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**Letter dated 18 February 2025 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, in connection with the recently publicized speech delivered on 23 July 1993 by the then President of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, in which he admitted to the ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis in Armenia and the Garabagh and Eastern Zangazur economic regions of the Republic 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 32, 60, 61, 69, 71, 84 and 132, and of the Security Council.

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



Annex to the letter dated 18 February 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 18 February 2025 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General

I write with regard to a recently-surfaced video recording, dated 23 July 1993, in which the then-President of the Republic of Armenia (“Armenia”), Levon Ter-Petrosyan, explicitly admits to acts of ethnic cleansing committed against Azerbaijani peoples in Armenia and Garabagh and Eastern Zangazur economic regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan (“Azerbaijan”) before and during the First Garabagh War.¹ President Ter-Petrosyan’s admission includes the following unambiguous statement:

“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. [...] 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 former President’s admission underscores that the systematic removal of ethnic Azerbaijanis from their historical lands – former President Ter-Petrosyan himself refers repeatedly and explicitly to the presence of Azerbaijanis as a “600-year-old problem” – was orchestrated at the highest levels of Armenia’s government.

As Azerbaijan has consistently maintained, Armenia engaged in a campaign of ethnic cleansing against Azerbaijanis over a sustained period of time. This period saw widespread atrocities, including the forcible expulsion of more than 250,000 Azerbaijanis from Armenia, more than 700,000 Azerbaijanis from Garabagh and Eastern Zangazur economic regions of Azerbaijan, and more than 100,000 Azerbaijanis from the former line of contact with Armenia. Mass killings, destruction of property, and deliberate efforts to erase Azerbaijani cultural and historical heritage were commonplace. As former President Ter-Petrosyan himself confirms in the recently-uncovered video, virtually no Azerbaijanis remained in Armenia and the formerly-occupied territories of Azerbaijan after 1994.

On multiple occasions, Azerbaijan has drawn Armenia’s attention to these grave and openly racist acts, which included Armenia’s steadfast refusal to allow Azerbaijanis to return to their ancestral homes, including through direct correspondence with Armenia and communications with the United Nations² and other international bodies.³ As previously communicated, Armenia’s campaign of ethnic cleansing violated its most fundamental obligations under international human rights law; it also contravened contemporaneous United Nations Security Council resolutions,

¹ See <https://x.com/NasimiAghayev/status/1875267125788713374?mx=2>.

² See, for example, letter dated 4 April 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/65/808-S/2023/145 of 11 April 2011); letter dated 25 October 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/66/528-S/2011/668 of 27 October 2011); letter dated 10 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/71/880-S/2017/316 of 26 April 2017).

³ See, for example, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OSCE, Statement at 810th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council, 20 May 2010, <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/1/7/68169.pdf>.

which consistently called for the immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces from the occupied areas of Azerbaijan and reaffirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.⁴

Armenia is under an international legal obligation to conduct effective investigations whenever there is a reasonable basis to suspect that acts of ethnic cleansing or other serious systematic violations of international human rights norms have occurred. For the reasons outlined above, and highlighted by the recently-revealed video footage, there is more than a reasonable basis to suspect that serious violations of Armenia's obligations to ethnic Azerbaijanis under international human rights law have taken place.

Accordingly, Azerbaijan repeats its calls for Armenia to investigate all acts of ethnic cleansing and related human rights violations committed against some 1,000,000 Azerbaijanis.⁵ To the extent any such investigations have already occurred, Azerbaijan formally requests that Armenia indicate:

1. the nature and mandate of investigative bodies in Armenia established to examine these acts of ethnic cleansing and other human rights violations;
2. the current status and preliminary findings of such investigations; and the measures taken to ensure the accountability of individuals, including former President Ter-Petrosyan, implicated in acts of ethnic cleansing or related violations of international human rights law.

Azerbaijan requests that you take the necessary steps in order to procure a full and timely response from Armenia in respect of these serious matters.

(Signed) Jeyhun **Bayramov**

⁴ See United Nations Security Council, Resolution 822, document [S/RES/822](#) (30 April 1993); United Nations Security Council, Resolution 853, document [S/RES/853](#) (29 July 1993); United Nations Security Council, Resolution 874, document [S/RES/874](#) (14 October 1993); United Nations Security Council, Resolution 884, document [S/RES/884](#) (12 November 1993).

⁵ See, for example, Letter dated 4 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/74/881-S/2020-503](#) of 5 June 2020).