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**General Assembly
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Agenda items 15, 34, 35, 40, 64, 70, 72, 86 and 135

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**Security Council
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**Letter dated 7 May 2021 from the Permanent Representative of
Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to write to you in connection with the letter of the Permanent Representative of Armenia dated 22 April 2021 ([A/75/861-S/2021/392](#)), which is a striking example of hackneyed fabrication and blatant misinterpretation of international law.

Over the years, Armenia has portrayed its own distorted perceptions of the international legal norms and principles as allegedly reflecting the position of the international community. The aforementioned letter is not an exception. In effect, it is beyond any doubt that Armenia is responsible for aggression against Azerbaijan and its devastating consequences.

In 1993, the Security Council adopted four resolutions ([822 \(1993\)](#), [853 \(1993\)](#), [874 \(1993\)](#) and [884 \(1993\)](#)) condemning the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories and reaffirming respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory. The Council further demanded the



immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The resolutions of the General Assembly as well as numerous decisions and documents adopted by other international organizations are framed along the same lines.

However, key demands contained in those resolutions and documents have not been implemented by Armenia. Therefore, it is no coincidence that, notwithstanding the circulation of his letters as documents of the General Assembly and of the Security Council, the Permanent Representative of Armenia never mentions any of the resolutions adopted by these main organs of the United Nations.

Indeed, Armenia has chosen the path of confronting international law and the unified position of the world community. The latest outbreak of hostilities has become the consequence of this policy. Even the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has not convinced Armenia to halt its aggression and unlawful actions.

In response to an armed attack perpetrated by Armenia on 27 September 2020, Azerbaijan undertook and successfully accomplished a counteroffensive operation, in the exercise of its inherent right of self-defence. Azerbaijan acted exclusively on its sovereign soil to protect its civilian population, liberate the occupied territories and allow more than 700,000 internally displaced persons to return to their homes. It is the right of every nation to defend its homeland by all legitimate means.

Misinterpretations of international humanitarian law in the aforementioned letter are particularly outrageous as Armenia itself refuses to shed light on the fate of almost 4,000 Azerbaijanis who went missing during the war in the 1990s or provide information about the minefields in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan.

The letter also passes over in silence the fact that Azerbaijan returned more than 70 detainees to Armenia under the terms of the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020. For its part, Armenia violated this agreement by deploying, almost 20 days after the cessation of hostilities, the sabotage group in the territory of Azerbaijan, which killed four servicemen of the armed forces of Azerbaijan and injured one civilian.

Armenia's allegations about the Military Trophy Park inaugurated in Baku on 12 April 2021 are equally unacceptable. The park reflects victory in the war for freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity – the principles and ideals that Armenia has continuously violated, disregarded and opposed.

The value and strength of international law are the main lessons that Armenia has to finally learn from its failed policy of territorial claims and aggression. Respect for the norms and principles of international law in relation to Armenia cannot be achieved at the expense of disrespect for the same norms and principles in relation to Azerbaijan. That Armenia is yet to realize this axiom is evidenced in its overt infringement of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. The dissemination of false historical narratives, the circulation of fabricated papers in the name of a non-existent entity, the references to localities within the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan under different fake names and the revival of revanchist aspirations are just a few examples to mention.

The new post-conflict realities pave the way for Armenia to release itself from historical mythology and racially motivated hatred. Hopefully, it will not miss this opportunity. As we have repeatedly stated, and I reiterate it once again, Azerbaijan is confident that there exists no alternative to the normalization of inter-State relations between the two countries based on mutual recognition and respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity within their internationally recognized borders and is determined to advance the agenda of reconciliation, peaceful coexistence, development and cooperation.

In his speech at the seventy-seventh session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, on 26 April 2021, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, stated in particular the following:

Azerbaijan is eager to maintain sustainable peace and security in the region. Azerbaijan has made an enormous contribution to the launch of regional connectivity projects such as East-West, North-South and North-West transportation corridors. We are now working on the realization of a “Zangazur transportation corridor”, which will be an integral part of the East-West corridor connecting Asia and Europe through Azerbaijan.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 15, 34, 35, 40, 64, 70, 72, 86 and 135, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
