**Inputs for the preparation of the report of the UN Secretary-General pursuant to the UN General Assembly resolution 77/205**

1. Systemic racism, targeted at a specific ethnic group has detrimental effect on the protection and guaranteeing of the human rights of the individuals belonging to that group, and may lead to gross violations of human rights, and even causing genocides and ethnic cleansing. The systemic dehumanization of an ethnic group, through media publications, statements of public officials, social media, etc., creates a fertile ground for human rights violations of the members of that group. Moreover, if the racism is a state policy, sponsored and espoused by the high-levels of authority of a certain state, the only outcome would be ethnic cleansings, and genocide, as history has repeatedly demonstrated.
2. In the specific case of Armenians, and specifically Armenians of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh), the monitoring and evidence-based analyses, and fact-finding missions of the Human Rights Defender’s Office have previously confirmed that the Azerbaijani policy of state-supported Armenophobia and enmity have become root causes of gross and mass human rights violations and ethnically motivated crimes by the Azerbaijani armed servicemen aimed at ethnic Armenians in Armenia and Artsakh. Furthermore, hate speech is actively disseminated on social media platforms by Azerbaijani users, praising and calling for further violence against ethnic Armenians.
3. As mentioned above, the direct consequences of the mentioned policies are massive and gross violations of human rights violations. Clear examples of consequences of these policies are atrocities, war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Azerbaijani armed forces in September-November 2020, the 2016 April war, and the September 13 military attack on the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia, and the blockade of the Lachin corridor, which is the only road connecting Artsakh with Armenia and the rest of the world.
4. The existence of hatred, intolerance and hostility towards Armenians in Azerbaijan, the Armenophobic rhetoric of public officials, as well as its continuous nature were confirmed by international monitoring bodies. The intolerance towards Armenians and dissemination of Armenophobic hate speech (including by state institutions) was first noted by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) back in 2002.[[1]](#footnote-1)
5. In this regard, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in its concluding observations on the combined tenth to twelfth reports of Azerbaijan expressed its concern regarding the incitement to racial hatred and the propagation of racist stereotypes against ethnic Armenians on social media platforms, as well as by public figures and government officials (Para. 4(c)), and recommended the Azerbaijani authorities to adopt measures to monitor and combat hate speech and the incitement of racial hatred and discrimination, including on the Internet and social media, as well as by its officials and public institutions which are aimed at ethnic Armenians (Para. 5(d)).
6. The Committee also expressed concerns about reports that school textbooks promote prejudice and incite racial hatred, particularly against ethnic Armenians. Moreover, the Committee pointed out the lack of detailed information on measures taken by Azerbaijan to combat prejudices and intolerance and the incorporation of human rights principles into school curricula and universities (Para 34).[[2]](#footnote-2)
7. As mentioned above, Armenophobia is a state-sponsored policy propagated by the highest levels of the Azerbaijani authorities. This is primarily evidenced by the public speeches of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev; Ilham Aliyev has regularly referred to Armenians as “dogs”[[3]](#footnote-3), “barbarians”, “savages”, “vandals”[[4]](#footnote-4). The hate speech propagated by the Azerbaijani President is also mirrored by the statements of Azerbaijani high-level officials, such as Ministers, and Deputies of the Azerbaijani National Assembly, and public figures.[[5]](#footnote-5)
8. Furthermore, the monitoring conducted by the of the Human Rights Defender’s Office has demonstrated that Armenophobia and animosity towards ethnic Armenians are deeply enshrined and reinforced by the educational system, through which Azerbaijani children are instilled with hatred of the Armenian people since early childhood. For example, a textbook of History of Azerbaijan, 9th Grade (2016): “*The main aim of the party was the defense of our people from the Armenian terrorism. The party mercilessly avenged to the Armenian terrorists and their patrons.”[[6]](#footnote-6)*
9. The direct result and impact of the state-sponsored policy of Armenophobia of Azerbaijani authorities were evidenced by the gross violations of human rights, international humanitarian law, war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed by the Azerbaijani armed forces during the 44-day war of Artsakh in 2020, and the September 13, 2022, military attack on the sovereign territory of Armenia.
