



# General Assembly Security Council

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**General Assembly  
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Agenda items 35, 40, 86 and 135

**Security Council  
Seventy-fifth year**

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

**The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan**

**The rule of law at the national and international levels**

**The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide,  
war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity**

## **Letter dated 28 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Further to our previous communications in connection with the outbreak of hostilities erupted in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan since 27 September 2020 as a result of the act of aggression perpetrated by Armenia against Azerbaijan, I inform you of the following.

On 28 October 2020, the armed forces of Armenia perpetrated another barbaric attack on the city of Barda in Azerbaijan, which is situated 100 km from the border with Armenia and 30 km from the conflict zone.

The city was hit with 300-mm Smerch multiple-launch rocket systems containing prohibited cluster munitions, claiming the lives of 21 civilian residents of Barda, injuring more than 70 civilians and destroying or seriously damaging the civilian infrastructure and private and public property.

The strike on Barda has become the second deliberate attack on the city with cluster munitions within 20 hours. The shelling of Barda a day earlier resulted in the killing of 4 civilians, including a seven-year old child, and injuring 13 civilians.

In total, since 27 September 2020, as a result of direct and indiscriminate attacks of the armed forces of Armenia, 90 civilians, including children, women and the elderly, have been killed, more than 380 civilians have been wounded and some 2,300 private houses, 92 apartment buildings and more than 400 other civilian objects have been either destroyed or damaged.

The Government of Azerbaijan has invited Human Rights Watch and other international human rights non-governmental organizations to visit Barda and other



cities of Azerbaijan that have been subjected to devastating missile strikes to directly witness and document the committed crimes.

These systematic inhuman acts once again reveal the criminal and terrorist nature of those in Armenia ordering to murder civilians and cause indiscriminate or disproportionate harm to the civilian population of Azerbaijan. The deliberate targeting of the densely populated areas in Azerbaijan also demonstrates the falsity of the image of the so-called “victimized Armenians”, which Armenia and its diaspora are tirelessly trying to impose by means of outrageous fabrications to cover up own hate crimes and racially motivated policies.

The political and military leadership of Armenia and the agents of the puppet racist regime it has set up in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan bear responsibility for these heinous crimes and will be brought to account.

I enclose a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding the rocket attack on Barda (see annex) and should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35, 40, 86 and 135, and of the Security Council.

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

**Annex to the letter dated 28 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**28 October 2020**

On 28 October 2020, the armed forces of Armenia hit the city of Barda of Azerbaijan with a Smerch multiple rocket launcher system, causing serious civilian casualties. As a result of the treacherous missile attack on the city of Barda, 21 civilians, including children, were killed and more than 70 civilians were seriously injured.

Yet another targeting of the residential area in the city, which is situated far away from the conflict zone and has no signs of military targets, once again exposes the terrorist nature of Armenia.

The deliberate killing of the peaceful population in the city of Barda by the armed forces of Armenia constitutes the act of genocide, war crime and crime against humanity.

It is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law by Armenia, and the leadership of Armenia, including the country's Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, bear full responsibility for this crime.

By attacking the Azerbaijani residential areas and civilians during the formally declared humanitarian ceasefire and on the eve of the Geneva meeting of the Foreign Ministers of both States with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group co-chairs, Armenia pursues the obvious purpose of undermining the negotiations, escalating tensions and involving third States in the conflict.

To remain silent about the barbaric acts of Armenia and impunity for these crimes against the Azerbaijani peaceful population is tantamount to inciting perpetrators to further atrocities. The international community should take necessary steps to stop Armenia from violating international law and intentional killing of civilians and demand the withdrawal of its armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan will do its utmost to ensure that those responsible for these inhuman acts not escape justice and are held accountable.

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