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Seventy-fifth year****Prevention of armed conflict****Right of peoples to self-determination****The responsibility to protect and the prevention of
genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes
against humanity****Letter dated 8 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of
Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia regarding the deliberate targeting of the Holy Savior Ghazanchetsots Cathedral of Shushi, the cultural capital of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) (see annex).

Attacks against religious sites and monuments of cultural heritage perpetrated by Azerbaijan manifest its long-standing barbaric policy of erasing any trace of civilizational presence of the Armenian people in the region. These heinous war crimes by Azerbaijan replicate the style of international terrorists and should be strongly condemned by the international community.

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 71 and 135, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mher **Margaryan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 8 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Armenia regarding the targeting of the places of religious worship and cultural monuments in Shushi

8 October 2020

On October 8, the armed forces of Azerbaijan launched airstrikes at the masterpiece of the Armenian architecture – the Holy Savior Ghazanchetsots Cathedral located in the cultural capital of Artsakh, Shushi, causing significant damages.

This is another crime of the military-political leadership of Azerbaijan, which reveals its inhuman essence. Nevertheless, this action fully fits into its policy of Armenophobia developed for decades. Azerbaijan, which has completely annihilated the Armenian cultural heritage in Nakhichevan and in other parts of the historical homeland of the Armenian people, now throughout the ongoing military aggression against Artsakh is trying to deprive Armenians of Artsakh of their homeland and historical memory.

With these actions Azerbaijan replicates behaviour of its newly acquired allies – the infamous international terrorist organizations, who are responsible for destruction of the numerous historical-cultural monuments in the Middle East.

We condemn in the strongest way this heinous crime of Azerbaijan, which is also a challenge to the whole civilized humanity.

In this regard, we remind the Azerbaijani military-political authorities that targeting religious worship sites and cultural monuments is war crime as enshrined in international humanitarian law, the responsibility for which has no statute of limitations.





