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Agenda items 34, 70, 71, 72, 81, 86 and 135

Prevention of armed conflict

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

Right of peoples to self-determination

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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-sixth year**

**Letter dated 22 April 2021 from the Permanent Representative of
Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Further to my previous letters regarding Azerbaijan's systematic failure to adhere to the United Nations Charter and the norms and principles of international law, as exemplified through its persistent violations of the principle of the non-use of force and the obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force, I am writing in connection with the televised interview of the President of Azerbaijan of 20 April, which contains open threats and territorial claims against the Republic of Armenia.

During the said interview, the President of Azerbaijan, among other incendiary remarks, referred to the Syunik province of Armenia by claiming that "it was taken away from us 101 years ago" and threatened to use force to create the so-called "Zangezur corridor", "whether Armenia wants it or not".¹ Furthermore, he referred to his country's recent use of force in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by stating that, "just as I said before and during the war, I said that they must get out of our lands or we will expel them by force", while threatening that "the same will apply" to the so-called "Zangezur corridor".²

¹ "Interview with Azerbaijan Television", available at <https://president.az/articles/51216>.

² Ibid.



Such statements come to demonstrate, once again, Azerbaijan's blatant espousal of the ideology of warmongering, violence and incitement of anti-Armenian hatred, and constitute a clearly detectable indication of threat directed not only against the Armenian people and their right to life in their homeland, but also to the peace and security of the region as a whole. They also manifest, in most explicit terms, that Azerbaijan, indeed, unleashed the war and destruction amid the global pandemic in 2020, in an attempt to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict by force,³ contrary to its pre-eminent obligations under international law, which prohibits the use of force to resolve disputes, and in flagrant violation of the Secretary-General's appeal for an immediate global ceasefire.

Azerbaijan's territorial claims to "historical Azerbaijani lands" and threats to use force in order to create the so-called "Zangezur corridor" are groundless from the perspective of either history or international law. Such rhetoric runs counter to the provisions of the trilateral statement of 9 November 2020 on a complete ceasefire and termination of all hostilities in the area of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which contains no reference to the "corridor" that the President of Azerbaijan threatened to create by force.

At present, Azerbaijan continues to hold in captivity numerous prisoners of war, in gross violation of international humanitarian law, while celebrating violence, racism and dehumanization of ethnic Armenians in the "military trophy park" in Baku, which bears a most striking resemblance to the Nazi-era propaganda imagery.

Armenia condemns the promulgation of incendiary rhetoric, racist ideology and threats to use force, which only serve to destabilize the situation in the region, and reaffirms the imperative of the full and timely implementation, in good faith, of the commitments under international humanitarian law, in particular those related to the release of the prisoners of war, hostages and other detained persons.

I kindly ask that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 70, 71, 72, 81, 86 and 135, and of the Security Council.

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

³ See also the letter dated 29 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/75/693-S/2020/1307](#)).