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**Security Council
Seventy-fifth year**

Letter dated 17 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In reference to our previous communications in connection with the outbreak of hostilities erupted in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan since 27 September 2020 as a result of the act of aggression perpetrated by Armenia against Azerbaijan, I have the honour to inform you of the following.

Despite the humanitarian ceasefire agreed during the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Moscow on 9 October 2020, to allow the return of remains and exchange of prisoners of war, effective as of 10 October 2020, the armed forces of Armenia continue to deliberately attack the densely populated areas in Azerbaijan, in blatant violation of international humanitarian law. These attacks are carried out from both the territory of Armenia and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

On 17 October 2020, the Aghdam, Aghjabadi, Barda, Goranboy and Tartar districts and the cities of Ganja and Mingachevir in Azerbaijan were subjected to intensive missile and artillery fire, causing civilian casualties and the destruction of civilian and public property.

In the night hours of 17 October, at around 1:00am, Ganja, the second largest city in Azerbaijan, once again came under the massive strike with Scud/Elbrus ballistic missiles from the territory of Armenia. The missiles, hitting two residential areas in the city, killed 14 civilians, including 3 children and 4 women. More than 50 civilians, including 5 children and 20 women, were seriously wounded. Two children are still missing. The nearby civilian infrastructure and many residential



areas in the city were either destroyed or seriously damaged, including the secondary school and the Samukh (Azerbaijan)-Gardabani (Georgia) electricity line.

This third bombardment of Ganja was preceded by attacks on the city with Smerch multiple-launch rocket systems on 4 October and Scud/Elbrus ballistic missiles on 11 October 2020. Armenia's strikes against Ganja and other cities, towns and villages of Azerbaijan are aimed at murdering civilians and causing indiscriminate or disproportionate harm to civilian objects. Statements by officials of Armenia and agents of the unlawful puppet regime it has set up in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan are illustrative in that regard.

Thus, in his interview to the Vesti news program at the "Russia" TV channel on 6 October 2020, Vagharshak Harutyunyan, senior advisor to the Prime Minister of Armenia, stated the following: "Now we have developed a tactic of striking artillery. And in the future we will strike at peaceful settlements in order to cause panic."¹

Two days earlier, Arayik Harutunyan, fake "president" of the unlawful puppet regime set up by Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, said: "Many of you still remember both this photo & my statement. Reaffirming, we were not joking. Today I commanded to neutralize #Ganja military objects."²

On 5 October 2020, Vagram Pogosian, so-called spokesperson for the puppet regime, stated: "A few more days and I'm afraid that even archaeologists will not be able to find the place of Ganja. Get sober, before it is too late."³

It is noteworthy that the cowardly attack on Ganja was launched less than a day after the Secretary-General of the United Nations stressed the need for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the resumption of negotiations, in his telephone conversation with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia.

Since the outbreak of hostilities on 27 September 2020, direct and indiscriminate attacks of the armed forces of Armenia killed 60 civilians, including children, women and the elderly, seriously wounded 338 civilians and destroyed or damaged 1,774 private houses, 90 apartment buildings and 327 other civilian objects.

Armenia's attacks directed at the civilian population and the civilian infrastructure of Azerbaijan show its real intentions to continue aggression and once again reveal the falsity of its appeals to the international community.

Azerbaijan calls on the United Nations, Member States and the international community as a whole to strongly condemn the barbaric and atrocity methods of warfare employed by Armenia, which amount to war crimes and demand justice and accountability.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter 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

¹ See <https://caspiannews.com/news-detail/pashinyans-advisor-confirms-armenias-deliberate-attacks-on-azerbaijani-civilian-settlements-2020-10-9-0/>.

² See https://twitter.com/Pres_Artsakh/status/1312679685550149632?s=20.

³ www.1lurer.am/en/2020/10/05/A-few-more-days-and-even-archaeologists-will-not-be-able-to-find-the-place-of-Ganja-Poghosyan/328058.