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**General Assembly**  
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**Security Council**  
**Seventy-seventh year**

**Prevention of armed conflict**

**Peacebuilding and sustaining peace**

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

**Promotion and protection of human rights**

**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**

## **Letter dated 27 October 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to refer to our earlier statements and communications, which totally refute and denounce the fabrications and distortions contained in the letter from the Permanent Representative of Armenia addressed to the then President of the Security Council ([S/2022/729](#)).<sup>1</sup>

The means and methods of disinformation evidenced in the letter differ little from those that Armenia has relied on in futile attempts to whitewash its own glaring

<sup>1</sup> Statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan dated 13 September 2022, annex to the letter dated 13 September 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/77/337-S/2022/690](#)); letter dated 13 September 2022 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan addressed to the Secretary-General, annex to the letter dated 13 September 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/77/338-S/2022/691](#)); statement of the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the Security Council at its 9132nd meeting in connection with the large-scale military provocations committed by the armed forces of Armenia along the State border with Azerbaijan, 15 September 2022 ([S/PV.9132](#), pp. 13–16); and letter dated 10 October 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the annexed commentary of the Press Service Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan on the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia dated 28 September 2022 ([A/77/517-S/2022/751](#)).



misdeeds and mass atrocities committed during nearly 30 years of aggression against my country.

Following the end of the conflict, in November 2020, instead of genuinely and faithfully engaging in the process of normalizing inter-State relations based on mutual recognition and respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity within their internationally recognized borders, as has been proposed and consistently advanced by Azerbaijan, Armenia gave preference to destabilizing actions, resorted to large-scale armed provocation along the border between the two States last month and is thus responsible for the escalation and the resulting casualties from both sides.

Azerbaijan responded adequately and will continue defending its territorial integrity and the rights and safety of its citizens by all available means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

It is an axiom that actions and claims, under whatever pretext or disguise, that are incompatible with international law are incapable of acquiring legitimacy. Therefore, while referring to Articles 2 and 33 of the Charter of the United Nations, Armenia must not forget about the lawful exceptions prescribed in the Charter itself, one of which is the exercise of the right of self-defence, under Article 51 of the Charter.

It is especially important for Armenia to remember this, given its daily violations of the ceasefire, continued mine planting in the border districts of Azerbaijan, uninterrupted references to the localities within Azerbaijan with old or fabricated titles, and refusal to completely withdraw the remnants of its armed forces and illegal armed bands from the territory of my country, return to Azerbaijan eight enclave border villages and prevent racist hate groups formed for the specific purpose of inciting and committing violence against Azerbaijanis from operating openly and notoriously on its territory, in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the prohibition on racial discrimination.

Armenia further asserts that its servicemen were captured during the hostilities last month "in flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law". The impression is that the author of this obviously awkward inference is unaware that the said Conventions are actually the key instruments of international humanitarian law and that they contain no prohibition whatsoever on capturing members of belligerent armed forces on the battlefield.

Nevertheless, on 4 October 2022, Azerbaijan repatriated 17 Armenian servicemen. While in detention, they were treated in line with the relevant norms of international humanitarian law, the wounded were provided with all the necessary medical care and the International Committee of the Red Cross had access to visit them.

As to the video images anonymously circulated on social media, to which the Permanent Representative of Armenia refers as "disturbing evidence", as early as 17 September 2022, the Office of the Prosecutor General of Azerbaijan informed the public of the investigation instituted in relation to these videos.

In turn, Armenia continues to deny numerous war crimes committed by its armed forces and those against Azerbaijani victims for which it is liable under international law. The reason is simple – these offences were part of the widespread and systematic State policy aimed at terrorizing, expelling and killing Azerbaijanis and fomenting hatred against them based on ethnic animus. Any departure from the policy of denial has been and remains a red line for the Government and the society at large in Armenia.

Therefore, it is not accidental that Armenia still refrains from shedding light on the fate of 3,890 missing Azerbaijanis, both civilians and military, who fell into its hands during the conflict in the 1990s but have not been seen since.

Furthermore, Armenia refuses to share accurate and comprehensive information on the hundreds of thousands of mines and other explosive devices that it planted in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan, thus deliberately and indiscriminately targeting human lives and attempting to impede post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and humanitarian efforts in these territories and the safe return of the internally displaced persons to their homes. As a result, already in the post-conflict period, the number of Azerbaijani civilians and military killed or injured by mine explosions has tragically increased and, over the past two years, has reached 266 victims.

Against this backdrop, it is abundantly clear that, instead of wasting time on distorting the facts and misleading the international community, Armenia must, first and foremost, abide by its international obligations, redress the harm caused to Azerbaijan and our people and concentrate on direct negotiations with a view to finding diplomatic solutions pertaining to inter-State relations.

Azerbaijan is fully committed to the objectives of a peaceful, secure, stable and prosperous region and will continue its efforts towards that end.

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

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative