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**Security Council  
Seventy-fifth year****Culture of peace****Prevention of armed conflict****Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia  
and related intolerance****Promotion and protection of human rights****Crimes against humanity****The responsibility to protect and the prevention of  
genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes  
against humanity****Letter dated 30 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative  
of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I am writing to you in connection with the so-called “victory parade” that took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 10 December 2020, during which Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made incendiary speeches which, among other things, drew parallels between Azerbaijan and Turkey’s war on the Armenian people of Nagorno-Karabakh and the defeat of the Nazi regime in World War II, glorified violence and genocide, employed anti-Armenian hate speech and threatened further military action against not only the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) but the Republic of Armenia as well.

In a deliberate insult to the memories of those who died during World War II – the massive horrors of which prompted the very creation of the United Nations and its worldwide commitment to resolving disputes peacefully – the Azerbaijani President’s speech boasted about a “military solution” to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict while drawing numerous false parallels between the defeat of the Nazi regime and the recent ethnic cleansing of Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Referring to Armenia as a “fascist State”, President Aliyev proclaimed that Azerbaijan “created an iron fist” that “broke the enemy’s spine and crushed the enemy’s head” and that “the victorious armed forces of Azerbaijan have fulfilled their historic mission and defeated Armenia”.<sup>1</sup> He further stated that “if Armenian fascism

<sup>1</sup> “A Victory parade dedicated to Victory in the Patriotic War was held at the Azadlig Square, Baku”, <https://en.president.az/articles/48788>.



ever raises its head again, the result will be the same. Again, Azerbaijan's iron fist will break their back".<sup>2</sup>

At the very least, the profane parallels made at the "parade" in Baku constitute a gross insult to the memory of those who fought on the battlefields for the victory of humanity 75 years ago.

The people of Armenia, whose contribution to the victory in 1945 was one of the highest in the Soviet Union and the world, made an enormous sacrifice of life to defeat Nazism, with an estimated 600,000 Armenians serving during World War II, more than half of whom never returned home from the battlefields. One hundred seven Armenians were granted the highest distinction (Hero of the Soviet Union) for their bravery and heroic feats. Forty-five thousand Armenians, or one third of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, participated in World War II, among them Marshals Hovhannes Baghramyan, Hamazasp Babajanyan and Sergei Khudyakov (Armenak Khanferiants) and Admiral Ivan Isakov. Their successors had to stand again in defending their homes and freedom and their right to life from despotic rule while the monuments dedicated to Marshals Baghramyan and Babajanyan in their birthplace village came under deliberate destruction by the Azerbaijani authorities.

Putting aside the absurdity, cynicism and monumental hypocrisy that accusations of "fascism" come from Azerbaijan – a hereditary republic where political and civil opposition are suppressed,<sup>3</sup> where the Government abuses coronavirus disease (COVID-19) quarantine rules to arrest human rights activists while allowing (and praising) an assembly of 50,000 people in its capital chanting, "death to Armenians",<sup>4</sup> where journalists are imprisoned for reporting anything other than State-sponsored propaganda<sup>5</sup> and where the most abhorrent hate crimes are rewarded with a presidential pardon<sup>6</sup> – the rhetoric of the leadership of Azerbaijan is sadly reminiscent of previous genocidal perpetrators who demonized their targets.

The Turkish President, for his part, did not miss an opportunity to celebrate one of the masterminds of the 1915 Armenian Genocide, the fact of which he also, paradoxically, denies. At the "parade" in Baku, he stated that "The struggle carried out in the political and military areas will continue from now on many other fronts" and glorified the "spirit" of Enver Pasha. He stated, "Today, the souls of Nuri Pasha [the commander of Turkish troops that occupied Baku in 1918 and perpetrated the massacre of Armenians], Enver Pasha [the architect of the 1915 Armenian Genocide], and the brave soldiers of the Caucasus Islam Army will rejoice".<sup>7</sup>

These are not merely "victory" speeches but blatant espousals of a neo-fascist and genocidal ideology. As was elaborated in my letter of 9 December 2020 (A/75/637-S/2020/1187), such hate speech at the highest levels of Turkey's Government has led to numerous hate crimes perpetrated against ethnic Armenians. All of these statements are a haunting reminder of the Hamidian massacres in the

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> "Azerbaijan: Opposition Leader Sentenced to Years in Prison On Politically Motivated Charges", <https://freedomhouse.org/article/azerbaijan-opposition-leader-sentenced-years-prison-politically-motivated-charges>.

<sup>4</sup> "Activists: COVID-19 Crisis Misused by Azerbaijan to Jail Opponents", OCCRP, "50,000 Azeri protestors gather in Baku chanting pro-war slogans, demand military action against Armenia", [www.neweurope.eu/article/50000-azeri-protestors-gather-in-baku-chanting-pro-war-slogans-demand-military-action-against-armenia/](http://www.neweurope.eu/article/50000-azeri-protestors-gather-in-baku-chanting-pro-war-slogans-demand-military-action-against-armenia/).

<sup>5</sup> "Azerbaijan tops the charts for number of imprisoned journalists", [www.refworld.org/docid/46f258a544.html](http://www.refworld.org/docid/46f258a544.html).

<sup>6</sup> "European Court Says Azerbaijan Wrong to Release Man Who Killed Armenian", [www.rferl.org/a/european-court-says-azerbaijan-wrong-to-release-man-who-killed-armenian/30635414.html](http://www.rferl.org/a/european-court-says-azerbaijan-wrong-to-release-man-who-killed-armenian/30635414.html).

<sup>7</sup> <https://mehriban-aliyeva.az/en/news/node/848501>.

nineteenth century, the 1915 Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire and the Baku and Sumgait pogroms of the late 1980s and early 1990s in Azerbaijan, as well as of the ethnic cleansing and destruction of Armenian cultural heritage in Nagorno-Karabakh and in Nakhichevan,<sup>8</sup> which continue to this day.

The speeches of 10 December 2020 come as the most disturbing preview of Azerbaijan and Turkey's intentions, as a clearly detectable indication of threat directed not only against the Armenian people and their right to life in their ancestral homeland but to the peace and security of the region as a whole.

I kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items, 15, 34, 70, 72, 81 and 135, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mher **Margaryan**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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<sup>8</sup> "Monumental loss: Azerbaijan and 'the worst cultural genocide of the 21st century'", [www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2019/mar/01/monumental-loss-azerbaijan-cultural-genocide-khachkars](http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2019/mar/01/monumental-loss-azerbaijan-cultural-genocide-khachkars).