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During almost three decades of occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan, Armenia, in blatant violation of international humanitarian law, deliberately planted

of Azerbaijan during the occupation. Artefacts and ancient manuscripts of the 13th century Khudavang monastery in the Kalbajar district, as well as precious artefacts found as a result of unlawful archaeological excavations near the Shahbulag fortress in the Aghdam district during the occupation, were illegally transferred to Armenia. Unlawful excavations have been conducted also in the Azikh cave near the Azgh village of the Khojavand district.

All these actions constitute a gross violation of international humanitarian law and the UNESCO standards setting instruments, such as the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property on the Event of Armed Conflict and its two protocols, as well as the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

Regrettably, numerous appeals to the relevant international organizations to investigate war crimes, including the deliberate destruction, misappropriation and alteration of our cultural heritage, as well as illicit removal of our cultural properties by Armenia, have been ignored throughout the 30 years of occupation.

The cultural heritage in Azerbaijan, regardless of its origin, whether secular or religious, reflects the cultural diversity of the people of Azerbaijan, which Azerbaijan values and protects.

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In the course of its aggression against Azerbaijan since the early 1990s, Armenia, its agents, officials and soldiers

mono ethnic statehood, ethnic cleansing and racial discrimination in Armenia, which represents an immense injustice and violation of international law and poses a threat to lasting peace in the region.

Based on the right to return enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention Relating to

