



General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 August 2020

Original: English

Seventy-fourth session

Agenda items 31, 68, 70 and 130

Prevention of armed conflict

**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 30 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In follow-up to my letter dated 16 July 2020 ([A/74/956-S/2020/719](#)) related to the outbreak of military aggression by Azerbaijan in the direction of the Tavush region of Armenia that began on 12 July, I am writing to convey Armenia's strong condemnation of the instigation of ethnic clashes and violence against the Armenian communities in various parts of the world.

The military provocations, with the use of heavy artillery, unmanned aerial vehicles and tanks, were accompanied by the intensive promulgation of hate speech, warmongering and racist, anti-Armenian rhetoric in Azerbaijan despite the repeated calls from Armenia and the international community for immediate de-escalation and strict adherence to ceasefire.

On 15 July, international media reported on a pro-war rally amid the coronavirus outbreak in the capital of Azerbaijan, with the media footage showing a large-scale public gathering involving thousands of protesters who chanted, "Death to Armenians" and "End the quarantine, start a war". Armenia deeply regrets that, despite the repeated calls of the international community to refrain from inflammatory rhetoric, the leadership of Azerbaijan instead took the escalation to a new level through the systematic propagation of hatred in social networks and by mobilizing diaspora members against ethnic Armenians abroad.

The provocations along the border were soon mirrored in the inter-ethnic clashes, encouraged and condoned by the leadership of Azerbaijan, whose frustration about the failed attempts of aggression against Armenia continued to grow. Such clashes began with the infliction of economic harm by some members of the Azerbaijani diaspora in unlawful and discriminatory attempts to obstruct the export



and retail of the Armenian products and goods in other countries – rather distasteful and ill-advised acts of unconcealed racism.

These actions were soon followed by violent attacks perpetrated against ethnic Armenians in different parts of the world, involving the deliberate damage and destruction of property belonging to Armenians, including the vandalization of a school, and other disruptive acts of ethnically motivated violence and aggression.

Such attacks, carried out with the direct participation of the Azerbaijani officials, have come to demonstrate a most irresponsible intention to spread violence and radicalization to third countries, reflecting the policy and rhetoric of the Azerbaijani leadership aimed at inciting animosity against the Armenian people.

Addressing hate speech is crucial in advancing the prevention agenda globally, and, in this regard, Armenia welcomes the development of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech led by the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. Hate speech, in all its forms and manifestations, is incompatible with the core principles and values of the United Nations. More often than not, hate speech promulgated at the highest political level deepens misunderstanding and distrust and makes genuine reconciliation and dialogue even harder.

The hateful and racist rhetoric dominating the political discourse of the Azerbaijani leadership constitutes all elements of incitement to violence and represents a significant indicator of risk of atrocity crimes.

Armenia reiterates the inadmissibility of using such rhetoric to incite inter-ethnic clashes and the imperative of focusing on de-escalating tensions to prevent violence in the future.

I kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 31, 68, 70 and 130.

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