



# RSC Analytical Briefing Developments in Armenia and the Regional Perspective

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# RSC Briefing Issues

- The status of Armenia-Azerbaijan diplomatic negotiations
- The domestic political situation
- Other issues: tension with Russia & Armenia-Turkey “normalization”

# Armenia-Azerbaijan Bilateral Negotiations



- 19 April border demarcation process
- 10-11 May Foreign Ministerial Almaty summit meeting
- 16 May parliamentary speakers meet

# Prelude to Possible Breakthrough

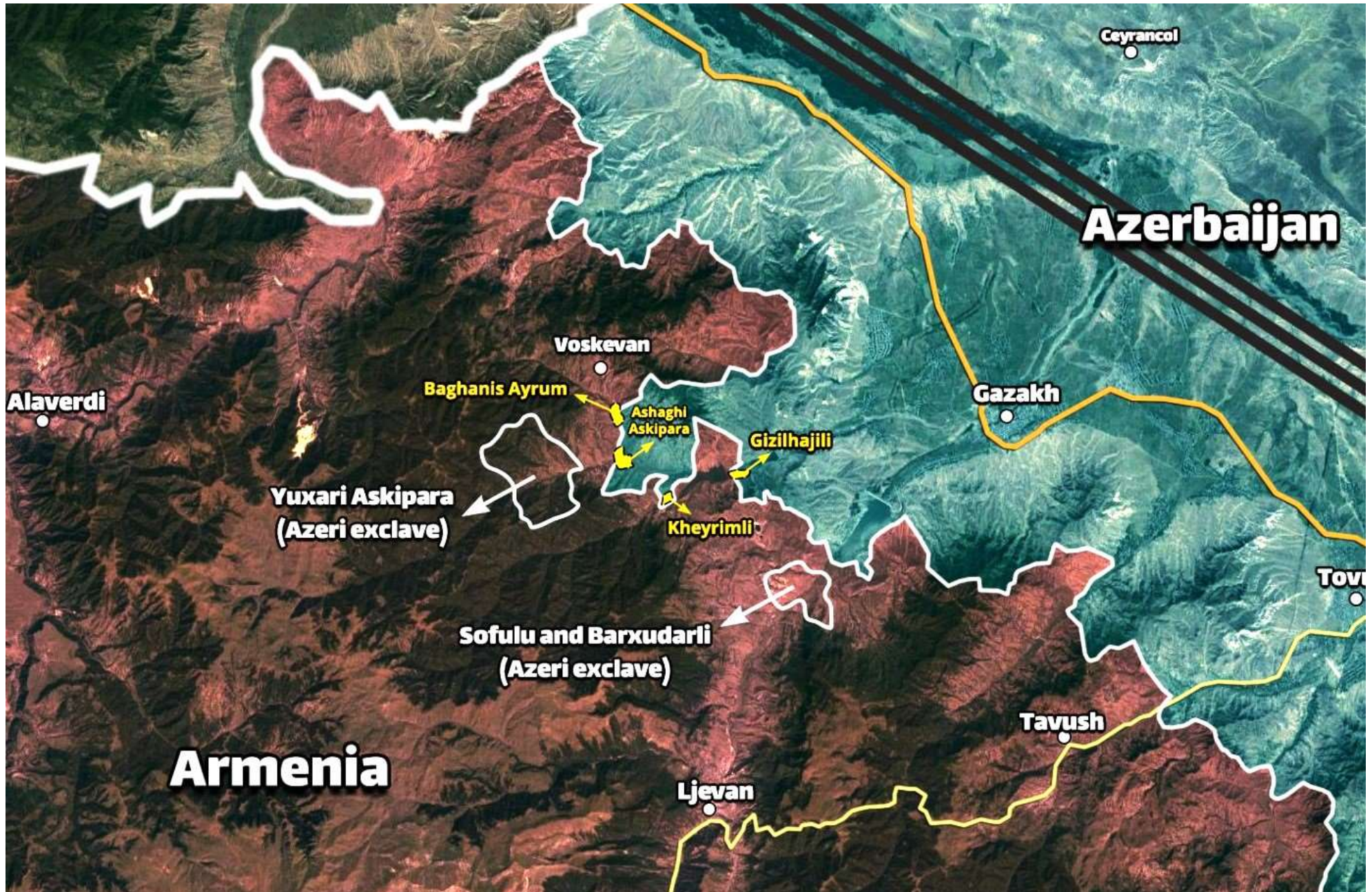
- Apparent Azerbaijani “climb down” from maximalist position & return to diplomacy may signal prelude to breakthrough
- Armenian leader may visit Baku for UN Climate Change Conference COP29
- November could offer venue/platform for conclusion of bilateral treaty & agreement on connectivity

# Partial Border Demarcation



Roughly 1000 km border

# Border Demarcation Agreement



# 19 April Preliminary Border Demarcation Agreement

## Details

- Partial demarcation of 12.7 sq km
- Focused on four border areas
- Impacting four Armenian border villages
  - Kirants, Voskepar, Berkaber, Baghanis – north-eastern Tavush region

# 19 April Preliminary Border Demarcation Agreement

## Strategic Significance

- First-ever agreement, no Russian role
- Delineation based on 1979 Soviet military map as reference point
- Demarcation based on 1991 Alma-Ata Declaration

# What Comes Next?

- Transitional stage underway: military units replaced by border guard units
- To address another set of border areas by 24 July; moving south from Tavush
- Outstanding obstacle: 208 sq km  
Armenian territory seized by Azerbaijan in May 2021 & September 2022

# Domestic Political Situation

- Protests in Tavush over border deal come to Yerevan 9 May



# Domestic Political Situation

- Opposition moves to leverage Yerevan protests



# Domestic Political Situation

- Policy over-reaction exacerbates situation (as usual)



# The New Face of Protests

- Tavush Archbishop Bagrat Galstanyan emerges as new face of protests



# The Role of the Church

- Assessing Galstanyan



# Domestic Political Situation

- Protests remain marginal threat
- Church in danger of squandering popular image
- Politization of the Armenian Church
- Political inexperience & naivete
- Opposition's toxic embrace
- Absence of serious external support

# Tension with Russia

- 8 May: Putin-Pashinyan meeting
- Armenia accepts Eurasian Economic Union membership
- CSTO as convenient target
- 24 May Russian Ambassador recalled
- Confrontation but not yet crisis

# Armenia-Turkey Normalization

- 23 May Margara border crossing tour  
Armenian SRC & EU
- Back-channel meetings, Turkish MFA  
elevates Armenian diplomatic  
presence in Turkey
- Armenia-Turkey normalization  
awaiting Armenia-Azerbaijan track

# Russian Border Guard Presence

- Agreement on withdrawal of Russian border guards from Yerevan airport and 17 points since 2020 (including facilities in Sisian and Goris)
- Armenian borders with Iran and Turkey defined by treaties & agreements; Russian base a lingering issue



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