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**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications
for international peace, security and development**

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 29 September 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 27 September 2020, the armed forces of Armenia subjected the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan along the front line and the populated areas in my country to intensive fire, with the use of large-calibre weapons, artillery and mortars, in blatant violation of international law. These acts have resulted in numerous deaths and injuries among civilians and the military. Extensive damage was inflicted upon the civilian property and infrastructure in the area. Even hospitals are not spared.

In order to repulse the aggression and ensure the safety of the civilian population, the armed forces of Azerbaijan have undertaken countermeasures, in the exercise of the right of self-defence and in full compliance with international humanitarian law.

The current outbreak of hostilities has become the consequence of Armenia's attempts to derail the peace process, its inflammatory and warmongering statements and consistent provocations on the ground, including the deliberate attacks in April 2016 and July 2020, the incursion of the sabotage reconnaissance group into the territory of Azerbaijan this August and actions aimed at changing the demographic, cultural and physical character of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan with a view to their colonization and annexation.

As to the causes, course and consequences of the war, as is known, in the early 1990s, Armenia used military force against Azerbaijan to fulfil its long-nurtured plan of seizing the territory of my country. The aggression was well prepared. As a result, a significant part of Azerbaijan's territory, including Nagorny Karabakh, the seven adjacent districts and some exclaves, was seized by Armenia and remains under its occupation until now. The war claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people and caused considerable destruction of civilian infrastructure and property in Azerbaijan. The occupied territories were ethnically cleansed of all Azerbaijanis. More than 1 million people in my country have become internally displaced persons or refugees.



It should be particularly noted that, since the very first day of the conflict, combat operations have been conducted exclusively inside the territory of Azerbaijan, almost in the middle of the country. The hostilities today are also taking place on Azerbaijan's soil.

In 1993, the United Nations Security Council adopted four resolutions (resolutions [822 \(1993\)](#), [853 \(1993\)](#), [874 \(1993\)](#) and [884 \(1993\)](#)), condemning the use of force against Azerbaijan and the occupation of its territories and reaffirming respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory. In response to territorial claims and forcible actions, the Security Council confirmed that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an integral part of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Numerous decisions and documents adopted by other international organizations are framed along the same lines.

The achievement of peace, security and stability demand, first and foremost, the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the restoration of the territorial integrity of my country within its internationally recognized borders and the return of the internally displaced persons to their homes and properties.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 40, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
