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Agenda items 30, 58, 64, 66, 68, 73, 84 and 132

Prevention of armed conflict**Peacebuilding and sustaining peace****Promotion and protection of the rights of children****Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia
and related intolerance****Promotion and protection of human rights****Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts****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****Security Council
Seventy-eighth year****Letter dated 13 January 2023 from the Permanent Representative
of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In reference to our previous communications,¹ I am writing to update you on Azerbaijan's efforts to establish the fate of several thousand of its citizens who went missing during the aggression of Armenia since the early 1990s.

The unlawful targeting of Azerbaijani civilians and peaceful settlements, the taking and holding of hostages, the mistreatment and summary execution of prisoners of war and civilian detainees, ethnic cleansing, the extensive destruction of inhabited areas and civilian infrastructure and the desecration and eradication of Azerbaijani cultural and religious heritage were the methods and means deliberately used by Armenia to achieve its military objectives.

The tragic consequences of the aggression include 3,890 missing citizens of Azerbaijan, including 719 civilians. Among the civilians, 71 are children, 267 are women and 326 are elderly.

¹ [A/73/896-S/2019/476](#), [A/74/676-S/2020/90](#), [A/74/884-S/2020/523](#), [A/75/864-S/2021/412](#), [A/75/875-S/2021/433](#), [A/75/1007-S/2021/765](#) and [A/76/736-S/2022/176](#).



It was established that 872 persons (605 servicemen and 267 civilians, including 29 children, 98 women and 112 elderly) were taken either as prisoners of war or hostages. Despite the fact that they were seen alive at the moment of captivity, their whereabouts are unknown.

Moreover, dozens of Azerbaijani detainees died or disappeared in Armenian custody even after being visited by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The territories of Azerbaijan liberated from occupation at the end of 2020 provided compelling evidence of gross and systematic violations of international law by Armenia.

Remains presumably belonging to 118 persons were discovered in mass graves in these territories between February 2021 and November 2022. These graves shed light on the wilful killing of Azerbaijani civilians and other persons protected under international humanitarian law.

A mass grave discovered in a mountain cave near the village of Bashlibel (Kalbajar district) revealed that the armed forces of Armenia fired directly upon the villagers hiding in the cave, killing at least 12 of them, including 2 children and 5 elderly.²

The remains of children and women were also found in a mass grave in the village of Farrukh (Khojaly district).

Another source of evidence of extreme brutality are the mass graves discovered in the village of Edilli (Khojavand district), which hold the remains of a dozen Azerbaijanis whose hands and feet were bound with wire and rope, indicating their summary execution.

Mass graves were also discovered in other liberated districts of Azerbaijan.

For almost 30 years of war and occupation, Armenia refused to account for the missing persons or to conduct investigations into their fate.

Only in 2022, Armenia handed over to Azerbaijan 67 bags containing mixed remains belonging to 106 persons. It cannot but cause deep indignation that Armenia has kept these remains for three decades, contrary to all moral canons, in violation of international humanitarian law and in open contempt for the right of families to know the fate of their loved ones.

Moreover, Armenia continues to refrain from providing information on the locations of mass graves in the liberated territories of Azerbaijan.

Ongoing search operations carried out by Azerbaijan are also hampered by a serious mine threat, while Armenia refuses to provide complete and accurate maps of hundreds of thousands of mines that it planted in the territories of Azerbaijan during their occupation.

Both the General Assembly and the Security Council have adopted a series of resolutions on missing persons, reaffirming the obligations of States under international humanitarian law to prevent enforced disappearances and to account for missing persons. The rights of the victims and their families require these obligations to be translated into immediate action.

It is important that the international community insist on Armenia's strict compliance with international law by effectively investigating and prosecuting serious violations committed by its armed forces during the aggression, as well as by providing information about the missing persons, the location of remains and any

² For more information, see [A/75/864-S/2021/412](#) and [A/75/875-S/2021/433](#).

undisclosed mass grave sites, and complete and accurate maps of the minefields that it had laid in the territory of Azerbaijan.

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

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



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**General Assembly
Seventy-seventh session**

Agenda items 30, 58, 66, 73, 84 and 132

Prevention of armed conflict

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

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

Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

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**

**Security Council
Seventy-eighth year**

Letter dated 13 January 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I write to express our strongest protest against the letter from the Permanent Representative of Armenia dated 20 December 2022 ([A/77/679-S/2022/988](#)), which contains as its annex a worthless paper in the name of a fictitious entity and on behalf of a person who is currently under an arrest warrant as a suspect of war crimes, terrorism, organized crime and other serious offences.

The locality, to which the Permanent Representative of Armenia provocatively refers by various fabricated titles, is the internationally recognized sovereign territory of Azerbaijan, which was under Armenia's unlawful occupation for nearly 30 years. This was consistently reaffirmed in Security Council resolutions [822 \(1993\)](#), [853 \(1993\)](#), [874 \(1993\)](#) and [884 \(1993\)](#).

The legal name of this locality is the Karabakh economic region of Azerbaijan, which consists of the city of Khankandi and the districts of Aghjabadi, Aghdam, Barda, Fuzuli, Khojaly, Khojavand, Shusha and Tartar.

The duties to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and not intervene in matters within their domestic jurisdiction, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, require, inter alia, that only geographical names established by legitimate and competent national authorities in relation to their territory be recognized and used in the United Nations.



The letter of the Permanent Representative of Armenia is evidently inconsistent with these duties and is indicative of his Government's attempts to derail the normalization process and sabotage the previously agreed principles and commitments, including in particular those relating to mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

As to the Lachin road in Azerbaijan, the comprehensive information on this issue, which completely refutes insinuations of Armenia about the alleged closure of the road and humanitarian crisis, was provided in our statement at the meeting of the Security Council on 20 December 2022 (see [S/PV.9228](#), pp. 12–15).

Armenia's policy of aggression, occupation and ethnic cleansing has failed once and for all. There will be no return to the past, nor will Armenia benefit from denying the prospects of the normalization process in favour of illusions, falsehoods and provocations.

In this regard, it is more important than ever for the entire international community to support bilateral and result-oriented talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan based on the agreed principles and commitments. The still remaining opportunity to establish a sustainable and lasting peace must not be missed.

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, 73, 84 and 132, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar Aliyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative