



ԵԱՀԿ ՌԻՍ ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՄՇՏԱԿԱՆ ՆԵՐԿԱՅԱՑՈՒՑՉՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OSCE

**STATEMENT**

**In response to the Delegation of Azerbaijan  
as delivered by the Delegation of the Republic of Armenia at the 86<sup>th</sup> Joint  
Meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation and  
the Permanent Council**

*23 November 2022*

Distinguished colleagues,

There is no single area that is covered by the IHL, IHRL or the Geneva conventions and which has not been flagrantly violated by Azerbaijan, therefore, it is the last country not only in this room but on earth to blame anyone for a violation of International Humanitarian Law or Human Rights Law. Its abysmal records are self-evident and self-revealing.

First, I have to underline that today, no single Armenian has been left in around 200 civilian communities of Artsakh, under Azerbaijani armed forces control. Those who could not escape were simply brutally killed and executed by the Azerbaijani armed forces, who filmed these inhuman acts and shared them on social networks.

For the record, in the past two years, a number of civilians have been deliberately killed and dozens were wounded in Nagorno-Karabakh by Azerbaijani armed forces. There were 55 cases of attempted murder against civilians. These are the facts: despite the declarations made at the highest level in Azerbaijan about ensuring safety and security of Armenians in Artsakh.

The very recent ceasefire violations in Nagorno-Karabakh were against civilians carrying out agricultural work. In the course of several days at least 4 attacks on peaceful residents, with the first one leaving an injured peaceful civilian working in the field. Apparently, these crimes were not followed by any condemnation by the authorities of Azerbaijan, which is part of the parcel of its anti-Armenian policy. This is how the Azerbaijani regime perceives normalization of relations: terrorizing civilians,

misappropriation, and desecration of religious sanctuaries, erasing cemeteries and other evidence of Armenian trace in the territories fallen under its control, with total disregard of its obligations and commitments under international law and this organization.

The fact that to date Azerbaijan refuses to return Armenian prisoners of war and uses aggressive tactics terrorizing populations living both in Artsakh and in the bordering villages of Armenia is to an extent a product of a failed international response to Azerbaijan's actions. Without accountability, Aliyev's regime will succeed in its "military solution" as a means of suppressing self-determination, causing ethnic cleansing, and sidelining lasting solutions to the conflict.

As of today we have not heard any condemnation by the Azerbaijani authorities addressed to their armed forces on the inadmissibility of these violations of IHL. Those declarations about launching investigations into the war crimes perpetrated against Armenian servicemen and civilians during the aggression against Artsakh and sovereign territories of Armenia, have been made by Azerbaijan with the hope to avoid growing criticism of the International organizations, states and parliamentarians. We haven't heard any cases of bringing the perpetrators of these heinous crimes to justice as well. Moreover, later some of the perpetrators received state awards from the leadership of that country.

In an attempt to conceal its abhorrent war crimes and violations of IHL and mislead the international community, Azerbaijan recycles fake narratives, blaming Armenia for exactly the same wrongdoings and crimes that it has committed against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, in order to shift the blame and mislead the international community. It also tries to impose on others a parallel reality that its leadership has invented regarding the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone claiming that there is no Nagorno-Karabakh and that there are no people of Nagorno-Karabakh. And that logic is quite simple. According to it, there will be no responsibility for the extermination of people that are non-existent.

The conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh has not been resolved and it awaits its final and just resolution.

Today, we again strongly urge our international partners to react to this aggressive behavior of Azerbaijan not only in words but in deeds. Our failure to curtail and contain this aggressive policy of Azerbaijani regime will not only seriously handicap the normalization processes in the region, but will also destabilize the region on a much larger scale with repercussions far beyond the South Caucasus.