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**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****Measures to eliminate international terrorism****The responsibility to protect and the prevention of  
genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against  
humanity****Security Council  
Seventy-ninth year****Letter dated 1 October 2024 from the Permanent Representative of  
Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the commentary of the Press Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan in response to false allegations made in the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia of 19 September 2024 (A/79/360-S/2024/687, annex) in connection with the first anniversary of the local counter-terrorism measures carried out by Azerbaijan on its sovereign soil, in the Garabagh region, to restore the sovereignty, territorial integrity and constitutional order of the Republic of Azerbaijan in full accordance with international law (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 32, 61, 69, 71, 84, 110 and 132, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 1 October 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

### **Commentary of the Press Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan in response to the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia of 19 September 2024**

**19 September 2024**

It is unacceptable that the local counter-terrorism measures aimed at disarming and completely forcing out the remnants of the armed forces of Armenia from the Garabagh economic region of our country and restoring the sovereignty and constitutional order of the Republic of Azerbaijan in those territories are labeled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia as an “attack against ‘Nagorno-Karabakh’” and “ethnic cleansing”.

Despite claiming to be a peaceful country, Armenia’s calling Garabagh, the ancient and eternal land of Azerbaijan, with fictional names such as “Nagorno-Karabakh” is a clear example of disrespect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

The counter-terrorism measures were carried out by the armed forces of Azerbaijan on 19-20 September 2023 in our sovereign territories in less than 24 hours in full accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law. In addition to being one of the most glorious pages in our history, the restoration by Azerbaijan of the sovereignty over its lands is also a triumph of international law and justice.

It was well known that despite its defeat in the 2020 Patriotic War and contrary to the obligations it accepted, Armenia not only had not withdrawn its illegal armed groups from the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan over the past three years until 2023, but had even transferred additional weaponry, ammunition, military equipment and landmines to the territories of Azerbaijan. During this period, Armenia continued and even further expanded landmine terrorism against our country. Armenia’s officials continued to propagate by all means the puppet regime that they created and sustained on our territories, and the Prime Minister of Armenia even congratulated this regime on its so-called “independence” on 2 September 2023.

Armenia did not renounce its unfounded claims to the territories that are part of Azerbaijan historically and within the international legal framework, did not refrain from falsifying history, continued to grossly violate the principles of international law and did not draw conclusions from the miserable situation it had fallen in due to its policy of aggression. The main condition was to counter such behavior of Armenia, which went beyond all bounds.

The death of 6 Azerbaijani citizens on 19 September 2023 as a result of a terrorist act committed by the Armenian armed forces was the last straw for Azerbaijan and made counter-terrorism measures inevitable.

Despite the provocative efforts and propaganda of the Armenian side, the civilian population was not targeted, the civilian infrastructure was not damaged and only legitimate military infrastructure and facilities were destroyed during the counter-terrorism measures. Notwithstanding numerous calls from the Azerbaijani side to Armenian residents not to leave their places of residence, and despite the launch of the reintegration program, they decided to leave the territories of Azerbaijan. It was their free choice, and labeling it as an “ethnic cleansing”

demonstrates the hypocrisy of Armenia, which massively expelled Azerbaijanis from Armenia and the occupied Azerbaijani territories and committed genocide and massacres.

With the complete restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and State sovereignty, a historic opportunity has emerged for the normalization of Armenian-Azerbaijani relations and, consequently, for the signing of a final peace agreement. Thus, while Azerbaijan is the initiator of the peace process for the sake of the security and progress of our region and has been making genuine efforts in this direction, it is unacceptable to maintain claims against the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan in the Constitution and other legislative acts of Armenia. Therefore, for the historical peace opportunity not to be missed by Armenia, necessary and adequate measures must be taken as soon as possible to eliminate the mentioned claims.

On this historically important day for the people and State of Azerbaijan, we once again commemorate with deep respect the dear memory of our sons and daughters who sacrificed their lives for the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan.

We are proud of our glorious armed forces, and we wish our State and people a lasting victory!

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