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Agenda items 35, 40, 86 and 135

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**Security Council
Seventy-fifth year**

Letter dated 27 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 the outbreak of hostilities 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 on 10 October and reaffirmed on 17 October and 25 October 2020 and the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Armenia and Azerbaijan with the Co-Chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group, scheduled to take place on 29 October 2020 in Geneva, the armed forces of Armenia continue to attack cities, towns and villages in Azerbaijan, most of which are situated far away from the zone of combat operations.

On 26 October 2020, the armed forces of Armenia subjected the Aghdam, Aghjabadi, Dashkesan, Fuzuli, Gadabay, Tovuz and Tartar districts of Azerbaijan to artillery fire. As a result, a secondary school in the Garadagli village in the Aghdam district was seriously damaged. The Tovuz, Gadabay and Dashkesan districts of Azerbaijan were shelled from the Berd, Chambarak and Vardenis districts of Armenia.

On 27 October 2020, the armed forces of Armenia intensified missile and artillery attacks in various directions, including across the international border with Azerbaijan.

The shelling of residential areas in the Barda district of Azerbaijan, which is situated far beyond the conflict zone, with 300-mm Smerch multiple-launch rocket



systems claimed the lives of 4 civilians, including a child, and seriously injured 13 civilians, among them women and children.

Moreover, the Tartar city and its villages have been subjected to heavy artillery fire throughout a day, causing damage to private and public property. Besides, a Euronews crew and their vehicle with clear, distinct signs were hit by a Kornet anti-tank missile while they were carrying out professional duties as journalists in the Talish and Sugovushan villages of the Tartar district.

The Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action reported that, as part of special operational emergency field visits to the areas affected by Armenia's attacks on cities, towns and villages in Azerbaijan, five 9N235 bomblets, which are a cluster munition prohibited under international law, were found in the Topgaragoyunlu and Meshali villages of the Goranboy district. These bomblets were fired by 300-mm Smerch multi-launch rocket systems.

Since 27 September 2020, as a result of direct and indiscriminate attacks of the armed forces of Armenia, 69 civilians, including children, women and the elderly, have been killed, 310 civilians have been wounded and some 2,300 private houses, 90 apartment buildings and more than 400 other civilian objects, including 40 schools, have been either destroyed or damaged.

Similarly to its barbaric actions during the active phase of the conflict in the early 1990s, Armenia deliberately employs atrocity methods of warfare in the course of the ongoing hostilities, evidenced in the systemic targeting of the densely populated areas of Azerbaijan, including the three attacks on Ganja, the country's second-largest city, with Smerch multiple-launch rocket systems and Scud/Elbrus ballistic missiles. These acts constitute war crimes and incur the responsibility of Armenia under international law.

Azerbaijan undertakes all necessary measures, in the exercise of the right of self-defence, in order to repulse the aggression and protect its civilian population. There is no doubt 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 more than 700,000 internally displaced persons to return to their homes in safety and dignity will be ensured.

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