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Agenda items 35, 40, 86 and 135

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

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

The rule of law at the national and international levels

The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity

Security Council Seventy-fifth year

Letter dated 2 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to our previous communications in connection with yet another act of aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan, I have the honour to enclose the press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the shelling of the Shamkir and Barda districts of Azerbaijan by Armenia and the information of the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Armenia's continued deliberate attacks against the civilian population and civilian objects in Azerbaijan (see annexes).

These acts of Armenia constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law, for which it bears liability under international law and which also incur individual criminal responsibility, requiring resolute action by the United Nations, its Secretariat and relevant organs and mechanisms, Member States, other international organizations and the international community as a whole to ensure accountability.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35, 40, 86 and 135, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev Ambassador Permanent Representative





Annex I to the letter dated 2 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the shelling of the Shamkir and Barda districts of Azerbaijan by Armenia

According to the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan, starting in the afternoon on 2 October 2020, the Sabirkend village of the Shamkir district and the Aghdam village of Tovuz region of Azerbaijan were subjected to rocket and artillery fire, respectively, from the territory of Armenia. From their positions in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the Armenian armed forces were firing also at the settlements of Amirli in the Barda district and Guzanli in the Aghdam district of Azerbaijan.

By deliberately targeting the civilians and civilian objects, the Armenian side grossly violates the norms of international humanitarian law and its ensuing obligations.

Continuing its policy of aggression, Armenia tries to implement the "new war for new territories" tactics, as has been stated by its officials.

In order to protect the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and ensure the security of the civilian population within its international borders, the Azerbaijani Army will adequately respond to the attacks of the Armenian side. We reiterate that Armenia bears full responsibility for the situation.

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Annex II to the letter dated 2 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information of the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Armenia's continued deliberate attacks against the civilian population and civilian objects in Azerbaijan

As reported earlier, the military-political leadership of the aggressor Armenia continues to commit acts of terrorism against the civilian population of Azerbaijan, grossly violating the norms and principles of international law.

As a result of the large-scale artillery shelling of the densely populated areas in Azerbaijan by the enemy armed forces, as of now, in total, 55 civilians were hospitalized with various bodily wounds and 19 civilians were killed.

In addition, the armed forces of Armenia continue to subject to intensive fire the densely populated areas – regional and rural centres, civil infrastructure objects – residential houses, hospitals, medical facilities, schools, kindergartens, administrative buildings and household areas.

As a result of the shelling of the civilian infrastructure objects by the occupant, 175 houses and 41 civilian objects in Azerbaijan were significantly damaged, many civilian-owned vehicles became unusable, and a large number of small and large cattle were destroyed.

The officers of the Prosecutor's Office are now undertaking all investigative and operational measures that are practicable in combat conditions.

The General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan will undertake all necessary measures to bring to justice those servicemen of the Armenian armed forces who have committed crimes against the army and the civilian population of Azerbaijan, within the framework of international law.

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