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UNGA 78/ Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 80 'Crimes against Humanity'

Statement by H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the UN

12 October 2023

Mr. Chair,

[As this is the first time I am taking the floor, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee and to wish you much success.

Crimes against humanity constitute grave offenses against the values and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Armenia welcomes the ongoing discussions on the draft articles on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity.

Adopting a convention for the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity offer an important legal tool by facilitating national investigations, prosecutions and punishment by fostering international cooperation to this end while filling a perceived gap by adding to the treaties on the prevention and punishment of genocide and war crimes. Yet, the significance of a new convention goes beyond a merely legal matter, as crimes against humanity not only represent a direct assault on the dignity of human beings but also pose grave threats to the maintenance of international peace and security.

We have seen such heinous crimes

The repeated military attacks against the territorial integrity of Armenia in 2021 and 2022 targeted densely populated areas and civilian infrastructure, with verified and extensively documented reports of despicable crimes having been committed on the territory of Armenia, including those involving most barbaric forms of atrocities, gender-based sexual violence, torture and mutilations

These systematic attacks against Armenia and the Armenian people in Nagorno-Karabakh have involved