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Seventy-eighth year****Letter dated 6 January 2023 from the Permanent Representative  
of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

On 5 January 2023, the Republic of Azerbaijan filed in the Registry of the International Court of Justice a request for the indication of provisional measures in the case concerning *Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Azerbaijan v. Armenia)*.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See International Court of Justice, “The Republic of Azerbaijan requests the Court to indicate provisional measures”, press release, 5 January 2023, available at [www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/181/181-20230105-PRE-01-00-EN.pdf](http://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/181/181-20230105-PRE-01-00-EN.pdf). See also Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, “Azerbaijan’s application against Armenia in the International Court of Justice”, press release, 5 January 2023, available at <https://mfa.gov.az/en/news/no00323>.



In its submission to the Court, Azerbaijan stated that Armenia was deliberately continuing to plant landmines and set booby traps in civilian areas and homes in the territory of Azerbaijan to which forcibly displaced Azerbaijanis were slated to return and that urgent action was needed to stem the mounting casualties caused in recent weeks by such actions.

Indeed, in violation of the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020, by which the sides committed to terminating all hostilities, Armenia not only has refused to share a complete set of maps of the hundreds of thousands of mines that it indiscriminately laid on the territories of Azerbaijan during their occupation, but also has planted new mines in the post-conflict period. Thus, since August 2022, more than 2,700 mines produced in Armenia in 2021 have been detected on the territory of Azerbaijan.

As a result, after the signing of the trilateral statement, 276 citizens of Azerbaijan have become mine victims – 46 of them were killed, including 35 civilians. Just three weeks ago, seven people, including four civilians engaged in reconstruction work, were injured and one killed by a mine explosion in the Kalbajar district of Azerbaijan.

The conclusion is clear: Armenia tries to inflict the maximum human losses possible in order to impede Azerbaijan's major reconstruction projects in the liberated territories and the return of hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons to their homes, in gross violation of international law, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

In this regard, Azerbaijan requested the International Court of Justice to order Armenia to immediately take all necessary steps to enable the prompt, safe and effective demining of the towns, villages and other areas to which Azerbaijani civilians will return and to cease targeting civilian areas with landmines and other explosives and using the Lachin road for that purpose.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 18, 30, 57, 58, 64, 66, 68, 70, 73, 84 and 132, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative