



**AMPLIFYING THE VOICES
OF VICTIMS OF WAR CRIMES**

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards.

These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia.

CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.



@CFTJustice

CFTJustice.org

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

24LC-0005

“After beating me, they took me to the cell and threw me in like one would throw a dog into its cage.”

“The employees of the court would sometimes hit us.”

“They [the Azerbaijanis] entered the cell, one of them pointed at me and told me to sweep out the corridor. I saw them [the Azerbaijanis] breaking the crosses which they had taken from Armenian prisoners. While sweeping out the corridor I collected all the broken crosses from the floor and carefully put them in a cellophane.”

“They [the Azerbaijani guards] would curse on us saying ‘you are a filthy nation.’”

“We were given a rotten potato for dinner. I would not give such potatoes even to my pigs.”

22LC-0003

“The Azerbaijani military took all of my personal belongings including my cross that was wrapped around my wrist, which they yanked off of me and tossed.”

“Azerbaijani soldiers beat me over my head with a stick multiple times while I was being transported and made me repeat things while videotaping me.”

“I was transported, laying down on my stomach with my face pressed to the bottom of the military truck. My legs and arms were tied and I was blindfolded.”

“Azerbaijani commander, who I believe was a major, watched the soldiers carry out the beatings, but did not stop them.”

“Azerbaijani soldiers threw us out of the trucks. Two people grabbed me and dragged me down the hospital stairs. My entire left part of the body was scraped and bruised with hematomas. We were forced to lie down on the tile hospital ground for 15 minutes.”

“At the Disciplinary Battalion, there was nothing to sit on. We were not allowed to sit, but were forced to remain in a standing position for more than ten hours. I was not given food for around three days before I got to the prison.”

“There was not a whole spot left on the left side of my body.”

“My legs and arms were tied tightly with a zip tie which caused scars that didn’t pass for about a month.”

“In Baku Prison, there was a psychological pressure and humiliation forced upon us. For example, every time we were given food, we had to kneel and say, “Karabakh is Azerbaijan,” “Pashinyan is... [curse words]” It would be better to be beaten than humiliated.”

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

22LC-0003

"At the Disciplinary Battalion, I could hear beatings, screaming and moaning from cells next to my own."

"During the interrogation, I was told to write that I cooperate with the Republic of Azerbaijan without being under pressure. I was given a nickname so that after I return to Armenia, they [Azerbaijanis] could keep in touch with me."

"The treatment towards us was inhumane - Azerbaijani soldiers beat me over my head with a six to seven cm diameter stick multiple times because I refused to repeat the things Azerbaijanis told us. Other POWs were also being beaten over their heads with a stick. At that moment I felt helpless."

"While we were being taken to the truck, Azerbaijani soldiers tied our hands with zip ties that hurt a lot, and during the whole process of tying my hands I was being punched and kicked all over my body by an Azerbaijani soldier wearing a green uniform."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] started to beat me and other POWs. My eye was swollen and bruised after that."

"I was wearing a sweater on which there was the Armenian flag and national emblem. The Armenian flag was on my arm, and Azerbaijanis ripped the flag off my arm with pliers leaving a scar on my arm. There was an [Armenian] emblem on my chest which they ripped off my sweater."

"At the Disciplinary Battalion, I heard that one of the POWs next to our cell was given a bucket and was told to clean someone else's boots."

"At the Disciplinary Battalion, I heard that Azerbaijanis used the word Armenian and added an offensive word."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] hurt us with the pliers. I witnessed how one of the Azerbaijanis pulled one of the POWs' ear with a plier while saying something in Azerbaijani. Whenever I saw the pliers, I was scared."

"Sometimes, I was being punched over the left part of my body, I was also hit over my head with a book by 2 Azerbaijanis who were staff of the prison."

"The Azerbaijanis hit the doors, especially during the day, so we would not sleep. Whenever someone fell asleep during the day, we were forced to kneel down with our hands behind and stay in that position for 1 to 1.5 hours."

"I was interrogated in the building next to ours the day after I arrived at the prison. I was transferred to that building while being blindfolded and my arms were tied with shackles by a prison guard. The guard was pulling and pushing me."

"I was told I had no choice but to sign a document, which I did not understand since it was written in Azerbaijani, and was merely told it was my testimony. I felt coerced into signing this document."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

22LC-0004

"I was hit on the head and when I woke up, I was already sitting with my hands and feet tied. They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] transported me by cars and were beating me all the way and making me repeat that Karabakh is Azerbaijan. They would hit me with wooden sticks, with their weapons, and laugh about it."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] made repeat statements in their language, and when I made a mistake, they would hit me with wooden sticks and I was to remain silent during the beatings. If I made any sound, they would hit me again. My feet were hit with wooden sticks so many times that I was not feeling them anymore."

"While in the cell of the military police, three Azerbaijanis in civilian clothing entered and started beating me, breaking my ribs. I was on the floor while they were beating me when suddenly I couldn't breathe. I started screaming that I was dying."

"In the military police they [the Azerbaijani soldiers] made some of my comrades to clean the entire building."

"During the transportation my hands were tied with zip ties so tightly that they turned blue. My hands were swollen for a week."

"During three days they [the Azerbaijani soldiers] did not allow us to sit down or sleep. We were to stand on our feet all day."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] would give a piece of bread and a bottle of water. When I was drinking water three Azerbaijanis in civilian clothing entered and asked the soldiers whether I was Armenian. When receiving a positive answer, they started beating me. I know that they were beating me because they hate Armenians."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] didn't like when I spoke Armenian. They ordered me not to say anything in Armenian."

"Before being transported to the main prison I was given a paper to sign. It was in Azerbaijani, but I was afraid to ask what was written in it."

"Each time when the door would open, we were to kneel and say that Karabakh is Azerbaijan, and curse on Pashinyan [Prime Minister of RA]."

"In the morning while giving me the porridge, the Azerbaijani guard intentionally poured the hot porridge on my hand, burning it."

"While being in captivity I was considered Missing in Action (MIA) in Armenia."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

22LC-0007

"We should have sat straight in the cell, otherwise they [the Azerbaijani guards] would punish us. We didn't even have the right to change the position of our legs. They were looking through the peephole at the door and would keep us standing for hours as a punishment."

"The witness says that when the guards opened the door, they should have stood up and shouted that Karabakh is Azerbaijan. In case of a delay of one second, we would get beaten as punishment."

"The investigative committee building is where the most beatings took place. I was being beaten with batons, electroshocked, cursed on, threatened. My friend's fingers were burned. This was torture."

"I was to kneel during the entire interrogation process while Azerbaijani soldiers with batons were standing next to the interrogators. The interrogators would not introduce themselves. We were nobody there."

"The interrogators were threatening me. They were saying that I would never return home. They told me that they could throw me out of the window or shoot me and no one would care."

"Before the court hearings, we were taken to the Investigative Committee building. The guards beat us all over our bodies during transportation. Then we were forced to sign documents written in Azerbaijani. I did not have the option of not signing the documents, as we were beaten for any disobedience."

