



General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 January 2026

Original: English

Eightieth session

Agenda items 31, 71, 81, 84 and 131

Prevention of armed conflict

Promotion and protection of human rights

Crimes against humanity

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 20 January 2026 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 20 January 2026, Azerbaijan commemorates the thirty-sixth anniversary of the “Black January” tragedy and pays tribute to the memory of its sons and daughters who became innocent victims of ruthless aggression carried out by the Soviet army in Baku and other regions of Azerbaijan.

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on that occasion (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 31, 71, 81, 84 and 131.

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



Annex to the letter dated 20 January 2026 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

**Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of 20 January – National Mourning Day
20 January 2026**

20 January 1990 constitutes one of the most tragic, yet dignified and proud pages in the modern history of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

As a result of the ruthless aggression carried out by the Soviet army against the civilian population in Baku and other regions of Azerbaijan 36 years ago, 150 civilians were killed, 744 people were seriously injured, and 4 people went missing.

The tragedy of 20 January was an attempt to suppress the legitimate aspirations of the Azerbaijani people for freedom, national dignity, and sovereignty.

However, this act of violence could not break the will of the Azerbaijani people. On the contrary, it further strengthened the determination of our nation to restore independence, to fight against Armenia's mass deportation and occupation policies, and to fully exercise its sovereign rights. The sacrifice of the martyrs of 20 January had a fundamental role in restoring the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1991.

The patriotism, unity, and spirit of resistance demonstrated by the Azerbaijani people on 20 January found their historical embodiment in the 44-day Patriotic War of 2020 and during the antiterror operations of 2023. Under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, the glorious Azerbaijani army liberated our territories from occupation and restored the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty in accordance with international law.

Our Glorious Victory and the new realities established by Azerbaijan in the region in the subsequent period, the promoted peace and security agenda, the large-scale restoration and construction activities, and the return of former internally displaced persons to their ancestral lands are a triumph of unwavering will and determination of our people, embodying the ideals for which the martyrs of 20 January and all our heroes who sacrificed their lives for the Motherland fought.

On this mournful and, at the same time proud day, we honour the memory of martyrs of 20 January and all our heroes, who sacrificed their lives for the independence, territorial integrity, and sovereignty of our country, and we express our deep condolences to their loved ones. We wish good health to all our citizens who gave their health on this glorious path.

We once again declare our determination to continue consistent efforts and resolute measures to prevent the recurrence of crimes that are against humanity and international law, such as those committed against our people on 20 January.