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Agenda items 34, 71, 72 and 135

Prevention of armed conflict**Right of peoples to self-determination****Promotion and protection of human rights****The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide,
war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity****Security Council
Seventy-sixth year****Letter dated 1 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of
Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia (see annex I) and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic) (see annex II) on the thirty-third anniversary of the anti-Armenian massacres in Sumgait.

I kindly request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 71, 72 and 135, and of the Security Council.

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



Annex I to the letter dated 1 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia on the thirty-third anniversary of the anti-Armenian massacres in Sumgait

27 February 2021

33 years ago, on February 27–29, 1988, pre-planned massacres of Armenians were carried out in the city of Sumgait (Azerbaijan) amid the encouragement of the Azerbaijani authorities and the permissiveness of the law enforcement bodies. Hundreds of Armenians were killed, including women, children and elderly, and thousands of Armenians were forcibly displaced.

Sumgait massacre was a response to the aspiration of the people of Artsakh to assert their inalienable right to a dignified and safe life in their historical homeland and to exercise their right to self-determination. Azerbaijan opposed the attempts of exercising human rights with the policy of collective punishment, subjecting the Armenian population of the Sumgait town to severe violence and torture.

The atrocities of Sumgait instigated the ethnic cleansing and massacres of Armenians in other cities of Azerbaijan, such as Baku and Gandzak. Moreover, the unequivocal justification of such crime, the glorification of the murderers for killing Armenians were reflected in the efforts of the Azerbaijani authorities to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with the use of force.

Last year, on September 27 the full-fledged war unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh and its people was accompanied by similar war crimes against the Armenian identity, with one difference – the murders of the civilians were not carried out by controlled mobs, but by servicemen of the Azerbaijani armed forces and the relevant videos were uploaded on the Internet.

During the 44-day war, the Azerbaijani armed forces, driven by a sense of impunity, committed numerous violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, which are manifestations of mass atrocities, including ethnic cleansing and war crimes. While adhering to the behaviour of terrorist groups, the Azerbaijani armed forces committed violations against prisoners of war, civilians, barbarically destroyed historical-cultural monuments and desecrated sanctuaries. The executions of the Armenian prisoners of war and civilians in the Hadrut region of Artsakh and other settlements fallen under the military control of Azerbaijan are the results of the past uncondemned crimes.

Today, by paying tribute to the innocent victims of the Armenian massacres in Sumgait, we once again emphasize the determination of the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Artsakh and all Armenians to live a free, independent and dignified life in their homeland.

Annex II to the letter dated 1 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Artsakh on the occasion of the thirty-third anniversary of the Armenian pogroms in Sumgait

28 February 2021

Today, we are paying tribute to the memory of the innocent victims of the Sumgait Genocide – one of the most tragic events in the modern history of our people.

As a result of the planned mass pogroms committed on February 27–29, 1988 in Sumgait city, located in close proximity to the capital of Azerbaijan, dozens of Armenians were killed, hundreds were mutilated, and tens of thousands were deported. With the criminal connivance of the authorities of Soviet Azerbaijan and the complete inaction of the law enforcement bodies, within three days the city with many thousands was handed in to armed thugs who murdered Armenian citizens with impunity and with particular cruelty.

The Sumgait massacre marked the beginning of a whole series of crimes against humanity committed within the framework of the state policy of Azerbaijan towards the Armenian people at all the stages of the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict. After the collapse of the USSR, genocide, systematic ethnic cleansing and massacres carried out by the Azerbaijani authorities in 1988–1991 were replaced by war crimes during the armed aggression unleashed against the Republic of Artsakh and its people in 1991–1994, 2016 and 2020.

As a result of the genocidal policy pursued by Azerbaijan since 1988, thousands of Armenians have been killed, tens of thousands have been disabled and hundreds of thousands have been forcibly deported and lost their homeland.

Impunity and the lack of an appropriate response by the international community has ignited aggression and enlarged the scale of crimes committed by Azerbaijan against the people of Artsakh. The atmosphere of hatred cultivated in the Azerbaijani society for years by the official Baku has created a situation, in which war crimes, including bullying, torturing and murdering prisoners of war and civilians, are perceived in Azerbaijan as a norm and an example to follow. Azerbaijan's refusal to return the prisoners of war and civilians, who were caught up in captivity as a result of the Azerbaijani-Turkish aggression in the fall of 2020, is a vivid example of a criminal policy generated by impunity and permissiveness.

We bow before the memory of the innocent victims of the mass crimes and misanthropic policy of Azerbaijan and call on the international community to take effective steps to force the Azerbaijani authorities to relinquish their criminal policy and to create prerequisites for establishing stable and lasting peace in the region.