

**General Assembly  
Security Council**

Distr.: General  
20 September 2023

Original: English

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**General Assembly**  
**Seventy-eighth session**  
Agenda items 31, 61, 69, 71, 83 and 129

**Security Council**  
**Seventy-eighth year**

**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**

**Letter dated 20 September 2023 from the Permanent Representative  
of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Jeyhun Bayramov, regarding measures to protect the State's sovereignty and territorial integrity, ensure the security and safety of its citizens, and restore the constitutional order in the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan, taken in response to systematic armed provocations and terrorist acts committed by the Armenian armed forces illegally deployed and present in the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 31, 61, 69, 71, 83 and 129, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 20 September 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

### **Letter dated 20 September 2023 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I am writing with respect to yet another attempt by Armenia to exploit the Security Council in its campaign to mislead the international community.

Armenia once again appealed to the Security Council in blatant violation of the key demands of the Charter of the United Nations on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and non-interference with their internal affairs. Armenia's appeal to the Council is related to the local counter-terror measures taken by the armed forces of Azerbaijan within its sovereign territory in full compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law.

Such a reckless abuse of the Council yet another time is utterly inadmissible, a serious blow to the authority and reputation of this august body, and must be resolutely rejected.

What Armenia tries to present to the international community as an attack on "peaceful" residents of the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan is, in fact, local counter-terror measures by the armed forces of Azerbaijan fully in line with its rights under the Charter of the United Nations to disarm the Armenian armed formations illegally stationed in the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan.

Armenia's attempt to accuse Azerbaijan of violating the Trilateral Statement of 10 November 2020 of the leaders of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation and Armenia is equally baseless and false.

On the contrary, it is Armenia that blatantly disregarded its commitment under the above-mentioned document with respect to withdrawal of its forces from the territory of Azerbaijan. Throughout the past three years since the signing of this statement, Armenia has kept more than 10,000-strong armed formations equipped with such heavy weaponry as tanks and other armoured vehicles, artillery pieces, multiple rocket launchers, mortars, electromagnetic warfare equipment and other types of offensive arms in the territory of Azerbaijan.

These illegal armed forces were sustained through direct military-technical, logistical and financial support by Armenia, including by abusing the Lachin road, in an attempt to resuscitate separatism in the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan for the purposes of its revanchist policy.

This illegal military build-up became even more intensive over past months in parallel to Armenia's worldwide smear campaign against Azerbaijan built upon fabricated accusations of a so-called "blockade" and "humanitarian crisis".

This smear campaign essentially collapsed on 18 September 2023 in view of eventual implementation of Azerbaijan's offer of using multiple routes for delivery of goods to meet the needs of ethnic Armenian residents of the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has been warning about the looming military adventure by Armenia for several weeks in light of intensified military engineering works and concentration of forces.

Thus, following active diplomatic efforts by several international actors, including the members of the Security Council, simultaneous delivery of

humanitarian goods through Aghdam and Lachin was finally conducted by the International Committee of the Red Cross after weeks of artificial delay caused by illegitimate obstructions by Armenia and its subordinate puppet regime.

Having failed to impose its fabricated narrative on the international community through the so-called “humanitarian agenda”, Armenia resorted to military provocation the following day, 19 September 2023, to provoke a retaliation by the Azerbaijani side in order to continue its groundless blame game against Azerbaijan.

Thus, as a result of the explosion of mines planted by an Armenian sabotage group on the Fuzuli-Ahmadbeyli-Shusha road, two civilian road constructors tragically lost their lives. Four police officers fell victim to another mine explosion in the close vicinity of the same area while attempting to inspect the mine incident site. These mine explosions also led to the serious wounding of six more Azerbaijani police officers.

The fact that the area where these mine explosions took place has been under regular use by Azerbaijan before leaves no room for doubt that these mines were recently planted by the Armenian sabotage group that infiltrated the area.

