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**Security Council
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Letter dated 27 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In the course of its aggression against Azerbaijan, Armenia has engaged in numerous violations of the prohibitions on attacks directed at civilians, on the murder and wilful killing of civilians and on attacks that cause indiscriminate or disproportionate harm to civilians. Armenia has also repeatedly flouted the unambiguous and unqualified prohibition on hostage-taking and the mistreatment of prisoners of war and civilian detainees. Reported atrocities include numerous instances of summary executions and inhuman or degrading mistreatment of protected persons.

The scale of the violations is evidenced, inter alia, by the several thousands of citizens of Azerbaijan registered as missing in connection with the conflict. They disappeared in circumstances that raise serious concern as to their well-being, particularly given the atrocious methods of warfare widely practised by the Armenian armed forces during the conflict. For almost 30 years of war and occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan, Armenia has refused to account for the missing persons or to conduct investigations into their fate or into the existing evidence that hundreds of



those who have disappeared had been taken into Armenia's custody and have not been seen since.

The territories of Azerbaijan recently liberated from occupation provide compelling evidence as to Armenia's brutalities and the range, variety and consistency of its violations of international humanitarian law.

In that regard, I have the honour to transmit herewith the information of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan in connection with the brutal killing by the armed forces of Armenia in April 1993 of 12 Azerbaijani civilians, whose remains were recently found in the village of Bashlibel in the liberated Kalbajar district 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 34, 35, 40, 64, 70, 72, 86 and 135, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 27 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information of the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan

26 April 2021

The Prosecutor General's Office has instituted a criminal case and is conducting intensive investigative actions regarding the mass burial of civilians brutally massacred by the armed forces of Armenia in the village of Bashlibel in the Kalbajar district in April 1993.

The investigation established that, during their occupation of the Kalbajar district in April 1993, along with other districts of Azerbaijan, the invading armed forces of Armenia showed particular cruelty and brutality towards the civilian population of the village of Bashlibel.

According to the investigation materials, before the occupation, the village of Bashlibel, with a population of 1,996 people, 259 individual houses, one secondary school, one kindergarten and one hospital, was one of the largest villages in the Kalbajar district. With an area of 3,232 hectares, the village is located 64 km from the district centre, at the confluence of two mountain rivers, at the foot of Mount Dalidagh, at an altitude of 2,000 m above sea level.

It was established that, on 3 April 1993, the armed forces of Armenia attacked the village of Bashlibel and looted and burned the houses of the villagers. Sixty-two persons who were unable to leave the village took refuge in natural caves in the mountainous terrain called Portda, located approximately 3 km away in the highest part of the village. Among these 62 persons, there were 48 villagers from Bashlibel, 1 person from Takhtabashi, 4 residents of the Lachin district and 9 servicemen who were defending the village.

On 18 April 1993, the armed forces of Armenia detected civilians hiding in the caves and opened fire on them with automatic and large-calibre weapons between 3 and 9 p.m. that day. As a result, 12 unarmed persons, including children, women and elderly were deliberately killed: 63-year-old Samadov Yagub Isa, 54-year-old Ahmadova Busat Alish, 12-year-old Ahmadova Zovgiyya Binnat, 60-year-old Amraliyev Mahammad Abish, 29-year-old Amraliyev Surkhay Mahammad, 21-year-old Amraliyev Chingiz Mahammad, 16-year-old Amraliyeva Aygun Mahammad, 67-year-old Hasanova Chichek Mikayil, 68-year-old Jafarova Gulara Jafa, 95-year-old Jafarova Gulgaz Gadim, 22-year-old Abdullayev Vugar Isa and 52-year-old Asgarov Ahliman Avaz oglu.

