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**Human Rights Council**

**Forty-first session**

24 June–12 July 2019

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,**

**political, economic, social and cultural rights,**

**including the right to development**

 Note verbale dated 19 June 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

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 referring to the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on the case of *Chiragov and Others v. Armenia* of 16 June 2015, has honour to state the following.

The European Court of Human Rights ruled in favour of the Azerbaijani nationals who had been forcibly displaced from the occupied Lachyn district of Azerbaijan, recognizing the continuing violation by Armenia of a number of their rights under the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, namely, those relating to the protection of property (Protocol No. 1 to the Convention, art. 1), the right to respect for private and family life (Convention, art. 8) and the right to an effective remedy (Convention, art. 13). The Court confirmed in particular that the proprietary rights of the Azerbaijani displaced persons were still valid. Consequently, the ruling of the Court highlights the unlawfulness of any purported transfer of property.

The Permanent Mission also draws attention to the consequences of the use of force in and the occupation of the Lachyn district by the armed forces of Armenia on 18 May 1992, and states that the occupation has inflicted serious damage to State and private property; 217 cultural, 101 educational, 142 health-care and 462 commercial enterprises and 30 communications, two transport and various other facilities in the Lachyn district have been plundered and destroyed.

Many historical monuments of world and national significance have been subjected to vandalism by Armenia, such as the sixth-century Albanian Aghoghlan cloister and the fourteenth-century Malik Ajdar tomb, the mosque in the village of Garygyshlag and the ancient cemetery in the village of Zabukh, which have been destroyed, and the Lachyn Museum of History and its unique collection of ancient gold, silver and bronze artefacts, which have been plundered.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva kindly requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to circulate the present note verbale as a document of the forty-first session of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 3.