



# General Assembly Security Council

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**General Assembly  
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Agenda items 8, 35, 40 and 114

**General debate**

**Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their  
implications for international peace, security  
and development**

**The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan**

**Measures to eliminate international terrorism**

**Security Council  
Seventy-fifth year**

## **Letter dated 16 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I am writing to you concerning the statement made by the Prime Minister of Armenia during the general debate of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, as well as recent notes verbales and letters of the Permanent Mission of the said country, a list of which is attached herewith (see annex).

First of all, I would like to reiterate the well-known fact that, under international law, “genocide” is a strictly defined crime with very specific conditions of proof. It was legally established for the first time in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948, according to which the authoritative determination of this crime can solely be made by a competent court, after proper investigation and adjudication. As regards the events of 1915, which predate the Convention by decades, there does not exist any such judgment. On the contrary, recent court judgments clearly point to the historic and non-justiciable nature of the events concerned and confirm that these events are indeed the subject of a legitimate debate protected under the freedom of expression.

Concerning Armenia’s numerous absurd and unsubstantiated allegations regarding Turkey, it is ironic if not outright hypocritical that such assertions come from a country which overtly glorifies the perpetrators of the brutal terrorist attacks committed against Turkish citizens and diplomats in the 1970s and 1980s, while continuing to incite hostilities and committing international law violations in Azerbaijan’s territories that it has occupied for more than a quarter of a century.

The international community should make no mistake that the current outbreak of hostilities is the direct consequence of Armenia’s consistent provocations on the ground. Armenia’s complete disregard of international law and blatant violation of



Security Council resolutions in particular have brought the region where it is today. It should also not be forgotten, despite Armenia's attempts to that end, that Azerbaijan has been exercising its inherent right of self-defence, since the hostilities are taking place exclusively on its own sovereign territory.

Moreover, Armenian armed forces continue to target the civilian population and objects along the line of contact in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions. The indiscriminate shelling by the Armenian armed forces has wreaked havoc on the civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, medical centres, school buildings and kindergartens. Since 4 October 2020, the armed forces of Armenia have expanded the area of their strikes against the civilian population and infrastructure of major cities of Azerbaijan, away from the combat zone, including Ganja and Mingachevir, with long-range artillery and rocket fire.

Armenia's use of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries from a number of countries is also well documented. Yerevan is receiving support from some terrorist groups, primarily the People's Protection Units/Kurdistan Workers' Party (YPG/PKK), which has long-standing ties with other terrorist groups, such as the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA). Since 1973, 58 Turkish citizens, including 31 diplomats and their family members, lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks perpetrated by Armenian terrorist organizations, namely ASALA, the Justice Commandos of the Armenian Genocide (JCAG) and the Armenian Revolutionary Army (ARA). As of today, certain Armenian diaspora organizations, operating under the cover of charity, have also been instrumental in mobilizing funds and facilitating the transfer of foreign terrorist fighters to the conflict zone.

Turkey has adopted a consistent and principled position regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict since the beginning. We continue to support a solution to the problem on the basis of international law, within the framework of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. In this vein, we would like to remind Armenia once again of its obligation under the Charter of the United Nations to uphold without delay the relevant Security Council resolutions (resolutions [822 \(1993\)](#), [853 \(1993\)](#), [874 \(1993\)](#) and [883 \(1993\)](#)), which reflect the will and understanding of the international community, calling for the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Nevertheless, instead of taking responsibility, Armenian leadership resorts to black propaganda and defamation against Turkey, to divert attention from the gross international law violations that it continues to commit. Armenian allegations about Turkish involvement in the field and about the fighters from outside are baseless and irrational. Both Azerbaijan and the relevant authorities in Turkey totally and unequivocally rejected these Armenian fabrications. This disinformation campaign aims to portray Armenia as the victim, while it continues its illegal occupation. Armenia's baseless and hostile claims are no more credible than its practice of politicizing and distorting historical events.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 8, 35, 40 and 114, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Feridun H. **Sinirlioglu**  
Permanent Representative

**Annex to the letter dated 16 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Letter addressed to the Secretary-General dated 28 September 2020 ([A/75/356-S/2020/947](#))

Note verbale to the permanent missions of francophone countries in New York dated 28 September 2020 – UN/3101/277/2020

Letter addressed to the Secretary-General dated 29 September 2020 ([A/75/366-S/2020/955](#))

Note verbale to all permanent missions in New York dated 3 October 2020 – UN/3101/291/2020

Note verbale to all permanent missions in New York dated 3 October 2020 – UN/3101/294/2020

Note verbale to all permanent missions in New York dated 3 October 2020 – UN/3101/295/2020

Note verbale to Non-Aligned Movement members in New York dated 4 October 2020 – UN/3101/297/2020

Letter addressed to the Secretary-General dated 6 October 2020 ([A/75/496-S/2020/984](#))

Letter addressed to the Secretary-General dated 7 October 2020 ([A/75/501-S/2020/988](#))

Letter addressed to the Secretary-General dated 9 October 2020 ([A/75/506-S/2020/993](#))

Letter addressed to the Secretary-General dated 11 October 2020 ([A/75/509-S/2020/998](#))

Letter addressed to the Secretary-General dated 12 October 2020 ([A/75/530-S/2020/1008](#))

Letter addressed to the President of the Security Council dated 14 October 2020 – UN/3101/328/2020

Letter addressed to the Secretary-General dated 15 October 2020 ([A/75/522-S/2020/1021](#))

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