As a result of the attack, 14 persons were taken hostage: 93-year-old Babayeva Kubra Gadim, 23-year-old Amraliyeva Arzu Binnat, 56-year-old Ahmadov Binnat Abdulali, 13-year-old Ahmadov Niyat Binnat, 15-year-old Ahmadova Shargiya Binnat, 56-year-old Amraliyeva Zibeyda Abish, 67-year-old Hasanova Leyli Ali, 58-year-old Hasanova Marmar Javad, 63-year-old Hasanova Shamama Huseyn, 36-year-old Hasanova Zeynab Mahmud, 63-year-old Gasimova Tutu Ali, 2-year-old Mahammadov Hokmdar Surkhay, 73-year-old Yusifova Shamama Agha and 65-year-old Mansimov Huseyn Ibrahim were taken hostage. Although they were later released, nine of them subsequently died from emotional and psychological trauma.

The investigation also established that 7 out of 36 people who escaped and sought refuge in other caves died in various villages of the Kalbajar district from injuries received during the siege.

The surviving villagers of Bashlibel later split into two groups and hid in different caves. On the night of 12 May 1993, despite the threat to their lives, they were able to approach the caves in which their fellow villagers were killed and bury the bodies of 12 persons in two rows (6 graves in each row).

After 19 April 1993, having lived under siege for 113 days, the following 29 survivors managed to escape by setting off in the direction of the village of Chaykend in the Kalbajar district through rugged mountainous terrain, then crossing the Tartar River and Mount Goshgar towards the Dashkasan district and finally reaching the village of Zivlan in that district in July 1993: 21-year-old Ahmadova Sevil Binnat, 55-year-old Ahmadov Hummat Abdulali, 45-year-old Alasgarov Alakbar Alasgar, 36-year-old Alasgarova Sarmaya Sadig, 16-year-old Alasgarov Habil Alakbar, 14-year-old Alasgarov Rustam Alakbar, 12-year-old Alasgarova Samira Alakbar, 9-year-old Alasgarova Tajira Alakbar, 33-year-old Amraliyev Khasay Mahammad, 31-year-old Amraliyeva Nargiz Mansim, 6-year-old Amraliyev Elmdar Khasay, 4-year-old Amraliyev Shahriyar Khasay, 27-year-old Azizov Elshad Hasan, 25-year-old Azizov Ismat Huseyn, 23-year-old Jafarov Mahir Mahyaddin, 58-year-old Gadimov Gadim Mukhtar, 32-year-old Hasanov Gazanfar Mahmud, 38-year-old Hasanov Yahya Mahmud, 25-year-old Asgarova Hajar Ahliman, 23-year-old Asgarova Lalazar Ahliman, 15-year-old Asgarov Vakil Ahliman, 23-year-old Abbasov Jallat Aghaverdi, 19-year-old Mehdiyev Salim Yusifali, 22-year-old Abbasguluyev Mazahir Talib, 23-years-old Abbasov Adalat Arzuman, 25-year-old Abdullayev Muzahim Maharram, 23-year-old Ahmadov Khalil Suleyman, 22-year-old Asgarov Mushfig Gulbaba and 23-year-old Muradov Fuzuli Akram.

On the basis of the court decision on exhumation, on 24 April 2021, investigators of the Department of Investigation of the Prosecutor General's Office carried out appropriate investigative actions in the village of Bashlibel in the Kalbajar district and found the remains of 12 bodies buried at a depth of 50 cm.

In addition, in the caves where civilians were hiding, the investigation found various household items, as well as cartridges and bullets testifying to the premeditated murder of the civilians. These items were packed and registered in accordance with the requirements of the criminal procedure legislation. During the drone inspection of the village of Bashlibel, it was also established that all residential houses, administrative buildings and infrastructure that existed in the village before the occupation were completely destroyed.

In order to establish the identities of the victims, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) samples were taken from the remains of the corpses and from family members claiming to be close relatives of the buried persons, and forensic examinations were also ordered to study molecular-genetic and other features. At present, other necessary investigative and search activities are under way to identify surviving witnesses, interrogate them and determine the circumstances relevant to the case.

In accordance with the instructions and recommendations of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan continues its activities to investigate the crimes committed by Armenia against Azerbaijani citizens since the 1990s, identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice before national and international courts.