



**UN Human Rights Council
46th Session
(22 February – 23 March 2021)**

**General Debate under Agenda Item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention
First Right of Reply
delivered by Mr. Shahriyar Hajiyev
Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

15 March 2021

Madame Vice-President,

We are exercising our right of reply in response to the statement of the delegation of Armenia.

First of all, it should be stressed that Armenia presented a falsified information about the reasons behind the armed hostilities that took place recently. The Armenian leadership has pursued a war rhetoric against Azerbaijan. The Prime Minister of Armenia in his speech in 2019 officially called for the annexation of the once occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Another example, the concept of “*New war for new territories*” was presented in 2019 by the then Defence Minister of Armenia, David Tonoyan. Importantly, the National Security Strategy of Armenia adopted in 2020, stated the need for consolidating the outcomes of the war that launched by Armenia in the early 1990s against Azerbaijan. All this in mind, Armenia had started its military provocations against Azerbaijan in July 2020, which followed by launching full scale war of another aggression. During the time of armed hostilities, Armenia failed to pursue its another aggression against our country and our people. By responding to the military attacks of Armenia, Azerbaijan had defended itself and ended almost 30 years of Armenian occupation of its territories.

In the meantime, responding to the accusation made against our country by Luxemburg in the high-level segment and also commenting to its statement under Item 4, we state that during the 30 years-long Armenian occupation, Luxemburg has never acted or even brought attention to the violated human rights of about 1 million Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs who had been subjected to ethnic cleansing from their ancestral lands by Armenia. Luxemburg in its reference to the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan, should bear in mind that with its lowland and mountainous part, Karabakh is an integral part of Azerbaijan, as it has always been. This Council should not be the place for undermining the values of human rights at the expense of political bias or affiliation.

Madam, Vice-President,

In its aggression against our country, Armenia benefited from the use of foreign terrorist fighters. The Government of Armenia has provided accommodation, training and logistical maintenance of foreign terrorist fighters in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan to prepare them for terrorist and

combat operations against our country. The training camps had been established by Armenia under the instruction of PKK and ASALA terrorist organizations. The transfer of FTFs intensified immediately after Armenia had started its last phase of aggression on 27 September 2020.

In the interview to *Ria Novosti* on 15 October 2020, the Prime Minister of Armenia confirmed the participation of foreign nationals, in combat operations against Azerbaijan. Armenia has a long history of using FTFs to advance its malign foreign and security policy goals. Among them is Monte Melkonyan, a notorious ASALA bloodthirsty terrorist who actively participated in the aggression of Armenia against our country in the early 1990s and was posthumously named a national hero in Armenia. This is how Armenia treats the unscrupulous terrorist who had brutally killed civilians, being motivated by ethnic hatred against the people of Azerbaijan.

Thank you for attention.