



**Permanent Mission  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the UN Office and other  
International Organizations**

**GENEVA**

Ref: 0086/12/23/27

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and has the honour to transmit herewith the reply by the Republic of Azerbaijan to the joint urgent appeal by the Special Procedures mandate holders of 2 February 2023 (Ref: UA AZE 1/2023).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 21 February 2023

Enclosure: 11 pages

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights  
Geneva

Mr. Michael Fakhri  
Special Rapporteur on the right to food

Mr. Gerard Quinn  
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities

Ms. Farida Shaheed  
Special Rapporteur on the right to education

Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng  
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

Ms. Claudia Mahler  
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

**Ref: UA AZE 1/2023**

Dear Special Procedures Mandate Holders,

The Republic of Azerbaijan (“*Azerbaijan*”) acknowledges receipt of your Joint Communication dated 2 February 2023 (“*Joint Communication*”) with regard to the situation on the road connecting the Republic of Armenia (“*Armenia*”) to the city of Khankandi in Azerbaijan (“*Lachin Road*”). Azerbaijan notes that the Joint Communication relies primarily on information issued by the Armenian side, and does not take account of publicly available information to the contrary. Azerbaijan welcomes this opportunity to correct the inaccurate information received by the Mandate Holders.

As a preliminary matter, Azerbaijan affirms its commitment to upholding its international obligations, including under international human rights law. With respect to Azerbaijan’s citizens of Armenian origin, including those living in the Garabagh Economic Region of Azerbaijan (“*Garabagh*”), Azerbaijan has confirmed repeatedly that it “is resolute to re-integrate [them] ... into its political, social, economic space, guaranteeing the same rights and freedoms with all the citizens of Azerbaijan regardless of their ethnic, religious, or any other affiliation”.<sup>1</sup> The peaceful protests that started on a small section of the Lachin Road on 12 December 2022 are not impeding traffic, and any concerns regarding the Garabagh

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<sup>1</sup> Statement by H.E. Mr. Jeyhun Aziz oglu Bayramov, Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the General Debate of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly (24 September 2022), [https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/77/az\\_en.pdf](https://gadebate.un.org/sites/default/files/gastatements/77/az_en.pdf). See also “President Aliyev congratulates Azerbaijan’s Orthodox Christian community on Easter”, *Trend News Agency* (30 April 2021), <https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3417418.html>; “Ombudsman’s Office to make every effort to integrate Armenians living in Karabakh into Azerbaijan’s society – ombudsman”, *Trend News Agency* (20 October 2022), <https://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/3659425.html>.

residents' access to food, health, education and other basic facilities are not attributable to any actions of the protesters or of Azerbaijan.

As the Joint Communication acknowledges, all three parties to the 10 November 2020 Trilateral Statement—including Armenia—agreed that Azerbaijan's present obligations with regard to the Lachin Corridor (including the Lachin Road) are limited to "guarantee[ing] the *security of persons, vehicles and cargo moving along the Lachin Corridor in both directions*".<sup>2</sup> Azerbaijan has done nothing to endanger the security of persons, vehicles, or cargo traveling along the Lachin Corridor, and the Joint Communication does not suggest otherwise. In contrast, and contrary to the suggestions in the Joint Communication, Azerbaijan is not responsible under the Trilateral Statement for "ensur[ing] that access remains open," for "enabl[ing] freedom of movement," or for "ensur[ing] that people have access to essential goods and services" via the Lachin Corridor.<sup>3</sup> Under the express terms of the Trilateral Statement, the Lachin Corridor "shall remain under the control of the Russian Federation peacemaking forces."<sup>4</sup>

Azerbaijan provides the following corrections to the information stated in the Joint Communication:

1. On 12 December 2022, a group of Azerbaijani citizens, primarily representatives of NGOs and other civil society organizations, started peaceful protests on the side of the Lachin Road near the city of Shusha in Azerbaijan. The site of the protests is under the control of the Russian peacekeepers. The protestors are objecting to illegal and environmentally harmful mining in Garabagh<sup>5</sup>, and demanding access for Azerbaijan's monitors and stricter checks on the Lachin Road, which was being used by Armenian companies to illegally remove mined minerals from Azerbaijan to Armenia.<sup>6</sup>
2. The 12 December protests occurred due to the obstruction of an agreed monitoring visit to the Gizilbulag and Damirli mines in Garabagh on 10 December 2022.<sup>7</sup> The

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<sup>2</sup> Annex to the Letter dated 10 November 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council, UN doc. S/2020/1104 (11 November 2020) ("Trilateral Statement"), para. 6 (emphasis added); *see also* Joint Communication, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Joint Communication, p. 2.

