



**UN Human Rights Council  
Forty-third Session**

**General Debate  
Agenda Item 4  
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention**

**Right of Reply  
delivered by Shahriyar Hajiyev, Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of  
Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**11 March 2020**

Madam Vice-President,

We are exercising this right of reply in response to the falsified and distorted comments made by the representative of Armenia. The Human Rights Council is the one of the most suitable platforms to raise the issue of the violated human rights of Azerbaijani IDPs and refugees. We would like to state that unlike Armenia, Azerbaijan adheres to its obligations under international law and constantly submits information on the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. We will seize each and every opportunity to reveal the truth and show the real perpetrator of the human rights violations of more than one million Azerbaijani IDPs and refugees.

The “*existential physical security threat*” – the concept mastered by the new Armenian leadership plays for creating a vulnerable image to mislead the international community. In fact, the concept is simply about hiding Armenia's territorial claims exercised in the form of occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan accompanied by ethnic cleansing.

In 1992 – 1994, Armenia used its military force to seize the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent administrative districts of Azerbaijan and set up the illegal separatist regime in these territories constituting 20 per cent of the internationally recognized territory of Azerbaijan.

Here again, we witnessed that Armenia does not have any intention to implement the judgement of the European Court of Human Rights for the case “*Chiragov and others vs Armenia*” but instead continues to blame Azerbaijan.

The European Court of Human Rights, having established the responsibility of Armenia as the occupying power in the above-mentioned case, reaffirmed the right of displaced persons to return to their homes or places of habitual residence. In this context, in the view of the Court, the continued presence of Armenian troops and ceasefire breaches is the major obstacle for the Azerbaijanis to return to their homes in the current circumstances.

It would have been appreciated if Armenia gave information on restoring the violated human rights of more than one million Azerbaijani IDPs and refugees rather than speaking out of context to distract attention from its continuous and systematic human rights violations.

Regarding the accusations made by Armenia, we draw attention to the violations of international humanitarian law by Armenia. On 11 July 2014, the military of Armenia brutally killed an Azerbaijani civilian, Hassan Hassanov, and captured Dilgam Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev, who were attempting to visit the graves of their parents in the occupied Kalbajar district of Azerbaijan. Keeping them in captivity is yet further proof of Armenia's policy of hatred, the primary objective of which is to consolidate the results of its aggression and occupation.

Contrary to the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto the Armenian side continues to flagrantly violate these commitments taken at the international level and does not consider the calls of the Azerbaijani side to respect IHL and release detained Azerbaijani civilians.