

**Azərbaycan Respublikasının  
BMT yanında Daimi  
Nümayəndəliyi**



**Permanent Mission of the  
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**Press release**

**Liberation of the city of Shusha**

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On 8 November 2020, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan liberated its renowned city of Shusha after exactly 28 and a half years of Armenian occupation.

Shusha was occupied on 8 May 1992 in a perfidious attack by the Armenian forces, on the same day as the ceasefire negotiations were taking place in Tehran between President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan and acting President of Azerbaijan Yagub Mamedov. 195 Azerbaijani civilians were killed and 165 were wounded in the offensive and more than 24,000 were ethnically cleansed and became refugees in the aftermath of the occupation.

Shusha is known as “heart of Azerbaijan” and holds great historical significance to the people of Azerbaijan as the cradle of its national culture, literature and music and the birthplace of many of its musicians, composers, poets, and philosophers. Azerbaijan's culture suffered a tragic blow with Shusha's occupation as museums, libraries and cultural centers were pillaged and looted by the occupying forces. Hundreds of religious, historical, and cultural monuments were destroyed in Shusha during and after the occupation.

With Shusha liberated, the relevant state agencies and ministries of Azerbaijan have already begun preparations for the reconstruction of the city, restoration of its cultural heritage and return of forcibly displaced persons to their homes.