<sup>4</sup> Trilateral Statement, para. 6; *see also* Joint Communication, p. 3.

<sup>5</sup> *See, enclosed satellite images*

<sup>6</sup> *See, e.g., "Statement by participants of protest action held on Shusha-Khankandi road", Azerbaijan State News Agency (21 December 2022), [https://azertag.az/en/xeber/Statement\\_by\\_participants\\_of\\_protest\\_action\\_held\\_on\\_Shusha\\_Khankandi\\_road-2418614](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/Statement_by_participants_of_protest_action_held_on_Shusha_Khankandi_road-2418614).*

<sup>7</sup> *See* Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, No:582/22, *Commentary of the Press Service Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

attempt to conduct the monitoring inspection failed when Azerbaijani experts, accompanied by Russian peacekeepers who are temporarily stationed in Garabagh under the terms of the Trilateral Statement agreed between Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation, and Armenia were prevented from accessing the sites by local Armenians. Contrary to the information stated in the Joint Communication, negotiations between Azerbaijan and the Russian peacekeepers regarding Azerbaijan's monitoring of illegal mining sites in Garabagh have been ongoing since November 2021.<sup>8</sup>

3. Contrary to the information received by the Mandate Holders, the protesters have not "blocked the Lachin corridor."<sup>9</sup> The protestors themselves issued public statements making clear that they do not intend to block or in any way impede traffic along the Lachin Road, stating, "participants in the protest action have created all conditions" for movement of humanitarian cargo, passenger vehicles, ambulances, and other humanitarian vehicles.<sup>10</sup> In fact, since the protests started, approximately 2,500 vehicles have passed that section of the Lachin Road unimpeded and the traffic flow is continuing.<sup>11</sup> To Azerbaijan's knowledge, every single vehicle or person that approached the protest site, in either direction, passed that section of the Road. In each case, the protesters stood on the side of the Road and the vehicles passed through unimpeded.
4. It is incorrect that the protests "have prevented the movement of food, medical supplies, fuel and other vital goods" to Garabagh.<sup>12</sup> The International Committee

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*of Armenia dated December 13, 2022*, <https://www.mfa.gov.az/en/news/no58222>; Joint information of the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan (7 December 2022), <https://www.economy.gov.az/en/post/1037/azerbaycan-respublikasi-iqtisadiyyat-nazirliyi-ve-ekologiya-ve-tebii-servetler-nazirliyinin-birge-melumat>.

<sup>8</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *No:002/23, Commentary of the Press Service Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the statement of Armenian MFA dated January 3, 2023*, <https://www.mfa.gov.az/en/news/no00223>.

<sup>9</sup> Joint Communication, p. 2.

<sup>10</sup> "Statement by participants of protest action held on Shusha-Khankandi road", *Azerbaijan State News Agency* (21 December 2022), [https://azertag.az/en/xeber/Statement\\_by\\_participants\\_of\\_protest\\_action\\_held\\_on\\_Shusha\\_Khankandi\\_road-2418614](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/Statement_by_participants_of_protest_action_held_on_Shusha_Khankandi_road-2418614).

<sup>11</sup> See, e.g., Statement by Mr. Tofiq Musayev, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations at the 58th plenary meeting of the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly on the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/77/1), p. 3; see also "Over 60 vehicles pass through Lachin road against separatist claims", *AzerNews*, 6 February 2023, <https://www.azernews.az/nation/205998.html> (reporting on number of vehicles for that day); "Number of peacekeepers' vehicles passing freely through Lachin road reaches 43", *Report.az*, 26 January 2023, <https://report.az/en/karabakh/number-of-peacekeepers-vehicles-passing-freely-through-lachin-road-reaches-43/> (reporting on number of vehicles for that day).

