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Consideration of effective measures to enhance the
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Letter dated 10 February 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 bring to your attention the following in connection with the attack on the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On 27 January 2023, at around 8.32 a.m. local time, an armed attack was committed against the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The attack was thoroughly recorded by the Embassy's surveillance cameras.¹

On the day of the attack, the attacker drove past the Embassy twice with his car, at 8.05 a.m. and 8.24 a.m., to choose a suitable moment for the attack.

At 8.32 a.m., immediately after the Embassy staff entered through the main entrance of the Embassy's administrative building, the attacker deliberately crashed his vehicle at high speed into a vehicle belonging to the diplomatic mission of Azerbaijan that was parked in front of the Embassy building. Taking advantage of the Embassy staff member opening the door of the Embassy in reaction to the noise that resulted from the crash, the attacker took an automatic rifle from his vehicle, gestured to the Iranian diplomatic police officer posted at the entrance and entered the Embassy while opening fire.

During the next four minutes, until 8.36 a.m., the attacker fired numerous shots inside the Embassy at the Embassy staff. As a result, the head of the Embassy's security service, Orkhan Asgarov, died on the scene from a gunshot wound, and another staff member, Mahir Imanov, was seriously wounded in his right arm and left leg. Another staff member, Vasif Taghiyev, engaged with the attacker in hand-to-hand combat in order to neutralize him. Although the attacker fired at Mr. Taghiyev twice with a rifle and a pistol, wounding him in the shoulder and chin, Mr. Taghiyev

¹ The full recorded closed circuit television footage of the incident with English subtitles is available at www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=6zcSpZUO9-Q&feature=youtu.be.



managed to remove the magazine from the attacker's automatic rifle and push him out of the Embassy building.

At 8.34 a.m., two minutes after the attacker had entered the Embassy, an Iranian police vehicle arrived at the Embassy but, after a few seconds of conversation with a diplomatic police officer posted at the entrance, left the area.

Despite the attacker's forceful entry into the Embassy, the sustained gunshots coming from the Embassy and Mr. Taghiyev's calls for help to neutralize the attacker, the Iranian diplomatic police officer posted at the entrance did nothing to intervene in the incident and instead abandoned his post and left the area.

After the attacker was pushed out of the Embassy building for the first time, he took a spare magazine from his jacket, reloaded his rifle, gestured twice to someone and began to shoot continuously at the Embassy entrance, as well as at the windows of the apartments in the Embassy building, where the family members of the diplomats live. He also ignited the tires of the Embassy vehicle twice in order to burn it with a combustible substance.

Breaking the door of the Embassy with a heavy mallet taken from the trunk of his car, the attacker managed to enter the Embassy for the second time at 8.45 a.m. with the intent to kill diplomats and their family members. Mr. Taghiyev again forced the attacker to leave the building.

In the street, the attacker again gestured to some persons standing in the distance and, taking advantage of the police still not intervening in the incident, tried to set ablaze the Embassy vehicles parked in front of the Embassy building with a "Molotov cocktail", which he had retrieved from his vehicle. Only at 8.49 a.m., when the attacker accidentally set himself on fire, did the police immediately intervene. However, the police neither arrested nor even treated the attacker like a criminal, instead helping him to extinguish the flame. The attacker continued wandering in the area for some time, insulting the Embassy diplomats and verbally threatening to kill them. He freely approached the mallet that he had used to break down the Embassy building's door, retrieved it and placed in his vehicle.

Then, the attacker began to insist that Mr. Taghiyev, who was at that time demanding from the Embassy window the arrest of the attacker, come down. When Mr. Taghiyev came down, the attacker began to threaten him again and wanted to attack him. The police did not react to this either.

It was only at around 8.54 a.m., after merely spectating the deadly armed attack and the following aggressive acts of the attacker against the Embassy staff and premises for more than 20 minutes, that the police handcuffed the attacker, put him in a car and left the area. At that time, an unknown person with a mask on his face took some items from the attacker's car and left the area.

The facts that the attacker chose Friday (a non-working day in Iran) to commit the attack (to minimize circumstances that could interfere with the attack) and that he brought an automatic rifle and a full spare magazine, a "Colt"-type pistol, a "Molotov cocktail", a heavy mallet and other means to the scene, as well as the fact that the Iranian police did not intervene in the incident, give grounds for presuming that the incident was pre-planned.

The Republic of Azerbaijan demanded that the authorities of Iran conduct a proper investigation of the incident. The police investigation is ongoing.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 82, and of the Security Council.

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