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Agenda item 105 (b)

**Human rights questions: human rights questions, including
alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment
of human rights and fundamental freedoms**

**Letter dated 11 November 2004 from the Permanent
Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General**

I am writing with regard to your report to the General Assembly entitled “Human rights and unilateral coercive measures” (A/59/436). I would like to refer particularly to paragraphs 1 to 3 of the report.

This is not the first time that Azerbaijan has tried to mislead the international community by deliberately disseminating fraudulent and deceptive information. However, this time it has gone to the extent of absolute falsification. My Government considers the utilization of United Nations reporting mechanisms by Azerbaijan for its efforts to rewrite the course of events and distort the historic facts as unacceptable and contrary to the spirit and principle of this organization.

In the information provided for the report, Azerbaijan speaks about the so-called occupation of Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Region by “Armenian armed forces” in 1988. The fact is that none of the Soviet republics had any armed forces at the time that could be used against one another or internally. The only armed forces that existed in 1988, that is, before the dissolution of the USSR, were those of the Soviet Union. Moreover, in 1988 there was no conflict area yet and there was no armed conflict in and around Nagorno Karabakh. There was a legal process initiated by the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Region to peacefully resolve, within the existing legislation and constitution of the USSR, their long-standing claim to reverse the injustice done to them more than six decades earlier by the arbitrary decision of Stalin.

In the same spirit, Azerbaijan continues to claim that “there are now over 1 million refugees and displaced persons in Azerbaijan”. This is despite the fact that the exact figure has been continuously and clearly given by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in its reports of 2002¹ and 2004².

Finally, an attempt is being made by Azerbaijan to present the consequences of its own war against the people of Nagorno Karabakh as a “unilateral coercive measure”. In fact, the reality is that it is Azerbaijan that has imposed a blockade on Nagorno Karabakh and Armenia, which has continued over 12 years now.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 105 (b).

(Signed) Armen **Martirosyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Notes

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/57/12).*

² *Ibid., Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/59/12).*