In response to Armenian armed formations’ subversive acts inflicting civilian and military casualties, the armed forces of Azerbaijan launched local counter-terror measures to disarm these illegal armed formations and neutralize the imminent threat posed to the safety and security of Azerbaijani civilian and military personnel.

The counter-terror measures of Azerbaijan aimed exclusively at neutralizing legitimate military targets within the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan. As such, it fully aligned with the sovereign right of Azerbaijan to self-defence enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Azerbaijan acted in full compliance with the norms of humanitarian law. All measures were taken to avoid collateral damage to civilians and civilian infrastructure. All the accusations of intentional and deliberate targeting of civilians by the armed forces of Azerbaijan are baseless and false.

From the very first minutes, the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan has made several public statements calling on the civilians to stay away from military installations.

The armed forces of Azerbaijan behaved in an exemplary professional manner by using high-precision ammunition to neutralize illegal military installations only. This is also against the backdrop of the reckless attempt by Armenia-subordinated armed formations to brazenly deploy military equipment and installations within the residential areas.

As the footage of several videos clearly demonstrates, the armed forces of Azerbaijan have deliberately refrained from targeting these legitimate military targets with the sole aim of not inflicting damage on civilians.

The counter-terror measures demonstrated the scale of illegal militarization by Armenia despite the commitment it undertook under the Trilateral Statement to cease all military activities against Azerbaijan and withdraw its forces from Azerbaijan’s internationally recognized territory. Within a day, more than 90 military outposts of the illegal formations were neutralized, and 20 combat vehicles, 40 artillery pieces of various calibres, 30 mortars, six electromagnetic warfare systems and two anti-aircraft missile systems were neutralized.

Azerbaijan’s counter-terror measures were limited and proportionate to the threat posed to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, as well as to the safety and well-being of our citizens.

It has been consistently communicated by Azerbaijan, including in contacts with international interlocutors, that, as soon as Armenia and its subordinate puppet regime in the territory of Azerbaijan agree to put down arms and disband its illegal structures, the counter-terror measures would immediately be halted.

This happened on 20 September 2023, when the acceptance of the above-mentioned conditions was confirmed through the command of the peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation. Consequently, the local counter-terror measures were halted effective 1300 hours Baku time.

It was also agreed that the issues pertinent to the reintegration of the ethnic Armenian residents into Azerbaijan, including their rights and security within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, would be discussed directly between their representatives and the central Azerbaijani authorities. The first such meeting is scheduled for 21 September 2023 in the city of Yevlakh, Azerbaijan.

The counter-terror measures taken by Azerbaijan achieved the set goals. This will essentially ensure the restoration of the rule of law and public order in the affected area, and will relieve the civilian residents of the illegal and illegitimate restrictions imposed by the criminal junta installed by Armenia with respect to delivery of goods and other essential services, as well as their freedom of movement.

As declared on several occasions, the Republic of Azerbaijan guarantees to all the civilian residents all rights and freedoms enshrined in the relevant international human rights mechanisms.

The soonest full disarmament and withdrawal of all illegal armed formations and disbandment of the illegal puppet regime are the keys for establishment of conditions for meaningful dialogue between the central Government representatives and local Armenian residents on the issues of their reintegration into Azerbaijan's constitutional framework as equal citizens.

Azerbaijan is determined to provide all rights and freedoms as safeguarded under the Constitution of Azerbaijan and relevant international human rights mechanisms. This includes the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

In this context, it is ever more important for the entire international community, including the Security Council, to adequately comprehend the risks and threats associated with Armenia's destructive actions and to resolutely resist Armenia's brazen attempts to exploit the Security Council to whitewash its internationally wrongful acts.

It is within this understanding that Azerbaijan legitimately expects the international community to send adequate messages to Armenia with a view to persuading this country to reverse its path undermining regional security and stability.

At a time when practical implementation of disarmament and demilitarization on the ground starts accompanied by direct dialogue between Armenian residents and central Azerbaijani officials, the consideration of the situation by the international community should correspond to existing realities in order to be relevant and helpful.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council and brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

*(Signed)* Jeyhun **Bayramov**