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IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE
ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 1 April 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have already had the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic concerning the inhuman act perpetrated by the authorities of the Armenian Republic - the execution on 15 February 1994 of Azerbaijani prisoners and hostages in the prisoner-of-war camp near the town of Spitak, Republic of Armenia (S/1994/206, annex). On 16 February 1994 the press service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia officially acknowledged the executions of Azerbaijani prisoners, emphasizing that "they were killed while attempting to escape".

It was not until 23 March 1994 that, thanks to the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the bodies of dozens of victims were handed over to Azerbaijan.

The findings of the forensic report prepared by a commission from the Ministry of Public Health contradict the affirmation by the press service of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, in addition, indicate that, prior to their death, the victims were ill-treated and tortured. The report established that R. R. Agayev, E. G. Akhmedov, E. S. Mamedov, G. K. Mamedov, F. G. Kouliyev and E. M. Akhmedov were killed by shots to the temple and that B. A. Guiyassov was shot point blank in the face.

R. R. Agayev, E. S. Mamedov and E. M. Akhmedov had had their ears cut off and R. R. Agayev had been eviscerated: heart, liver and spleen were missing.

The examination of the body of I. S. Nasjirov revealed clear signs of cachexia, which is indicative of prolonged undernourishment. The body of F. G. Gousseinov bore numerous external marks of physical torture.

On 26 March 1994 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic communicated the findings of the forensic report on the bodies of the executed Azerbaijani prisoners in a note to embassies of foreign Governments accredited to the Azerbaijani Republic and to international humanitarian organizations.

The note stated that "the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic expressing its indignation at the inhuman act perpetrated by the authorities of the Armenian Republic and the flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, in particular the Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, appeals to the international community to vigorously condemn the criminal act perpetrated against Azerbaijani prisoners of war and demand that the authorities of the Republic of Armenia put an end to the massacre of Azerbaijani hostages and prisoners still in the territory of the Republic of Armenia".

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under item 114 of the agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
