



Asamblea General

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Consejo de Derechos Humanos

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Tema 4 de la agenda

Situaciones de derechos humanos

que requieren la atención del Consejo

Nota verbal de fecha 11 de junio de 2021 dirigida a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de Armenia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra

La Misión Permanente de la República de Armenia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones internacionales en Ginebra transmite adjunta una declaración del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la República de Armenia sobre la demolición por Azerbaiyán de la cúpula de la catedral del Santo Salvador de Ghazanchetsots, de la Iglesia armenia (véase el anexo).

La Misión Permanente de Armenia solicita a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos que tenga a bien distribuir la presente nota verbal y su anexo* como documento del Consejo de Derechos Humanos en relación con el tema 4 de la agenda.

* Se reproduce como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó únicamente.



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.
