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Security Council**

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**General Assembly**  
**Seventy-fifth session**  
Agenda items 34, 70, 71, 72 and 135

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

**Prevention of armed conflict**

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

**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 4 June 2021 from the Permanent Representative of  
Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia regarding the prosecution initiated against the Armenian prisoners of war by Azerbaijan (see annex).

Armenia strongly condemns the practice of introducing bogus charges against the prisoners of war and attempts to instrumentalize the issue of detained persons.

The ongoing military provocations and incursions into the territory of Armenia and the continuation of the practice of hostage-taking by Azerbaijan, as well as the killings, torture and inhumane treatment of the captives, represent gross violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law by Azerbaijan and a blatant disregard for the calls of the international community regarding the immediate return of the prisoners of war and all the detainees.

I kindly ask that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 70, 71, 72 and 135, and of the Security Council.

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



**Annex to the letter dated 4 June 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Statement of the Foreign Ministry of Armenia regarding the criminal prosecution against the Armenian prisoners of war by Azerbaijan**

4 June 2021

On May 25, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia strongly condemned official Baku's criminal prosecution against Lyudvik Mkrtchyan and Alyosha Khosrovyan, captured during the recent aggression of Azerbaijan against Artsakh. Continuing to violate the norms of humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War, which explicitly states that prisoners of war are released and repatriated immediately after the cessation of hostilities, Azerbaijan has brought trumped-up criminal charges against 14 captured Armenian servicemen, which also violates the trilateral statement of November 9, 2020.

The criminal cases against 16 Armenian servicemen, as well as the torture and psychological pressure of other Armenian prisoners of war and captured civilians set a precedent for a malicious violation of international law. It is clear that Azerbaijan instrumentalizes the captured people as political hostages and tools to pursue other goals.

Official Baku also blatantly defies the relevant decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) on providing information on Armenian servicemen and civilians held in Azerbaijani captivity.

Despite numerous calls from the international community, Azerbaijan continues to conceal the true number of the prisoners, denying the captivity of dozens of Armenian servicemen and civilians. Moreover, Azerbaijan denies the detention of those whose captivity in Azerbaijan has been documented both through video coverage and testimonies of repatriated prisoners, which raises suspicions of a number of serious crimes.

All Armenian prisoners of war and civilian captives held in Azerbaijan must be immediately released and repatriated without any preconditions.

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