<sup>12</sup> Joint Communication, p. 2.

of the Red Cross (“*ICRC*”), which has operated in Garabagh since the early 1990s, as well as the Russian peacekeepers who temporarily control the Lachin Road under the terms of the Trilateral Statement, have confirmed that humanitarian supplies are being delivered to Garabagh.<sup>13</sup> Azerbaijan is aware of statements by Armenia that it would normally deliver around 400 tons of essential goods to Garabagh on a daily basis. Azerbaijan is unaware, however, of any attempt by Armenia to make such deliveries since the protests started on 12 December 2022—despite the documented ability of every vehicle that has approached the site of the protests, including trucks with food, medical supplies, and other humanitarian supplies, to complete their journeys without restrictions.

5. It is incorrect that “the transfer of patients in critical condition for urgent treatment and hospitalization in the specialized medical centers in Armenia has become ... impossible.”<sup>14</sup> The ICRC has publicly confirmed that it is facilitating medical transfers to Armenia,<sup>15</sup> and Armenian media have likewise confirmed that, as of 14 February 2023, at least 97 patients have been transferred from Garabagh to Armenia for medical treatment.<sup>16</sup> Azerbaijan has granted all ICRC requests for access and it is not aware of any instance of a medical transfer being impeded by the protesters.
6. It is incorrect that “around 1,100 persons, including older persons, persons with disabilities, women and children have been trapped” on the Lachin Road.<sup>17</sup> While

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<sup>13</sup> “ICRC discloses the number of operations conducted on Lachin-Khankandi road-EXCLUSIVE”, *APA* (18 January 2023), <https://apa.az/en/foreign-policy/icrc-discloses-the-number-of-operations-conducted-on-lachin-khankandi-road-exclusive-394021>; Information Bulletin of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation on the activities of the Russian peacekeeping contingent in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (as of 5 February 2023), [https://mil.ru/russian\\_peacekeeping\\_forces/bulletins/more.htm?id=12453594@egNews](https://mil.ru/russian_peacekeeping_forces/bulletins/more.htm?id=12453594@egNews); Information Bulletin of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation on the activities of the Russian peacekeeping contingent in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (as of 1 February 2023), [https://mil.ru/russian\\_peacekeeping\\_forces/bulletins/more.htm?id=12453245@egNews](https://mil.ru/russian_peacekeeping_forces/bulletins/more.htm?id=12453245@egNews); Information Bulletin of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation on the activities of the Russian peacekeeping contingent in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (as of 30 January 2023), [https://mil.ru/russian\\_peacekeeping\\_forces/bulletins/more.htm?id=12453008@egNews](https://mil.ru/russian_peacekeeping_forces/bulletins/more.htm?id=12453008@egNews); and other daily bulletins published by the Russian peacekeepers available at [https://mil.ru/russian\\_peacekeeping\\_forces/bulletins.htm](https://mil.ru/russian_peacekeeping_forces/bulletins.htm). See also “ICRC delivers 10 tons of food supplies and medicine to Artsakh”, *Public Radio of Armenia* (25 December 2022), <https://en.armradio.am/2022/12/25/icrc-delivers-10-tons-of-icrc-food-supplies-and-medicine-to-artsakh/>.

<sup>14</sup> Joint Communication, p. 2.

<sup>15</sup> Twitter, International Committee of the Red Cross (19 December 2022), [https://twitter.com/icrc/status/1604858961437642759?s=61&t=KLOpT6-KSK\\_A9e--rO-APQ](https://twitter.com/icrc/status/1604858961437642759?s=61&t=KLOpT6-KSK_A9e--rO-APQ).

<sup>16</sup> “7 more medical patients transferred from Artsakh to Armenia through Red Cross mediation”, *News.am* (14 February 2023), <https://news.am/eng/news/744830.html>.

<sup>17</sup> Joint Communication, p. 2.

there were reports, in the first few days of the protests, of temporary traffic restrictions enforced at earlier checkpoints by the Russian peacekeepers who control the Lachin Road, the situation was resolved quickly. Armenian media confirmed that any individuals unable to travel between Armenia and Garabagh at that time were accommodated in Yerevan and Goris in Armenia.<sup>18</sup> All Armenian residents who travelled along the Lachin Road and reached the protest site were able to pass next to it.<sup>19</sup>

Since the start of the protests, Azerbaijan has taken steps to try to resolve the situation. On 22 December 2022, Azerbaijan met with the ICRC, and confirmed its readiness to provide every assistance to the local residents in Garabagh either directly or through the ICRC.<sup>20</sup> Azerbaijan continues to communicate with the ICRC, and all ICRC requests for access have been promptly granted. Azerbaijan has repeated its offer of assistance throughout the protests,<sup>21</sup> and in January 2023 its representatives met with the local Garabagh residents

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<sup>18</sup> “Stranded residents of Artsakh accommodated in Yerevan and Goris”, *Armenpress* (14 December 2022), <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1099607.html>.

