



# General Assembly Security Council

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**General Assembly**  
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Agenda items 34, 71, 72 and 135

**Security Council**  
**Seventy-sixth year**

**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 23 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia and the statement of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh Republic) regarding the visit by the leader of Azerbaijan to the territories of the Republic of Artsakh, occupied as a result of the military aggression of Azerbaijan unleashed on 27 September 2020 (see annexes I and II).

I kindly ask 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 23 March 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia regarding the consistent violations of international humanitarian and human rights law by Azerbaijan in the occupied territories of the Republic of Artsakh**

18 March 2021

Recently, the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev visited the occupied territories of the Republic of Artsakh, in particular, the Hadrut region and the city of Shushi, which fell under the Azerbaijani control as a result of the aggression carried out with the direct participation of Turkey and the latter's affiliated foreign terrorists fighters. Throughout the war, the Azerbaijani armed forces committed mass atrocities, including ethnic cleansing and war crimes against the Armenians of Artsakh, in blatant violation of international humanitarian law.

During the Azerbaijani occupation of the Hadrut region, the once prosperous settlements with tens of thousands of Armenian inhabitants were completely annihilated, and many civilians were killed. The international community, including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Human Rights Watch, have expressed their clear position regarding the cases of blatant violation of the Geneva Convention in the Hadrut region, when captured civilians were subjected to extrajudicial execution.

Statements made by the President of Azerbaijan in the Hadrut region reveal the intention to destroy Armenian settlements and replace them with the Azerbaijani ones, which violates the provisions of the trilateral statement of November 9, 2020, according to which the displaced people must return to their places of residence. It also proves that the Armenians of Artsakh cannot survive under the Azerbaijani control.

Moreover, within the framework of its policy of ethnic cleansing, Azerbaijan is undertaking consistent steps aimed at eliminating and appropriating the Armenian cultural heritage of Artsakh. In parallel with the physical destruction of the cultural monuments of Artsakh, which are currently under its control, Azerbaijan at the highest level has resorted to a deplorable practice of falsifying historical facts and alienating religious and cultural values of the Armenian people. It is with this purpose that the President of Azerbaijan misrepresents the nature of Armenian church of the 17th century in the village of Tsakuri of the Hadrut region distortedly claiming it to be so-called "Albanian" and labeling the Armenian inscriptions on its walls as "fake", thus preparing grounds for yet another act of vandalism. It is noteworthy that in the published video the above-mentioned church has already been vandalized, as the religious symbols had already been removed.

Under these circumstances, the facts indicating the destruction of St. Hovhannes Mkrtich Church, popularly known as "Kanach Zham", in the city of Shushi are particularly worrying. It is noteworthy that the church was destroyed months after the hostilities. The concerns that the Armenian side has been expressing since the very first days the Armenian historical-cultural monuments fell under the Azerbaijani control, are being materialized. These facts demonstrate that Azerbaijan's assurances that it will preserve the Christian historical-cultural heritage and is willing to cooperate with UNESCO are completely false. Under the current situation, the timely

intervention of the international community, particularly UNESCO, to save the monuments that have not yet been destroyed becomes urgent.

There cannot be a solid and lasting “peace” being built on the basis of destruction of the peaceful settlements of Artsakh, its historical-cultural heritage, annihilation of the Armenian population and the replacement of the Armenian settlement with the Azerbaijani ones. We will continue our struggle for a just and dignified peace by working closely with our international partners.

**Annex II to the letter dated 23 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 visit of the President of Azerbaijan to the occupied territories of the Republic of Artsakh**

18 March 2021

In a blatant disrespect for the continuous efforts to find a lasting solution to the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict, President Ilham Aliiev of Azerbaijan, accompanied by his wife and First Vice President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mehriban Aliyeva and other high-ranking state officials, has visited the occupied Hadrut region of the Republic of Artsakh. During the visit, President Aliyev personally instructed accompanying officials to have medieval Armenian inscriptions removed from the walls of churches and monuments in the occupied territories.

Such official visits are nothing but a manifestation of anti-Armenian and militaristic policy of Azerbaijan and an insight into its future aggressive plans.

The Republic of Artsakh has alerted the international community on numerous occasions about Azerbaijan's state-orchestrated cultural terrorism, its efforts to erase Armenian cultural heritage in territories that are under its military occupation further advancing its genocidal expansionist policy.

This genocidal policy is a crime against humanity, a gross violation of international norms, conventions, resolutions and agreements, and a threat to the entire civilized world.

We call on the relevant international organizations to take all the necessary measures to prevent the eradication of Armenian cultural heritage as well as to resolutely condemn the genocidal policy of Azerbaijan. Inaction and indifference are fraught with unpredictable consequences.

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