"I said something to the interrogator, I don't remember what, he did not like it and started kicking me. We had to stay on our knees with our heads down and never talk back to the interrogator."

"I was beaten on the entire way to the courtroom."

"The interpreter introduced me to my alleged lawyer. I had never seen that lawyer prior to my trial. I never once talked to him. It all reminded me of a show."

22LC-0033

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] took me to some building, threw me on the ground, and beat me for about half an hour. During that day they beat me regularly."

"While being transported the Azerbaijani soldiers ordered us not to make any movement. If we moved even a little bit, they would beat us. I was completely exhausted."

"We were beaten by approximately 20-30 Azerbaijani soldiers. They hit me in different parts of the body, also on my leg, and since I had a blood clot in my leg, the situation got worse. After beating us, they made us sit down, videotaped us making us repeat things in their language."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

22LC-0033

"The Azerbaijani soldier pinched my ear with a flat lip and it was hurt. My ear did not heal in 2 months." "We were ordered to remain standing and not to sit, and we were already beaten up and extremely tired."

"The interrogator made me write down some statements and read them on camera."

"I was not in a good psychological state, but I did not tell the Red Cross about it as Azerbaijanis warned me not to."

22LC-0041

"We were beaten by seven Azerbaijani soldiers, who kicked and punched us for about five minutes, before throwing us in the back of a Ural truck."

"While transporting me they [the Azerbaijani soldiers] were beating us. I was blindfolded, my arms and legs were tied. I was lying face down while the Azerbaijani soldiers were hitting me on the head with batons."

"The Azerbaijani soldiers were punching and kicking us all over our bodies. I could not defend myself, my arms were tied. I was blindfolded. They hit my head with a baton many times, but I cannot recall exactly how many times. They were cursing on us in Russian while we were being beaten."

"Afterwards, they would beat us if we made any sounds, tried to speak to one another, or made any movements. My head was in a lot of pain, as well as both sides of my body, due to the Azerbaijani soldiers having kicked and punched me multiple times in the ribs."

"Every 30 minutes about 10 to 15 Azerbaijani soldiers would come and beat us, mainly kicking and punching. Every beating would last from five to 10 minutes. I was beaten by seven Azerbaijani soldiers at once."

"In this cell, we were provided with some water and cookies, which were forcibly shoved down our throats by Azerbaijani soldiers."

"When we would like to use the bathroom two of them [the Azerbaijani soldiers] would take us without untying our legs. We had to jump all the way to the toilet while they would beat and mock us. When we would get closer to the toilet more Azerbaijani soldiers would appear and they would kick and punch us." "We were not allowed to sit in this cell and had to be standing the whole time. One time I tried to sit, as I could not take the pain and tiredness anymore, and two Azerbaijani soldiers entered the cell and started beating me, kicking and punching. I did not sit down despite the severe pain in my legs and my whole body. We remained standing for a whole day."

"During the whole ride, which was about one to two hours long I was beaten, kicked and punched while my hands and legs were tied very tightly; with a zip-tie behind my back. It was so tight that I have permanent scars and damage on my wrists."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

22LC-0041

"Every single time when I would hear the door open, I knew that I was going to be beaten."

"Some colonels and generals gave us some books in Armenian and said, "Look what you had done to us. We are very merciful to you."

"Usually, we were beaten by soldiers, sergeants, lieutenants, and senior lieutenants, whose ranks I knew because of their shoulder patches."

"The Azerbaijanis made us kneel and lower our heads to the ground. We had to stay in that position for over two hours. We were not allowed to make any sound or raise our heads under the threat of violence. This same thing happened five or six other times during my stay in this cell. The pain in my knees was unbearable each time. I felt so humiliated that I wanted to die and get this over with."

"One of the soldiers, a sergeant, pretended to light my cigarette, but instead, burned my left eye with the lighter. I immediately fell to the ground because of the pain. The major who was standing next to him allowed me to wash my eye, but I was never provided with medical care. I could not see anything with that eye for over two days, I could not even open it."

"After burning my eye, other Azerbaijani soldiers would not touch my eye while continuing my beatings. They would mainly hit my back, ribs, head, and legs using not only their hands and feet, but also a large key chain with many keys on it and batons."

"The Azerbaijani soldiers hit my head repeatedly with keys and batons which eventually led to a three to four centimeter wound opening on my head. It remained open and bled for about a week."

"During the first two weeks after my return, I was frequently startled by every sound, be it any door in the house, the refrigerator door, etc. I could not sleep at night because of the nightmares. I would also look carefully at my surroundings to make sure that I am not in Azerbaijan anymore. I did not want to go to sleep because of the nightmares. My family members took me to a psychologist who specializes in post-traumatic stress disorder."

22LC-0051

"They [the Azerbaijani guards] tied my hands with a zip tie very tightly. They united my hands only the next day. They were all swollen and blue. I have permanent scars because of it."

"He [an Azerbaijani soldier] made us do squats and if someone would be slow, he would hit us on the head with a baton. It lasted for about 30 minutes. I received blows on my head and legs."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] were beating me all over my body while I was on the floor."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] tied my hands with a zip tie and threw in inside the truck."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

22LC-0051

"While we were lying naked on the cold floor, an Azerbaijani ran over my back. It was very painful. I also felt that someone pierced me on the arm and I thought that they injected me something. But I could not see anything. Later I saw three symmetric small traces."

"They [the Azerbaijani guards] were making me stand, not allowing me to sit down or lie down. This happened many times. I would stand with my head down for one hour, four hours, or even until night. This was happening as punishment if I would lie down during the day or because of something they did not like."

"They [the Azerbaijani guards] would make us yell that Karabakh is Azerbaijan or 'long live Azerbaijan', 'long live Ilham Aliyev [Azerbaijani President]' every time when the door would open."

"Two of us were in the interrogation room. I saw the interrogator hit my friend on the shoulder. He also hit me on the shoulder by feet."

"In March, I was forced to sign papers in Azerbaijani. The Azerbaijani soldier used a taser on me several times. He used a taser also on my legs trying to make me fall. I managed to stay on foot, which angered the investigator who stood up and hit me, making me fall."

"The interrogator hit me on my head three-four times and several times on my back with his feet."

"I never saw a lawyer before a court proceeding which lasted less than 5 minutes when I was conditionally sentenced to 4 months. I was given papers in Azerbaijani to sign in the courtroom. No translation was provided."

22LC-0054

"I witnessed how a medium height, black haired Azerbaijani soldier tried to push one of the Armenian POWs down the hill, but he managed to restore balance."

"While being taken to the second floor, the Azerbaijani soldiers continued beating and kicking us all over our bodies. Then we were put in cells."

"Approximately twenty Azerbaijanis entered the cell and started beating everyone. They used batons, hammers, pliers, all possible construction equipment, chains, ropes, belts, etc. to beat us. I was trying to defend myself, but my hands were tied and there were many of them. All of them started beating me because I tried to defend myself by covering my face. I was on the floor in a bad emotional state. I was yelling and cursing them. They were doing the same while beating me."

