



Assemblée générale

Distr. générale
23 juin 2021
Français
Original : anglais

Conseil des droits de l'homme

Quarante-septième session

21 juin-9 juillet 2021

Point 4 de l'ordre du jour

**Situations relatives aux droits de l'homme
qui requièrent l'attention du Conseil**

Note verbale datée du 11 juin 2021, adressée au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme par la Mission permanente de l'Arménie auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

La Mission permanente de la République d'Arménie auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève transmet ci-joint une déclaration du Ministère des affaires étrangères de la République d'Arménie au sujet de l'entreprise de démolition du dôme de la cathédrale Saint-Sauveur Ghazanchetsots conduite par l'Azerbaïdjan (voir annexe).

La Mission permanente de l'Arménie prie le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente note verbale et de son annexe* en tant que document du Conseil des droits de l'homme, au titre du point 4 de l'ordre du jour.

* L'annexe est reproduite telle qu'elle a été reçue, dans la langue de l'original seulement.



Annex to the note verbale dated 11 June 2021 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 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia dated 4 May 2021 regarding the construction works at the Holy Ghazanchetsots Cathedral being carried out by Azerbaijan

The actions being carried out by Azerbaijan at the Ghazanchetsots Cathedral of the Holy Savior in Shushi are deplorable, as there are already many precedents for the destruction of Armenian places of worship, monuments, as well as for justification of such actions.

Among the many war crimes committed by the Azerbaijani armed forces during the aggression against Artsakh is the deliberate targeting of the Shushi Ghazanchetsots Cathedral with high precision weapons twice within a day, followed by the act of vandalism after the ceasefire was established.

It's noteworthy that Azerbaijan carries out actions at the Shushi Cathedral without consulting with the Armenian Apostolic Church, which clearly violates the right of the Armenian believers to freedom of religion. It is equally concerning that Azerbaijan has started to change the architectural appearance of the church before the launch of work by the UNESCO expert assessment mission. It is obvious that Azerbaijan is deliberately blocking the entry of UNESCO experts to the endangered Armenian cultural heritage sites, on the one hand to cover the war crimes it has committed, and on the other hand to change the historical-architectural integrity of the monument.

In this situation, all the concerns of the Armenian side that these actions of Azerbaijan are manifestations of vandalism, aimed at depriving the Shushi Mother Cathedral of its Armenian identity are more than substantiated.

No action can be carried out at the Ghazanchetsots Cathedral, the numerous Armenian historical and cultural monuments and places of worship in the territories of Artsakh under the Azerbaijani occupation, without documentation of the current situation by international, first of all, UNESCO experts and their active involvement in restoration works. Shushi Cathedral is one of the important centers of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Artsakh, it should serve as a place of worship.
