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Prevention of armed conflict

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for
Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and
displaced persons and humanitarian questions**

**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia
and related intolerance**

Promotion and protection of human rights

**The responsibility to protect and the prevention of
genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes
against humanity**

Letter dated 25 February 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am transmitting herewith a letter from the Pan-Armenian Union “Gardman-Shirvan-Nakhijevan”, a civil society organization established to protect the rights of Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan, regarding the atrocities committed against the Armenian population of Baku in 1990 (see annex).

I kindly ask that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 32, 60, 69, 71 and 132, and of the Security Council.

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



Annex to the letter dated 25 February 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We, the Pan-Armenian Union “Gardman-Shirvan-Nakhijevan”, write to you with profound urgency and determination, representing the voices of countless Armenian refugees who were forcibly displaced during the tragic events orchestrated by Azerbaijani authorities between 1988 and 1992. Our organization exists to safeguard the rights of these refugees, highlight the destruction and misappropriation of Armenian cultural heritage, and seek justice for the generations who continue to endure the consequences of these atrocities.

It is with heavy hearts that we reflect on the events of January 13–19, 1990, when the Armenian population of Baku fell victim to a horrifying massacre. Armenians, who had long contributed to the economic, cultural, and political life of the city, faced unparalleled violence. Under the direction of Azerbaijani authorities, armed groups raided homes, torturing and brutally murdering civilians. Over the course of six days, the community was subjected to looting, arson, and acts of unspeakable cruelty, leading to the forced exodus of hundreds of thousands of Armenians who were stripped of their homes, belongings, and, tragically, many of their lives.

This tragedy was part of a systematic campaign of ethnic violence and Armenophobia that culminated in a series of pogroms across Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku. Over half a million Armenians were displaced during this dark period, their heritage systematically desecrated, distorted, or erased in a deliberate effort to obliterate their identity.

Regrettably, this policy of Armenophobia has persisted unabated, manifesting in new forms of aggression and hostility. The ethnic cleansing of Armenians from Nagorno-Karabakh between 2020 and 2023 stands as a stark continuation of this policy. Azerbaijani authorities have employed military force, blockades, and other acts of inhumanity to intensify the suffering of Armenians, further cementing their strategy of intolerance and exclusion.

These actions constitute grave breaches of fundamental human rights and international law, violating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Despite these violations, the Armenian community has yet to receive restitution and acknowledgment for the loss of their homes and cultural heritage. Notably, while Azerbaijanis, who left Armenia, received financial compensation – amounting to 71 million rubles (\$71 million at the time) in 1989 – Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan have been left without any comparable redress.

In light of these ongoing injustices, we call upon the United Nations to take decisive action to:

1. **Condemn Azerbaijan’s Armenophobic Policies:** Issue an unequivocal denunciation of Azerbaijan’s systemic violations of human rights and its targeted actions against Armenians.
2. **Ensure Restitution and Compensation:** Advocate for the provision of adequate compensation to Armenian refugees for their lost homes and properties, aligning with international norms and precedents.

3. **Guarantee the Right to Return with Security:** Establish robust international mechanisms to secure the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of Armenian refugees to their ancestral homes.
4. **Safeguard Armenian Cultural Heritage:** Protect and restore Armenian cultural sites in territories under Azerbaijani control to prevent further erasure of our history and identity.

Without decisive and immediate intervention, the unchecked Armenophobia and cultural destruction will continue to fuel cycles of violence and instability. By upholding the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, your leadership can restore hope to countless Armenians who yearn for justice, security, and the opportunity to rebuild their lives in peace.

We respectfully urge you to use the full mandate of your office to address these urgent issues and ensure that the rights of Armenian refugees are upheld in accordance with international law. Only through a steadfast commitment to justice and accountability can we build a world that truly embodies the values of dignity, equality, and peace for all.

Your support in this critical matter would be an invaluable step toward reconciliation and the restoration of human rights.

Vilen **Gabrielyan**
President
Pan-Armenian Union “Gardman-Shirvan-Nakhijevan”