"I was on the floor when one of the Azerbaijanis kicked me in the throat and hurt my laryngeal prominence. As a result, I started suffocating and wheezing. No medical assistance was provided."

"I was feeling emotionally numb. I witnessed how an Azerbaijani soldier was plucking one of the POWs' beards with pliers, while other Azerbaijanis were forcibly holding his hands and head. I could hear screaming and moaning within my cell and from other cells."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

"Once, a couple of Azerbaijanis entered the cell with a young civilian boy. He seemed to be the son of the Azerbaijani commander who also entered the cell with the boy. The Azerbaijanis threw one of the POWs in the middle of the cell. They gave the boy a rubber baton and he started beating the POW over his head, legs, back, stomach for a few minutes. One of the Azerbaijanis was filming this."

"We were forced to remain standing. If someone sat down, the Azerbaijanis beat every POW."

"The quality of food was bad and it was insufficient. It seemed like liquid remains from some food. We were given muddy and rotten potatoes. I lost 20 kilograms. I was exhausted and dizzy."

"There was blood in our cell. There were two mattresses within the cell which were completely blood-soaked. The blood was not completely dried and it smelled very bad."

22LC-0054

"The guards were humiliating and beating us. For example, we had to kneel and repeat "Karabakh is Azerbaijan" every time the window on the door would open; otherwise, they would beat us until we obeyed or they would deprive us of food. We had to remain in a kneeling position until the window would be closed. Once, I did not kneel and a couple of Azerbaijani guards entered the cell and started to insult, beat and kick me. They told me that if I wouldn't obey, they would make me obey."

"The Azerbaijani military personnel also ordered us to stand bent over. When I refused to do so, the Azerbaijanis, including a senior lieutenant named Davud with three stars on his shoulder strips, entered the cell and started to beat and kick me all over my body."

"For a while, the guards would come into the cell, turn on the channels they wanted on the TV and take the remote control. We were forced to watch newsreels that showed Armenians being killed/murdered." "An Azerbaijani junior sergeant wearing the prison uniform, named Turap, broke my ribs because I refused to repeat what he forced me to. For a week, I couldn't take a deep breath. I was constantly in pain. I wrapped my stomach tight with a shirt. My ribs were hurting for about a month. No medical assistance was provided though Azerbaijanis were informed about my condition."

"An Azerbaijani Major named Vahid once he told me, "I would slaughter you, but unfortunately the circumstances do not allow it."

"When the interrogator checked my Facebook page and realized I was lying to them about my personal information, the guards took me to a cell where I was alone. They handcuffed me from the iron side of the bunk bed. I was left there till the evening. They opened the balcony door, the window and left the cell door open so that it would be windy. I was only wearing underwear and it was very cold."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

“The interrogators were threatening me and trying to use psychological pressure for more than thirty minutes. They told me, “You will rot in the prison, if the others will stay here for ten to fifteen years, you will stay here for twenty-five or more years.” They were mocking me saying “Even if we let you go, we will inject you white or black oil and you can only choose the color.”

“I couldn’t stand it anymore and started shouting “Shoot me and put an end to this theater.”

“We were taken to the Investigative Committee blindfolded and handcuffed. The Azerbaijanis were beating us in the elevator all over our bodies. I could also hear the sounds of other POWs.”

“The investigators opened my Facebook page and saw photos of Armenian national heroes and the map of our historical homeland which includes the current Azerbaijani territory. After seeing the map, the interrogator got angry. He also brought the taser. At that moment, I realized that their treatment towards me would be exceptional and cruel.”

22LC-0054

“When the investigators saw the photos of Armenian national heroes and maps, one of them started electroshocking me over my shoulders, back, and neck. He was electroshocking me over the same spot for twenty seconds. When they electroshocked my neck, I fell on the ground. They only stopped when the device was out of charge. I felt pain.”

“A soldier who was standing next to the interrogators started beating me over my back with a chair. When the chair broke, they continued to hit me with its wooden parts.”

“One of the investigators tore the wire off the computer and used it to hit me. They were constantly saying that I was a terrorist. They told me, “You will stay here forever and you will not go home. We will kill you.”

“I was forced to sign over ten documents written in Azerbaijani during this interrogation. I saw the name Ismail or Ismailov and his signature next to the part where I had to sign. I was handcuffed behind my back very tightly the whole time, except when signing the documents.”

“The interrogators and the military personnel beat and kicked me. I was again forced to sign over ten documents written in Azerbaijani. I asked what documents I was signing and I got hit from behind in response.”

“My lawyer was a young, black-haired female named Zumrut, whom I had never seen prior to my trial, though I tried. My lawyer told me that she was not allowed to visit or talk to me. In the summer of 2022, I met the Ombudsman of Azerbaijan in the prison headquarter. I also told the Ombudsman that I needed to talk to my lawyer, but nothing changed.”

“Azerbaijanis wearing a dark green uniform with the scale of justice on their arm were taking us to the court proceedings while beating and kicking us.”

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

22LC-0061

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] made us kneel, kiss their boots, burn our hands, threatened to cut our ears."

"A tall high-ranking official in his forties, wearing a beret, entered and said: 'We give you food, you obey, otherwise we will fuck you one by one.'"

"Emen [a guard] would make us kneel, hit us and say that 'you are Armenian, you are a filthy nation. You cannot be as pure as Muslims, your religion should be changed. In six months, we will change your religion.' When we did not agree and said nothing, he got mad and started beating us."

"During the first six months it was awful. Constant humiliations, every time they [the guards] would think of new ways to torture us. For example, they would make us stand bowing for hours, even at night." "We were like their [the guards] toys. Everyone was doing whatever crossed their mind."

"An older man who seemed the head of the investigators electrocuted me... he talked about Khojaly and it was all the anti-Armenian things just like always."

"They [the interrogators] would say that not only Karabakh is Azerbaijan, but also Armenia is Azerbaijan."

"They [the interrogators] were using force so that we wouldn't oppose them, but they were saying things that we had to disagree with, like our names all had Azerbaijani origin, all our lands were Azerbaijani..." "The interrogation lasted for about three hours, and we were kneeling all the time handcuffed. The handcuffs were tightened to the maximum, the blood flow basically stopped and my hands were swollen."

"Four-five people were severely beating me saying that I was a terrorist, that I should sign all the papers. I was blindfolded and handcuffed. I signed everything because force was used against me, my rights were violated... In the evening of this day I was taken to court."

"No one told me what papers I was signing and I had no right to ask, because if I would ask, I would get beaten even more severely."

"During the first trial there were people in the courtroom who would point at those of us who were more active or denied all allegations to the guards."

"On the way to the courtroom we were beaten by special force soldiers."

