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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Note verbale dated 14 February 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Armenia 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 Armenia 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 transmit the statement by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia on the centennial of the pogroms of Armenians in the town of Agulis (see annex).

It should be noted that Agulis was one of the towns of the Nakhichevan region that was overwhelmingly populated by Armenians, for centuries. Azerbaijan wiped out all of its Armenian inhabitants from the region concerned. Moreover, Azerbaijan continuously takes every possible measure to obliterate any trace that could recall the indigenous Armenian population of the region. Azerbaijan tried to execute the same kind of policy of ethnic cleansing against the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, first by cracking down on their basic human and cultural rights and, later, by resorting to full-fledged military aggression. The people of Nagorno-Karabakh continue to face an existential threat due to the bellicose policy of Azerbaijan.

The Permanent Mission of Armenia kindly requests the Office of the High Commissioner to circulate the present note verbale and the statement attached* as a document of the forty-third 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 14 February 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Statement by the Spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry of Armenia on the centennial of pogroms of Armenians in Agulis

Today we commemorate the centennial of massacres of Armenians in Agulis. A century ago, on the night of December 24 to 25, 1919, the peaceful Armenian population of Agulis was massacred, while this ancient Armenian settlement of Nakhichevan was left in ruins.

It is worth mentioning that in response to those massacres, the Government of the First Republic of Armenia appealed to the international community, and particularly to the Entente countries, to prevent violence being committed in its territory and to ensure the security of the Armenians in the region.

Unfortunately, the crimes committed against Armenians in Nakhichevan didn't remain in the history of 20th century but received a new manifestation in our days when the Azerbaijani authorities, after ethnically cleansing the Armenian population of Nakhichevan, carried out the coordinated and massive destruction of the Armenian cultural heritage as well.

As a result, thousands of Christian monuments including churches, monasteries, and cross-stones (khachkars) in Jugha, Agulis and elsewhere, were totally destroyed. Video-documented annihilation of thousands of Jugha's cross-stones (khachkars) - masterpieces of medieval Christian arts - by the servicemen of the Azerbaijani army will remain in the pages of world history as an unequalled manifestation of cultural atrocities.

Today, after a century since these tragic events, Armenia is more than determined to defend and ensure the right of existence and peaceful development of the Armenian people in their historical motherland, including in Artsakh.
