**Coronavirus Spreads in Nagorno-Karabakh as Fighting Continues**

**冠状病毒在战火不断的纳卡地区蔓延**

People who are sick with the coronavirus fill cold basements with the healthy to hide from artillery fire. The local health minister who has the virus keeps working. He has a higher than normal body temperature and is also sick with pneumonia. Doctors with the virus perform operations on the wounded.

为躲避炮火感染冠状病毒的人与健康的人们一起挤满了冰冷的地下室。已经感染了病毒的地方卫生部长仍在继续工作——他的体温高于正常水平还患有肺炎。感染了病毒的医生们仍在给伤员做手术。

These are the sad realities of the COVID-19 pandemic in Nagorno-Karabakh, an area of the South Caucasus mountains where Armenian and Azerbaijani forces have been fighting.

这是纳戈尔诺-卡拉巴赫地区（简称纳卡地区）在发生的可悲现实。纳卡地区在南高加索山区，亚美尼亚和阿塞拜疆军队一直在此处作战。

“We just don’t have time to think about coronavirus,” said Irina Musaelyan, who was sheltering with neighbors. She lives in Stepanakert, the main city in the separatist area.

“我们根本没有时间考虑冠状病毒，” 和邻居一起避难的伊琳娜·穆萨尔扬说道。她住在分离主义地区的主要城市斯特潘纳克特。

Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces for more than 25 years. Those forces receive support from the government in Armenia.

纳卡地区位于阿塞拜疆境内，但已被亚美尼亚族武装控制超过25年。亚美尼亚族武装部队得到亚美尼亚政府的支持。

The area is facing the largest escalation of fighting since a war there ended in 1994. Hundreds have been killed since the clashes started on September 27. Two attempts at ceasefires have failed.

该地区正面临1994年战争结束以来最大规模的战事升级。自9月27日冲突开始以来，已有数百人丧生。两次停火的尝试都失败了。

The fighting has forced many people to ignore the danger of the coronavirus as they try to avoid the danger of the war. The virus spread as people crowded in shelters. There is no effort at contact tracing.

战争迫使许多人忽视冠状病毒的危险——因为他们需要躲避战争带来的危险。病毒在拥挤的避难所蔓延。这个地方根本无法做接触者追踪。

Health care workers have been hit hard by the virus.

卫生保健工作者遭到病毒的重创。

“Almost everyone got infected. Some had it in a light form and others in a more serious one,” said Malvina Badalyan, talking about health care workers. He is a doctor and head of the infectious disease center in Stepanakert.

“几乎每个人都被感染了。一些人的病情很轻，而另一些人的病情则很严重，”马尔维纳·巴达利安在谈到卫生保健工作者时这样说道。他是一名医生，也是斯特潘纳克特市传染病中心的负责人。

In the middle of a war, with the wounded crowding into hospitals, medical teams keep working.

战火中不断有伤员涌进医院，医疗队只能持续工作。

“Many doctors and nurses knew that they were infected, but they kept mum about it,” said Ararat Ohanjanyan. He is the health minister for Nagorno-Karabakh’s government. “They may lie down…to bring the fever down and then get up and continue to perform operations.”

阿拉拉特·奥汉詹扬说：“许多医生和护士都知道他们被感染了，但他们对此保持沉默。”他是纳戈地区政府的卫生部长。“他们会躺下休息……让自己退烧，然后起来继续做手术。”

“No one has the right now to step aside,” he added.

他补充道：“现在没有人有权利退缩。”

When the latest fighting started, medical workers did not have the time or equipment to fight the virus, Ohanjanyan said.

奥汉詹扬说，最新的战火响起时，医务人员没有时间也没有设备来抗击病毒。

“Stepanakert came under heavy shelling, and it allowed contagion to spread,” he added.

他还补充道：“斯捷潘纳克特遭到猛烈炮击，这使得接触性传染病得以传播。”

Ohanjanyan also has the virus and he, too, has continued working with both a fever and pneumonia.

奥汉詹扬也感染了病毒，他也身患肺炎并一直在发烧的状态下工作。

In the past week, the shelling of Stepanakert has become less intense. Emergency health workers have been able to visit shelters and basements to find the sick, Ohanjanyan said. He added that regular testing has begun again, and the sick are being put in quarantine.

在过去的一周里，对斯捷潘纳克特的炮击变得不那么激烈。奥汉詹扬说，急救人员已经能够到避难所和地下室寻找病人。他补充道，常规检测工作已经重新开始，被感染的病人也正在被进行隔离。

Patients in the most serious condition have been sent to Armenia.

病情最严重的病人已被送往亚美尼亚。

Ohanjanyan said local officials still do not know how many people are infected.

奥汉詹扬说，当地官方仍然不知道到底有多少人被感染了。

Armenia supports the separatist area through a land corridor. The country has also reported a large increase in cases in recent weeks. The average of daily new infections has increased 200 percent since early October.

亚美尼亚通过陆路通道支持分离主义地区。该国最近几周也报告了大量增长的病例。自10月初以来，平均每天新增感染人数增加了200%。

As Nagorno-Karabakh’s medical system faced these problems, health workers and other people volunteered to bring medicine to those sheltering in basements and to find those who are sick.

由于纳卡地区的医疗系统面临着这么多问题，卫生工作者和其他志愿者自愿为地下室避难的人们送去药物并寻找生病的人。

Aram Gregorian, a doctor and volunteer, said the conditions in shelters helped fuel the spread of the virus.

医生兼志愿者阿拉姆·格雷戈里安说，避难所的条件助长了病毒的传播。

The attacks force people into groups in basements, he explained, adding that those who clearly have the virus “can’t get treatment or go to the hospital.”

他解释说，战火袭击迫使人们在地下室成群结队。他还补充道，那些明显已感染病毒的人“无法得到治疗或去医院就医”。

I’m Susan Shand.

苏珊·尚德报道。

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