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Agenda items 70, 71, 72 and 135

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

Right of peoples to self-determination

Promotion and protection of human rights

**The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide,
war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity**

**Security Council
Seventy-sixth year**

Letter dated 14 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing in connection with the inauguration of the “military trophy park” attended by the President of Azerbaijan in Baku on 12 April to display a macabre exhibition of helmets, equipment and personal belongings of the Armenian soldiers murdered during the 44-day war, which was unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) with the military support of Turkey and the involvement of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries in 2020.¹

The “park” also features a grotesque “collection” of morbid wax mannequins of dying or captured Armenian soldiers (see annex II).² All wax figures in the “collection” portraying ethnic Armenians, including those of the Armenian soldiers who are depicted being killed, are caricatured with exaggerated facial features similar to in Nazi-era propaganda posters. Tellingly, the “wax museum” depicts bleeding and chained ethnic Armenian servicemen, while Azerbaijan continues to hold in captivity numerous prisoners of war, in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law.

Notably, the inauguration of the “exhibition” took place on 12 April, the day on which the United Nations celebrates humanity’s first journey beyond Earth and the accomplishments of international cooperation in the peaceful exploration of outer space in commemoration of the date of the first human space flight, pioneered by a

* Reissued for technical reasons on 27 April 2021.

¹ “Azerbaijan’s president poses with helmets taken from fallen Armenian soldiers at opening of museum to bloody Nagorno-Karabakh war”, www.rt.com/russia/520837-azerbaijan-president-photo-armenian-helmets/.

² “Каски, одежда и куклы в форме армянских солдат стали экспонатами в азербайджанском парке”, www.bbc.com/russian/news-56735608.



Soviet astronaut in 1961.³ Sixty years after this historic flight, which uplifted the hearts and minds of millions still reeling from the calamities of World War II and created a deeply authentic moment of optimism and unity, the values of humanity have come under an abhorrent attack, as one particular Member State has chosen that date to celebrate not the accomplishments of the peaceful use of outer space but a most barbaric, indefensible collection of dehumanizing imagery, so awfully reminiscent of the Nazi playbook.

The celebration of human death and suffering at the highest political level in Baku through the propagation of denigrating, dehumanizing imagery of ethnic Armenians is yet another manifestation of the State-led policies of inciting anti-Armenian hatred and is an overt demonstration of a genocidal intent. Clearly, this “military trophy park” is not just one extreme isolated incident, as the leadership of Azerbaijan has been dehumanizing Armenians for at least three decades in an effort to indoctrinate Azerbaijani citizens, especially children,⁴ through Armenophobia.

Ridiculing the death and suffering of the Armenians during April, the month of the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, is no coincidence, but a reminder that it is still being celebrated with impunity by some.

I am transmitting herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia made in connection with the opening of the aforementioned “park” (see annex I).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 70, 71, 72 and 135, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mher **Margaryan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

³ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/65/271>.

⁴ <https://twitter.com/NeilPHauer/status/1382453449854443522?s=20>.

Annex I to the letter dated 14 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia on the opening of the “park” in Baku dedicated to the Artsakh war

13 April 2021

On April 12, with the participation of the President of Azerbaijan a “park” dedicated to Artsakh war was opened in Baku, where along with the Armenian military equipment the mannequins of the servicemen of the Armenian armed forces, personal belongings of the soldiers of Armenia and Artsakh and the helmets of killed Armenian servicemen were displayed. The opening ceremony of the “park” and the remarks of the President of Azerbaijan demonstrate that the above-mentioned action is aimed at publicly degrading the memory of the victims of the war, missing persons and prisoners of war, violating the rights and dignity of their families.

At a time when the consequences of the war unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh haven’t been fully addressed, when numerous Armenian prisoners of war are being held in Azerbaijani captivity, with the organization of such an “exhibition” wrapped in the elements of marauding, Azerbaijan is finally consolidating its position as a global center of intolerance and xenophobia. Such anti-human behavior of the Azerbaijani high-ranking leadership is more vocal than any statement or PR-campaign on peace, tolerance and multiculturalism.

On one hand, the Azerbaijani leadership is making observations about possible revanchisme on the part of Armenia, and on the other hand, with such exhibition, attempts to perpetuate the revanchisme, inhumanity and interethnic hatred. Such steps manifest how far the Azerbaijani leadership stands from its own declarative statements on the “post-conflict” situation, regional peace and reconciliation.

Annex II to the letter dated 14 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General