"The court proceedings were like a mockery with every possible iniquity. There were many journalists and we were ordered to lower our heads... The prosecutor was coming up with unbelievable and untrue stories."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

22LC-0061

"We were sentenced to six years in prison on the basis of a fabricated case. All our rights were violated...During the entire trial they were saying things that were untrue, and we did not have a chance to object." "All six court proceedings were organized in a neglectful way. My lawyer would come and instead of talking about the case and the facts, would say 'how are you doing?' and leave."

"During the last trial the Judge would constantly receive calls, leave the courtroom, and come back."

21LC-0030

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] were trampling my [Armenia's] national emblem under their feet."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] were beating me using a taser, batons, weapons, and boots all over my body."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] were shoving hot bottle into my legs, my back, my arms. They told me that I was in their 'KGB' and that no one leaves that building alive."

"My spine wasn't functioning because of the beatings. They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] were dragging me around."

"While being transported two Azerbaijani soldiers ordered me to say that Karabakh is Azerbaijan. When I refused, they started beating me. I fainted there."

"In KGB they [the Azerbaijani soldiers] saw my cross tattoo and wanted to peel it off my skin. I said 'better kill me than touch my cross'. I was trying to protect my cross because of which they beat me up severely, especially the left part of my body. They told me that they did not want to see any crosses and that they would put a crescent on all Armenians."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] were keeping us alive so that they would beat us up and cheer. They were cheering if beating an Armenian. Azerbaijanis gain pleasure from beating Armenians."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] put signs on the doors of cells which had Armenians inside so that everyone would know."

"They took my small Bible which was always in my pocket and said that they were taking it because I am Armenian and I don't have any right to have a bible with me there."

"They [the Azerbaijani interrogators] were telling me to betray Armenia and stay there and that they would provide me with house and money."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

21LC-0041

“When we arrived at the Baku military police, the Azerbaijanis dragged me out of the car and I fell. They searched me and I was beaten quite a lot there by two to three soldiers each with different objects. Several people entered the cell every half hour or so and beat us, particularly with rubber batons.”

“We used the toilet of the cell secretly, because we were not allowed to use it. My hands were tied in the cell, and they [the Azerbaijani soldiers] came from time to time to take us out of the cell and beat us.” “During the interrogations, I was given papers in Azerbaijani to sign. I had a lawyer whom I saw only during the trial.”

21LC-0042

“When we reached somewhere in the Ural cars, a commander got into the car and started beating and throwing us down the cars, and then beating us into the building.”

“They [the Azerbaijani guards] hit different parts of my body: legs, arms, back, head, stomach. They hit me with stones, feet, batons, specially designed whips.”

“We stayed in the cell for 3 days. They [the Azerbaijani guards] gave us food 1 time during those 3 days. The beatings here were terrible and severe. They even beat us in a group.”

“They [the Azerbaijani guards] would beat us every five minutes, or every hour inside and outside of the cell.”

“As a result of the beatings I have a problem with my spine, my hearing worsened, my teeth were broken.”

“We were beaten by 3, 4 or 6 people at the same time, they said words in Azerbaijani during the beating. One of them was a major who was wearing shoulder straps. He was the first one to climb into the Ural car and deliver blows. There were also civilians who took pictures.”

“In the cell it was forbidden to communicate with each other, or sit and lie down, otherwise we were beaten.”

“After 3 days, we were transferred to another place. When we were taken out of the cars, an entire army escorted us to the cells and beat us all the way.”

“After a search lasting 2-3 hours, a high-ranking officer entered the cell, introduced himself as the commander, and said that there were 2 Armenian prisoners who tried to escape, and he personally shot them, he said that if we were smart enough, we would return, otherwise we would be shot too.”

“I was forced to sign numerous documents in Azerbaijani language and no one told me that they were.”

“After the captivity I feel like I am a half-man.”

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

"The Azerbaijani soldiers beat us the entire way, including punching in the head, face and kicking."

"We were made to kneel and lower our heads and whoever sat was beaten by several soldiers."

"If anyone tried to speak or make a sound they would beat us, including slapping us hard in the face."

"Upon our arrival at the Disciplinary Battalion, Azerbaijani soldiers started kicking and punching us while throwing us out of the truck."

"One Azerbaijani soldier punched me in the eye. My eye was bruised and swollen severely and did not heal for three months. After herding us inside and before putting us in cells, Azerbaijani soldiers continued their beating with batons, kicking and punching us in the head and other body parts, while we were obeying their order of removing our shoelaces."

21LC-0043

"Azerbaijani soldiers did not allow us to use the toilet in the cell. One of my cellmates could not control it anymore and urinated his pants."

"I saw my cellmates being forced to kiss the Azerbaijani soldier's boots. As he initially resisted, Azerbaijani soldiers plucked his hair with pliers and hit him with batons until he finally gave up. My cellmate was loudly screaming in pain for about two hours, yet no medical assistance was provided."

I constantly heard loud screams from different cells nearby."

"Azerbaijani soldiers pepper sprayed our eyes and beat us with batons. The bruises on one of the POWs legs had not healed in four months."

"We were also beaten and forced to clean the floor and the toilet area of the cell."

"The prison guards forced us to remain standing under threat of violence, and we could only sit whenever they ordered so. We couldn't sleep. Whenever one of us in the cell sat down without permission, they beat everyone in the cell. Also, every hour they would enter our cell and beat everyone with batons. Each Armenian POW was beaten by four Azerbaijani soldiers, and if any of us tried to defend ourselves while being beaten, it would result in more severe beatings. I was beaten regularly, with the rest of my cellmates."

"Our platoon's officer was taken out to the parade ground and beaten severely. He was also electroshocked. When he was brought back, he was extremely weak. He couldn't even speak. He was trembling from pain. Sometime later, he begged me to kill him because he couldn't take it anymore. I was scared. All of us were ordered to be seated in a particular place in the cell and he was ordered to sit in the front so when a guard came to beat us, he would know who the officer was and beat him harder. After he begged me to kill him, I swapped places with him as I had more strength and could take more beatings while he was in an extremely bad physical and psychological condition."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

"While we were taken up the stairs, they [the Azerbaijani soldiers] beat us with rubber batons, hands and feet."

"Upon arrival at the Disciplinary Battalion, ten of us were taken to a room where we were ordered to strip naked and lie on the floor face down."

"We stayed in the cell at the second detention facility in Baku for four months during which we were regularly beaten by the guards. One of my cellmates had bruises and swollen legs and arms from the beatings. The bruises did not heal for 4 months. 4 to 5 guards would open the door every single day and beat us with batons, kicking and punching. The other two had to watch their friend being beaten and wait for their turn."

"The guards had rules for us and also punishments. For example, we had to say "Karabakh is Azerbaijan" every time the door or the small window on the door opened. Sometimes we had to kneel or line up when the door opened. We couldn't move freely. We were not allowed to sleep or lie down during the day or speak in a loud voice. As a punishment, they could make us kneel for hours, or stand for hours with our heads down, and of course the beatings."

