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Prevention of armed conflict

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

The rule of law at the national and international levels

**Letter dated 28 September 2021 from the Permanent
Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of the Day of Remembrance in the Republic of Azerbaijan observed on 27 September 2021 in connection with the first anniversary of the beginning of the Patriotic War for the liberation of the territories of Azerbaijan from Armenian occupation (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 35, 66 and 85, and of the Security Council.

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



Annex to the letter dated 28 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 27 September – Day of Remembrance in the Republic of Azerbaijan

A year ago today, the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan began responsive measures to counter another military provocation by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia.

These measures were undertaken within the framework of the right of self-defense, and in full compliance with international humanitarian law, in order to prevent further military aggression by Armenia and to provide for the security of the civilian population. This marked the beginning of the 44-day Patriotic War.

The Patriotic War put an end to Armenia's nearly 30-year-long policy of aggression. Azerbaijan ensured its territorial integrity, and the fundamental rights of nearly one million displaced Azerbaijanis were restored. Azerbaijan alone ensured the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions of 1993.

The end of the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan revealed the full extent of the illegal activities carried out by Armenia for decades. This includes extensive mining; the deliberate destruction and misappropriation of Azerbaijan's historical, cultural and religious heritage; plundering of natural resources; destruction of infrastructure; and other violations of international law. The evidence of Armenia's numerous war crimes was also revealed. In order to hold Armenia accountable for its breaches of international humanitarian and human rights law, Azerbaijan filed inter-State applications against Armenia in the European Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice.

The Government of Azerbaijan is carrying out restoration and reconstruction works in the liberated territories and is taking consistent steps to ensure the safe and dignified return of nearly one million displaced Azerbaijanis, as well as the reintegration of these lands. The Government is also taking all necessary measures to ensure lasting peace, security and prosperity in the region, in accordance with the Trilateral Statement of November 10, 2020.

The Patriotic War under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, President Ilham Aliyev, that ended with a victory of the brave Azerbaijani Army, opened a new era in the history of the Republic of Azerbaijan, established international justice and changed the realities in the region.

Azerbaijan is ready to normalize relations with Armenia, on the basis of strict observance of the principles of international law, in particular sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of international borders. We call on Armenia to respect these fundamental principles to ensure peace, security and prosperity in the region and comply with its international obligations.

On September 27, which is observed as the Day of Remembrance in our country by the Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, we honour with deep respect and esteem the memory of all our Martyrs who died for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.