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Agenda items 34, 35, 40, 63, 64, 70, 72 and 86

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**Security Council  
Seventy-sixth year****Letter dated 9 August 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter from Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in connection with the continued refusal by Armenia to release the maps of mined areas in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan, in clear violation of international law (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 35, 40, 63, 64, 70, 72 and 86, and of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Yashar Aliyev  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 9 August 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Letter dated 6 August 2021 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General**

With reference to my previous letters, I am writing once again to draw your attention to the continued refusal by Armenia to release the maps of mined areas in the conflict-affected territories of Azerbaijan.

Since my last letter, of 4 June 2021, in a series of correspondence on the same topic, Armenia has on two occasions submitted mine maps to Azerbaijan upon the mediation efforts of our international partners. The formularies shared by Armenia were meant to provide information about the places of approximately 200,000 anti-tank and anti-personnel land mines planted only in three formerly occupied districts of Azerbaijan, namely Aghdam, Fuzuli and Zangilan. Yet, as a result of subsequent analysis by Azerbaijani specialists, it has been identified that almost half of these formularies are only partially filled in, while one fourth are either completely false or contain no information pertinent to demining.

The release of mine maps of other conflict-affected territories as well as the filling-in of the missing information in the already shared maps are still pending owing to the overt refusal of Armenia, in violation of international humanitarian law, as well as the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020 of the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation.

It is of particular relevance to note that, after months-long denial of the existence of mine maps, the Prime Minister of Armenia publicly declared that the exchanged information is only a tiny portion of the overall mine maps that are at the disposal of the Armenian side. On the one hand, such a statement clearly testifies to the level of sincerity of Armenia on such an extremely sensitive issue affecting human life. It also provides a clue with regard to the horrific scale of contamination by Armenia of territories of Azerbaijan with land mines and other explosive devices.

On the other hand, this statement made by the Armenian Prime Minister during his election campaign was apparently inspired by the prevalent attitude in Armenia of continued enmity against Azerbaijan. Armenia's continued refusal to share all mine maps is illustrative of the revanchist attitude that the Armenian political-military establishment continues to hold and instigate in its society. Such confrontational zero-sum thinking poses a serious challenge for post-conflict stabilization and normalization efforts, which Azerbaijan is committed to making together with relevant regional and international actors. With its position regarding the submission of mine maps, Armenia demonstrates how far it is from taking a reconciliatory approach with a view to eliminating the consequences of the conflict and embarking on genuine efforts for post-conflict cooperation and normalization.

Since the signing of the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020, which announced the end of all military activities between Armenia and Azerbaijan, more than 150 Azerbaijanis, including civilians, among them journalists and other media workers, engineers and other specialists engaged in post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan, have either died or been seriously injured owing to mine explosions. These include the mines that were planted by Armenia after the cessation of all military activities during its retreat from the territory of Azerbaijan.

In view of such drastic humanitarian and human rights consequences of the massive mine contamination of territories of Azerbaijan, there is an urgent need for the international community, first and foremost the United Nations, to take adequate steps. Yet, the sense of impunity, which Armenia holds in view of the lack of such steps, leads to further human costs and material damage and undermines overall post-conflict peacebuilding efforts. It must eventually be realized that the release of mine maps is not a bargaining chip, but an obligation under applicable customary international humanitarian law.

It is with this understanding that I appeal to you once again to reiterate my earlier call for your active engagement with Armenia to persuade it to finally honour its obligations under humanitarian law by releasing the maps of the mined areas. In parallel, your leadership is also of necessity in mobilizing international assistance for humanitarian demining in Azerbaijan.

(Signed) Jeyhun **Bayramov**

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