21LC-0043

"I was moved to another cell. It was freezing in the cell and we were very cold during the entire winter." "The quality of the food was bad, sometimes it was rotting, and I was feeling hungry almost all the time. To receive food each time, we had to say "Karabakh is Azerbaijan." We didn't have toothpaste, toilet paper, towels, socks, or any hygiene product until the Red Cross first visited us."

"The guards threatened us to say nothing to the Red Cross about our treatment or else it would be "very bad" for all of us."

"While we were on the floor, the Azerbaijanis were walking and jumping on our backs with their boots. I was in pain as the person who was jumping on my back was also kicking me in the head."

"During an interrogation, I was dragged into another room and was further beaten by 4 other people in civilian clothing."

"Azerbaijan's prosecution stated to the judge that we were there to blow up a school according to our signed testimony. When the interpreter translated to the judge that I never said I was there to blow up a school, the judge laughed. When the judge and the lawyer left the courtroom, the guards started to beat us in the courthouse. On our way out of the building, there were additional 30-40 military personnel, and they began to beat us as well."

"During the second interrogation, they called me in and ordered me to kneel. A senior sergeant kicked me hard and I fell. My assigned lawyer punched me in the head. When the lawyer left, the interrogator punched me on the face. Then, the others in the room [three persons] started to kick and punch me while I was on the ground."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

21LC-0043

“During the third interrogation, I was electroshocked on my back and on my arm. The pain was severe. A person with civilian clothing pointed a Makarov gun at my face and threatened to shoot me dead.”

“I was given a document to sign, so I did. It was written in Azerbaijani. I did not understand anything but I was forced to sign it anyway. In the courtroom I gave an oral testimony. However, I was told that our oral testimony did not match the testimony I signed in the interrogation room.”

“My injuries are preventing me from doing moderate physical work. I occasionally run out of breath and suffer from exertion. Any physical work makes my spine hurt. I lose consciousness on occasion. My mother has been noticing that at times my eyes uncontrollably shake back and forth. I had never experienced these symptoms before my captivity.”

21LC-0051

“They were hitting me with their hands at the beginning, but in the cell, they were using batons, chains, and sticks.”

“They [the guards] would enter the cell and beat us. I have noticed a senior lieutenant, major, captain, lieutenant.”

“The workers of that building [the investigative committee] were beating us, the investigator was beating me with his feet and using a taser on me.”

“Because of the beatings the left side of my eye was cut and my hand was injured.”

“If we would sleep during the day, the guards would make us stand heads down for hours.”

“I signed papers in Azerbaijani language and I did not even ask what I was signing.”

21LC-0078

“While transporting me they [the Azerbaijani soldiers] were beating us. They hit my left knee with a hammer and a stick so many times. It was extremely painful and my knee was swollen. I thought they had broken it. They also hit my head with a hammer and a stick.”

“While being transported the Azerbaijani soldier put a knife to my ears and my throat threatening to cut them.”

“They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] tied my hands with a zip tie extremely tight. When I said that it was too tight, they came and made it even tighter. Then they would mock me asking if it wasn't too tight, and I had to say that it was okay. Later when I was not feeling my hands at all, I said to the soldier that a gangrene may occur and he pulled the zip tie and not cut it, and a part of it entered my skin and it started bleeding.”

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

21LC-0078

"During the two days in the Disciplinary Battalion they [the Azerbaijani soldiers] did not allow me to sit down, to sleep, did not give me any food, and beat me. I was on my feet for two days. If I made an attempt to sit down, they would beat me up."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] would take us out of the cell and beat us. One of them put a gun to my head threatening to kill me, and when I told him to go ahead and shoot me, I was beaten even more severely. The beating lasted for over an hour. Such beatings were frequent. I was beaten more frequently than the others due to my act of defiance."

"I could hear the awful sounds of beatings and screaming coming from nearby cells. My knees were very swollen from the previous beatings. No medical treatment was provided. The soldiers were frequently and intentionally hitting my injured knee to cause more pain."

"There was a woman conducting the interrogation. After the interrogation, she gave me a document to sign which was written in Azerbaijani and English languages, both of which I do not understand."

"During the interrogation, Robert [an Azerbaijani interrogator] told me to write that I cooperate with the Republic of Azerbaijan. I was given a nickname. He videotaped me saying the words I wrote. He then made me sign what I had written."

21LC-0082

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] gave us their backpacks to carry. I was hit on my head and on my leg on the road."

"There [first detention center] were people wearing civilian clothes, sergeants, lieutenants, lieutenant colonels. I was being hit by foot, hands, black rubber batons."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] were making us clean up inside and outside of the cell, they were regularly beating us using hands, feet, and batons."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] were trying to humiliate us, they were cursing at us. They were cursing on the head of our country, on our families, and on our parents. They were shouting sexual slurs."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] would enter and take one of us out of the cell and start beating up. Or they would hit us one by one in the cell to the point when one of us could not take any more."

"We were fed once during three days and ordered to eat the soup in 20 seconds."

"It was cold in the cell and if you would take a blanket to warm up, they would consider it as breaking the rules and would punish you by beating or making you stand with your head down for several hours." "One of my cellmates' nose was broken and another one had his ear broken, but no medical assistance was provided."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

"It was very cold in the cell and wind was blowing from the many cracks and holes on the wall, door and window. The guards told us that there won't be any heating because there was no heating in our military positions. We tried to somehow fill the cracks and the holes ourselves with whatever we had under our hand, but this became another reason for the guards to beat us up."

"They [the guards] warned us not to tell anything to the red cross otherwise it would be worse for us, but they wouldn't kill us because death would be the best punishment for us. They told us that they would make us die every single day."

"I was handcuffed on my knees in the investigation room. The interrogators used a taser on my leg, hit me with cables, hit my head with keys, used their hands and feet to beat me."

"I signed eleven or twelve papers in Azerbaijani before being taken to the court. The interrogators did not even untie my hands and made me sign while being handcuffed in the back. I did not know what papers I was signing."

"I saw a lawyer only during the court proceeding. During another court proceeding I saw another lawyer in the courtroom."

21LC-0082

"I was blindfolded and taken out of my cell. When they opened the blindfold, I saw that I was standing in a courtroom surrounded by Azerbaijanis. I was told that my lawyer petitioned for me to serve my sentence at home which the judge declined. I wanted to ask what that even meant, but I had no right to speak or ask questions there."

"My lawyer did not understand Russian so we were not even able to communicate, as there was no interpreter."

"During the third court proceeding I was told that I had confessed that my commander gave me orders to kill Azerbaijani soldiers if I see them, and threaten the civilian population if I encounter them. I said that I never confessed to such things, in response to which I was shown papers in Azerbaijani with 2 signatures including mine which contained those statements. The interpreter said that he had translated those statements to me and I knew what I was signing. I told the court that there was no interpreter when I was signing the papers and that I signed them under pressure."

"The interpreter in the court was not able to properly translate everything. The Judge was speaking much longer than the short translation which we were getting."

"While being transported to the court and on the way back I was constantly hit, mostly on my head. While in the cars the driver braked sharply several times making us fall."

