



# General Assembly Security Council

Distr.: General  
21 February 2025

Original: English

**General Assembly**  
**Seventy-ninth session**  
Agenda items 32, 60, 69, 71 and 132

**Security Council**  
**Eightieth year**

**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 20 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 Sumgait in 1988 (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 20 February 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

### **Appeal for remembrance and justice for the Sumgait massacres of 1988**

We write to you with deep sorrow and urgency on the anniversary of the Sumgait massacres of 1988, a tragic event that remains one of the darkest pages in the history of the Armenian people. From February 27 to 29, 1988, in the industrial city of Sumgait, located near Baku, a premeditated campaign of persecution against the Armenian population was carried out, escalating into a massacre based on ethnic hatred. The slogans “Death to Armenians” and “Armenians, get lost”, “We need the heads of Armenians” quickly spread throughout the city, and then also to other cities with Armenian populations.

For three days, Armenians in Sumgait were completely defenseless as they faced all forms of racial discrimination – ranging from physical violence to psychological torment, from the looting of homes to the plundering of personal belongings. The entire Armenian population of the city was subjected to ethnic cleansing, orchestrated with the direct involvement of the Soviet Azerbaijani authorities. Thousands of Armenians were forcibly displaced, leaving behind their homes, livelihoods, and communities that had existed for generations. Families were torn apart, and many who survived continue to live with the trauma of those horrifying days. Eyewitnesses testify to the killing of young Armenians and the burning of their bodies. There is evidence of Armenians being beheaded, flayed, beaten, raped, and other physical violence. All of this happened in front of the police and with their consent, which directly indicates that the massacre was ordered from above. The perpetrators of the Sumgait Armenian massacre were made “heroes” in Azerbaijan.

This massacre was not an isolated event but part of a systematic campaign of anti-Armenian violence, which later extended to Baku in 1990 and contributed to the larger conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. To this day, the genocide committed against the Armenian community of Sumgait has not been sufficiently recognized, and those who organized and carried out these crimes have not been held accountable. The rights of the Armenians who were forcibly displaced from Sumgait remain violated, as they continue to be denied justice and restitution.

We humbly call upon Your Excellency and the United Nations to honor the memory of the innocent victims of the Sumgait massacres and to advocate for the recognition of this crime. We seek your voice in calling for justice, accountability, and the restoration of the rights of the displaced Armenian population. The Armenian people, who have suffered centuries of persecution, look to the UN as an institution committed to the protection of human rights, peace, and justice. Your recognition and advocacy can play a crucial role in ensuring that the truth is acknowledged, that historical justice is served, and that the world remembers the suffering of the innocent.

Furthermore, we urge the United Nations to encourage dialogue and reconciliation based on historical truth. The path to lasting peace cannot be built on denial and erasure but must stem from the acknowledgment of past injustices. Only through justice and recognition can true reconciliation be achieved, preventing such tragedies from occurring again in the future. We believe that the UN, as the leading international organization for peace and human rights, can be a guiding force in promoting justice for all those who have suffered due to ethnic violence and persecution.

May the world never forget the crimes committed against the Armenian people, and may justice and peace prevail.

Pan-Armenian Union Gardman-Shirvan-Nakhijevan