10. During the 44-day of 2020, the Azerbaijani armed forces committed gross violation of human rights and international humanitarian law, such as the summary executions of Armenian captives, torture, inhuman, and degrading treatment of Armenian Prisoners of War (PoWs), and civilian captives, the desecration of the bodies of killed Armenian servicemen, and the destruction of Armenian historical and cultural heritage.
11. According to the information gathered by the Human Rights Defender of Armenia, 38 civilians, and more than 22 Armenian servicemen were summarily executed by the Azerbaijani armed forces in captivity. The most brutal cases were the beheadings of two Armenian civilians (one of them was an older person). The process was recorded by Azerbaijani servicemen, and the video was widely disseminated on Azerbaijani social media platforms
12. After the end of the 2020 Artsakh war, the Azerbaijani authorities opened a war trophy park in Baku, as a celebration of their victory in the war. display the war ‘trophies’ captured by the Azerbaijani armed forces during the war. The most disturbing aspects of the trophy park is the display of the military helmets of Armenian servicemen who were killed during the war, and the mannequins (wax figures) of Armenians, which are specifically created in a way to degrade them and depict Armenians as an inferior race; it is reminiscent of Nazi caricatures of Jews prior to the Holocaust.[[7]](#footnote-7) Following a complaint by Armenia at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the mannequins and helmets were removed.
13. The violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by the Azerbaijani armed forces during the September 13, 2022 military attack on Armenia mirrored those committed during the 44-day war; civilians, and civilian infrastructure were directly and deliberately targeted, Armenian PoWs were subjected to torture and inhuman treatment, and in certain cases summarily executed, and the bodies of killed Armenian servicemen were desecrated. Among the most gruesome cases registered by the Human Rights Defender’s Office was the desecration of the body of a killed female Armenian serviceperson; Azerbaijani servicemen stripped the body of the female serviceperson naked, amputated her legs, cut of her index finger and put it in her mouth and spray-painted over her body. The Azerbaijani servicemen recorded the mutilated body, and hate speech and speech targeting the gender of the serviceperson can be heard in the video.[[8]](#footnote-8)
14. As during the 44-day war, after the attack of September 13, 2022, videos depicting the acts of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment committed by the Azerbaijani armed forces against Armenian servicemen are being posted on Azerbaijani social media platforms. The video materials contain scenes of physical violence, insults and humiliation of Armenian servicemen, as well as inhuman treatment of the bodies of killed servicepersons. The dissemination of these videos on Azerbaijani social media platforms been accompanied by the praise of Azerbaijani social media users, and their call for further violence against Armenians, demonstrating the fact that years of propaganda of racial hatred against Armenians by the Azerbaijani authorities have borne its fruits.
15. The latest manifestation of the policy of Armenophobia of the Azerbaijani authorities has been the blocking of the Lachin corridor which connects Artsakh with Armenia and the rest of the world. This has result in the shortage or lack of certain foodstuffs, medications, and other vital products in Artsakh. During this time, the Azerbaijani side has also targeted the critical infrastructure (natural gas supply, electricity, etc.), causing a humanitarian crisis in the region. The aim of the Azerbaijani authorities is the ethnic cleansing of Armenians and the emptying of Artsakh of its native population.[[9]](#footnote-9)
16. The policy of Armenophobia and racial discrimination of the Azerbaijani authorities have also manifested themselves on the international stage. multiple incidents of violence and hate crimes in Western states have occurred involving individuals with Azerbaijani affiliation. For example, Armenian schools, churches, and centers have been targeted by Azerbaijanis in San Francisco (USA), and Décines-Charpieu (France).[[10]](#footnote-10)
17. The continuous monitoring of the Office of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia has revealed that the policy of Armenophobia is still being promoted and encouraged by the Azerbaijani authorities and continuously substantiated by new developments in more extremist forms. The most significant recent development is the intensification of the hatred spread in the religious realm. Evidence suggests that rather than roll-back, the government of Azerbaijan is expanding on its policies of intolerance and discrimination, which compounded by the utter impunity of the crimes committed against Armenians, will lead to further and graver violations of human rights and freedoms.

