



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
23 November 2021

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-sixth session
Agenda items 16, 35, 66, 72 and 85

Security Council
Seventy-sixth year

Culture of peace

Prevention of armed conflict

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia
and related intolerance**

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Letter dated 22 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I write to you in connection with the continuing disinformation campaign and overt territorial claims by Armenia against my country, including through the circulation by the Permanent Mission of Armenia of various papers in the name of a non-existent entity, along with references to the localities within Azerbaijan under different fake names. The letters dated 4 and 8 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia ([A/76/512-S/2021/923](#) and [A/76/523-S/2021/934](#)) are further evidence of falsifications, infringement upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and contempt for the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Such non-existent or distorted names as “Nagorno-Karabakh”, “Republic of Artsakh”, “Stepanakert” and “Shushi”, used in the aforementioned letters and other communications circulated by Armenia at the United Nations and in other international organizations, are pure fiction. They are the remnants of Armenia’s failed policy of aggression and occupation and have neither historical nor legal grounds whatsoever.

The official list of geographical names in Azerbaijan, standardized by the competent national institution, is contained in the report submitted by the Government of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.¹ Moreover, by his decree of 7 July 2021, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan established the Garabagh (consisting of the city of Khankandi and the districts of

¹ GEGN.2/2021/CRP.134.



Aghjabadi, Aghdam, Barda, Fuzuli, Khojaly, Khojavand, Shusha and Tartar) and East Zangazur (consisting of the districts of Jabrayil, Kalbajar, Gubadly, Lachin and Zangilan) economic regions in Azerbaijan.

In regard to the allegations contained in the aforementioned letter of 4 November 2021, it must be pointed out that Azerbaijan did not unleash aggression against anyone. The assertion of the opposite is contrary not only to international law and numerous resolutions and documents adopted by international organizations, but also to elementary logic. In response to Armenia's armed attacks last fall, Azerbaijan used a counter-force to protect its people and end the occupation of its territories, acting exclusively on its sovereign soil, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Azerbaijan's military actions were carried out in accordance with international humanitarian law. It is notable that the 44-day war resulted in more civilian casualties in Azerbaijani-populated settlements far outside the theatre of active hostilities than within it – in Armenian-populated areas.

Armed attacks against Azerbaijani cities and towns, with the use of prohibited cluster bombs, ballistic missiles, unguided artillery rockets and large-calibre artillery projectiles, was a deliberate tactic employed by Armenia during the war, which resulted in the killing and wounding of hundreds of civilians and in destroying or damaging numerous civilian objects, including homes, schools and medical facilities.

There are also documented instances of summary executions of captured Azerbaijani servicemen, the desecration of the bodies of dead Azerbaijani soldiers and the torture or mistreatment of Azerbaijani military and civilians while in Armenian captivity.

During the three-decades-old occupation, most cities, towns and villages of Azerbaijan were razed to the ground; thousands of historical monuments, mosques, cemeteries and museums were destroyed, looted and vandalized. The sole purpose of these acts by Armenia was to permanently change the demographic composition of the areas seized and to remove any signs of their Azerbaijani cultural and historical roots.

Armenia's speculations and misinterpretations with regard to international humanitarian law are preposterous also from the point of view of its own consistent refusal to shed light on the fate of almost 4,000 Azerbaijanis who went missing during the war in the 1990s and to provide a complete set of maps showing the locations of landmines in the liberated areas of Azerbaijan.

Armenia's denial of its responsibility for flagrant violations of international law and atrocity crimes committed during the first and second Garabagh wars and its failure to prosecute and punish those responsible for these offences speak for itself. Instead, Armenia venerated and glorified the perpetrators as national heroes and promoted them to the highest political and military positions.

As to the incident near the Khankandi-Shusha road on 8 November 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan clearly responded to the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, stressing in particular that the latter has no political, legal and moral grounds to make any statements in regard to the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan and that the incident in question was the result of a provocation by the Armenian side aimed at escalating the situation on the eve of the first anniversary of the tripartite statement of 10 November 2020.

This was not the only provocation resorted to by Armenia in recent days, in breach of international law and the tripartite statement of 10 November 2020. The illegal visit of the Minister of Defense of Armenia to the territories of Azerbaijan

where the peacekeeping forces of the Russian Federation are temporarily deployed, the increased concentration of the armed forces of Armenia on the border with Azerbaijan and the subsequent intense shelling of positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the border, which resulted in the death of 7 and wounding of 10 Azerbaijani servicemen, are just a few examples to mention.

Armenia must realize that respect for the norms and principles of international law in relation to it cannot be ensured at the expense of disrespect for the same norms and principles in relation to Azerbaijan. That Armenia is yet to achieve this basic understanding is evidenced in its continued territorial claims, deeply rooted hatred and disinformation campaign against Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan will continue responding adequately to any threats and military provocations against its territorial integrity and the rights and safety of its citizens.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 16, 35, 66, 72 and 85, and of the Security Council.

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