



**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-fourth Session
Clustered Interactive Dialogue
with the Special Rapporteur on cultural rights and
the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and
fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism**

1st Right of reply

**delivered by Emin Aslanov, Second secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

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It is ironic that Armenian delegation affords itself the luxury and moral right of speaking about the importance of the preservation of cultural heritage and condemns my country. Over the course of the armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, it is not Azerbaijan but Armenia that has now turned into a mono-ethnic country – a rare example in our region, and has pursued a policy of transforming into a monoculture society by wiping out the centuries-old cultural and historical heritage of its ethnic Azerbaijani population.

The accusation concerning the destruction of the Julfa cemetery just an attempt to mislead the international community from the aggravated facts of “cultural cleansing” carried out in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Despite the mass atrocities and vandalism of Armenia, my country, being committed to international law, preserved Armenian cultural and religious monuments in Azerbaijan. The best example in this context is the **Armenian Church** that stands in the central square of Baku. However, it is unfortunate that almost all Azerbaijani monuments in Armenia itself and the occupied territories of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven regions have been wiped out by Armenia.

After invading Azerbaijan's territories, Armenia has been pursuing a campaign of ruining cultural and historical monuments of Azerbaijani people. The destruction of Azerbaijani cultural monuments in the occupied territories has been continuing to this day. The invaders are carrying out large-scale archeological excavations, destroying burial mounds. These historical monuments are

the heritage of not only Azerbaijani nation but also of all mankind. The destruction of Azerbaijani cultural monuments, illegal trade of cultural objects accompanied by illegal archaeological excavations in fact erases the traces of true history.

I would like to remind Armenian delegate that, my country brought these issues to the attention of relevant international organizations, including UNESCO and requested monitoring missions through relevant institutional mechanisms. Despite all the efforts, due to the negative position of Armenia, which tried by all means to block this initiative, the missions were failed.

Thank you.