



# General Assembly

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**Seventy-ninth session**

Agenda items 32, 60, 69, 71 and 132

**Prevention of armed conflict**

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,  
questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons  
and humanitarian questions**

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

**Promotion and protection of human rights**

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

## **Letter dated 9 May 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I am transmitting herewith a letter from the Human Rights Union of Nagorno-Karabakh Refugees, a civil society organization established to protect the rights of Armenian refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh, regarding the atrocities committed against the Armenian population of Maragha in 1992 (see annex).

I kindly ask that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 32, 60, 69, 71 and 132.

(Signed) Paruyr **Hovhannisyan**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 9 May 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Human Rights Union of Nagorno-Karabakh Refugees, a union dedicated to advocating for the rights of Armenian refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh, who suffered ethnic cleansing, mass atrocities, and forced displacement by Azerbaijan, calls upon the United Nations to address the documented war crimes committed by Azerbaijani forces in the village of Maragha, Nagorno-Karabakh, on April 10, 1992.

The Maragha massacre is one of the most egregious war crimes of the late 20th century, exemplifying both the Azerbaijani regime's strategic goal of ethnically cleansing Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh and the deeply ingrained institutionalized racism against Armenians within Azerbaijani society. On that day, Azerbaijani forces launched a brutal attack on the village, deploying heavy artillery. After hours of relentless shelling, Azerbaijani special forces and released criminals were sent into the settlement, looting homes and inflicting terror upon the civilian population.

Hundreds of unarmed residents, including women, children, and the elderly, were subjected to unspeakable atrocities—dozens were beheaded, some were burned alive, and others were taken as hostages.

British human rights activist Baroness Caroline Cox personally visited Maragha in the immediate aftermath of the massacre, providing firsthand testimony of the horrific events:

“On April 10, 1992, Azerbaijani forces attacked the Armenian village of Maragha in northeastern Karabakh. The villagers awoke to the sound of heavy shelling; then tanks rolled in, followed by infantry and civilians in pick-up trucks to loot the homes after evicting the residents. Azerbaijani soldiers sawed off the heads of 45 villagers, burned others alive, took 100 women and children hostage, looted and set fire to all the homes, and left with the spoils of their plunder.

I, along with my team from Christian Solidarity Worldwide, arrived within hours to find homes still smoldering, decapitated corpses, charred human remains, and survivors in shock. This was truly like a contemporary Golgotha many times over. I visited the local hospital and met the chief nurse. Just hours before, she had witnessed her son's head being sawed off and had lost 14 members of her extended family. I wept with her—there were no words.”

According to Amnesty International, more than 100 civilians were tortured and killed. The commander of the “Gurtulush” battalion, Shahin Talib oglu Tagiyev, who orchestrated these heinous acts, was later awarded the title of “National Hero of Azerbaijan.” This state-sponsored glorification of war crimes reflects Azerbaijan's systematic Armenophobic policies, which continue to this day.

The atrocities committed in Maragha were not an isolated case but rather a continuation of Azerbaijan's systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing and anti-Armenian hatred. Similar massacres occurred in Sumgait, Baku, Gandzak (Kirovabad), and other regions between 1988 and 1991. Moreover, acts of glorification of war criminals have persisted through the decades.

We, the survivors and descendants of those who endured these atrocities, urge you to take immediate action. We call upon the United Nations to:

- Recognize the Maragha massacre as a war crime and crime against humanity.
- Hold Azerbaijan accountable for its continuous violations of human rights and international law.
- Demand the release of Armenian prisoners of war and an end to anti-Armenian policies.
- Support efforts to allow Armenians displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh to return to their ancestral lands under international protection and security guarantees.

History has shown that impunity emboldens further crimes. Justice for Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians and victims of Maragha and other atrocities is not only a moral imperative but a necessary step toward ensuring peace and stability in the region. We rely on your leadership to advocate for the rights of the Armenian people and prevent future tragedies.

Andranik **Grigoryan**  
President of the Human Rights Union of Nagorno-Karabakh Refugees

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