

Dear Mery,

I am Fira. It's the short form of my name. I was looking forward to your letter and I read it with great excitement. I'm glad we have the same feelings. You've expressed your thoughts in such a nice way that they've made an impression on me. It feels great to know that you're going to read my words. I share your emotions of fear and worry related to your brother. You are so right, as my father is also in the military, and my brother will be drafted soon, too. I hate that serving in the army is mandatory.

Of course, I don't live in a frontier zone, but I'm always concerned with all that happens there, and this is an important first step that I'm taking. Our thoughts on peace are pretty similar, and I'm happy about it. As you mention, "We're not to blame for the actions of our ancestors."

Perhaps we don't know anything except what is set before us. Whatever the case, the results are at the cost of human lives. So far, no side has been satisfied, but we can do something for a mutually beneficial future, and that will be true patriotism. Though they say there is no war and everything's okay, our loved ones and compatriots continue to fall victim. I don't want war either. I hope that the corresponding bodies will make the right decisions without war, losses, and weapons.

I know what a friendly nation we were throughout history, but years have passed after the war without any progress. And our compatriots change for the sake of certain things, and I'm really sorry about it.

You know, Mery, I dream of becoming a traveler and travelling around the world. I've been travelling across my country so far, but I dream of visiting Armenia. Sometimes I look at Karabakh on Google Earth and want to see it myself, instead of listening to stories and memories of my parents. I hope that one day we'll meet as neighbors. And then we'll take pride in these letters. Now I say "see you soon," because as long as we exist, hope exists, too.

Your peace-loving friend,

Fira