"Despite the fact that all of us 62 people were captured from the same place under the same conditions, we received different sentences. When I asked this question in the courtroom the interpreter did not even translate my question and said that it was none of my business."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

“On December 26th I was taken to be interrogated again and was told by the interrogator that everyone thinks we are dead and they can kill us if they want. He gave me a piece of paper to sign which was also signed by this man named Mehman Babayev. This piece of paper was in Azerbaijani.”

“I was taken back to the cell and I was punched on the head.”

“I don’t remember accurately, but we stayed there [the Disciplinary Battalion] for one day and a half and whoever could, whenever could, they [the Azerbaijani soldiers] would beat us and would leave. There were times they were kicking or punching. There was a time when one of them had a chain that he beat us with. He hit my head two times.”

“We were forced to crawl around the cell on our knees, to make circles. Our hands were tied and they [the Azerbaijani soldiers] were beating us all the time during that period. It took approximately 30-35 minutes. There were wounds on my knees but they healed. And then they took out one of our guys and he was forced to kiss their boots, and he was beaten too. His face was bruised.”

AUA0003

“Hussein said “we brought you here and we can do whatever we want with you”, then he hit us. We were lying down on our stomach on the floor, he would jump on our backs. He jumped on my back several times. He also punched my nose. Then he kicked me with his knee once and punched my nose again. My nose was broken. I got surgery later in Armenia.”

“The Azerbaijani soldiers who captured us said ‘your families have no information about you, we can kill you now, but for now we are not doing anything.’

“Then everyone was made to get off the truck one by one. Azerbaijanis pushed us off and we fell off the truck. We would approach the truck, it had one meter height, and since our hands were tied, we were pushed off. I also fell off, after was beaten. An Azerbaijani soldier kicked my face with his foot, my nose was bleeding.”

“There was one Azerbaijani soldier who hit the four of us with a baton several times. He hit my head with the baton 3 times.”

“They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] took my prayer book, my cross, and my two phones.”

“The Azerbaijani soldiers swore at us and emphasized we were being sworn at because we were Armenian. One of the Azerbaijanis told us in Russian that the Armenian nation must disappear.”

AUA0033

“I could not sleep because I was worried. One of the Azerbaijani soldiers beat me on my ears, causing one of my eardrums to rupture.”

“I was beaten all over my body with a baton and a rope for about two minutes while they [the Azerbaijani guards] shouted at me. They beat me so severely that I believed I was going to die. They continued to beat me as I fell to the ground.”

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

"The court hearing lasted about 4 minutes: they were asking our names and addresses, then the judge would leave for several minutes and return with a decision – 4-month arrest sentence for terrorism. It seems we had a lawyer but that day he neither spoke nor tried to defend us. He neither spoke in the court nor with us."

"I was made to sign a paper, then went to a court and was sentenced to 4 months. The paper that I was made to sign was in Azerbaijani and no one translated the content for me. How could one not sign? After being beaten for 10-15 minutes straight, would you not sign?"

"We were not explained in any official institution why we were here, and the investigators told me that I am a terrorist. They forced me to sign documents in Azerbaijani. There was no way not to sign the document. During the first interrogation I signed while being handcuffed. Next times, they would untie my hands, force me to sign and put the handcuffs back."

"We were taken to interrogations with threats. During the court false information was added which was never provided from my side. While taking me to the prosecutor's office I was beaten and interrogated."

AUA0033

"While being handcuffed they [the interrogators] would beat me with two or three people using a taser. I was also electroshocked with a stun gun while I was handcuffed. This is how my ear was hurt. They would beat us without leaving any bruise to a visible place on our body or face. They would beat me for about 10-15 minutes, get what they wanted, which was signing the documents and we were free."

"From shock and stress, my friend and I had skin rash all over our bodies. My friend's teeth were aching."

"We were not allowed to lie down and Azerbaijani guards were watching, by saying watching I mean they were beating us. There was no time to rest, we were to remain in a standing position on foot, they were checking and monitoring."

"They would enter our cells any time they would decide, but usually it was every two hours, they would take two of us out of the cell to a corridor and beat us - whole body. There were 7 people who were beating one or two POWs at once."

"When they [the Azerbaijani guards] would get angry they would beat us longer. They got angry when catching us speaking with one another."

"No one was allowed to sleep or lie down on the bed. It was their [the Azerbaijani guards] wish, they could order to sit on the floor, do some push-ups, and lie down on the floor in different ways. It was a mental and physical pressure from their side."

"While under Azerbaijan captivity, numerous Azerbaijani state agents, military servicemen, prison guards, interrogators, and the entire Azerbaijani judicial system, which conducted criminal trials against me based on false accusations, physically and mentally tortured me."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

AUA0067

"There was a cross on my military uniform, and one of the Azerbaijani soldiers approached and said that we should do a Muslim prayer together. I refused and he held a gun at me."

"We were taken to the military police, where the Azerbaijanis started beating us all. Some of us were beaten very badly, one of us had an eye injury."

"We were most likely beaten because we were Armenians, besides that they [the Azerbaijani soldiers] accused the Armenians of doing various things to the Azerbaijanis."

"I cannot say exactly how often I was beaten, but it was so often that I lost track of time."

"The interrogator asked me questions and in the middle of the interrogation accused me of lying to him and held a gun to my head, and also stated that in Armenia people do not know that we were captives, and he could kill me. Then he electrocuted me."

"We were being beaten every time while being transported to the investigative committee or the courtroom."

"The court proceedings on us reminded me of a theater."

"One day before the trial, I was taken somewhere with my eyes closed, then the interrogator put a document and told me to sign. One of the investigators had a taser in his hand implying that I should sign, otherwise I would be electrocuted again. The documents were in Azerbaijani language."

AUA0068

"During this walk, the Azerbaijani soldiers started to beat us. We were also forced to carry their heavy bags. One of the soldiers hit my mouth with the back of his gun because I refused to carry his bag. I broke my tooth and cut my lip."

"I was punched and kicked by both the police and the soldiers. I witnessed how one of the POWs was thrown to the ground and was being kicked all over his body by five to six of the Azerbaijanis. While on the ground, the Azerbaijanis were kicking us in the head and upper body."

"While being taken to the second floor, the workers of the military police station were punching and kicking us all over our bodies."

"During the daytime, we had to remain standing. We were allowed to sit on the ground only during the nights, but still we were not allowed to lie down. During the second night, I was taken out of my cell to the hallway and got punched and kicked because of lying down in the cell. As a result, I got my nose broken."

"I could constantly hear the voices of other POWs in nearby cells as they were also being beaten. Hearing their screams was torture. No one slept those two days."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

AUA0068

"We were getting water only after we were beaten up. Every time they opened the door, the workers of the military police station were beating over our heads for five minutes with batons."

"Once, we were taken out to the hallway and 10 to 15 people in civilian clothing started to beat us with a black batons and chains."

"We were beaten mercilessly with batons and chains. They beat us all over our bodies, but not our faces. I could hear the screams of nearby POWs and knew that soon it was going to be my turn to be beaten up."

