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

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

**Security Council
Seventy-eighth year**

Letter dated 26 April 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I write in connection with the provocative letter from the Permanent Representative of Armenia dated 5 April 2023 ([A/77/835-S/2023/251](#)) and, in this regard, would like to bring to your attention the following.

It is noteworthy that, if earlier, during the years of military occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan, Armenia was more engrossed in celebrating and glorifying the dates of the seizure of Azerbaijani cities and districts, now its calendar is dominated by the dates symbolizing the defeat of its aggression, such as April 2016 and September-November 2020. Armenia must realize that an increase in the number of such dates will be directly proportional and adequate to its territorial claims, revanchist aspirations, armed provocations, hostile narratives and racist prejudices, for the consequences of which it will bear full responsibility.

Regarding the annex to the aforementioned letter, as is known, after unleashing aggression against Azerbaijan and occupying and ethnically cleansing the territories of my country in the early 1990s, Armenia installed and, over the next nearly 30 years, sustained the existence of an illegal regime within those territories. Its criminal and racist essence and nature are self-evident, as it was established purely along ethnic lines, by the unlawful use of force and at the cost of tens of thousands of Azerbaijani civilians brutally killed, and hundreds of thousands expelled from their homeland, in the course of the aggression.



The illegality of this regime has been repeatedly stated at the international level. In its resolutions [822 \(1993\)](#), [853 \(1993\)](#), [874 \(1993\)](#) and [884 \(1993\)](#), the Security Council condemned the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories and reaffirmed respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. The Council also reaffirmed that the territories claimed and occupied by Armenia, in blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, are an inalienable part of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian occupying forces from all the occupied territories.

After the liberation of the territories of Azerbaijan from occupation as a result of the 44-day war in the fall of 2020, which has become the historical triumph of justice and international law, Armenia has continued circulating worthless papers on behalf of the unlawful regime, the remnants of which are still hiding from inevitable punishment. These papers are definitely null and void per se, as they are the product of apparent falsehood, racist propaganda, lawlessness and contempt for human rights. Their circulation by Armenia also demonstrates that it has not abandoned its territorial claims and continues to hatch plans to undermine peace and stability in the region.

Furthermore, the locality to which Armenia's letter refers with fictitious names is the internationally recognized sovereign territory of Azerbaijan. The legal name of this locality is the Garabagh economic region of Azerbaijan, which consists of the city of Khankandi and the districts of Aghjabadi, Aghdam, Barda, Fuzuli, Khojaly, Khojavand, Shusha and Tartar. This region was established by the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 7 July 2021, along with the East Zangazur economic region consisting of the districts of Jabrayil, Kalbajar, Gubadly, Lachin and Zangilan.

The United Nations is based on and guided by the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the decisions adopted by the States Members of the Organization. The inherent right of States to possess and control the use of their place names derives from underpinnings of the international legal order and has its origin in the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. The duties to respect these principles and not intervene in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, require, inter alia, that only geographical names established by legitimate and competent national authorities in relation to their territory be recognized and used in the United Nations.

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, 73, 84 and 132, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative