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Prevention of armed conflict

Right of peoples to self-determination

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

Letter dated 18 October 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you with regard to the ongoing military aggression by Azerbaijan against the people of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) in gross violation of the humanitarian truce, agreed by the Republic of Armenia and Republic of Azerbaijan as of 18 October, 00h00 local time.

The decision on humanitarian truce was taken following the statement of the presidents of the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the French Republic, representing the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group co-chair countries, of 1 October 2020, the statement by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group of 5 October, and in line with the statement by the foreign ministers of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan of 10 October 2020.

Following the agreement on the establishment of humanitarian truce on 18 October 2020, the Armenian side undertook steps to arrange withdrawal of the wounded soldiers from the battlefield, through the mediation of the International Committee of the Red Cross. However, this step, undertaken in line with the letter and spirit of the agreement on humanitarian truce, was categorically rejected by Azerbaijan.

On 18 October, at 07:20, Azerbaijani armed forces once again grossly violated the humanitarian truce, and after an active artillery fire, launched a ground offensive in the southern direction in order to occupy favourable positions. This is the second time that Azerbaijan violates the ceasefire agreement, thus demonstrating to the international community its treacherous nature. Azerbaijan, which has turned itself into an instrument of Turkish expansionism in the region, must be held accountable for unleashing a war and for the numerous deaths and the destruction it has caused.



It is long overdue to clearly and explicitly condemn the particular party which continuously ignores the repeated calls of the international community, including the appeals of the United Nations Secretary-General to immediately stop the fighting.

Armenia will continue to undertake all necessary measures to establish a ceasefire regime with precise and effective mechanisms for maintaining and verifying it on the ground.

I kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 71 and 135, and of the Security Council.

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