



General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General
30 October 2020

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-fifth session
Agenda items 34, 71 and 135

Security Council
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 29 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

For more than one month, Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) has been systematically exposed to massive military attacks in violation of the norms of international law and principles of humanity. The senseless, unprovoked, disproportionate violence unleashed against the people of Artsakh amidst a global health crisis has already claimed thousands of lives.

Throughout this period, Azerbaijan has been conducting massive air bombardments, artillery and missile strikes targeting civilian population in more than 120 settlements in Artsakh, including the capital city Stepanakert, as well as Martakert, Martuni, Shushi and Hadrut. Vital infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals, roads, electricity networks and other essential facilities came under deliberate attack, causing immense suffering to thousands of civilians, who have to seek shelter in basements, deprived of access to food, water, basic amenities and medical services.

On 28 October, the armed forces of Azerbaijan launched targeted strikes on the residential areas of Stepanakert and Shushi, causing casualties among the civilian population and completely destroying the maternity hospital of Stepanakert in gross violation of international humanitarian law and customary law. The Geneva Conventions clearly outline that medical personnel and facilities should be respected and protected at all times.

Perpetrated amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Azerbaijan's heinous actions are aimed at denying people access to essential services, erasing decades-long efforts to fight disease, reduce child mortality and improve maternal health, and, as such, reveal the criminal purpose of the leadership of Azerbaijan of making life in Artsakh impossible. Moreover, the decision of the political-military leadership of Azerbaijan to target a maternity ward whose location was well known



to the military clearly demonstrates the genocidal intention “to destroy, in part or in whole, a racial, ethnic, religious, or other group” by preventing births of a particular ethnic group in Artsakh.

I enclose the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia made in relation to the recent attacks (see annex) and 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 29 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Foreign Ministry of Armenia

29 October 2020

During the last three days, the peaceful settlements of Nagorno-Karabakh have been under continuous attacks with the use of various types of missiles, artillery and UAVs, as well as by the air force bombings of Azerbaijan.

Since the second half of October 28 till now Stepanakert, Shushi and Martakert have been under continuous attack. Stepanakert and Martakert are under the most intense bombing, which have resulted in heavy damages among civilian population and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Amid the pandemic, the hospitals and other healthcare infrastructures have been targeted. There are numerous casualties and wounded.

The war crimes of the Azerbaijani regime against the civilian population are accompanied by the direct involvement of Turkey and the foreign terrorist fighters, and pursue the objective to annihilate the Armenian people of the Nagorno-Karabakh.

Despite the calls of the international community and the efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group Co-Chairs, Azerbaijan persistently rejects the implementation of the ceasefire agreements and the introduction of the verification mechanisms to maintain the ceasefire in the conflict zone.

While pursuing its genocidal intent and evading the responsibility, Azerbaijan simultaneously launched a campaign based on falsification and fabrications to mislead the international community.

Azerbaijan's policy of crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing is doomed to failure and will encounter the resolute resistance of the people of Artsakh, which will be carried out through all the means necessary for self-defence.
