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Agenda items 30, 58, 66, 68, 73, 84 and 132

Prevention of armed conflict

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

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

Promotion and protection of human rights

Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

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-eighth year**

Letter dated 16 March 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I write in connection with the letter dated 27 February 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia ([A/77/776-S/2023/150](#)), containing as its annex the statement of his Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the so-called “thirty-fifth anniversary of the massacres of Armenians in Sumgayit”.

Like all other communications from Armenia, almost every word in the aforementioned letter and statement is an outrageous fabrication. As Armenia continues to foment hatred and mislead the international community, the following points need to be made to register once again what Armenia persistently passes over in silence in its libellous stories.

The events in Sumgayit, which took place during the existence of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 27 and 28 February 1988, claimed the lives of 32 people, of whom 6 were Azerbaijanis. More than 90 perpetrators and accomplices of mob violence committed in Sumgayit were brought to justice. It is especially noteworthy that one of them was a certain Eduard Grigorian, an Armenian and resident of the city, who was sentenced to long-term imprisonment as one of the organizers and perpetrators of the offences.



The investigation established that the unrest in Sumgayit had been a pre-planned and well-prepared provocation masterminded to discredit Azerbaijan and cover up Armenia's unlawful annexationist objectives.

As to the chronology, it is well known that the events in Sumgayit were preceded by brutal attacks on Azerbaijanis in Khankandi and other parts of the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan, as well as in Armenia itself.

The forcible deportation of Azerbaijanis from their historical homeland in the present-day Republic of Armenia started in the Gafan and Meghri districts in the third quarter of 1987 and continued in the capital city of Iravan, the districts of Basarkechar, Hamamli, Zangibasar and Vedi and other settlements. On 22 February 1988, Armenian extremists killed two Azerbaijani civilians on the Khankandi-Aghdam road in Azerbaijan.

In total, over 200,000 Azerbaijanis were forced to leave Armenia; 216 citizens of Armenia of Azerbaijani origin were killed and hundreds maimed during the forcible deportation; 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 expelling all Azerbaijanis and thus implementing its long-cherished plan of achieving ethnic homogeneity, in the early 1990s, Armenia unleashed full-scale war against Azerbaijan. The consequences of the aggression are shocking: Armenia seized by force and held under occupation for nearly 30 years a large portion of the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan; tens of thousands of people were killed; more than 700,000 Azerbaijanis were expelled from their homes; hundreds of cities, towns and villages were razed to the ground; and tremendous losses were inflicted on Azerbaijan's cultural and religious heritage and the environment.

Armenia's actions were undertaken deliberately to target Azerbaijanis, erase all traces of their historical and cultural roots in Armenia and in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in favour of mono-ethnic Armenian settlements and prevent the expelled Azerbaijanis from returning to their homes.

During the whole period of the conflict and unlawful occupation, Armenia demonstrated overt contempt for the Charter of the United Nations and international law, ignoring the resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, the numerous decisions of other international organizations and the rulings of international judicial bodies.

Moreover, while replicating outdated and false narratives in an attempt to impose its fictitious image as an innocent victim, Armenia, at the same time, continues to deny its responsibility for the aggression, occupation and mass atrocities committed by its officials and military forces against Azerbaijanis. To date, Armenia has taken no steps to investigate and prosecute these offences and redress the harm caused to Azerbaijan.

Despite the initiation by Azerbaijan of a peaceful agenda after the end of the conflict in November 2020 and its support by the international community, Armenia's long-standing hate-driven policy has not undergone significant adjustments, and its peace-oriented pronouncements are definitely nothing but hollow rhetoric to camouflage the imminent threat that it poses to regional peace, security and stability.

It is evident that Armenia has not given up its territorial claims, has not got rid of racial prejudices, still lives in dreams of creating a "united Armenia" comprised exclusively of Armenians and is hatching plans for a new aggression, genocide and ethnic cleansing.

Otherwise, if Armenia is genuinely interested in the establishment of lasting and comprehensive peace and security in the region and ensuring the rights and security of populations, as it diligently asserts, then it must, first and foremost, strictly comply with and faithfully implement its international obligations, thereby:

- Putting an end to its territorial claims and actions against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan;
- Immediately, completely and unconditionally withdrawing its military forces from the territory of my country and returning eight occupied border villages to Azerbaijan;
- Ceasing armed provocations, mine terrorism and all other destabilizing actions on the ground;
- Ceasing to stir racial prejudice and promote hate propaganda and preventing the operation of anti-Azerbaijani ethnonationalist hate groups in its territory;
- Enabling the safe and dignified return of Azerbaijanis to their historical homeland in Armenia and the realization of their collective and individual rights after the return;
- Prosecuting and punishing atrocity crimes for which it is responsible and shedding light on the fate of 3,890 citizens of Azerbaijan who went missing during the war;
- Providing effective remedies for the injury resulting from its wrongful acts;
- Abandoning its attempts to undermine the post-conflict normalization process and engaging in bilateral and results-oriented talks with Azerbaijan based on the agreed principles and commitments.

Azerbaijan is fully committed to the objectives of a peaceful, secure, stable and prosperous region and will continue its efforts towards that end.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 30, 58, 66, 68, 73, 84 and 132, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative