



# General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General  
27 March 2019

Original: English

General Assembly  
Seventy-third session  
Agenda items 35 and 41

Security Council  
Seventy-fourth year

**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their  
implications for international peace, security  
and development**

**The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan**

## **Letter dated 25 March 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I am writing with reference to the letter dated 28 February 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia ([A/73/788-S/2019/215](#)), which is yet another illustration of a deliberate distortion of facts and a failed attempt to mislead the international community as to the root causes and consequences of the war waged by Armenia against Azerbaijan. The following points need to be made in that regard.

First, the aforementioned letter has as its attachment the so-called statements made in the name of the puppet racist minority regime established by Armenia in the occupied territory of my country in violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

In that regard, I would like to reiterate Azerbaijan's position on the matter, which has been consistently expressed before (see [A/72/508-S/2017/836](#), [A/72/889-S/2018/546](#) and [A/73/689-S/2018/1167](#)), and register once again our strongest protest against the continued circulation by Armenia of various papers on behalf of the unlawful regime. Such papers are null and void ab initio and must be rejected and disregarded at the outset.

Second, while trying to interpret the events in some Azerbaijani cities, notably in Sumgait between 27 and 29 February 1988, as either "pogroms" or a "massacre" allegedly organized against Armenians, Yerevan evidently resorts to blatant falsifications.

Thus, Armenia's territorial claims and actions were never peaceful, nor were they constitutional or in compliance with international law. The illegality within the Soviet legal system of attempted separation of the Nagorno-Karabakh region from Azerbaijan was confirmed at the highest constitutional level. That the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan has been subsequently reaffirmed



by the Security Council of the United Nations, which, in its resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), made it clear that Armenia's territorial claims and actions are unlawful and incompatible with the prohibition of the use of armed force in international relations.

It is an established fact that disturbances in Sumgait were preceded by carefully orchestrated attacks at the end of 1987 on the Azerbaijanis in Khankandi (known as Stepankert during the Soviet period) and Armenia itself, resulting in a flood of Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons. The forcible deportation of Azerbaijanis from Armenia started in its Kafan and Mehri districts in November 1987. On 22 February 1988 in Azerbaijan, near the settlement of Asgaran on the Khankandi-Aghdam highway, the Armenians opened fire on a peaceful demonstration, killing two Azerbaijani youths. In the end, both the territory of Armenia and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan were ethnically cleansed of their Azerbaijani population, and the process of their expulsion was accompanied by killings, torture, enforced disappearances, the destruction of property and pillaging.

The Armenian ideologists and extremist organizations had also planned and carried out inter-ethnic disturbances in other parts of Azerbaijan, which were necessary to them as a means of launching an extensive anti-Azerbaijani campaign to cover up Armenia's unlawful annexationist intentions and violent methods for their achievement. Thus, during the disturbances in the city of Sumgait, which claimed the lives of 26 Armenians and Azerbaijanis, one of their leading figures was a certain Edward Grigorian, an Armenian and resident of the city. The witnesses, including Armenians, identified Grigorian as one of the organizers and perpetrators of the violence. He was sentenced to long-term imprisonment.

Besides Grigorian, in all, 92 persons who participated or were involved in violence in Sumgait were brought to justice. In contrast, nobody has been prosecuted in Armenia for the brutal killings of hundreds of Azerbaijanis in the course of their forcible deportation from Armenia during the 1987–1989 period, as well as for other atrocious crimes committed against the Azerbaijanis during the Armenian aggression.

Armenia's denial of responsibility for its wrongdoings and the resulting human suffering, including through apparent falsifications and distortions of the past and present and glorification of war crimes and their perpetrators, is a defiance of human rights, a direct obstacle to lasting peace and genuine reconciliation and a threat to regional security and stability.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 41, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative