

Azərbaycan Respublikasının  
BMT yanında Daimi  
Nümayəndəliyi



Permanent Mission of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan  
to the United Nations

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AZ/014/23/L

“ 10 ” February 2023

Excellency,

Upon instructions received from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and in accordance with paragraph 11 (a) of General Assembly resolution 77/108 of 7 December 2022, entitled “Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives”, I have the honour to submit to you the report on the attack on the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I should be grateful if you would have the said report circulated to all States, in accordance with paragraph 12 (b) of the aforementioned resolution, and reflected in the next report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly pursuant to paragraph 14 of the resolution.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yashar Aliyev'.

Yashar Aliyev  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. António Guterres  
Secretary-General of the  
United Nations  
New York

**Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives**

**Report on the attack on the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

On 27 January 2023, at around 8:32am local time, an armed attack was committed against the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The attack was thoroughly recorded through the Embassy's surveillance cameras.<sup>1</sup>

On the day of the attack, the attacker drove past the Embassy twice with his car, at 8:05am and 8:24am, to choose a suitable moment for the attack.

At 8:32am, immediately after the Embassy staff entered through the main entrance of the Embassy's administrative building, the attacker deliberately crashed his vehicle at high speed into the vehicle belonging to the diplomatic mission of Azerbaijan parked in front of the Embassy building. Taking advantage of the Embassy staff member opening the door of the Embassy in reaction to the resulting noise, the attacker took an automatic rifle from his vehicle, gestured to the Iranian diplomatic police officer posted at the entrance and entered the Embassy while opening fire.

During the next 4 minutes, inside the Embassy, until 8:36am, the attacker fired numerous shots at the Embassy staff and, as a result, the head of the Embassy's security service, Orkhan Asgarov, died on the scene from a gunshot wound and another staff member, Mahir Imanov, was seriously wounded in his right arm and left leg. Another staff member, Vasif Taghiyev, engaged with the attacker in hand-to-hand combat in order to neutralize him. Although the attacker fired at V.Taghiyev twice with rifle and pistol, wounding him in the shoulder and chin, he managed to remove the magazine from the attacker's automatic rifle and push him out of the Embassy building.

At 8:34am, 2 minutes after the attacker entered the Embassy, an Iranian police vehicle arrived at the Embassy, but after a few seconds of conversation with a diplomatic police officer posted at the entrance, left the area.

Despite the attacker's forceful entry into the Embassy, sustained gunshots came from the Embassy, and V.Taghiyev's calls for help to neutralize the attacker, the Iranian diplomatic police officer posted at the entrance did nothing to intervene in the incident and instead abandoned his post and left the area.

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<sup>1</sup> The full recorded CCTV footage of the incident with English subtitles is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=6zcSpZUO9-Q&feature=youtu.be>.

After the attacker was pushed out of the Embassy building for the first time, he took a spare magazine from his jacket, reloaded his rifle, gestured twice to someone and began to shoot continuously at the Embassy entrance, as well as at the windows of the apartments in the Embassy building, where the family members of the diplomats live. He also ignited the tires of the Embassy vehicle twice in order to burn it with a combustible substance.

Breaking the door of the Embassy with a heavy mallet taken from the trunk of his car, the attacker managed to enter the Embassy for the second time at 8:45am with the intent to kill diplomats and their family members. V.Taghiyev again forced the attacker to leave the building.

In the street, the attacker again gestured to some persons standing in the distance and, taking advantage of the police still not intervening in the incident, tried to set ablaze the Embassy vehicles parked in front of the Embassy building with a "Molotov cocktail" that he retrieved from his vehicle. Only at 8:49am, as the attacker accidentally set himself on fire, the police immediately intervened. However, the police neither arrested nor even treated the attacker like a criminal, helping him to extinguish the flame instead. The attacker continued wandering in the area for some time, insulting the Embassy diplomats and verbally threatening to kill them. He freely approached the mallet, which he used to break down the Embassy building's door, retrieved it and placed in his vehicle.

Then the attacker began to insist that V.Taghiyev, who was at that time demanding from the Embassy window to arrest the attacker, come down. And when V.Taghiyev came down, he began to threaten him again and wanted to attack him. The police did not react to this either.

Only at around 8:54am, after merely spectating the deadly armed attack and the following aggressive acts of the attacker against the Embassy staff and premises for more than 20 minutes, the police handcuffed the attacker, put him in a car, and left the area. At this time, an unknown person with a mask on his face took some items from the attacker's car and left the area.

The facts that the attacker chose Friday (non-working day in Iran) to commit the attack (to minimize the circumstances that could interfere with the attack), that he brought an automatic rifle and a full spare magazine, a "Colt" type pistol, a "Molotov cocktail", a heavy mallet and other means to the scene, as well as the fact that the Iranian police did not intervene in the incident, give grounds for presuming that the incident was pre-planned.

The Republic of Azerbaijan demanded that the authorities of Iran conduct a proper investigation of the incident. The police investigation is ongoing.