



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
TO THE UNITED NATION**

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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev  
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**in the exercise of the right of reply to the statement by the representative of Armenia**

**at the Sixth Committee of the seventy-fifth session of the United Nations  
General Assembly under agenda item 86: "The rule of law at the  
national and international levels"**

*22 October 2020*

The comments made by the Permanent Representative of Armenia are nothing other than yet another evidence of utter falsehood. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to pass over in silence such an outrageous lie. The following points need to be made in that connection.

First, with regard to speculations concerning human rights, democracy and corruption, the Armenian authorities should first look closely at themselves, rather than blame other countries. Indeed, all successive Governments in Armenia, including the current one, have come to power violently and have resorted to the cruelest possible methods of dealing with political opponents.

Following the latest change of the Government in Armenia, the new authorities at the outset started to diligently accuse their predecessors for authoritarian rule, systemic corruption, election rigging and suppression of democracy and human rights. However, the natural question arises as to whether and under what grounds the current Armenian authorities should be regarded differently.

The crackdown on the opposition, persecution of political opponents, politically motivated killings, limited freedom of media, interference in the judiciary and wide-spread corruption are bitter realities in today's Armenia.

Moreover, while projecting itself as a proponent of human rights and democracy, albeit wrongly and unsuccessfully, and continuing to exploit the cynical narrative of victimized Armenians, the current Government of Armenia continues, without any hesitation, to deny its responsibility for the heinous crimes committed against Azerbaijan and its citizens in the course of the aggression.

Despite the humanitarian cease-fire agreed on 9 and 17 October 2020, direct and indiscriminate attacks of the armed forces of Armenia against the cities, towns and villages in Azerbaijan have continued. As a result, 63 civilians, including children, women and the elderly, were killed, 292 civilians were seriously wounded, 1981 private houses, 90 apartment buildings and 386 other civilian objects were either destroyed or damaged.

Second, as to the ongoing combat operations, Azerbaijan has no land claims to any State, but will not yield an inch of its territory to anyone. Azerbaijan acts exclusively on its sovereign soil to liberate the occupied territories, defend its territorial integrity and allow more than 700 thousand internally displaced persons to return to their homes and properties.

Thirdly, it was Armenia that violated the humanitarian cease-fire agreed on 9 and 17 October 2020, in an attempt to regain control over the territories liberated by the armed forces of Azerbaijan.

Thus, despite the statements by the United Nations Secretary-General, the Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group, other international organizations and individual States, urging the sides to resume substantive negotiations without delay, the Prime Minister of Armenia, in his yesterday's speech stated that "at the moment there is no diplomatic solution to the conflict". I believe no further comments are needed.

Fourthly, as was the case in early 1990s and the following years, Armenia employs the same barbaric and atrocity methods of warfare in the course of the ongoing hostilities, in blatant violation of international humanitarian law.

Since 27 September 2020, as a result of direct and indiscriminate attacks of its armed forces against the densely populated areas in Azerbaijan, with the use of ballistic missiles, rockets and heavy artillery, 63 civilians, including children, women and the elderly, were killed, 292 civilians were seriously wounded, 1981 private houses, 90 apartment buildings and 386 other civilian objects were either destroyed or damaged.

In stark contrast, the armed forces of Azerbaijan do not target civilians and civilian objects. On multiple occasions, Azerbaijani authorities and our armed forces had issued appeals to civilians living in the zone of hostilities and called them not to take arms and stay away from military actions, especially from fire points, military facilities and military infrastructure of the armed forces of Armenia.

Fifthly, we also categorically reject the allegations of Armenia about the use of foreign terrorist fighters by Azerbaijan or any involvement of my country and Turkey in terrorist-related activities. It is abundantly clear that the purpose of Armenia's fabrications and misinformation is to conceal own crimes, justify heavy losses inflicted on its armed forces on the battlefield and mislead the international community.

Finally, there is no doubt that that all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan will be liberated from aggressors, terrorists and criminals, that the demographic composition and the cultural structure and heritage of the liberated areas will be restored and that the right of the forcibly displaced population to return to their homes in safety and dignity will be ensured.