



# Asamblea General

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## Consejo de Derechos Humanos

### 44º período de sesiones

30 de junio a 17 de julio de 2020

Tema 4 de la agenda

### Situaciones de derechos humanos que requieren la atención del Consejo

## **Nota verbal de fecha 30 de junio de 2020 dirigida a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de Armenia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra**

La Misión Permanente de la República de Armenia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones internacionales en Ginebra saluda atentamente a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos y tiene el honor de transmitir adjuntas las observaciones formuladas por el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la República de Nagorno Karabaj (República de Artsaj) con motivo del 29º aniversario de la operación Koltso (“Anillo”), cuyo objetivo fue la deportación de la población armenia de las aldeas fronterizas de Artsaj (véase el anexo).

La Misión Permanente de Armenia solicita a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado que tenga a bien distribuir la presente nota verbal y su anexo\* como documento del 44º período de sesiones del Consejo de Derechos Humanos, en relación con el tema 4 de la agenda.

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\* Se reproduce tal como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó únicamente.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 30 June 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Comment by the Artsakh Foreign Ministry dated 30 April 2020 on the 29th Anniversary of the Operation ‘Koltso’ (‘Ring’) aimed at the Deportation of the Armenian Population of the Borderline Villages of Artsakh**

29 years ago, under the direct organization and coordination of the central authorities of the USSR and Azerbaijan, a large-scale operation ‘Koltso’ (‘Ring’) was carried out to deport the Armenian population of the borderline villages of Artsakh. This bloody operation ultimately transferred the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict to the military plane, initiating the subsequent full-scale aggression of Azerbaijan against the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic).

On April 30, 1991, the massive shelling of Getashen and Martunashen villages of the Shahumyan region launched the operation ‘Koltso’, in the course of which tanks, combat helicopters, and artillery were employed for the first time against the civilians. Azerbaijani special police units (OMON), with the support of internal troops of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Soviet Army, broke into Armenian villages formally supposedly for "checking the passport regime", but in fact for killing, robbery, terror against the Armenian population, followed by deportation.

As a result of the military-police actions, dozens of Armenian villages of Northern Artsakh, as well as the Shahumyan, Hadrut and Shushi regions were destroyed, about ten thousand people were deported, over 100 people were killed, and hundreds of people were taken hostage. The fate of many of them remains unknown so far.

The Azerbaijani authorities considered the operation ‘Koltso’ as the beginning of the complete cleansing of Artsakh from the Armenian population. It became another manifestation of the policy of ethnic cleansing conducted by Azerbaijan in 1988-1991 in Sumgait, Baku and other settlements of the Azerbaijani SSR, as well as in the villages of Northern Artsakh.

The Armenian pogroms carried out by the Azerbaijani authorities in response to the demand of the people of Artsakh to exercise its inalienable right to self-determination and the subsequent military aggression against the Republic of Artsakh in 1991, which was repeated in April 2016, demonstrated that only the establishment and strengthening of an independent statehood can ensure the right of the people of Artsakh to live freely and safely in its homeland. The international community’s recognition of this reality and the international recognition of the Republic of Artsakh will become an additional deterrent against Azerbaijan’s desire to unleash a new war and will ensure peace and security in the entire region of the South Caucasus.