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**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their
implications for international peace, security
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xenophobia and related intolerance****Promotion and protection of human rights****Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts****The rule of law at the national and international levels****Security Council
Seventy-fifth year****Letter dated 14 April 2020 from the Permanent Representative of
Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan in connection with the twenty-eighth anniversary of the massacre committed by the Armenian armed forces against Azerbaijani civilians in the village of Aghdaban in the Kalbajar district of the Republic of Azerbaijan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 32, 37, 68, 70, 75 and 83, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 14 April 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the twenty-eighth anniversary of the massacre of Azerbaijanis by Armenians in Aghdaban village

8 April 2020

28 years have passed since the massacre of Azerbaijanis by Armenians in Aghdaban village of the Kalbajar district. In fact, the occupation of the Kalbajar district began in the village of Aghdaban. Aghdaban village is situated in the Kalbajar district, 56 km north-east of the district center.

Armenian Armed Forces and Armenian military units in Nagorno-Karabakh committed atrocities against the civilians of Aghdaban over the night from April 7th to 8th, 1992. As a result of the Armenian armed attack from the direction of Japar village of the Aghdara district on Chaygovushan and Aghdaban villages of the Kalbajar district, Aghdaban village consisting of 130 houses was completely burnt down, 779 civilians were subjected to brutal torture. As a result of the massacre committed by Armenians, 39 people were killed with special cruelty. Among them, 8 people aged 90–100, 2 babies and 7 women were cremated alive, 12 people got severe bodily injuries and 2 went missing.

Armenians looted and destroyed historical-architectural and cultural monuments, as well as shrines and cemeteries of the Turkic-Islamic period in the village. Manuscripts and house museum of outstanding Azerbaijani poet Ashug Gurban and his son Ashug Shamshir were burned and destroyed.

The massacre which took place on April 8, 1992, is one of the greatest crimes against the Azerbaijani people committed by the Armenian nationalists in order to seize strategically important Kalbajar district in pursuance of their dream of creating so called “Greater Armenia”. The Aghdaban massacre – the complete burning of an entire village, subjecting hundreds of civilians to inhumane treatment and torture, the expulsion from their homeland – will never be forgotten.

It is important to note that the Aghdaban massacre took place long before the occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh. This event demonstrates that Armenia has deliberately planned the occupation of not only Nagorno-Karabakh, but also broader areas, with a view to actualize the fictitious idea of “Greater Armenia” which stands at the center of its aggression policy.

From March 27 to April 2, 1993, as a result of a large-scale attack by the Armenian armed forces, Kalbajar district, located outside the Nagorno-Karabakh region and comprised of 1936 square km area, population of about 60,000 people at the time of occupation, 1 city, 1 settlement and 122 villages, has been occupied. The occupation of the Kalbajar district of Azerbaijan by the Armenian armed forces has in essence brought the conflict to a new level of occupation.