



**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-fourth Session
General debate on Item 3**

Right of reply

delivered by Emin Aslanov, Second secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

March 10, 2017

Mr. Chair,

Exercising my right of reply regarding Armenian delegation's statement during today's General Debate, I wish to underline that as usual, the delegate of the military aggressor country again attempted to abuse this platform to attack my country to divert the attention of international community from her Government's ongoing military aggression against my country and conceal this gross violation of international law by the military occupying power.

As regards illegal visits to Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, we have to underline that Armenia's efforts in encouraging illegal visits to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, not only put in danger the safety of those individuals visiting the area of ongoing armed conflict, but also put them into violation of Azerbaijani legislation prohibiting such visits without explicit consent of Azerbaijani authorities. Obviously, Persons violating the sovereignty, territorial integrity and domestic legislation of Azerbaijan are included in the black list and their entry to the Republic of Azerbaijan is denied.

Regarding the case of Mr. Lapshin, I would like to stress that, despite the warnings from the Foreign Ministries of the countries whose citizenship he holds, without permission of Azerbaijani authorities illegally visited the territories of Azerbaijan occupied by the armed forces of Armenia and made calls aimed at violation of Azerbaijan's internationally recognized territorial integrity.

A.Lapshin, knowing about the inclusion of his name into the list of undesirable persons, re-entered Azerbaijan's territory with another passport in June of 2016. He openly stated that he has committed these acts in a deliberate and provocative manner.

Due to the fact that his actions hold elements of open calls against the state and illegal border crossing, Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan filed a suit

under the relevant articles of the Criminal Code of Azerbaijan and put him on the international wanted list. Subsequently, in line with international treaties and norms law-enforcement agencies of Belarus detained him and extradited to Azerbaijan. Currently, his case is being reviewed within the laws of Azerbaijan.

This case once again indicates that Armenia fraudulently attracts foreign nationals to the illegal visits to Azerbaijan's occupied territories and then tries to turn them into a tool of its political propaganda.

Therefore, using this occasion, we once again call upon foreign citizens to refrain from illegal visits to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan as well as other countries to warn their nationals about legal consequences of such trips.

Thank you.