



# Armenia-Azerbaijan Clashes

Report Date:  
Aug 4 2020



## Summary

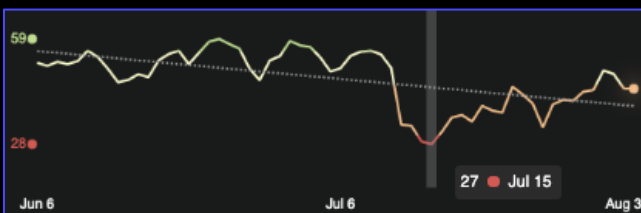
On July 12, fatal exchanges of long-range fire by troops in the northern border area began between the two countries; pipelines transporting gas highlight the importance of the region. Pulse ratings dropped to their lowest levels on July 14 and 15 as clashes continued. Fatality counts appear to number in the dozens, though exact figures remain unclear. Recent intervention includes Russian military exercises with Armenia and Turkey affirming ties with Azerbaijan. European, Central Asian, and Middle Eastern countries have a vested interest in reducing tensions to secure the continued flow of petroleum.



## Assessment

Armed clashes began anew on July 12 between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the northern Tovuz Rayon (district) of Azerbaijan. There are indications that armored vehicles, operations centers, and other hard targets have been damaged and destroyed in the clashes, with some reports indicating shells have fallen close to civilian population centers. Exact fatality counts remain obfuscated within open-source data, though shelling has been reported as recently as August 2. Russia is positioned to continue joint training exercises with Armenia, as Turkey conducts flyovers along the Armenian border as a show of force. Some EU lawmakers have called for sanctions against Azerbaijan, citing human rights violations. The conflict is unique in the larger Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict as it is focused along the northern border, rather than closer to the contested region of Nagorno-Karabakh in the southern half of the border. Clashes appear to be subsiding, though tensions are high as intervention looms.

### Armenia

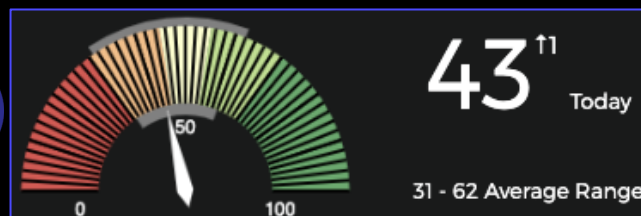
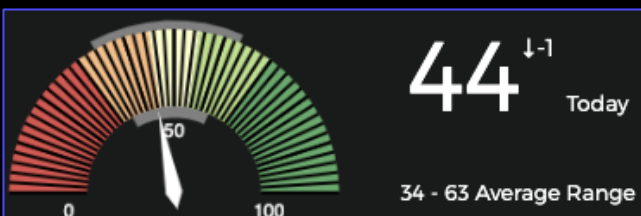


Pulse stability since Jun 6 - low point of 27 on Jul 15

### Azerbaijan



Pulse stability since Jun 6 - low point of 25 on Jul 14

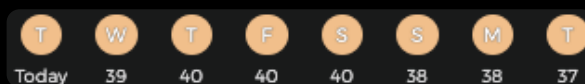


### Hotspots

- First hotspot appeared on July 12
- Hotspot on August 3, persisting through August 4, focuses on aviation exercises performed by Turkey at the Armenian border

### Hotspots

- First hotspot appeared on July 12, second appeared shortly after on July 12
- Hotspot on August 4 focuses on the EU calling for sanctions against Azerbaijan



## Forecast

Continued shelling appears likely at this time, as troops remain stationed along the border region, and the Pulse rating of both countries indicates a gradual decline in the coming days. However, further escalation of fighting remains dependent upon the international response. Sanctions on Azerbaijan may force the country to reduce forces along the border as a stipulation, with the possibility of drawing condemnation from Turkey. Russia is poised to continue to call for dialogue between the countries as it conducts military exercises with Armenian forces. Any further hostilities between the two countries is likely to remain limited to the Tovuz region, though a shift in dynamics threatens to escalate tensions in the southern area near Nagorno-Karabakh.