<sup>19</sup> See, e.g., “Vehicles carrying 26 Armenians passed through protest area along Lachin-Khankandi road without hindrance”, *Azerbaijan State News Agency* (18 January 2023), [https://azertag.az/en/xeber/26\\_Armenian\\_citizens\\_passed\\_through\\_protest\\_area\\_along\\_Lachin\\_Khankandi\\_road\\_without\\_hindrance-2449373](https://azertag.az/en/xeber/26_Armenian_citizens_passed_through_protest_area_along_Lachin_Khankandi_road_without_hindrance-2449373). See also “An Armenian resident of Karabakh, who asked for help, was provided with food and cigarettes, sent from Shusha to Khankendi”, *APA* (8 January 2023), <https://apa.az/en/domestic-policy/an-armenian-resident-of-karabakh-who-asked-for-help-was-provided-with-food-and-cigarettes-sent-from-shusha-to-khankendi-video-393282>; “Today, 15 people were transferred from Artsakh to Armenia, 18 from Armenia to Artsakh, through ICRC mediation”, *First Channel News* (6 February 2023), <https://www.1lurer.am/en/2023/02/06/Today-15-people-were-transferred-from-Artsakh-to-Armenia-18-from-Armenia-to-Artsakh-through-ICRC-me/876391>.

<sup>20</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, No. 599/22, *Press information on the meeting of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bayramov with the Head of the Representation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Azerbaijan Dragana Kojic* (22 December 2023), <https://mfa.gov.az/az/news/no59922>; see also Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, *Statement by Mr. Tofiq Musayev at the 58th plenary meeting of the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly on the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/77/1)* (6 February 2023).

<sup>21</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, No: 582/22, *Commentary of the Press Service Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia dated December 13, 2022* (13 December 2022), <https://mfa.gov.az/en/news/no58222>; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, No: 583/22, *Head of the Press Service Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Aykhan Hajizada, answers the questions of local media representatives*, (14 December 2022), <https://mfa.gov.az/en/news/no58322>; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, No: 587/22 *Press Release on the briefing held for representatives of the diplomatic corps* (15 December 2022).

with the facilitation of the Russian peacekeepers.<sup>22</sup> This is a continuation of successful dialogue with local Armenians that has been ongoing since 2020, including on issues such as the construction of a bypass road in the Lachin Corridor, and the management of the Sarsang water reservoir. Azerbaijan is committed to maintaining dialogue on any issues which are of concern to the local residents. Azerbaijan has also maintained regular communication with the Russian peacekeepers who control the Lachin Road.

Meanwhile, Armenia's approach could not have been more different. Ten days into the protests, on 23 December 2022, Armenia at the last minute pulled out of planned trilateral talks in Moscow, which were intended to address (among other matters) the Lachin Road protests.<sup>23</sup> Since then, Armenia has declined or ignored multiple invitations from the Russian Federation<sup>24</sup> and Azerbaijan<sup>25</sup> to meet to resolve the situation.

Armenia has also refused to engage with the Russian peacekeepers or Azerbaijan to facilitate the delivery of supplies to Garabagh.<sup>26</sup> Instead, Armenia's Prime Minister and Speaker of the National Assembly repeatedly declared that "Armenia will not participate in the negotiations with Azerbaijan regarding the opening of the Lachin Corridor".<sup>27</sup> Since

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<sup>22</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, *Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation S.V. Lavrov's speech and answers to the questions of media during the press-conference on the results of the Russian diplomatic activity in 2022 year* (18 January 2023).

<sup>23</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, *Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement and answers to media questions at a joint news conference with Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov following talks* (23 December 2022), [https://mid.ru/en/press\\_service/minister\\_speeches/1845369/](https://mid.ru/en/press_service/minister_speeches/1845369/).

