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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Note verbale dated 4 October 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and has the honour to submit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan in relation to a new road planned for construction through the occupied Gubadli and Jabrayil districts of Azerbaijan in order to serve Armenia's purposeful attempts to consolidate the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan and to impose a situation of *fait accompli* (see annex).

It should be noted that Armenia, as an occupying Power in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, does not comply with, among others, its international humanitarian law obligations by destructing cultural heritage and changing the demographic composition of the occupied territories. The occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan by Armenia has been carried out with ethnic cleansing, the expulsion of its native inhabitants and the violation of their fundamental human rights.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva kindly requests the Office of the High Commissioner to circulate the present note verbale and the annex thereto* as a document of the forty-first session of the Human Rights Council, under agenda item 4.

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.



Annex to the note verbale dated 4 October 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan in relation to a new road planned to be constructed through occupied Gubadli and Jabrayil districts of Azerbaijan

Statement made by the senior official of Armenia on the construction of a new road called as the “southern direction” along the occupied territories of Azerbaijan is yet another example of the genuine intention of Armenia, to consolidate the status-quo based on military occupation, undermine the settlement of the conflict via negotiations and annex the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Armenia’s illegal activities in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, including the infrastructural changes, demonstrate that the allegations of Armenia on the settlement of the conflict by peaceful means are nothing other than hypocrisy and misleading of international community.

The experience of “Vardenis-Agdere” road referred to as the “northern direction”, as well as the central “Gorus-Lachin” road show that the new road planned to be constructed through Gubadli and Jabrayil districts would serve to plundering the natural and other resources of the occupied territories even more aggressively.

In general, along with the infrastructural changes in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, Armenia carries out other illegal activities such as the destruction of cultural heritage, changing the demographic composition, pillaging of mineral resources and etc.

The reports prepared as a result of the fact-finding and field assessment missions conducted by the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan indicate that the illegal activities constitute a serious threat to the peace process.

The report on “The Illegal Activities in the Territories of Azerbaijan under Armenia’s occupation: Evidence from Satellite Imagery” of 2018 clearly demonstrate the wide scale of illegal actions of Armenia.

International humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, prohibit any illegal activities in the occupied territories.

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office should seriously consider the illegal activities carried out in our occupied territories that seriously affect the negotiation process.

Despite the favourable conditions for the settlement of the conflict, continuing the illegal activities by hiding behind the cease-fire regime is the next provocative attempt of Armenia to undermine the negotiation process. Therefore, all the responsibility rest with the political and military leadership of Armenia.

We strongly condemn the provocative actions of Armenia, which continues to commit illegal acts in the occupied territories blatantly violating the international obligations and demand the aggressor to put an end to its actions that undermine peace, security, and stability in our region and withdraw its forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan retains its right to respond appropriately to such provocations of an aggressor state.