

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
8 August 2023

Original: English

**General Assembly
Seventy-seventh session**

Agenda items 30, 57, 58, 66, 68, 73, 78, 84 and 132

Prevention of armed conflict**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for
Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and
displaced persons and humanitarian questions****Peacebuilding and sustaining peace****Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia
and related intolerance****Promotion and protection of human rights****Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts****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****Security Council
Seventy-eighth year****Letter dated 4 August 2023 from the Permanent Representative of
Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Upon instructions from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Western Azerbaijan Community, an organization dealing with the protection of the rights of Azerbaijanis expelled from present-day Armenia (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 30, 57, 58, 66, 68, 73, 78, 84 and 132, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 4 August 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 2 August 2023 from the Western Azerbaijan Community addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

I am writing to follow up on a matter of utmost importance regarding the Western Azerbaijan Community's call for the peaceful, safe and dignified return of Azerbaijanis expelled from Armenia, as conveyed in our letter to Your Excellency dated 7 April 2023 ([A/77/856-S/2023/281](#)).

The Community, despite its suffering at the hands of the Armenian authorities, has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to reconciliation, dialogue and understanding in seeking a peaceful resolution to this longstanding issue. On 11 March 2023, we reached out to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan of Armenia with a call to engage in dialogue in good faith and undo the injustice perpetrated by Armenia, causing the expelled Azerbaijanis to endure suffering for decades. A copy of our letter to the Prime Minister of Armenia is attached to the present letter (see enclosure).

However, I regret to inform you that the Government of Armenia chose not to respond to the Community's call for dialogue. Not only did the Government of Armenia choose to remain silent in the face of our call for dialogue, but it also exacerbated the pain of our forcibly displaced community by arrogantly denying our rightful claim to return to our ancestral lands.

Moreover, Armenia continues to incite and fuel separatist tendencies among ethnic Armenians living in Azerbaijan, and takes steps aimed at sabotaging the efforts of the Government of Azerbaijan to reintegrate them. Armenia's actions undermine the prospects of attaining peace and reconciliation in the region.

As a member of the United Nations, Armenia has specific obligations in the field of human rights, and has to address the legitimate concerns of the Western Azerbaijan Community and engage in constructive discussions to find an earliest resolution of the issue of our return to our homeland.

In a region deeply affected by separatist tendencies and armed aggression, the Community's commitment to dialogue and respect for the international law stands as an inspiring example. The Western Azerbaijan Community's stance deserves to be commended and supported, as it has consistently upheld the values of peace, reconciliation and dignity, as well as respect for the territorial integrity of States throughout its pursuit for the right to return.

In light of the above, I earnestly request Your Excellency's esteemed good offices and diplomatic influence to make the Government of Armenia to respond without further delay to the Community's call for dialogue grounded in human rights, peace and reintegration. Emphasizing the importance of peaceful coexistence, we expect Armenia to fulfil its obligations under international law and to enable our right to return in safety and with dignity.

Furthermore, I kindly urge the United Nations to take necessary measures to discourage Armenia from further provocations aimed at sabotaging the efforts of the Government of Azerbaijan to reintegrate Armenian inhabitants of the Karabakh region.

I also use this opportunity to respectfully renew our request to Your Excellency to consider taking concrete steps, such as sending a United Nations inter-agency

mission to Armenia, as sought by the Community in its previous letter, to assist in the safe, dignified and voluntary return of expelled Azerbaijanis to Armenia, as well as to render support in rehabilitation and reconstruction of the areas where Azerbaijanis shall return, and to promote reconciliation. Furthermore, I kindly request Your Excellency to direct the United Nations representatives in Azerbaijan to start dialogue with our Community on issues pertaining to our peaceful and human-rights agenda.

We appeal to your personal and first-hand knowledge of the hardships faced by refugees that you gained during your time as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. We count on your empathetic voice and deep understanding of the issue in addressing the plight of the Azerbaijanis forcibly displaced from Armenia and their right to return.

We remain confident that, under your esteemed leadership, the United Nations will help the cause of the Western Azerbaijan Community and advocate for a peaceful dialogue to resolve this longstanding issue.

(Signed) Dr. Aziz **Alakbarov**
Chairperson of the Board

Enclosure

Letter dated 11 March 2023 from the Western Azerbaijan Community addressed to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan

On behalf of Azerbaijanis expelled from Armenia, we are writing this letter to call on the Government of Armenia to start dialogue with us on realization of our inherent right to return to our homes in safety and dignity.

We Azerbaijanis suffered waves of ethnic cleansing and other wrongdoings by Armenia. As a result, no single Azerbaijani is left in Armenia. Our historical and cultural heritage, including mosques and graveyards, were destroyed, and toponyms were changed.

Based on the right to return enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other important international acts, we call on the Government of Armenia to create conditions for the safe and dignified return of Azerbaijanis expelled from the territory of Armenia. We also expect that Azerbaijani expellees will be allowed to exercise their individual as well as collective rights when they return home.

We acknowledge that the end of the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan in 2020 greatly increased the chances of attaining peace between the two peoples. In this regard, we welcome the ongoing diplomatic efforts to normalize the inter-State relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan based on international law. However, lasting peace can only be achieved if our rights are properly addressed.

To be clear, our demands for the peaceful return to our homes should not be misinterpreted or misrepresented as being detrimental to the territorial integrity or sovereignty of Armenia. As the Government of Azerbaijan pledged and took actionable measures to ensure the rights of Armenian residents of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan within its territorial integrity and sovereignty, the Government of Armenia must reciprocate by taking tangible steps to guarantee our rights.

Taking into account all those, we call on you to start talks with us on our return without further delay. Whereas we are always ready for a direct dialogue with the Government of Armenia on issues of mutual concern, the return process and subsequent ensuring our individual and collective rights shall be addressed within an appropriate international mechanism.

We have developed and published our concept for a peaceful, safe and dignified return, a copy of which is attached to our letter.

In a bid to achieve justice and reconciliation, we have embraced a peaceful approach grounded in human rights and reintegration, and reached out to you directly. It is now time for you to take the same step forward and engage in dialogue with us in good faith to undo the injustice perpetrated by Armenia that the expelled Azerbaijanis have been enduring for decades.

We – the Azerbaijanis expelled from Armenia – look forward to the day when we will return to our homes reviving thereby the once rich multiethnic and multicultural landscape, which was destroyed through ethnic cleansing.

(Signed) Dr. Aziz **Alakbarov**
Chairperson of the Board

(Signed) Prof. Gulchohra **Mammadova**
Member of the Supervisory Board

(Signed) Prof. Misir **Mardanov**
Chairperson of the Supervisory Board

(Signed) Vahid **Aziz**
Member of the Supervisory Board

(Signed) Prof. Ahliman **Amiraslanov**
Chairperson of the Elderly Council

(Signed) Dr. Dilara **Seyidzada**
Member the Women Council

(Signed) Prof. Elkhan **Huseynov**
Chairperson of the Council of Intellectuals

(Signed) Mubariz **Taghiyev**
Member of the Supervisory Board

(Signed) Malahat **Ibrahimgizi**
Chairperson of the Women Council

(Signed) Movlud **Suleymanlı**
Member of the Supervisory Board
