



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

**Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of
internally displaced persons**

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

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Madame President,

We thank the Special Rapporteur for her report and share the views that addressing housing, land and property issues in situations of displacement is essential to mitigating impact of displacement and addressing durable solutions for IDPs.

Liberation of Azerbaijani territories from 30-years long Armenian occupation has paved the way for hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijani IDPs to exercise their inalienable right to safe and dignified return to their homes. During the occupation period, properties of Azerbaijani IDPs have been deliberately looted, destroyed and expropriated by Armenia with the aim to prevent their owners from returning. Unprecedented magnitude of destruction of public and private property, critical civilian infrastructure, including educational and medical facilities, as well as historical, religious and cultural heritage and environment in the liberated territories places a huge task ahead of the Government of Azerbaijan in terms of rehabilitation and reconstruction of these territories. Currently, Azerbaijan is actively engaged in restoration and rehabilitation of its liberated territories and has already initiated number of practical steps.

Madame Special Rapporteur, as you have highlighted in your report, landmines are one of major obstacles to return of IDPs. This is absolutely true in case of Azerbaijani displaced population since the severe threats emanating from massive contamination of the liberated territories of Azerbaijan with mines and other explosive devices that have been planted by Armenia during the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan and in particular on the eve of the forcible withdrawal of its armed forces from Azerbaijan following the Armenia's crushing defeat in the military hostilities of last year remain to be a major obstacle to the realization of the inalienable right of Azerbaijani IDPs to return to their homes in safety and dignity.

By refusing to hand over the maps to Azerbaijan, Armenia deliberately and indiscriminately targets human lives and attempts to impede post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and humanitarian efforts in the liberated territories and return of the Azerbaijani displaced population to their places of origin in safety and dignity. Since the end of hostilities in accordance with the trilateral Statement signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia on November 10, 2020, more than 140 Azerbaijanis became victims of mine explosions, including 20 civilians killed and 29 civilians heavily injured.

Armenia's unacceptable behaviour constitutes a clear violation of international law and demonstrates its unwillingness to comply with its imperative obligations under the international law, including international humanitarian law and refrain from confrontational policy.

It is all about the compliance of Armenia with its obligations under the international law, not a good will on the part of Armenia as the delegation of Armenia attempts to present it at this Council.

We call on this Council to raise its strong voice against refusal by Armenia to release the maps of the minefields. Urgent international response is crucial to ensure justice, accountability and protection of lives and human rights of those under threat of landmines and other explosive remnants of war.

I thank you.