



# General Assembly Security Council

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**General Assembly  
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Agenda items 31, 61, 69, 71, 83 and 129

**Prevention of armed conflict**

**Peacebuilding and sustaining peace**

**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia  
and related intolerance**

**Promotion and protection of human rights**

**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**

**Security Council  
Seventy-ninth year**

## **Letter dated 15 March 2024 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I write in connection with the letter dated 27 February 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia ([A/78/792-S/2024/194](#)), containing as its annex the statement of his Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the events in the city of Sumgayit thirty-six years ago.

As in its previous identical statements and communications, Armenia once again passed over in silence the well-known facts that persuasively expose its insinuations. It would therefore be useful to recall these facts again.

The events in Sumgayit, which took place during the existence of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 27 and 28 February 1988, claimed the lives of 32 people, not hundreds as Armenia falsely claims. Of them, six were Azerbaijanis.

More than 90 perpetrators and accomplices of mob violence committed in Sumgayit were brought to justice. It is especially noteworthy that among them was a certain Eduard Grigorian, an Armenian and resident of the city. He was sentenced to long-term imprisonment as one of the organizers and perpetrators of the offences. As the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concluded in the bill of indictment of the criminal case, "taking an active part in the mass disorders on February 28, 1988, in the Sumgayit city, *Grigorian E.R. called the group of rowdy persons several times to commit destructions in the houses of the citizens of the Armenian nationality*" and "*distinctly directed the people to commit*



*destructions of the flats and property of only the citizens of the Armenian nationality”.*<sup>1</sup>

The investigation established that the unrest in Sumgayit was a pre-planned and well-prepared provocation masterminded to discredit Azerbaijan and cover up Armenia’s unlawful territorial claims and annexationist objectives. This is confirmed also by the fact that the Armenian authorities released E. Grigorian shortly after his transfer to serve the sentence in Armenia.

As to the sequence of events, the unrest in Sumgayit was preceded by brutal attacks on Azerbaijanis in Khankandi and other parts of the Garabagh region of Azerbaijan, as well as in Armenia itself, resulting in numerous casualties.

The forcible deportation of hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis from their historical homeland in Armenia started in the third quarter of 1987 and culminated in their total expulsion from the Meghri, Garakilse, Gafan and Gorus districts, the capital city of Iravan and other settlements. 216 Azerbaijanis were killed and hundreds maimed during the deportation. In subsequent years, Azerbaijani historical and cultural heritage was consistently and deliberately eradicated in Armenia, and all Azerbaijani settlements were renamed and Azerbaijani cemeteries were destroyed and vandalized.

In the early 1990s, Armenia unleashed full-scale war against Azerbaijan, as a result of which a large part of the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan was seized and held under occupation for nearly 30 years. Tens of thousands of people were killed, more than 700,000 Azerbaijanis were expelled from their homes, hundreds of cities, towns and villages were razed to the ground and tremendous losses were inflicted on Azerbaijan’s cultural and religious heritage and the environment.

While replicating outdated and false narratives about the events in Sumgayit, Armenia, at the same time, has taken no steps to investigate and prosecute mass atrocities committed by its officials and armed forces against Azerbaijanis.

The counteroffensive operation and the local counter-terrorism measures carried out by Azerbaijan in the fall of 2020 and last September, respectively, in the exercise of the right of self-defence under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, put an end to the occupation and ensured the restoration of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The latest statement by Armenia on the events in Sumgayit clearly demonstrates that, despite positive developments in the ongoing process of post-conflict normalization of inter-State relations, Armenia’s peace-oriented pronouncements are definitely nothing but hollow rhetoric, as it has not given up its territorial claims and its long-standing hate-driven policy has not undergone significant adjustments.

Lasting peace and stability in the region require that Armenia strictly abide by and faithfully implement its international obligations, abandon its territorial claims, cease and desist from disinformation and misinformation, redress the harm caused to Azerbaijan by its aggression and occupation and engage faithfully in normalizing inter-State relations.

Azerbaijan is fully committed to the objectives of a peaceful, secure, stable and prosperous region and will continue its efforts towards that end.

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<sup>1</sup> See Aslan Ismayilov, *Sumgayit: Beginning of the Collapse of the USSR* (Baku, Çasıoğlu, 2011), pp. 33 and 34. Emphasis added. Available at <http://sumgayit1988.com/files/book-en.pdf>.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 31, 61, 69, 71, 83 and 129, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tofiq **Musayev**  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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