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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
Eightieth year****Letter dated 9 April 2025 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 (see annex) concerning the baseless statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia of 28 February 2025 ([A/79/814-S/2025/144](#), annex) on the trials of persons accused of war crimes and other serious offenses in Azerbaijan.

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) Tofiq **Musayev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 9 April 2025 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 on the baseless statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia of 28 February 2025

28 February 2025

We resolutely condemn and reject the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia dated 28 February 2025 on allegations about the mistreatment of Armenian detainees and persons accused of war crimes in Azerbaijan, including baseless claims about their ongoing trials.

Former separatist leaders that Armenia cultivated for almost 30 years and other detainees of Armenian origin either have been charged with or convicted of war crimes, ethnic cleansing, military aggression, torture, and other serious offenses. Azerbaijan has rights and obligations to investigate and prosecute these offenses under the Geneva Conventions and under international and domestic law. These detentions have a valid legal basis and do not impair the detainees' rights. Even if the detainees were prisoners of war, under the Third Geneva Convention they may be detained if criminal proceedings for an indictable offense are pending in relation to them and can remain in detention until the conclusion of those proceedings and, if necessary, until the completion of the punishment.

All the rights and duties of the accused were duly ensured and explained, and the court proceedings and testimonies were recorded. Allegations of ill-treatment of prisoners in Azerbaijan have been investigated independently and are false. Regular visits by representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and telephone and video calls with family members were facilitated, most recently in February.

It is well-known that, both as a humanitarian gesture and consistent with its obligations under international humanitarian law, Azerbaijan, since the 2020 war, has released and repatriated more than 200 Armenians in its custody who were entitled to prisoner of war status or considered detainees. However, following Azerbaijan's return of prisoners of war, some of them were subjected to imprisonment and interrogation by Armenian authorities. We would also like to remind the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia that Azerbaijan has made a significant gesture by allowing more than 10,000 illegal Armenian armed forces to lay down arms and leave the territory of Azerbaijan following the anti-terror measures conducted by Azerbaijan in 2023.

Unlike Azerbaijan, Armenia neither launched any investigations into the cases of degrading treatment of Azerbaijani prisoners of war and detained civilians nor cooperated in providing information about the whereabouts of 4000 missing Azerbaijanis. According to the witnesses and numerous facts, all the Azerbaijani prisoners of war were tortured, ill-treated and held in degrading conditions, in grave violation of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Obviously, such a statement from the Armenia demonstrates the anxiety of its political leadership about the ongoing trial of the persons accused of war crimes, whom they had openly supported by all means to sustain the act and policy of aggression against Azerbaijan. Armenia's state responsibility and other illegal actions as an occupier and aggressor country is a fact that cannot be denied. Thus, holding

the perpetrators accountable is a matter of justice that political manipulation cannot undermine.

By calling the trial of those accused of war crimes “staged”, instead of applauding it, Armenia is demonstrating that it is not interested in healing the wounds it has caused for decades and facing the truth that this trial might reveal.

At this critical juncture, Azerbaijan expects that Armenia will refrain from baseless statements that undermine peace efforts in the region, which also include bringing the perpetrators of war crimes to justice.
