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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Note verbale dated 8 April 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and has the honour to submit herewith the statement of the Azerbaijani community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the illegal “elections” held on 31 March 2020 in the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan occupied by the Republic of Armenia (see annex).

The Permanent Mission kindly requests the Office of the High Commissioner to circulate the present note verbale and the annex thereto* as a document of the forty-third session of the Human Rights Council, under agenda item 4.

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.



Annex to the note verbale dated 8 April 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Statement by the Azerbaijani Community of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan

On March 31, 2020 another "election show" under the name "presidential and parliamentary elections" was staged in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This step of the aggressor Armenia and its accomplice – the occupying regime – has no legal basis and is a great stain on the name of democracy and elections.

At a time when the world is facing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and despite the threat posed by it to human lives, Armenia and the occupying regime, remaining true to their disposition, continue their illegal activities even under these circumstances and hold a show called "elections." This is yet another sign of "values" that Armenia and the illegal regime are based on, and is the indicator of their "attitude" towards the Armenian community of the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, whom they hold captive. It confirms how unimportant the lives and destinies of those people are for the regime. We believe that the Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh will finally realize that they are a tool in the hands of Armenia and the illegal regime, which do not value them and turn them into a victim of fake games instead of protecting them from the threat of pandemic.

In the past, some people influenced by Armenian diaspora visited the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in order to observe this kind of fake "elections". This time these people did not demonstrate any interest and did not participate in the latest so-called "elections".

The holding of the illegal "elections" in the occupied Nagorno-Karabakh region is a gross violation of the fundamental human rights of Azerbaijanis who have been subjected to ethnic cleansing and expelled from their lands. The UN, OSCE, other international organizations and the international community have repeatedly condemned the illegal "elections" in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and declared the inviolability of Azerbaijan's internationally recognized borders. Statements given by states and international organizations starting from yesterday once again demonstrate that no one recognizes these "elections", nor considers them legal.

These illegal "elections" are another blow to the negotiation process and serve to escalate the situation.

We are convinced that the Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh will take part in the legitimate elections which will be held in accordance with the Constitution and other laws of our country, alongside with the Azerbaijanis who will return after the restoration of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
