



General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 September 2021

Original: English

Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 40

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 2 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to refer to agenda item 40, entitled “The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan”.

The item has been included in the agenda of the General Assembly since its fifty-ninth session. During that period, the Assembly adopted two resolutions entitled “The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan” (resolution [60/285](#) of 7 September 2006 and resolution [62/243](#) of 14 March 2008). In connection with the consideration of the matter in the Assembly, three internationally mandated fact-finding missions were conducted in the occupied territories, in 2005, 2006 and 2010, the findings of which are contained in the annexes to [A/59/747–S/2005/187](#) of 21 March 2005, [A/61/696](#) of 12 January 2007 and [A/65/801–S/2011/208](#) of 30 March 2011, respectively.

In line with Security Council resolutions [822 \(1993\)](#), [853 \(1993\)](#), [874 \(1993\)](#) and [884 \(1993\)](#), the General Assembly expressly reaffirmed, in its resolution [62/243](#), continued respect and support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan within its internationally recognized borders. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of that resolution, the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution ([A/63/804](#) and [A/63/804/Add.1](#)). Moreover, hundreds of other communications and documents from Member States and international organizations have been circulated and numerous statements have been made under this agenda item.

Nevertheless, Armenia deliberately disregarded the resolutions of both the Security Council and the General Assembly, never engaged faithfully in negotiations and, instead, directed all its efforts at colonizing the seized territories of Azerbaijan under the cover of the ceasefire and the peace process, gradually toughened its rhetoric at the highest level and repeatedly resorted to armed provocations on the ground. Even the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the Secretary-General’s appeal for a global ceasefire did not convince Armenia to halt its aggression and unlawful actions.

Another act of aggression by Armenia, on 27 September 2020, with the involvement of mercenaries and foreign terrorist fighters, became a logical consequence of the impunity Armenia enjoyed for more than 30 years. In response to an armed attack, Azerbaijan undertook and successfully accomplished a counteroffensive operation, exercising the inherent right of self-defence, in accordance with Article 51 of the



Charter of the United Nations and customary international law. Specifically, Azerbaijan used a counterforce to end the aggression, liberate its territories from occupation, protect its people and allow internally displaced persons to return to their homes.

In the course of the combat actions, which lasted 44 days, the armed forces of Azerbaijan liberated more than 300 cities, towns and villages of Azerbaijan from occupation, including the Fuzuli, Gubadly, Jabrayil and Zangilan districts, the settlement of Hadrut and Azerbaijan's cultural capital, the city of Shusha.

In a statement signed on 9 November 2020, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation announced the cessation of all military activities and the withdrawal of Armenian troops from other occupied territories of Azerbaijan, namely the districts of Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachyn.

Despite the devastating consequences and unhealed wounds of the almost three decades-old war and occupation, the post-conflict realities offer a unique opportunity and real prospects for building peace, consolidating stability, restoring peaceful coexistence, advancing the reconciliation agenda and investing in economic development and cooperation. Therefore, on 11 January 2021, the leaders of the three countries signed another joint statement aimed at implementing a number of practical steps to remove obstacles to economic and transportation links in the region.

The Government of Azerbaijan has prioritized the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the liberated territories and the restoration of housing, essential services and transportation and communication infrastructure there to ensure the safe return of the displaced population and a high standard of living. Azerbaijan has repeatedly expressed its readiness to the normalization of inter-State relations with Armenia based on mutual recognition and respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity within their internationally recognized borders and expects reciprocity on the part of Armenia.

Peace and good-neighbourly relations, based on full respect for the aforementioned principles, are also indispensable for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for ensuring that all people benefit from its Goals and targets and that no one is left behind.

Taking into account the foregoing, Azerbaijan no longer sees the need to retain the item entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan" on the agenda of the General Assembly and, accordingly, proposes not to include it in the agenda of the seventy-sixth session.

The consideration of this agenda item has played an important role in bringing the matter to the attention of the international community, as well as in initiating urgent measures for invalidating illegal policies and practices that have been pursued and developed to consolidate and cement the results of the aggression.

Taking this opportunity, I have the honour to convey the Government of Azerbaijan's gratefulness and high appreciation to Member States for their unwavering commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and international law in supporting the just cause of Azerbaijan.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 40.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative