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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**

Letter dated 13 January 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-first anniversary of the anti-Armenian massacres in Baku.

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 13 January 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-first anniversary of the anti-Armenian massacres in Baku

13 January 2021

Thirty-one years ago, the international community witnessed another crime against the Armenian population of Azerbaijan: the Armenian population, which was then an essential part of Baku's multicultural identity, was subjected to the massacres and mass deportation carried out with particular cruelty. There were hundreds murdered, maimed and missing and tens of thousands of refugees. The anti-Armenian massacres in Baku of January 1990 completed the ethnic cleansing of the Armenian population of Azerbaijan.

The anti-Armenian policy of the authorities of Azerbaijan targeted not only the Armenian population living and prospering in Baku for centuries but also the Armenian historical-cultural heritage of the city.

Thus far, the masterminds and perpetrators of the anti-Armenian massacres in Baku have not been held accountable, and they continue to be glorified as heroes.

Moreover, to date, Azerbaijan continues the very policy of ethnic cleansing and annihilating Armenians in Artsakh. Vivid evidence of that is the wiping out of the entire Armenian population from the territories that fell under Azerbaijani control, which was carried out through massive war crimes and ethnic cleansing.

Today, by paying tribute to the innocent victims of the anti-Armenian massacres in Baku, we once again emphasize the joint commitment of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Artsakh and Armenians all over the world to ensuring the right of all Armenians to a free, secure and dignified life in their homeland.

Annex II to the letter dated 13 January 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-first anniversary of the Armenian pogroms in the city of Baku

13 January 2021

13 January 1990 is one of the most tragic dates in the history of the Armenian people. On that day, mass pogroms of Armenians began in the capital city of Azerbaijan, Baku, which became the apogee of the targeted policy of the Azerbaijani authorities on exterminating the Armenian population of the former Azerbaijan SSR and expelling it from its historical lands and places of permanent residence, which began with the massacre of Armenians in Sumgait in February 1988.

The Baku pogroms continued for more than a week, during which, under the slogans “Glory to the heroes of Sumgait!” and “Long live Baku without Armenians!”, large mobs of rioters broke into the homes of Armenians, robbing, maiming and killing people. There are numerous documented accounts of atrocities committed with exceptional brutality. Those who managed to escape death were subjected to forced deportation, which was organized and systematic.

The Baku pogroms became one of the bloodiest mass crimes against the Armenian population in a series of pogroms, deportations, ethnic cleansing and other crimes against humanity committed in Azerbaijan. In the period between 1988 and 1991, the Armenian population of the former Azerbaijan SSR was completely deported, and Northern Artsakh, Gandzak and some other territories lost their autochthonous population. As a result, about half a million Armenians became refugees, and thousands of them were killed.

The man-hating and genocidal policy of Baku towards the Armenian people continued after the collapse of the USSR, in 1992–1994, in particular during the occupation of Artsakh Republic’s Shahumyan and Martakert regions and in the village of Maragha, the majority of whose inhabitants were brutally exterminated.

The long-term and consistent denial by the Azerbaijani authorities of the committed genocidal actions on the one hand and the encouragement of such crimes through the glorification of their perpetrators on the other hand have become the main driving force in the policy of Azerbaijan aimed at the extermination of Armenians in their historical homeland and all the traces of the existence of the Armenian people in the ancestral territory of their residence. This policy ultimately predetermined the large-scale 44-day war against Artsakh, unleashed on 27 September 2020 by Azerbaijan with the support of Turkey and the participation of international terrorists. The armed aggression was accompanied by numerous and systematic war crimes, including targeted attacks on civilians and the shelling of vital civilian infrastructure, with the employment of weapons prohibited by international conventions and the cruel killing of prisoners of war and detained civilians and inhuman and derogatory treatment towards them. Moreover, the Azerbaijani side deliberately posts video materials of such atrocities on social networks.

It is difficult to imagine the path to peace as long as the misanthropic ideology and values imposed by the authorities for many years continue to dominate Azerbaijani society. An important step in the process of healing the wounds inflicted by the bloody conflict unleashed by Azerbaijan would be recognition by the Baku authorities of their direct responsibility for the mass crimes committed against the

Armenian population, including the January 1990 pogroms in Baku, which would make it possible to eradicate the negative phenomena caused by Armenophobia and create preconditions for establishing sustainable and lasting peace in the region.
