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Agenda items 32, 60, 61, 69, 71, 84 and 132

Prevention of armed conflict

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for
Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and
displaced persons and humanitarian questions**

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**

**Security Council
Eightieth year**

Letter dated 17 January 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I have the honour to submit herewith a letter from the Western Azerbaijan Community, an organization dealing with the protection of the rights of Azerbaijanis expelled from present-day Armenia, in connection with the recently publicized speech delivered in July 1993 by the then President of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, in which he confirmed that the ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis was a State policy of Armenia and a historic achievement (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, 60, 61, 69, 71, 84 and 132, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Tofiq Musayev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 17 January 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 7 January 2025 from the Western Azerbaijan Community addressed to the Secretary-General

As noted in our letter dated April 7, 2023, to Your Excellency, and as highlighted in our Concept of Return, which was circulated as official documents of the UN Security Council, General Assembly, and Economic and Social Council ([A/77/801](#), [S/2023/134](#) and [E/2023/53](#)), the forced expulsion of Azerbaijanis from Armenia represents an unprecedented injustice. All Azerbaijanis, who once constituted the ethnic majority in those territories, were forcibly removed, leaving not a single Azerbaijani in what is now Armenia. Historical and cultural heritage belonging to Azerbaijanis in Armenia, including mosques and cemeteries, have been destroyed *en masse*, and place names have been altered.

Armenia initiated the conflict in 1987 to conduct ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis and transform Armenia and the Azerbaijani territories it occupied for 30 years into monoethnic space. For decades, Armenia has been pursuing an official policy of racism.

Recently, a video recording of a speech delivered on July 23, 1993, by Levon Ter-Petrosyan, then-President of Armenia, has surfaced. In this speech, President Ter-Petrosyan described the ethnic cleansing of Azerbaijanis from Armenia and the occupied Azerbaijani territories as a historic achievement. Without further comment, we present the relevant excerpt of President Ter-Petrosyan's statement as it was:

“Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh solved a problem the Armenian people had been unable to address for 600 years. Armenia and Artsakh have been completely cleansed of other ethnicities. I say again, this was a 600-year-old problem, and its significance will be felt by the Armenian people for another 600 years. Imagine if today there were those 180,000 non-Armenians in Armenia – today we would not have a state. We would not be able to protect Zangezur, safeguard our northeastern regions, or preserve the shores of Lake Sevan. We would have several new autonomies here. Let us recall that Azerbaijanis were the majority in three regions: Vardenis, Masis, and Amasia – and they were numerous throughout the Zangezur zone. This problem has been resolved.”
(The full text of the speech is attached)¹

This speech by the then-sitting president, during whose rule much of the ethnic cleansing occurred, is an extraordinary piece of evidence proving that Armenia has systematically pursued a state-level racial discrimination, ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis and occupation policy against Azerbaijan. It must be emphasized that, regardless of who has been in power in Armenia, this policy has continued unabated. Levon Ter-Petrosyan's successor, former President Robert Kocharyan, propagated outrageous and racist ideas of “ethnic and genetic incompatibility” between Azerbaijanis and Armenians. Another former president, Serzh Sargsyan, openly boasted of his role in the massacre of Azerbaijani civilians in Khojaly in 1992 and adopted the racist ideology of the Nazi collaborator general Garegin Nzhdeh as the state policy. The current Prime Minister, Nikol Pashinyan, who once pursued annexationist policies under the slogan “Karabakh is Armenia,” actually continues

¹ The text of the speech with an unofficial translation is available at the Secretariat.

the racist policy by his predecessors refusing to enable the return of Azerbaijanis expelled from Armenia.

The international community cannot remain indifferent to such blatant institutional racism by a state that is a party to the UN Charter and numerous conventions on human rights.

As in our letter to Your Excellency dated April 7, 2023, we once again kindly request you to take necessary steps to promote the return of forcibly displaced Azerbaijanis to Armenia, including the deployment of a special mission to the country.

Furthermore, we request that, under the authority granted to you by Article 99 of the UN Charter, you bring the issue of the systematic racism rampant in Armenia, which ignited the conflict and continues to obstruct peace, to the attention of the relevant organs of the UN as the threat to human rights, international peace and security, and make other relevant diplomatic efforts.

Additionally, we request that you prepare a special report on the state-run racism in Armenia, within the scope of your mandate based on relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly on the fight against racism, including the resolution [A/RES/78/234](#) (2023) titled “A global call for concrete action for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action”.

We wish to take this opportunity to renew the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Signed) Aziz Alakbarov
Chairman of the Board

(Signed) Misir Mardanov
Chairman of the Supervisory Board

(Signed) Vahid Novruzov
Chairman of the Control and Inspection Commission

(Signed) Ahliman Amiraslanov
Chairman of the Elders’ Council

(Signed) Malahat Ibrahimgizi
Chairwoman of the Women’s Council

(Signed) Shahin Ismayilov
Chairman of the Youth Council

(Signed) Elkhan Huseynov
Chairman of the Intellectuals’ Council