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Security Council
Eightieth 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 9 April 2025 from the Permanent Representative of
Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I write in regard to the letter dated 4 March 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia ([A/79/815-S/2025/145](#), annex), containing as its annex the statement of his Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the events in the city of Sumgayit 37 years ago.

As in its previous identical statements and communications, Armenia once again presented its false narratives, while passing over in silence the well-known facts that persuasively expose its insinuations.¹ The statement by Armenia clearly demonstrates that, despite the progress made in the ongoing process of post-conflict normalization of inter-State relations, Armenia's peace-oriented pronouncements are nothing but hollow rhetoric, as it has not abandoned its territorial claims, hate-driven policy and disinformation practices.

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) in connection with the aforementioned statement.

¹ See [A/78/814-S/2024/241](#).



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, 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 concerning the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia on the Sumgayit events

27 February 2025

The allegations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia against Azerbaijan in its statement of 27 February on the Sumgayit events are not only unfounded but also distort and falsify historical facts.

This statement is an attempt at concealing acts of violence, mass expulsion of the Azerbaijani population from Armenia, acts of terror against the Azerbaijani people, provocations, and the use of military force on ethnic grounds to implement Armenia's baseless and illegal territorial claims against Azerbaijan since the late 1980s.

We remind the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia that the ethnic turmoil in Sumgayit was an integral part of the purposeful and planned provocation by the leadership of the USSR and Armenia, Armenian chauvinistic ideologists, and extremist organizations.

It is also worth pointing out that the USSR Prosecutor General's Office opened a criminal case pertaining to the incident, which resulted in the identification of the rioters and their accomplices, as well as of the total of 32 victims. The fact that 6 Azerbaijanis were among the victims demonstrates that these riots were not perpetrated by Azerbaijanis.

We inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia that the person who instigated the incidents and led the march, personally killing 6 individuals and raping 3 Armenian women, was an ethnic Armenian, Eduard Grigoryan. Numerous testimonies from the Armenian residents of Sumgayit corroborate these accounts. Grigoryan, condemned to 12 years in prison by a court ruling, was transferred to Armenia to serve his sentence and was later released from prison.

92 persons who stood trial and were found guilty in connection with the events in Sumgayit on 27-29 February 1988 were sentenced to imprisonment, and 1 person to capital punishment.

For comparison, in the late 1980s, during the forceful deportation of around 300 thousand people from the territories densely populated by Azerbaijanis in the Armenian SSR, no action was taken against those responsible for the deaths of over 200 Azerbaijanis.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia is also well aware that none of the perpetrators of multiple war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Armenia in various cities and villages during its military aggression against Azerbaijan, including Khojaly, have yet been held legally accountable.

We remind the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia that the Republic of Azerbaijan has ended Armenia's decades-long military occupation of parts of its internationally recognized sovereign territory, restoring its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Instead of claiming that “ethnic cleansing” was allegedly carried out against Armenians in 2023, it would be more useful for the Armenian side to look at the criminal acts committed against Azerbaijanis and Azerbaijan’s heritage both in the territory of present-day Armenia and during the occupation.
