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**OIC REPS VOICE SUPPORT FOR AZERBAIJAN EFFORTS TO REBUILD KARABAKH**

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Jamestown (5 April 2021)

On February 14, President İlham Aliyev of Azerbaijan, during his visit to the Azerbaijani territories retaken following the Second Karabakh War (September 27 - October 9, 2020), ceremonially laid the foundation for a railway that, when completed, will connect the towns of Horadiz (Fuzuli district) and Agbend (Zangilan district) (President.az, February 14). Agbend is located in the southwesternmost part of mainland Azerbaijan, at the politically sensitive junction of the borders of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Iran. The 100-kilometer-long Horadiz - Agbend railway constitutes a part of a larger project to connect Azerbaijan proper with its exclave, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, via the Syunik region of Armenia. Yerevan and Baku, reportedly with the insistence of the latter and through the mediation of Moscow, have agreed on the establishment of a land route between the two parts of Azerbaijan in the trilateral ceasefire deal of November 9, 2020, which concluded the 44-day war (President.az, November 10).

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