



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
at the Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict**

**Delivered by Mrs. Narmin Ahangari, Charge d'affaires a.i.  
5 July 2023**

**Mr. President,**

We would like to thank the United Kingdom for convening the open debate on this very important topic.

We note with concern that, as reflected in the Report of the Secretary-General (A/77/895-S/2023/363), the number of children affected by grave violations increased compared to the previous year. As children continue to be targeted by grave violations, including killing and maiming, effective prevention and protection, as well as ending impunity remains a constant global challenge and an ongoing imperative.

First and foremost, ensuring full compliance with international humanitarian law is key for the effective protection of children in armed conflict. Equally important is to provide accountability for violations, as wrongful acts left unpunished often serve as a catalyst for the commission of new crimes.

**Mr. President,**

During its almost thirty years of aggression against Azerbaijan since the early 1990s, Armenia committed multiple war crimes, resulting in the deaths of ten thousand civilians, including hundreds of children, massive ethnic cleansing, and forcible displacement. The most notorious violations have caused the killing of hundreds of civilians, including 63 children within very few hours in the town of Khojaly. About 700 secondary schools and more than 800 pre-schools suffered considerably from the devastating effects of the aggression.

The scale of the brutalities is also evidenced by almost 4,000 citizens, including 71 children of Azerbaijan went missing in connection with the conflict, whose fate Armenia refrains to clarify. Most of the Azerbaijani captives were subjected to severe torture, including beatings, mutilation, starvation, and humiliation. The perpetrators of these numerous atrocities remain unpunished, in a clear disregard for international law.

Despite the end of the conflict, Armenia refuses to share accurate and comprehensive information about the hundreds of thousands of landmines it laid on the territory of Azerbaijan, which continues to kill and maim civilians. 10 children and youth are among 302 citizens of Azerbaijan who became victims of landmines since November 2020.

**Mr. President,**

No child should be robbed of childhood. Regretfully, in breach of the obligations on the protection of the rights of the child and international humanitarian law, Armenia has widely practiced the recruitment of children by armed forces and groups over decades. Of particular concern is exploiting children for hate propaganda and the promotion of intolerance against Azerbaijanis. The continued practice of child recruitment and the involvement of them into military training undermines the efforts for peace and security at the regional level.

It is important that the United Nations, its specialized institutions, and respective mandate holders, undertake the necessary measures, to ensure that Armenia is held accountable for its wrongdoings and that it ceases the unlawful use of children in military.

**Mr. President,**

In conclusion, shortly responding to the statement made earlier by the Delegation of Armenia, I would like to mention that the allegations in that statement about the so-called “blockade” of the Lachin-Khankandi road, the disruption of electricity and natural gas by Azerbaijan in its Garabagh Economic Region are false and provocative. Azerbaijan has never created impediments for the freedom of movement on the road by the residents and its use for the supply of food, medicine and other humanitarian purposes, as well as for access by the International Committee of the Red Cross. This is supported by numerous documented evidence.

**I thank you, Mr. President.**