



# General Assembly Security Council

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Agenda items 16, 35, 66, 72, 74, 85 and 134

**Culture of peace**

**Prevention of armed conflict**

**Peacebuilding and sustaining peace**

**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia  
and related intolerance**

**Promotion and protection of human rights**

**The rule of law at the national and international levels**

**The responsibility to protect and the prevention of  
genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes  
against humanity**

**Security Council  
Seventy-seventh year**

## **Letter dated 19 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The letter from the Permanent Representative of Armenia dated 5 April 2022 ([A/76/790-S/2022/291](#)) is clear-cut evidence of that Member State's continued futile attempts to deny responsibility for the heinous crimes committed in the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly in February 1992 and in other localities during the 30 years of aggression against my country.

What the letter calls "detailed accounts of the events" and "extensive evidential records" earlier circulated by Armenia about the massacre in Khojaly are nothing but a set of vile fabrications that have been convincingly refuted and strongly rejected in our relevant communications addressed to the Secretary-General.<sup>1</sup>

It is ironic that Armenia, where the falsification and weaponization of history resulted in generations brought up with a deep sense of hatred and intolerance, brazenly expresses its indignation at the "exploitation of the memory" of the Khojaly civilian victims. Such annoyance is not surprising, since the truth about the atrocities for which it is responsible exposes the real politics of Armenia and illustrates the threat that it poses.

<sup>1</sup> [A/73/821-S/2019/286](#); [A/74/807-S/2020/303](#); [A/75/742-S/2021/279](#).



It is especially noteworthy that Armenia considers the brutal killing, in one day, of 613 civilian residents of Khojaly, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people, as just “an isolated episode of the war”. As is seen, Azerbaijan does not need to conduct any kind of propaganda. By trying to downplay the scale of the tragedy, which experts have recognized as the worst single atrocity of the Armenian-Azerbaijani war and which has been condemned internationally as a crime against humanity or an act of genocide, Armenia itself, without anyone’s help, perfectly unmasks its policy of enmity, hatred and contempt for human rights.

That Armenia is liable for the horrific massacre in Khojaly is well documented, not only by the official investigation, but also by numerous independent sources, including international organizations, eminent international lawyers, foreign journalists, human rights activists and international non-governmental organizations.<sup>2</sup>

Being eloquent in insinuations, the Armenian propaganda at the same time stubbornly ignores the fact that the former President of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan, when he was the Minister of Defence, unambiguously confessed, and subsequently never renounced his words, that the slaughter of Azerbaijani civilians in Khojaly was committed by Armenian forces.<sup>3</sup>

That it was not an “isolated episode of the war” is evidenced by numerous similar atrocities before and after the massacre in Khojaly. Thus, since the end of 1987, as a means of advancing its territorial claims and achieving ethnic homogeneity, Armenia has resorted to force and violence against the Azerbaijanis in Khankandi and other parts of the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan and in Armenia itself. They were the first victims of the conflict that would claim tens of thousands of lives in the years to come.

The forcible deportation from Armenia started in the Gafan and Meghri districts and continued in the capital city of Iravan, the districts of Basarkechar, Hamamli, Zangibasar, Vedi and other settlements. In total, over 200,000 Azerbaijanis were expelled from 264 localities in 22 districts and cities throughout Armenia; 216 citizens of Armenia of Azerbaijani origin were killed and hundreds maimed during the forcible deportation. Moreover, the Azerbaijani historical and cultural heritage was consistently and deliberately eradicated in Armenia; all Azerbaijani settlements were renamed and Azerbaijani cemeteries were destroyed and vandalized.

After unleashing full-scale aggression against Azerbaijan at the end of 1991 and the beginning of 1992 and over the subsequent years of occupation, apart from Khojaly, Armenia repeatedly violated protections accorded to civilians under international humanitarian law. The extensive details as to the range, variety and consistency of these breaches are contained in our reports and communications earlier submitted to the Secretary-General.<sup>4</sup>

The deliberate tactic of targeting the civilian population was again used by Armenia in the second Garabagh war in the fall of 2020. Direct and indiscriminate missile and artillery attacks by Armenian forces that struck Aghdam, Barda, Fuzuli, Ganja, Goranboy, Naftalan, Tartar and other Azerbaijani cities and districts far outside the theatre of active hostilities and where there were no military objects, including

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<sup>2</sup> See [A/76/689-S/2022/106](#).

<sup>3</sup> Thomas de Waal, *Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan through Peace and War* (New York University Press, 2013), pp. 184–185.

<sup>4</sup> See, for example, the report on war crimes in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia’s responsibility, [A/74/676-S/2020/90](#), annex (7 February 2020).

with the use of banned cluster munitions, killed 101 civilians, including 12 children, injured over 450 civilians and destroyed or damaged numerous civilian objects.<sup>5</sup>

Armenia is responsible for multiple violations of international law, which include offences relating to civilian deaths or injuries, civilian property, the mistreatment of detainees and prisoners of war, the taking of hostages, ethnic cleansing, forced displacement and changing the character of the occupied territories, the destruction of cultural heritage and damage to the natural environment.

Not a single person was prosecuted and punished for these offences in Armenia. The reason is simple – they were part of the widespread and systematic State policy aimed at terrorizing, expelling and killing Azerbaijanis and fomenting hatred against them based on ethnic animus. Even after the end of the conflict, Armenia continues to allow racist hate groups formed for the specific purpose of inciting and committing violence against Azerbaijanis to operate openly and notoriously on its territory, in violation of international law and apparent disregard for the order on provisional measures adopted by the International Court of Justice on 7 December 2021.<sup>6</sup>

Now that the aggression against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories have been put to an end and the more than 30-year conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan has been resolved, it is important to abandon hostile narratives, cease and desist from disseminating, promoting or sponsoring hate propaganda, prosecute and punish war crimes, commit to the normalization of inter-State relations based on international law, comply faithfully with international obligations and support the efforts aimed at building, strengthening and sustaining peace and stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 16, 35, 66, 72, 74, 85 and 134, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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<sup>5</sup> See, for example, [A/75/357-S/2020/948](#); [A/75/379-S/2020/965](#); [A/75/486-S/2020/969](#); [A/75/487-S/2020/973](#); [A/75/492-S/2020/977](#); [A/75/508-S/2020/1001](#); [A/75/512-S/2020/1010](#); [A/75/529-S/2020/1027](#); [A/75/555-S/2020/1047](#); [A/75/558-S/2020/1051](#); [A/75/574-S/2020/1083](#); [A/75/660-S/2020/1267](#).

<sup>6</sup> *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)*, Provisional Measures, Order of the International Court of Justice of 7 December 2021.