



**UN Human Rights Council
Forty-fifth Session**

General Debate

Agenda Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

**Right of reply
delivered by Mr. Seymur Mardaliyev,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

Geneva, 28 September 2020

Madam Vice-President,

I am taking the floor in exercising the right of reply to the statement made by Armenia.

Regrettably Armenia yet another time continued their defective tradition of misleading this Council from its ongoing aggression and occupation of the internationally recognized territories of Azerbaijan to evade from its responsibility which we totally reject.

Yesterday, like in April 2016 and most recently this July, Armenia committed another act of aggression against Azerbaijan by launching deliberate, indiscriminate and targeted attacks using large-calibre weapons, mortal launchers and artillery along the line of contact around the Armenian-occupied territories of Azerbaijan which resulted in casualties among civilians and military servicemen of Azerbaijan. The entire Azerbaijani family including small children was killed due to the artillery shelling by Armenia. The Armed Forces of Azerbaijan was forced to launch the counter-offensive operation within the right of self-defence and in full compliance with the international humanitarian law to repel the Armenian aggression and ensure the safety of the Azerbaijani civilians.

As a result of the operation, Azerbaijani Armed Forces successfully liberated several villages and strategic heights in the occupied territories and restored Azerbaijan's sovereignty in these territories. The situation continues to be extremely tense and Azerbaijani militaries fully control the situation on the ground. Several hours ago, the Armenian Armed Forces have renewed with even much stronger intensity the bombardment of Azerbaijani civilian infrastructure in the conflict zone.

We reaffirm that unlike Armenian militaries that committed ethnic cleansing and serious war crimes against Azerbaijani population in the occupied territories, including the act of genocide in Khojaly in 1992, Azerbaijan has never ever targeted civilians and civilian objects in full abidance with Azerbaijan's imperative obligations under the international humanitarian law. Even yesterday, Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan appealed to the civilians residing in the occupied

territories of Azerbaijan to leave places located in close vicinity to the Armenian military infrastructure which are legitimate targets for the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan.

Madame Vice-President,

By these military attacks, the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan which has been raised to a new level should be seen as a continuation of its recent inflammatory actions challenging fundamental principles of international law applicable in the conflict settlement process and remains a major threat to regional peace and security. With these actions, Armenia has undermined the process of the peaceful settlement of Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict.

It is the silence of international community and impunity enjoyed by Armenia that encourages this country for further military adventures. Armenia's continuous disrespect to international law and the UN Charter, as well as its reckless policy of military expansion at the expense of Azerbaijani territories must be strongly condemned by UN Member States.

Armenia bears full and sole responsibility for such provocative military actions that further aggravate the situation in the region, and if not ceased Armenia's attacks would ultimately trigger the counter actions of Azerbaijan in self-defence in full compliance with the UN Charter.

I thank you.