<sup>24</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, *Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's statement and answers to media questions at a joint news conference with Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov following talks* (23 December 2022), [https://mid.ru/en/press\\_service/minister\\_speeches/1845369/](https://mid.ru/en/press_service/minister_speeches/1845369/); Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, *Answer of the Spokesperson of the Russian Foreign Ministry M.V. Zakharova to the media question about the statements of the Armenian side on the Nagorno-Karabakh settlement* (12 January 2023), [https://mid.ru/ru/foreign\\_policy/news/1846891/](https://mid.ru/ru/foreign_policy/news/1846891/).

<sup>25</sup> Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, *1406<sup>th</sup> (Special) Meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe* (17 January 2023); Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, *Statement by Mr. Tofiq Musayev at the 58th plenary meeting of the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly on the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/77/1)* (6 February 2023).

<sup>26</sup> *Case Concerning the Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan)*, CR 2023/2, p. 20, para. 26 (noting that in January 2023, Azerbaijan had called on Armenia to provide information about food, medicine, and other supplies to be delivered to the local residents, or any transfers of persons that require assistance, to permit discussion of these matters with Russian peacekeepers, but received no response from Armenia).

<sup>27</sup> Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's Press Conference, YouTube, Government of Armenia (10 January 2023), <https://youtu.be/32rwF7rsn2E>; "Armenia should not engage in negotiations with Azerbaijan on

the Joint Communication “urge[s] all parties to the conflict to undertake meaningful negotiations to find a sustainable and peaceful settlement” of the situation, Azerbaijan encourages the Mandate Holders to inquire with Armenia about why it is refusing to facilitate the full resumption of traffic along the Lachin Road.

Finally, the allegation that “Azerbaijan has repeatedly halted gas supply through the only gas pipeline to [Garabagh]”<sup>28</sup> is entirely wrong.

There is no truth to the allegation that Azerbaijan is shutting off the delivery of gas to Garabagh—an accusation that Armenia has repeatedly asserted, but tellingly, has never supported with any evidence. As a point of fact Azerbaijan does not supply *any* gas to Garabagh; instead, it is *Armenia* that delivers gas to Garabagh through an old Soviet-era pipeline, and distributes gas in Garabagh through an *Armenian* utility company. Only a portion of the pipeline passes through territory under the responsibility of Azerbaijan’s national gas utility, “Azerigas” Production Union (“*Azerigas*”). This has been the situation since Armenia’s aggression and during the 30-year occupation of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan is aware of reports of several interruptions or pressure drops affecting the pipeline delivering gas to Garabagh, including in December 2022 and January 2023. Azerbaijan notes that reports of gas interruptions in Garabagh—and indeed, elsewhere in Azerbaijan and Armenia—coincide with severe cold weather in the region. For instance, delivery of gas was temporarily disrupted to Gadabay, Gazakh, Balakan, and Yardimli regions of Azerbaijan between 14 and 16 December 2022, at the same time as there were reported disruptions in Garabagh, because of technical problems resulting from a sudden drop in temperature.<sup>29</sup> Other factors such as the high elevation of Garabagh, the age of the pipeline, and the 30 years of neglect in maintenance during Armenia’s occupation, are also likely to be contributing to the problems.

For Azerbaijan’s part, whenever a gas interruption in Garabagh is due to technical issues on the portion of the pipeline under the responsibility of Azerigas, its engineers act promptly to restore supply, as was the case during a snap of cold weather in March 2022.<sup>30</sup>

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the opening of the Lachin Corridor – Alen Simonyan”, *Armenpress* (12 January 2023), <https://www.armenpress.am/eng/news/1101552/>.

<sup>28</sup> Joint Communication, p. 2.

<sup>29</sup> Azerigas, *Gas supply to some villages has been interrupted due to severe weather* (10 December 2022), <https://azeriqaz.az/az/news/1792>; Azerigas, *The union’s working groups are working hard to eliminate the interruption in gas supply* (14 December 2022), <https://azeriqaz.az/az/news/1801>; Azerigas, *There is a problem with gas supply in 4 districts of Azerbaijan* (15 December 2022), <https://azeriqaz.az/az/news/1807>; “There will be interruptions in the gas supply of some regions of Azerbaijan”, *APA* (15 December 2022), <https://apa.az/en/incident/there-will-be-interruptions-in-the-gas-supply-of-some-regions-of-azerbaijan-391810>.

<sup>30</sup> Facebook, Azeriqaz IB (27 March 2022), <https://www.facebook.com/aeriqaz/posts/3026566674322623>.

