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**General Assembly
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Agenda items 35 and 41**Security Council
Seventy-fourth year****Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their
implications for international peace, security
and development****The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan****Letter dated 29 March 2019 from the Permanent Representative of
Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I refer to the letter dated 4 March 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/73/783-S/2019/211](#)), in which a clumsy attempt was made to respond to my communication addressed to you in connection with the twenty-seventh anniversary of the Khojaly genocide ([A/73/740-S/2019/133](#)).

The content of the letter in question and its annex, containing a fabricated and out-of-context compilation of the so-called “evidence”, leave no doubt that Armenia’s policy of aggression, racism and deep-rooted hatred remains intact notwithstanding the recent change of government in that Member State.

There are more than sufficient facts and reports from various sources, including witnesses to the tragedy and the findings of independent investigations by foreign journalists, human rights activists and authoritative international non-governmental organizations, that refute the outrageous fabrications of Armenian propaganda and testify to the responsibility of Armenia and its political and military leadership and subordinate local armed groups for the crimes committed in Khojaly and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan.¹

* Reissued for technical reasons on 11 April 2019.

¹ For more information, see www.justiceforkhojaly.org; Fiona Maclachlan and Ian Peart, eds., *Khojaly Witness of a War Crime: Armenia in the Dock* (Reading, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ithaca Press, 2014).



Moreover, pronouncements by high-ranking officials of Armenia,² along with publications of Armenian authors,³ also unambiguously confirm that the Armenian forces carried out targeted attacks against Azerbaijani civilians in the town of Khojaly in February 1992, as a result of which hundreds of its residents, including women, children and the elderly, were killed, wounded and taken hostage, while the town was razed to the ground.

The level of brutality in Khojaly is shocking: six families were totally exterminated; 25 children lost both parents and 130 children lost one parent; 56 men were either burned alive, scalped, tortured, beheaded or blinded; and pregnant women were bayoneted.

The overall assessment of the causes and tragic consequences of the war unleashed by Armenia against Azerbaijan makes it absolutely clear that the intentional slaughter of Khojaly civilians and defenders was part of Yerevan's widespread and systematic policy and practice of atrocities.

The genocide in Khojaly and other egregious crimes committed in the course of the aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan entail the former's State responsibility under international law and the individual criminal responsibility of those who participated in said acts and their accomplices and accessories.

Armenia's denial of responsibility for its crimes is a defiance of human rights and a direct obstacle to lasting peace and genuine reconciliation.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 41, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

² See the interview with Serzh Sargsyan, former Minister of Defence and President of Armenia, in Thomas de Waal, *Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan through Peace and War* (New York and London, New York University Press, 2003). The full transcript of the interview is available at <http://carnegieendowment.org/2012/02/24/president-interview-andtragicanniversary/9vpa>; article by Gerard Libaridian, former chief adviser to the President of Armenia, "An Armenian perspective on Khojaly", February 2014, available at www.opendemocracy.net/en/armenian-perspective-on-khojali/.

³ See, for example, Markar Melkonian, *My Brother's Road: An American's Fateful Journey to Armenia* (London and New York, I.B. Tauris, 2005), p. 214.