dispute. The result has been an up-tick in diplomacy over the various conflicts, but as of mid-2011 this had delivered few tangible results.

**ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN**

The OSCE maintains a relatively large office in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, and a similar one in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. These offices primarily focus on issues such as press freedom and the administration of justice, and are explicitly not involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute. The frozen conflict is dealt with by a special envoy (the “Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office on the Conflict Dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference”) based in Georgia. This post has been filled since 1996 by Andrzej Kaspryzk, supported by a handful of staff in Tbilisi, Baku, Yerevan and Stepanakert, the “capital” of Nagorno-Karabakh (known as Kakhkend in Azeri).

Since full-scale hostilities concluded in 1994, Armenian troops have held Nagorno-Karabakh and a significant part of south-west Azerbaijan. The front line has remained heavily militarized and often been unstable, and the number of incidents showed a worrying increase in the second half of 2010. In October 2010, the French, Russian and US ambassadors to the OSCE visited Armenian-held Azeri territory surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh in the company of an official from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. They noted that this fact-finding mission, facilitated by Ambassador Kaspryzk’s team, was “the first mission by the international community to the territories since 2005, and the first visit by UN personnel in 18 years.”

The ambassadors reported that the areas that they visited were in a wretched condition.

While the OSCE convened its first major summit in a decade in Astana, Kazakhstan, in December 2010, the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan signed onto an extremely general statement on the need to resolve the dispute. However, they were unable to use the opportunity to agree on basic principles for ending the conflict. In February 2011, the International Crisis Group (ICG) warned of the risk of a return to war.\(^2\)