



Security Council

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Letter dated 14 May 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you regarding the alarming military activities of Azerbaijan.

On 12 May 2021, the Azerbaijani armed forces penetrated the border territory of Armenia in the direction of the Syunik region of Armenia and advanced 3 to 4 kilometres, attempting to install military positions inside the sovereign territory of Armenia. Azerbaijan further concentrated armed forces near the Sev lake and the Ishkhanasar mountain. On 13 May 2021, the Azerbaijani armed forces attempted to advance their military positions also in the direction of Vardenis (Gegarkunik region) and Sisian (Syunik region), under the pretext of “clarification of borders”.

Furthermore, Azerbaijan has declared that large-scale military exercises of its armed forces will be held from 16 to 20 May 2021, involving 15,000 troops, up to 300 tanks and other armoured combat vehicles, 400 missile and artillery systems and 50 units of military aviation, which is an indication of the deliberate and well-prepared nature of its military provocations. Azerbaijan has again failed to properly notify the conduct of the military exercises in line with its commitments under the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures.

The escalation of the situation at the State border of Armenia has taken place against the backdrop of Azerbaijan’s persistent violations of the principle of non-use of force or threat of force, open claims to the territory of Armenia, including the Syunik region, and promotion of racist ideology targeting Armenians in the aftermath of the recent large-scale war unleashed by Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabakh on 27 September 2020. In a televised interview on 20 April 2021, the President of Azerbaijan referred to the Syunik region of Armenia, claiming that “it was taken away from us 101 years ago”, and threatened to use force to create the so-called “Zangezur corridor”.

The incendiary rhetoric, threats to use force and territorial claims against Armenia, accompanied by the provocative military actions on the ground, constitute gross violations of international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, creating a serious threat to regional and international peace and security. Azerbaijan bears full responsibility for the escalation, which can further aggravate and destabilize the situation in the region.

A strong and unequivocal reaction of the international community to such irresponsible actions and military provocations of Azerbaijan is crucial to preventing



further escalation of the security situation and putting an end to the hostile actions by Azerbaijan against Armenia and its territory.

Armenia reserves its right to take any actions necessary to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

I would be grateful if the present letter were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

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