

Azerbaijan

In addition to the information provided previously (A/70/211, A/74/151), we would like to inform that the coordination at the national level of the relevant measures against individuals and entities listed as engaged in terrorist activities by the sanctions committees of the UN Security Council has been continued.

For the purpose of implementing paragraph 3.8 of the "National Action Plan for the Promotion of Open Government for 2020-2022," approved by Decree No. 1859 of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated February 27, 2020, taking into account international experience, the "Law on Combating the Legalization of Property Obtained through Criminal Means and the Financing of Terrorism" and the "Law on Targeted Financial Sanctions," were adopted on December 30, 2022.

The "Law on Combating the Legalization of Property Obtained through Criminal Means and the Financing of Terrorism" regulates relations aimed at detecting and preventing the legalization of property obtained through criminal means and the financing of terrorism, creating conditions that exclude the possibility of using the country's economic system for illegal purposes, fulfilling obligations arising from international treaties to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party, as well as protecting the interests of the state and society through effective national and international cooperation in this direction.

The "Law on Targeted Financial Sanctions" establishes the legal basis and procedure for the application of targeted financial sanctions in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, to prevent terrorism, to identify the financing of terrorism, to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Financial Monitoring Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, established by Presidential Decree No. 95 dated May 15, 2018, is a public legal entity funded by the state budget that implements unified regulation and control, coordinates activities, and participates in policy formation in the field of preventing the legalization of funds or other property obtained through criminal means and the financing of terrorism.

During the 44 days war between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the fall of 2020, Armenia mobilized its diaspora organizations under the guise of charities or non-governmental entities to collect funds purportedly for "humanitarian" purposes. In fact, their activities were aimed at financing terrorism, corruption and money laundering. In this connection, a report titled "Armenia's abuse of non-profit organizations and charity entities for corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing purposes" was submitted and published as a document of the UN General Assembly and Security Council (A/76/680-S/2022/92). The report lists the names of 11 Armenian funds and organizations.

The earlier "Report on the use of foreign terrorist fighters by the Republic of Armenia in its recent aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan," submitted by Azerbaijan and published as a document of the UN General Assembly and Security Council, included a list of individuals involved in terrorist activities during the 44 days war, in which Armenia used mercenaries and foreign terrorist fighters (A/75/625-S/2020/1161).

As a result of the local counter-terrorism measures carried out in September 2023, certain individuals were arrested on charges, *inter alia*, of war crimes, violations of international humanitarian law and terrorist acts resulting in the death of people. The accused individuals have been taken into pre-trial detention on the basis of court orders. Large ammunition depots belonging to these illegal armed groups were identified and confiscated.

As a result of investigative and operational measures, reasonable suspicions have arisen that these individuals participated in the formation and operation of armed groups contrary to the national legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and in the acquisition, transfer, storage, transportation, and carrying of firearms, their components, ammunition, and explosive devices illegally in an organized manner. At the same time, reasonable grounds were also established that they intentionally participated in the financing of terrorism by collecting, allocating, and providing funds and other property wholly or partially, directly or indirectly, for the commission of terrorist acts by these illegal armed groups.

The citizens of Azerbaijan have also been victims of landmine terrorism in the liberated territories. Due to the planting of landmines by Armenia even in the post-conflict period, more than 360 people have fallen victim to landmine terrorism since 2020. Among them, 68 people have lost their lives, including 53 civilians and 15 military personnel.
