



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

**Agenda item 3**

**Interactive dialogues with the UN Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism**

**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, 4 March 2021**

Mr. Vice-President,

I am exercising this right of reply to resolutely reject fabricated accusations against Azerbaijan made by Armenia during the interactive dialogues with the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and environment and UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism as well as those delivered by this delegation just now.

No matter how high is the desperate desire of Armenia, it will never escape from its responsibility for the ecological terror it has committed in the course of almost three decades long occupation of Azerbaijani territories as their recent liberation has revealed shocking and unprecedented consequences of the Armenian ecological terror on a full scale.

Throughout the years of occupation, the scorched-earth policy implemented by Armenia has extensively damaged the ecosystem, wildlife and natural resources of the Qarabağ region. During the recent hostilities, Ağgöl included in the list of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as well as unique Göygöl national parks, both situated far beyond the active military scene, came under the intensive shelling by the Armenian military causing wildfires and serious damage to the natural landscape of the parks. Armenia also committed serious environmental crimes by setting deliberate fire at Topxana forest around Shusha with banned white phosphorus projectiles and cutting down of centuries-old plane trees in liberated territories of Azerbaijan.

As a revenge for their crushing defeat on the battlefield, Armenians also resorted to large-scale acts of ecological terror in regions of Azerbaijan they had to leave following the last November's trilateral statement on cessation of hostilities. This was especially observed during the forced handover of Kəlbəcər region to Azerbaijan accompanied by grave deforestation. Videos by the international media outlets have recorded instances of chopping down trees and their transportation on large trucks from Kəlbəcər to Armenia. All these facts have been well documented in the preliminary monitoring carried out by the Ministry of Ecology of Azerbaijan in the liberated territories and already shared with the relevant international agencies

Mr. Vice-President,

As for the unfounded claims on use of foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries in the recent hostilities, we stress that Armenia brazenly accuses Azerbaijan of the same to divert the attention from its own wrongdoings. Analysis of video and photo materials presented by Armenia to substantiate its claims proves that they are nothing but pre-fabricated falsifications. In contrary, Azerbaijan's report submitted to OHCHR on the use of foreign terrorist fighters by Armenia in its recent aggression against Azerbaijan contains factual evidences with real photos and private data of the terrorist fighters.

Throughout years of occupation and intensified immediately after the Armenian aggression, Armenia undertook extensive transfer to and trainings of the foreign terrorist fighters from the Middle East in the training camps established in then-occupied territories of Azerbaijan under the guidance of PKK and ASALA terrorist organizations who were subsequently engaged in the war against Azerbaijan. With the support of Armenian diaspora organizations operating under the cover of charity entities, Armenia has also widely used fund-raising campaigns such as "We are our borders", Armenia Fund, One Armenia Fund, to name just a few, to recruit foreign terrorist fighters and mercenaries against Azerbaijan.

Mr. Vice-President,

The responsibility of Armenia for its crimes committed against Azerbaijan is established under the customary international law and involves legal consequences manifested in the obligation to provide full reparation for injury and damage caused. Azerbaijan is determined to take all measures stemming from its rights under relevant bilateral and multilateral mechanisms to bring the perpetrators of those crimes to justice.

I thank you.