



**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
Second 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 President,

We are exercising our second right of reply in response to the statement made by Armenia.

Armenia should refrain from any statement, action and measure that undermine the Trilateral statement of 10 November 2020. Although having provided responses to all the allegations and fabricated information maliciously provided by Armenia since the start of the 46th session of the Council, Armenia keeps attacking to our country.

Responding again to the delegation of Armenia, we reiterate that Azerbaijan is ready to work with relevant international partners, including ICRC, UNHCR and other UN agencies as well as individual States willing to contribute to peace and stability in the region, in full compliance with the UN Guiding Principles on humanitarian assistance of 1991. Azerbaijan is resolute to re-integrate its citizens of Armenian origin residing in the conflict-affected territories into its political, social, economic space, guaranteeing the same rights and freedoms with all the citizens of Azerbaijan regardless of their ethnic and religious affiliation.

During its former 30 years of occupation, Armenia vandalized the cultural heritage of the people of Azerbaijan, turned mosques into pigsties and even destroyed the cemeteries belonging to Azerbaijanis. All these inhumane and barbaric acts perpetuated as an outcome of ethnic hatred against the people of Azerbaijan, are well-documented. Armenia aimed at erasing all the visible traces of Azerbaijanis in those territories. At the hot period time of the hostilities, Armenia disregarded Azerbaijan's call for complying with its obligations under international law and international humanitarian law.

In an attempt to divert the attention of the international community from its own crimes, Armenia brazenly accused Azerbaijan of the use of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and waged a scaled campaign of disseminating fake news to that end. We reject all these baseless and fabricated accusations of Armenia and reiterate that soldiers and officers of the armed forces of Azerbaijan sacrificed their lives and defended their homeland from the aggression and ethnically motivated hatred of Armenia.

Lastly, the absurd comment made by the delegation of Armenia deserves a reaction that if Azerbaijan had planted those mines, then we should have easily removed them for not facing with casualties, by having the maps of the minefields. We cannot do this because those mines have been planted by Armenia. Even after the cessation of hostilities, Armenia kills civilians.

Thank you for your attention.