***Annex 1***

***Relevant reports of the Human Rights Defender’s Office***

1. The ad hoc public report on the organized hate speech and animosity towards ethnic Armenians in Azerbaijan as root causes of ethnically-based torture and inhuman treatment by Azerbaijani armed forces:

 <https://www.ombuds.am/images/files/2032f021fe81176414a649d588ad0e86.pdf>

1. The ad hoc public report on the Azerbaijani policy of hatred and animosity towards Armenians as root causes of ethnically motivated violations of human rights: Evidence-based analysis of the post-war developments:

<https://ombuds.am/images/files/3101f60c869b0f378dbc737b002e5054.pdf>

1. Updated Ad Hoc Report on The Humanitarian Consequences of blocking the Only Road Connecting Artsakh with Armenia and the World:

<https://ombuds.am/images/files/8015e970b4e618c7e518be045acd382b.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2aYR6S9VhlBNGrxIlafiAEOvrvSvNd8tTWgc5aRgBco3AWvlGzce1I1_E>

1. Updated Ad Hoc Public Report on the Consequences of Azerbaijani Military Attack on the Republic of Armenia (September 13-15, 2022):

<https://ombuds.am/images/files/bb0ed8808617aa8b63c6a52e2891c7b3.pdf>

1. Ad Hoc Public Report on the Consequences of Azerbaijani Military Attack on the Republic of Armenia (Closed) (September 13-15, 2022):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qz5xyJM_UwJRtetdl3h5rOxk9JCdHycp/view?pli=1>

1. Ad Hoc non-public Report on Torture and Inhuman Treatment of Members of Armed Forces of Armenia and Captured Armenians by Azerbaijani Armed Forces:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q3-VkI_xvJKREMUE8lc80eeWAdKHAv-5/view>

1. Ad hoc public report on the treatment of Armenian prisoners of war and civilian captives in Azerbaijan (with focus on their questionings):

<https://www.ombuds.am/images/files/1138b156720bec6ae0fd88dc709eb62c.pdf>

1. 6 closed reports on the atrocities and inhuman treatment committed by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces against the ethnic Armenians Captives and dead bodies. The reports cover the period from September 27-December 16:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mMRC6AxMQBKqrX9zdX4q-8I0jQZTEINm/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GL7Rx08z4e0WUhfGPZ0zKC2CR78TsdXG/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14Nbeqid4qOkHF4RUTzaD07hnChiJTjGr/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YTVquUzA4_tInAml2asu-_yN0rmQ9DyP/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oAcZrLab3UjzjVvysTvU9Paf0DgjmhKm/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16Vk7OxiLyytBbTf30MK0Hzc1TQjddfb_/view?usp=sharing>

1. European Commission against Racism and Intolerance Report on Azerbaijan, adopted 28 June 2002, CRI (2003) 3, para. 51-53. 5 Available at <https://rm.coe.int/first-report-on-azerbaijan/16808b5579> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Concluding observations on the combined tenth to twelfth periodic reports of Azerbaijan. Available at: <https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2FPPRiCAqhKb7yhsgoRhGEAt5PtvE5DMv2FiPdFI7L0zJLQR%2BWMu0et%2FTL9aobSW1sFniSFK%2FmKJ9yC7H%2F1GqRl7VJk8eel%2FHKLZzTe1rLOwUUipqeTsq5MK42fckdmt3G7XdXTvvnUya%2BYiw%3D%3D> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.ombuds.am/images/files/2032f021fe81176414a649d588ad0e86.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://ombuds.am/images/files/3101f60c869b0f378dbc737b002e5054.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3BPWvKOIreGmQ7r_eVZbgKR3-F1MiP0JbxlXni-JJcA_KGKVjA9H71M3g#page50> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.ombuds.am/images/files/2032f021fe81176414a649d588ad0e86.pdf> (pages 4-7); <https://ombuds.am/images/files/bb0ed8808617aa8b63c6a52e2891c7b3.pdf> (paragraphs 39-58) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Textbook of History of Azerbaijan (page 140) is available at: <http://azerichild.education/pdf/history_9-2016.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://www.ombuds.am/images/files/96e6d55d169a784b6424e4d565b29dba.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qz5xyJM_UwJRtetdl3h5rOxk9JCdHycp/view?pli=1> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://ombuds.am/images/files/8015e970b4e618c7e518be045acd382b.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2aYR6S9VhlBNGrxIlafiAEOvrvSvNd8tTWgc5aRgBco3AWvlGzce1I1_E> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://www.ombuds.am/images/files/2032f021fe81176414a649d588ad0e86.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)