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**Security Council
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Letter dated 23 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In reference to the letter from the Permanent Representative of Armenia dated 14 December 2020, containing in the annex a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia ([A/75/652-S/2020/1206](#)), which we categorically reject as false and misleading, I would like to bring to your attention the following.

The statement by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation has created a ground for putting an end to the almost three-decades-old armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The implementation of this agreement ensured the cessation of all military activities and the return of the Aghdam, Kalbajar and Lachyn districts to Azerbaijan (see [S/2020/1104](#)).

However, some Armenian armed formations had remained in the forest area around the Hadrut settlement of the Khojavand district of Azerbaijan. Despite repeated appeals and the creation of all the necessary conditions for their withdrawal, these formations refused to leave the area. Instead, they perpetrated several attacks on Azerbaijani civilians and servicemen.

Thus, on 26 November 2020, three servicemen of the armed forces of Azerbaijan were killed and two were injured in the Sur village of the Khojavand district of Azerbaijan, which was earlier liberated from Armenia's occupation. On 8 December 2020, one Azerbaijani serviceman was killed and an employee of Azerbaijan's Azercell Telecom company was seriously injured while installing communication lines and transmission equipment near the Hadrut settlement in the same district.



In order to neutralize the threat and ensure safety in the area, the State Security Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan has successfully conducted a counter-terrorist operation against the Armenian armed formations. I enclose herewith the information released in that regard by the Press Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan (see annex).

I would also like to register our strongest protest against the mentioning of the areas within the internationally recognized territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan under various fake names in the above-said letter of the Permanent Representative of Armenia and the annexed statement. Such apparent fabrications are invalid and unacceptable, as they clearly run counter to international law and violate the Constitution and legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the principles and procedures for the international standardization of geographical names established within the United Nations.

Armenia must abandon its obsolete and falsified conflict narrative, honour its signature under the trilateral agreement and accept and reconcile with new realities on the ground, which is imperative for sustainable ceasefire and peace.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 23 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information of the Press Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

13 December 2020

In recent days, the State Security Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been conducting an anti-terrorist operation against the terrorist and sabotage actions of the Armenian armed formations remaining in the forest area around the Hadrut settlement of the Khojavand district of Azerbaijan.

These territories were recently liberated from long-term Armenian occupation by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. A joint statement issued by the State Security Service and the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan on 13 December 2020 provided detailed information on the issue.

Official Yerevan claims against Azerbaijan are baseless and unacceptable. Thus, the provocative activity was committed by the remnants of the Armenian armed formations. In their turn, the Government of Azerbaijan and the peacekeeping mission of the Russian Federation are taking all necessary measures to maintain peace in accordance with the provisions of the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020.

We would like to remind that the statement adopted as a result of great efforts envisages a complete ceasefire and the cessation of all military operations. We call on Armenia to strictly adhere to the requirements of the trilateral statement and to refrain from destructive activities that could impede its implementation.

Azerbaijan, acting within the framework of joint cooperation with Russian peacekeepers, will take appropriate measures to ensure peace and security in the region.
