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Agenda items 30, 58, 64, 66, 68, 73, 84 and 132

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**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia
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genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes
against humanity**

**Security Council
Seventy-eighth year**

Letter dated 22 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 8 March 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia ([A/77/794-S/2023/185](#)), which is yet another clear indication of his Government's fundamentally rooted hate-driven policy and steadfast disregard for international law and human rights.

What the letter calls "detailed accounts of the events" earlier circulated by Armenia about the massacre in the town of Khojaly, Azerbaijan, in February 1992 are nothing but a set of vile fabrications that have been convincingly refuted and strongly rejected in our relevant correspondence addressed to the Secretary-General.¹

It is regrettable that storytellers in Armenia stubbornly refrain from commenting on the public revelations of their former President, Serzh Sargsyan, who clearly confirmed, even proudly, that Azerbaijani civilians in Khojaly were intentionally

¹ [A/73/821-S/2019/286](#); [A/74/807-S/2020/303](#); [A/75/742-S/2021/279](#); and [A/76/811-S/2022/333](#).



targeted by the Armenian forces, one of the senior commanders of which he was at the time of the invasion of the town and its capture.²

It is especially egregious that Armenia considers the brutal killing, within a few hours, of 613 civilian residents of Khojaly, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people, 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, as just “an isolated episode in the history of the conflict”.

That it was not an isolated episode is evidenced by numerous similar atrocities committed by Armenian officials and militaries before and after the massacre in Khojaly, which were properly documented in our relevant reports and communications to the Secretary-General.³ However, the aforementioned letter simply passed over in silence the fact that Armenia had not taken any steps to investigate and prosecute these offences in a prompt and effective manner.

Sending the letter in question on International Women’s Day, with the knowledge that the massacre in Khojaly claimed the lives of more than a hundred women, is also noteworthy, as this reveals the depth of cynicism and an extreme level of contempt and defiance on the part of the Armenian authorities.

Armenia also tries to pervert Azerbaijan’s demands for justice as exploitation of the memory of the victims and State-sponsored policy of indoctrination to cultivate anti-Armenian hatred. Armenia’s allegations are baseless and preposterous, not only because the demands of Azerbaijan are firmly grounded in international law, but also because Armenia for decades has orchestrated and continues to carry out widespread anti-Azerbaijani racist speech and propaganda at every level of its society, as well as internationally.

Bringing the perpetrators of and accomplices to the crimes committed in Khojaly and other formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan to justice, institutional actions to prevent their repetition and the provision of effective remedies to the victims are the necessary prerequisites for genuine reconciliation and sustainable peace. Azerbaijan will continue its efforts to end impunity and ensure justice and accountability for flagrant violations of international law, as well as to build, strengthen and sustain 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 30, 58, 64, 66, 68, 73, 84 and 132, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

² Thomas de Waal, *Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan through Peace and War* (New York University Press, 2013), pp. 184 and 185.

³ 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.