



633 Third Avenue, Suite 3210, New York, NY, 10017
Tel: (212) 371-2559, 371-2832 (ext. 101); Fax: (212) 371-2784, (646) 738-6143

**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, in
exercise of the right of reply to the statement by the delegation of the Republic of Armenia**

**at the Sixth Committee of the seventy-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly
under agenda item 109: "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"**

4 October 2023

We resolutely reject as false and irresponsible the statement delivered by the delegation of Armenia under agenda item 109, which is nothing but an indicator of Armenia's stubborn unwillingness to abandon its disinformation campaign, comply with its international obligations and engage faithfully in advancing the peace agenda in the region.

Otherwise, the delegate of Armenia would not have imagined attributing to Azerbaijan fictitious conduct and would not have attempted to mislead the international community by apparent fabrications.

In fact, Armenia is trying to groundlessly blame Azerbaijan for offences that it itself repeatedly committed since the late 1980s and during the subsequent aggression against my country.

The common feature of all actions that Azerbaijan was compelled to take in response to Armenia's unlawful use of force and terrorist activities was their compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which provide States with the rights and responsibility to protect the lives and ensure the safety and security of all persons under their jurisdiction and defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity from imminent or immediate threats and aggressions.

What Armenia groundlessly calls "military attacks against the peaceful population" last month on 19-20 September, were local counter-terrorism measures taken by Azerbaijan on its sovereign soil in response to systematic armed provocations and mine terrorism committed by the Armenian armed forces illegally deployed and present on the territory of Azerbaijan. As such, they were in full accord with the right of self-defence, as provided in the Charter of the United Nations and customary international law. The counter-terrorism measures, which lasted less than 24 hours, targeted exclusively legitimate military objects and strictly adhered to the principle of distinction and feasible precautions to avoid civilian casualties.

Even the Prime Minister of Armenia had no choice but to admit publicly that rumors about mass casualties among the civilian population are not true and that there is no direct threat to the civilian population in the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan. It seems that the delegate of Armenia is unaware of this statement by his Prime Minister.

Two days ago, the United Nations mission that visited the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan reported that it “saw no damage to civilian public infrastructure, including hospitals, schools and housing, or to cultural and religious structures”, “did not observe any destruction of agricultural infrastructure” and “did not come across any reports – neither from the local population interviewed nor from the interlocutors – of incidences of violence against civilians following the latest ceasefire.”

The so-called evidence of the alleged involvement of Azerbaijan in terrorist activities is equally fallacious. There simply exists no credible evidence to support these irresponsible allegations.

On the contrary, since the late 1980s, Armenia and a number of terrorist organizations under its direction and control committed numerous terrorist acts against Azerbaijan, including in the capital city of Baku, in the subway, buses, trains and other means of transport, which killed thousands of the citizens of my country.

Armenia has not learned lessons from its deliberate contempt for international law and continues to honour convicted international terrorists as national heroes and allow organizations and individuals inciting anti-Azerbaijani hatred to operate on its territory in total impunity, in violation of the binding measures indicated by the International Court of Justice on 7 December 2021.

Armenia definitely must be the last to share knowledge and experience about counter-terrorism and international cooperation in this field.