"When we got to the second floor, I could see traces of blood on the white floor. The traces of blood led to my cell, and I was scared that I might die here."

"They made us lie down on the ground on our stomachs with our hands behind our heads. We remained stripped naked for an hour on the ground. It was winter, the window to the outside and the door to the hallway were open, so it was very cold. While I was naked on the ground, I was beaten with a baton. It took a month for the bruise on my leg to heal."

"We were not allowed to sit or sleep on the beds during the day. Once, I disobeyed that order and got punched and kicked all over my body, except my face."

"During the first month in these cells, we were not allowed to sit, only remain standing in our cells until bedtime, otherwise we would be beaten."

"During the first 3-4 months, I have not had breakfast because the quality of it was disgusting. Once, Tural spit in my food before giving it to me."

"The person with a small yellow star on his shoulder came and asked me why I told the Red Cross about the mistreatment. I told him that it is better to get beaten every day than to force me to kneel down and repeat things. It was degrading treatment for me. He started to punch me for 3-4 minutes."

"The Azerbaijanis started to beat us in the elevator of the Investigative Committee. I was beaten over my neck and head by a baton. I could also hear the other POWs shouting out of pain."

"When I entered the interrogation room, the Azerbaijanis untied my blindfold but I was still handcuffed. The interrogator hit the back of my knee, so I kneeled down. The interrogation started and I was kneeled down until the end of the interrogation. Both of the interrogators beat me with a baton and a ruler."

"The interrogator electroshocked me twice. The second time, I tried to escape the room, but I was stopped. Both times, he electroshocked me for 15-20 seconds over my shoulder and neck. I genuinely thought that I would end up dead there."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

AUA0068

"The court proceeding lasted a few minutes. It was in Azerbaijani; I could not understand anything. I was blindfolded before I entered the court. I did not have a lawyer nor an interpreter. I entered the court while being dragged to the courtroom by my hair. I was given a paper in Azerbaijani to sign."

"The prosecutor read "my" written testimony out loud to the court but I informed them that it was not my testimony, as I was forced to sign papers written in Azerbaijani under threat of violence which I did not understand."

"When I returned to Armenia, I had severe headaches which I had not had before. I underwent a head MRI and my doctor noticed a problem with my eyes. Sometimes, I still have migraines. The traces on my wrist, which occurred because of being handcuffed, are still visible."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] were hitting us with batons, bayonets, hands, and feet. They would beat us until they were tired. Seven of them would hit one of us. And we were handcuffed. Some even had their legs tied. We were like soccer balls. They were getting pleasure from treating us like that."

"I was often being hit on my kidney areas, on my head with a baton. There was blood coming out of my mouth."

"I was in my underwear almost all the time of my captivity. They [the Azerbaijani guards] gave me a black uniform twice when filming me, and after filming immediately took them away."

"We were ordered to always say that Karabakh is Azerbaijan whenever the door would open. Twice I failed to say that and they [the guards] beat me severely with batons."

AUA0070

"During the interrogations, the interrogators were very cruel. They would beat me, use a taser on me, burn me with lighter and constantly mock and laugh."

"The [Azerbaijani] soldiers hit me all the way to the interrogation room and ordered me to kneel down saying that I should welcome their interrogators on my knees and honor them."

"I was blindfolded and handcuffed. The interrogators made me sign documents without even untying my hands. I didn't know what I was signing. I was never provided with a translation."

"The interrogators would never introduce themselves to us. For them we were lesser men, we were subhuman. We had no right to ask them any questions. We only had to answer their questions, and if we would dare to ask them anything, our ends would be very sad."

"They [the interrogators] made me sign documents in Azerbaijani and when I asked them what I was signing I was beaten really badly, with batons, hands and feet. They said 'Who are you? What right do you have to ask questions?' They would say that they were the ones asking questions."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

AUA0070

"On the way to the interrogation room the guards would beat me, hit my head with a baton, burn my fingers, burn my hair, hit my head on the walls, on the floor, and I couldn't do anything as I was handcuffed and blindfolded. It was extremely awful."

"The interrogators were talking to me like I was a subhuman, often yelling."

"I was never told about my rights. The only thing I knew is that I had no rights. Specifically, I had no right to ask any questions."

"They [the guards] thought a song to my cellmate in Azerbaijani. That he would sing for them. Then later, before they released us, they told us that the song translates to "We were thrown like dogs." Us Armenians. That's how they mocked us."

"They [the guards] would often beat me. Many times I was bleeding, there were times when I fainted. My cellmates told me that once I fainted and there was a lot of blood on the floor and they used me as a mop to clean the blood while I was unconscious."

"They [the guards] removed my left part of the teeth thinking that they were made of gold. When they saw they weren't made of gold they did not remove the rest. No medical assistance was provided. You are a lesser man there, who would provide me with a doctor?"

"We were forced to constantly repeat that Karabakh is Azerbaijan, and if you refused, you would get beaten."

"They [the guards] would beat me, hit me, mock me. They would hit us with their hands, with their feet. They hit wherever they could. They hit us on the head, on the face, on the back, on the legs."

"They made us repeat Turkish [Azerbaijani] words. If we repeated it and they weren't happy with how it sounded, they would hit us."

AUA0071

"They [the interrogators] made us sign documents in Azerbaijani language. I said "So you made us out to be terrorists in those documents and made us sign them?" to which the interrogator said "No, those weren't those papers, but once we prepare those documents, you will also sign them." You cannot refuse to sign them."

"Those 2 days that we were in the Yashma cells... You know... I cannot. I really don't want to open all of this back up again, I cannot. I don't want to remember everything. They would line us up against a wall, we were helpless. You are helpless and he is armed, and you are defenseless. That's it."

"He [the Azerbaijani soldier] stands you against a wall and says to his friend, "look, I've learned a new trick. Watch, let me show you." Like a karate trick, for example. And he practiced on the person as if they were a target."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

AUA0071

"They [the guards] were hitting us with their weapons, with the stock of the firearm. They hit us with the firearm stocks many times. They even hit us with police batons. They had different types of batons that they beat us with. It wasn't just with their hands and feet."

"Every day they [the guards] would unlock the door and come inside. They would hit us on the heads, one by one, with the lock. Then they would slap us. Slapping was a normal occurrence already. Same thing every time. This was their way of saying good morning."

"If you wanted to sleep, or lean against the wall they [the guards] would come in and beat not just you but everyone in the cell. They would definitely punish you. Whether that would be by beating you or...like "kindergarten" punishments. They would make you stand for the whole day and we weren't allowed to sit down, or move. Or they would stand you by the door."

"There was a small observation window on the door. They would keep that window open and make you stand there. They would come check up on you every once in a while. If you sat down, they would come beat you. Or sometimes they would come in and hit all 5 of us if they didn't like something."

"Verbal assaults were a daily thing. It had become normal. They forced us to learn Azerbaijani words and made us repeat them."

**AUA0076
21LC-NK0
064**

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] were driving and beating me on the head mainly, my nose, eyes. All their hands were covered in my blood."

