, at about 7.30 pm, close relatives of S. Huseynov Karamat Kerimov, Vahid Tacibov, chief of Ganja garrison military police Eldar Aliyev, General Director of Ganja Yun Tenderuk and Ilkin Emaly Union Nusrat Bagirov and others, Ganja city and district executive authorities, police forces, national security, the administrative buildings, the airport, the telecentre, and the entrance and exits of the city.³¹ At the same time, they tried to seize administrative buildings and local authorities in Dashkesen, Yevlakh, Mingachevir.

The coup d'état was prepared in a preconceived manner. S. Huseynov should be declared the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, M. Abdullayev Prime Minister, Nusrat Bagirov Minister of Agriculture, Ilgar Safikhanov Interior Minister, Keramat Karimov, Ganja City Executive Director, Asker Budagov - Ganja City Police Chief.³² The participants of the assassination were relying on S. Huseynov in Baku. Surat Huseynov even repeatedly stated that his powers were restricted. In his interview with Moscow newspapers, he claimed he had no authority. In fact, the "Nijat" society was created by the order of S. Huseynov. This society was actually aimed at raising S. Huseynov's reputation under the auspices of the martyrs' families and adopting the money in the society on the other.³³ As a result of the investigation,

30 ARMMA, f.2941, siy., iş 246, v.1.

31 Orucov H.X., a.g.e., ss.286-267

32 Orucov H.X., a.g.e., s.228

33 ARMMA f.2941, siy.l, iş 313, v.88.

it was revealed that the money used by this society also played a major role in financing the uprisings which had been attempted.

At the meeting of the National Assembly of the Republic of Azerbaijan held on October 6, 1994, the speaker of the Milli Majlis voiced his presentation to the members of the Parliament about the dismissal of the Prime Minister Surat Huseynov. S. Huseynov came to the evening meeting. In his speech, he said *"I think this issue should go through live broadcast, I have something to say and people should know what to do. If there is no live broadcast, I will not answer any questions"*. Then the speaker noted that the current situation in the country does not allow this, and the Minister of the Interior R. Usubov fully described the incident in Ganja held on October 04. *He led the names of Surat Huseynov's men - Ilgar Safikhanov, Vagif Tacirov, Aytekin Goshkarov and Karamat as leaders of the events. He stated on 12 machine guns and 1 laser gun were found at Yevlakh Wool Plant.*³⁴

General Prosecutor E. Hasanov said in his speech: *"In Ganja, three of the government troops and 6 rebels were killed in the events. 129 people were under investigation and 47 of them were brought to Baku. A criminal case has been filed, the offender, executor and participants of the crime will be identified as a result of the investigation"*.³⁵

After the appeal of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the public on television and radio, a mass rally was held on October 4 in front of the Presidential Palace to protect the statehood of Baku residents and people from many regions of the country. H. Aliyev expressed his gratitude to the gathered multinational rally participants for the protection of Azerbaijani statehood. *He was satisfied to be voted.*³⁶ The President praised Rovshan Javadov's coming and accompanying him after his speech on television, talking about the misunderstandings of the young men and women who had come from the Special Forces Police Station.

The next day, i.e. on October 5, a national rally was held at Azadlig Square. It became a show of the people and the unity of the people. The next step in the direction of national state building increased the sense of self-confidence. Representatives of well-known intellectuals of Azerbaijan, scientists, cultural figures, elders, representatives of political parties, societies and organizations in their speeches condemned all these unlawful deeds which had destabilized the social and political stability in the republic in recent days and intensify the unity of all people around the president for our statehood, sovereignty. At the same time, they emphasized that the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan was convinced that the internal and foreign policy carried out by H. Aliyev would definitely give in in the near future.

34 A.g.a., v.86.

35 A.g.a., v.99.

36 "Azərbaycan" qəzeti, 4 oktyabr 1994-cü il.

The incident established on October 4 was relatively calm. Most of those who attempted to retreat were quick to change their skins and stay in the presidential palace. The main purpose of the case is to seek accountability with the staff of the Prosecutor General and other law enforcement agencies. The president was compelled to admit that he understood some of them and mistakes for the sake of deepening issues and protecting national statehood. The October events turned out to be a demonstration that people were standing firmly around the president everywhere, ready to fight for independence. On October 5, thousands of young people gathered in the central square of Ganja to support the statehood of Azerbaijan.

The President of the Republic appealed to the Xüsusi Təyinatlı Polis Dəstəsi (XTPD) staff, their parents, close friends and relatives, and all the people to put a gun on television on March 15, saying: *"It's time to be together, defend our statehood, our independence. Let's go ahead hand in hand. I invite all the people of Azerbaijan to national unity, national solidarity"*. On March 16, 1995, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan stated in his special decree that those who handed the weapons were not subject to any criminal liability and that no other measures envisaged by the legislation would be applied. The call and advice of Rovshan Javadov's father, Bakhtiyar Javadov, *"Need to be better to stop halfway"* had remained unanswered.

In order to implement a coup d'état on March 16, putschists divided their group into four groups: 1. capture the Presidential Palace, physically destroy or arrest the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan; 2. capture the Supreme Soviet building; 3. Keep the Ministry of Internal Affairs; 4. Seize an Azerbaijani TV Company and apply to the public. They organized an armed attack on the Nizami District Police Department and servicemen on the night of 16 to 17 March, four of them were killed and 5 were wounded. In such a situation, the government forces were forced to take the necessary measures. On March 17, at 11:40 am, the members of the CPAD surrendered. They realized that they would not be able to fulfill their intentions, in defeating a strong state, a powerful president and supportive people. In the end those who lift their weapons against their own state will be miserable.

Conclusion

The attitude to the March events in the international arena was directed to the protection of its statehood by informing the formation of the image of Azerbaijan. It should be noted that the attitude of the international community to this event was unambiguous. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Islamic Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, international companies in Azerbaijan, and the vast majority of world leaders condemned the events of 1995 against the Azerbaijani statehood. The main factor behind their attitude to these events was Heydar Aliyev's personality and authority.

It is also worth noting if the uprising took place, social and political stability in Azerbaijan would be reversed, the struggle would begin, the revival of consciousness would be restored, and finally the Azerbaijani statehood would fall into the abyss and the national interests could be sacrificed to someone else's self-conceited wishes. The incidents in March have further increased the credibility of the people of the country in the national statehood and its protection at the right time. The provocation of the two state coup attempts proved once again that the people's commitment to their independence, their unity and solidarity were ready. A nation that has regained its national statehood needs to be liberated not from internal chaos, but from the exposed areas. Undoubtedly, the shedding of brotherly blood should be regarded as pleasing to the enemy.

Thus, the analysis of the problem issued led to the following generalized conclusions:

After the restoration of state independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan should face not only foreign aggressors, but also internal forces;

The military opposition in Ganja in June 1993 committed a series of innocent and abusive sacrifices to the national front;

The emerging political crisis has led to a great deal of hope for the solution of all problems by bringing the people and the separate political forces of the country to the power of an experienced, well-known personality;

Although the former militants tried to re-establish state revolutions in October 1994 and March 1995, these attempts were very sophisticated; in Azerbaijan, domestic political stability was largely ensured;

Empowerment of state coup attempts increased national confidence in the country's national statehood when necessary

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