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Continued violation of human rights of Dilgam Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev taken hostages by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan

The continuing aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan has led to the temporary occupation of a significant part of Azerbaijan's territory, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region, the seven adjacent districts and some exclaves. The war has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people, ruined cities, towns and villages in Azerbaijan and resulted in the forcible expulsion of more than 1 million Azerbaijanis from their homes and properties.

The international community has consistently deplored, in the strongest terms, the use of military force against Azerbaijan and the resulting occupation of its territories, as reflected in United Nations Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), thus rejecting any actions violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and refusing to recognize as legitimate the situation created through such actions.

However, the impunity still enjoyed by the perpetrators of the crimes committed in the course of the aggression contributes to Yerevan's growing sense of permissiveness. As a result, despite the ongoing political process towards the earliest settlement of the conflict, flagrant violations by Armenia of international humanitarian law and international human rights law continue.

On 11 July 2014, the Armenian armed forces brutally killed an Azerbaijani civilian, Hassan Hassanov, and captured Dilgam Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev, who were attempting to visit the graves of their parents in the occupied Kelbajar district of Azerbaijan. The Armenian side not only did not release these civilians, but also fabricated charges against them and unlawfully sentenced Mr. Asgarov to life imprisonment and Mr. Guliyev to 22 years in jail, while the body of Mr. Hassanov was returned to Azerbaijan, with the facilitation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, after almost three months, on 2 October 2014.

The images of Mr. Asgarov and Mr. Guliyev before and after their capture, which the Armenian side made available to the public to exert psychological pressure on their families and relatives, clearly demonstrate that they were subjected to torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment.

Keeping Mr. Asgarov and Mr. Guliyev in captivity is yet further proof of Armenia's policy of hatred, the primary objective of which is to consolidate the results of aggression and occupation and prevent the hundreds of thousands of forcibly displaced Azerbaijanis from returning to their homes and properties.

The Republic of Azerbaijan expects that the United Nations and the broader international community will express their strong solidarity with Mr. Asgarov and Mr. Guliyev, who are suffering from serious health problems, and resolutely demand that Armenia immediately and unconditionally release them and comply fully with its international obligations.