



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 24 de febrero de 2023 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 la transcripción de la entrevista concedida por el Secretario de Prensa del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la República de Armenia respecto de la comunicación dirigida al Gobierno de Azerbaiyán por los titulares de mandatos de los procedimientos especiales de las Naciones Unidas (véase el anexo).

En particular, los titulares de mandatos de los procedimientos especiales expresaron su profunda preocupación y exhortaron a Azerbaiyán a investigar las muertes ilícitas de prisioneros de guerra y civiles armenios, así como los casos de tortura y profanación de cadáveres, incluso de mujeres, cometidos por las fuerzas armadas de Azerbaiyán el 13 de septiembre de 2022 durante los ataques contra el territorio soberano de la República de Armenia. Afirmaron que estos actos podrían constituir crímenes de guerra. Los titulares de mandatos observaron además que Azerbaiyán no había facilitado información alguna sobre los resultados de las investigaciones de los delitos cometidos anteriormente en Nagorno Karabaj, ni sobre los motivos fácticos o jurídicos para mantener retenidos a los prisioneros de guerra tras el cese de las hostilidades, ni sobre las medidas adoptadas para informar a las familias de los desaparecidos sobre su suerte y su paradero exacto.

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.



**Anexo de la nota verbal de fecha 24 de febrero de 2023
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**

**Interview of the Press Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Armenia dated 9 February 2023 on the communication
of the UN special procedures mandate holders (sphm) addressed to the
government of Azerbaijan.**

Question: The UN mandate-holders (Special Rapporteurs) have recently published a letter addressed to Azerbaijan, demanding explanations from the government of Azerbaijan regarding the cases of war crimes committed by the armed forces of Azerbaijan during the military aggression unleashed against the Republic of Armenia on September 13, 2022. The issue of holding the prisoners of war in the wake of the ceasefire in November 2020 was also touched upon. Azerbaijan, however, did not respond to the UN mandate-holders in any way during the scheduled period. How would you comment on this?

Answer: We have repeatedly raised the need for a proper international investigation of the war crimes committed by Azerbaijan and demanded accountability of perpetrators and organisers of the crimes, including through the adoption of international sanctions.

In the letter of demand, the UN mandate-holders express deep concern over the events and call on Azerbaijan to undertake all necessary measures towards stopping similar violations, preventing their recurrence and ensuring the punishment of any person or persons responsible for committing these crimes.

You may remember that in order to alleviate the outrage of the international community and divert attention, last autumn Azerbaijan announced the initiation of an investigation into the war crimes committed by its armed forces. As follows from the disregard of the UN mandate-holders' letter of demand, the so-called investigation was just a sham to cover up the problem.

The UN mandate-holders did not receive a response to their requests on the cases of Armenian prisoners of war and other detained persons held illegally in Azerbaijan, as well as enforced disappearances after the 44-day war.

Thus, we can state that Azerbaijan, being a member of UN fundamental documents on human rights, grossly violates them, does not take into account the assignments given to it by the UN bodies and does not cooperate with such important bodies that monitor the provision of UN human rights, such as the mandate-holders (special rapporteurs and independent experts).

In this situation, it is imperative to carry out a proper international investigation of the war crimes committed by the Azerbaijani side, holding the perpetrators and organisers accountable. Besides, the international community is obliged to increase the pressure for the immediate repatriation of all Armenian prisoners of war and civilians illegally held in Azerbaijan, for the disclosure of enforced disappearances and the fates of the missing persons.

Highly appreciating the cooperation with the UN bodies, including the special procedures, Armenia wants to draw attention to the fact that recently Azerbaijan adopted the method of intimidation and pressure on the UN bodies to force them not to raise the cases of flagrant violations of human rights by Azerbaijan and even more re-editing statements previously made by the UN. We are witnessing all this in the context of the announcements on the blockade of the Lachin corridor and keeping the people of Nagorno-Karabakh under siege.

Despite Azerbaijan's actions, we are convinced that all UN bodies, including those primarily dealing with human rights issues, will continue to carry out their work in accordance with the letter and spirit of the UN Charter.