



# Assemblée générale

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## Conseil des droits de l'homme

### Quarante-quatrième session

30 juin-17 juillet 2020

Point 4 de l'ordre du jour

### Situations des droits de l'homme qui requièrent l'attention du Conseil

## Note verbale datée du 30 juin 2020, adressée au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente de l'Arménie auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

La Mission permanente de la République d'Arménie auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève présente ses compliments au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme et a l'honneur de lui faire tenir ci-joint le texte de la déclaration faite par le Ministère des affaires étrangères de la République du Haut-Karabakh (République d'Artsakh) à l'occasion du vingt-neuvième anniversaire de l'opération *Koltso* (« Anneau »), dont l'objectif était la déportation de la population arménienne des villages frontaliers d'Artsakh (voir annexe).

La Mission permanente de la République d'Arménie prie le Haut-Commissariat de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente note verbale et de son annexe\* comme document de la quarante-quatrième session du Conseil des droits de l'homme, au titre du point 4 de l'ordre du jour.

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\* La déclaration est reproduite en annexe telle qu'elle a été reçue, dans la langue de l'original seulement.



**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.