"Five-six soldiers were beating me, laughing, and filming... It was like their revenge from Armenians. They were trying to inflict such harm so that I would get hearing problems, become blind, or go mad." "They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] took me to a cell but did not allow me to sit on a chair. They made me lie down in the dirt."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] would enter and beat me constantly. They were saying that this was because I am Armenian."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] saw that I am of age and were avenging their fathers who lost the previous war."

"My cell was like a passage yard. Anyone who wanted entered, asked questions, and beat me up."

"There was a special soldier in the interrogation room who had special gloves on which would harm me more when he beat me."

"They [the guards] put me in a cell with 5 beds, but handcuffed me from the heating steam very tightly. I asked them to loosen the handcuffs but they ignored me. My hand was burning and aching and I have permanent scars."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

AUA0076
21LC-NK0
064

"I was not fed in days. The first two days I did not get any food or water. I was often not allowed to go to the bathroom."

"They [the guards] were making me repeat things in Azerbaijani, and if I refused, they beat me up."

"The guard ordered me to curse on myself, then ordered my cellmate to curse on me. When I refused to follow his orders, he beat me up with a plastic broom and did not stop even after I was bleeding. I developed hearing problems because of that beating."

"I am a third-class disabled person and their [Azerbaijanis] doctors examined me and knew about it. But it did not stop them from constantly beating me."

"Because of the beatings I developed hearing problems, my eyesight worsened, I have constant headaches, I often get dizzy, I can't walk for a long time or do physical work, and I have psychological issues."

"Signing a big pile of papers was a constant thing. I was signing papers in Azerbaijani language and never learned of their contents. I was being threatened that I would be beaten by five-six people if I refused."

"The prosecutor was instructing me what to say before the court proceedings. He told me to say that I had a weapon and other untrue things. I was being filmed at that time and there was an interpreter and a lawyer next to me during the whole process. There were also soldiers there wearing special gloves that would beat me up if I refused to say what I was instructed to."

"I had a so-called lawyer, but he was working with them. He was there when I was made to repeat statements and sign documents. He was definitely not protecting my interests."

"During those three days I was treated really badly. They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] would hit me using their hands, feet, and batons. Four or five of them would also take me out of cell and beat me."

"An Azerbaijani in civilian clothing hit my head with a baton really hard. It was extremely painful."

AUA0085

"In the prison [on December 16] they made us take off all our clothes, then lie face down on a cold floor naked. They opened all the doors and windows and started mocking saying that it stinks. I was shivering from the cold."

"On the way to the interrogation room the guards would beat me, burn my fingers with a lighter three-four times. I had a huge burn blister on my hand."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

AUA0085

"The guards would hit my head on the walls, as I was handcuffed and blindfolded. They would call me like a dog mocking and laughing."

"I was to kneel during the entire interrogation. The interrogators used a taser on my ribs, neck three or four times."

"They made me learn a poem in their language and if I made any mistake, they would make me stay in a standing position for over an hour."

"As a result of the beatings, I was having headaches and my eyes were aching, but it's gotten better now. After returning I constantly wanted to sleep. I could not stay on foot long. I have noticed that I have memory issues."

"I am constantly worried [after the release]. It's like something is going to happen. Very often I cannot sleep at nights. I am having bad dreams."

AUA0088

"During these two days we received soup only once during the second day and were ordered to eat it in 20 seconds, which was not possible."

"During these two days we were sleeping on the floor. And by sleeping, I mean the only three hours at night when we lay on the floor, otherwise we were to remain in a standing position all the time."

"We were beaten up there [the Disciplinary Battalion] all the time without any reason. They would beat us with batons, 5 Azerbaijanis would beat 1 Armenian."

"I did not see any lawyers until in the court proceeding when we were given a conditional sentence of 4 months. This court proceeding lasted for 2 minutes and my lawyer did not say a word. Him being there was a simple formality."

"The interrogators gave me papers and forced me to sign them. Those documents were in Azerbaijani language, and when I asked what kind of document it was, I was told that it was none of my business, and that my business was only to sign."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

A0086

"I was wounded in the woods, and when I opened my eyes I saw 10 soldiers surrounding me. They were aiming at me with their weapons. They told me that they had killed everyone they met before me. They said that they were not Azerbaijanis, but Turks, and they should hand me over to the Azerbaijanis."

"They [the guards] were using psychological pressure on me, but I knew that such things were unavoidable because I am Armenian."

"I was beaten both in hospital and the investigative committee."

"After the interrogation I was ordered to walk to the car, and I told them [the Azerbaijani soldiers] that my legs were injured and I could not walk, to which one of them, maybe a colonel, told me to crawl like a dog and bark on the way."

"I asked to contact my family several times, said that my father had a heart attack and I wanted to let him know that I am alive, but I was not allowed."

"My hands were always handcuffed in the hospital, then the doctor said that I was not able to even crawl to the door, so my one hand was released."

"They [the Azerbaijani soldiers] gave me a piece of paper to learn what I was going to say and made me repeat it while filming me in the hospital. They told me I should say things which would degrade my nation. It took about 3 hours, then they showed that they uploaded the video to my Instagram page. The video was also sent to my contacts, and posted on YouTube with an Azerbaijani translation."

NKR0047

"The Azerbaijani soldiers were not allowing us to speak Armenian."

"The Azerbaijani soldiers hit and cursed on us. Insults were directed at the prisoners and the Armenian nation."

"The interrogators used to scare me when asking questions. One of them put a knife on my neck, and the other put a gun. They wanted to force me to answer their questions."

"One of the Azerbaijani soldiers hit me on the head with a baton. A hematoma appeared in the head from that blow."

"I think that the Azerbaijanis mixed something with the water, because I started answering the questions without realizing what I was saying."

"The internal organs of the 80-year-old Armenian prisoner in the cell with me were damaged, due to which he died. He was barely eating anything. He died in the last few days. The deceased's name was Edik."

Due to confidentiality and to protect the identification of Armenian prisoners of war, CFTJ does not use their real names but rather identifies them through Key Cards. These quotes have been taken from the extensive testimonies that CFTJ has recorded from Armenian POWs who have returned to Armenia. CFTJ produces reports that include many of these testimonies, but we feel it is important that their voices be heard. Therefore, CFTJ is publishing these harrowing quotes from men who were held captive in Azerbaijani prisons.

21LC-0023

“My son was decapitated and his body was burnt. It was unrecognizable. On the body there were two bullet wounds on the legs, 2-3 stab wounds on the chest, the skin of the right hand was cut, the forensic examination showed that the internal organs were missing, and the ribs were broken.” [The witness presents the details and shows her son’s tortured body over the phone.]

“Azerbaijan has denied keeping my son in custody. I appealed to the ICRC, but he was not found during visits of other POWs to Baku. In December 2020, I applied to the European Court of Human Rights [ECHR], asking Azerbaijan to provide information about the conditions of my son’s detention, but there was no response by Azerbaijan.”