Azerigas has announced a long-term plan to update Garabagh's gas infrastructure to improve reliability, after it assumes responsibility for customers in the area, but it cannot do so unless and until the Armenian utility currently providing gas in Garabagh transfers its infrastructure to Azerigas.

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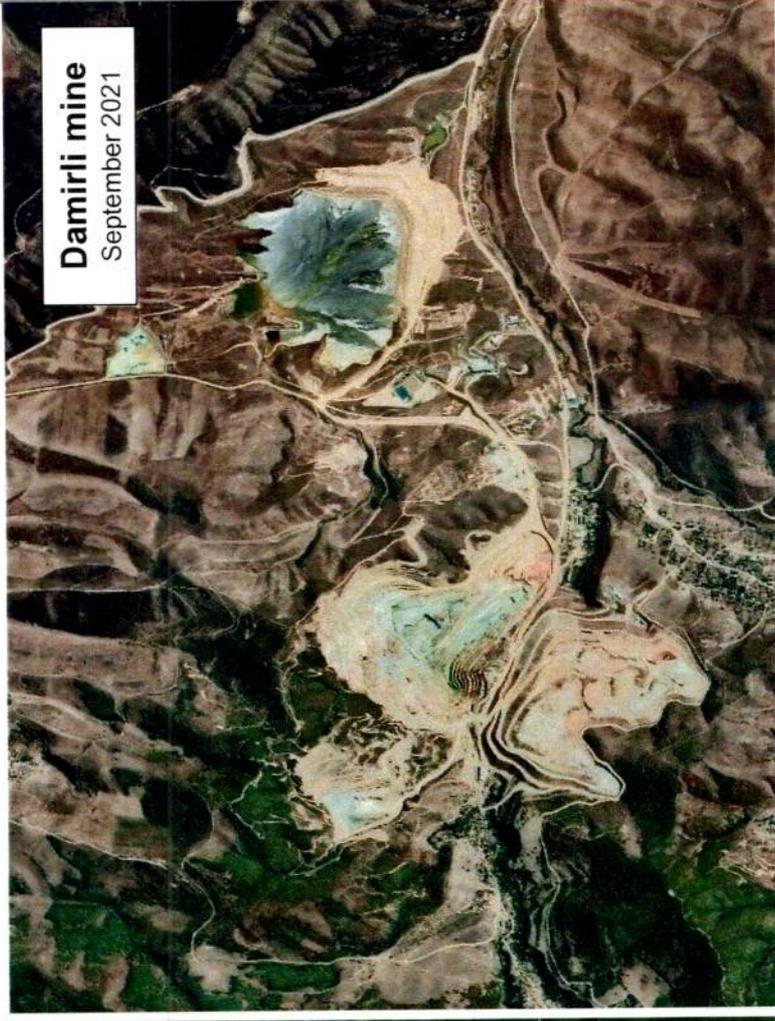
Azerbaijan notes that it is compelled to reiterate its objections to the use of geographical names that are inconsistent with the official names used by Azerbaijan and in international documents, including those of the United Nations, in referring to Azerbaijan's sovereign territory.<sup>31</sup> Azerbaijan trusts that, going forward, the Mandate Holders will refer to the official geographical names of the territorial units.

Azerbaijan trusts the information provided in this reply will assist the Mandate Holders to engage constructively with Armenia as well as Azerbaijan going forward, and likewise urge Armenia to comply with its international obligations.

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<sup>31</sup> See Letter dated 27 January 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, UN doc. A/76/666-S/2022/61 (28 January 2022), p. 2 (explaining that official list is contained in the report submitted to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names). Compare, e.g., 2 February 2021 Joint Communication (referring to "Nagorno-Karabakh" and "Stepanakert") with Report by the Republic of Azerbaijan submitted to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, UN doc. GEGN.2/2021 (22 April 2021) [https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd\\_session\\_2021/documents/GEGN.2\\_2021\\_CRP134\\_AZE\\_national\\_report\\_final.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/2nd_session_2021/documents/GEGN.2_2021_CRP134_AZE_national_report_final.pdf), Annex 1, at 2, 6 (listing the correct official names of "Garabagh" and "Khankendi").

# Illegal mining of Azerbaijan's natural resources during occupation



**Gizilbulag Mine**

December 1985



**Gizilbulag Mine**

July 2022

