



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

**Interactive Dialogue with Special Representative of the Secretary General on  
violence against children**

**Statement**

**delivered by Mr. Kamran Seyfullayev, Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of  
the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in  
Geneva**

8 March, 2021

Thank you, Mr. Vice-President.

We welcome the Special Representative of the Secretary General on violence against children and thank her for the presentation of her report.

Child policy is an integral part of the state policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Guaranteeing children's rights, providing children with good quality education and health care services are among the priorities for the promotion and protection of human rights in Azerbaijan. In this regard, a roadmap document – “Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Children for 2020-2030” – approved last year aims to bring the country's child protection system in line with its relevant international human rights obligations.

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown us how inequalities and discrimination have devastating effect on certain vulnerable groups, in particular children. Risk of children being subjected to violence became even higher with different mitigation measures. Therefore, we share the view expressed by Madam Special Representative that the opportunity presented by building back better after the pandemic must be seized to reassess priorities advancing human development and reduce inequalities, that would also serve to better protection of children and their rights.

Madam Special Representative,

Undoubtedly, it is the children who bear the greatest burden of conflicts, including violence, loss of family members, displacement. The aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan through the ethnic cleansing and occupation of our territories left more than 1 million Azerbaijanis displaced. While thousands of children together with their family members were forcefully expelled from their homes and became refugees and IDPs, more than 70 children went missing.

During the occupation period that had lasted for almost 30 years, Armenia had been continuing its aggression against Azerbaijanis, this time targeting civilian population,

including children living close to the line of contact. Killing of one and half years old Azerbaijani child together with her grandmother in Tartar in 2017 with the sniper rifle serves the vivid example of Armenian aggression being perpetrated during the ceasefire regime.

During the last year's 44 days war the reckless attacks by Armenia on our cities of Gəncə, Tərtər, Bərdə and others located far from combat zone, using ballistic missiles and cluster munitions in grave violation of international humanitarian law, left also 12 children killed with more than 50 wounded.

Furthermore, more than 15,000 children in Azerbaijan had been among the temporarily displaced population during the recent conflict, since the deliberate and systematic attacks organized by armed forces of Armenia with a view to spread terror among the population of Azerbaijan resulted in severe damage to infrastructure and livelihood far beyond the conflict area. This includes 54 schools that suffered destruction by direct shelling with more than thousand educational facilities suspending their operation, thereby negatively affecting right to education of more than 300.000 school children in Azerbaijan.

Armenia bears responsibility not only for the crimes committed against children in Azerbaijan, but also for those despicable acts whereby it involved Armenian children to the armed conflict in blatant violation of international humanitarian law, as well as its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. During the course of the 44 days war there occurred numerous material proofs of training and usage of children by Armenian armed forces within regular military units, including directly during the combat operations. It is no doubt that in doing so the intentions of Armenia also included to utilize the facts of death of children as a subsequent tool for blaming Azerbaijan in violation of conduct of hostilities.

Armenia must be held accountable for all the war crimes and other violations perpetrated during the whole period of its aggression against Azerbaijan, including those violent acts committed against children. Therefore, we urge the United Nations human rights mechanisms to properly address the abovementioned grave violations of international law by Armenia.

Thank you.