
ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN SHOULD SEIZE CHANCE FOR PEACE

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06.11.2020

Atlantic Council (31 October 2020)

by Matthew Bryza

Azerbaijan seems poised to capture a crucial city that could end the military phase of its war with Armenia. Securing a political victory in the war, however, will require Azerbaijan's restraint to avert a humanitarian catastrophe that could arise were its forces to press all the way into the capital of the region.

On October 29, the leader of Nagorno Karabakh, Arayik Harutyunyan, issued an ominous warning that Azerbaijani troops were within 5 kilometers of the city of Shushi. He then appealed to all residents of Nagorno Karabakh to join the fight to hold the city, stressing, As in 1992, when our victory began with the liberation of Shushi, today, our victory depends on the defense of Shushi.

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