

OSCE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON TOLERANCE AND  
NON-DISCRIMINATION

ENGLISH only

*Astana, 29-30 June 2010***Session 7: Strategies for promoting tolerance and understanding, interethnic and intercultural dialogue including its religious dimension, in the OSCE area****Statement by Ms. Dziunik Aghajanian, Adviser  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia  
in the exercise of the Right of Reply**

Madame Moderator,

It is saddening to see this forum misused by our distinguished key-note speaker from Azerbaijan (Mr. Hidayat Orujov) by raising political issues related to the resolution of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict which is not the topic of our discussion today.

Given the comments made, I am forced to reply reminding the distinguished delegate and all Participating States that Nagorno Karabagh conflict is NOT of a religious nature, and all efforts by Azerbaijan to depict it as such have been futile.

As for the fabricated accusations of aggression and occupation against Armenia, I would like to refresh the memory of our colleagues that it was Azerbaijan that unleashed a full-scale war against the Armenian population of Nagorno Karabagh in 1992, as a response to their legitimate calls for self-determination, with the mere intent of cleansing the whole Armenian population of the region, as they succeeded in Nakhijevan, Sumgait, Kirovabad/Gyanja and Baku. I would like to remind that the Armenians of Nagorno Karabagh were put under Azerbaijani SSR rule by the unilateral decision of Stalin against the explicitly expressed opposition of its population, out of divide-and-rule policy.

Concerning the results of the Azerbaijani war of aggression, the territories that came under control of the Nagorno Karabagh authorities serve as a security belt and a guarantee until the time when Azerbaijan truly negotiates a peaceful solution in the peace talks and not resorts to blackmail by violating the ceasefire regime and relying on the use of force.

With regard to all historic monuments on the territory of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic, I would like to assure that all of them, including the Muslim ones, are in full preservation and protection of the Republic's authorities. Moreover, all efforts are exerted to rebuild those possible, like the Blue Mosque, as it is regarded as an indispensable part of the region's history.

Unfortunately, we cannot state the same for any of the Armenian monuments on the territory of Azerbaijan.

Thank you, Madame Moderator.