



**UN Human Rights Council  
Thirty-fourth Session  
Interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner**

**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 9, 2017**

1<sup>st</sup> Right of reply

Mr. Chair,

I wish to exercise this right of reply regarding Armenian delegation's statement during today's exchange with the High Commissioner.

Time and again, the delegate of the military aggressor tried to abuse this platform to attack my country, hoping that these untruthful and mean attacks may divert the attention of international community from their military attack against my country and gross violation of international law, including the UN charter, relevant Resolutions of UN Security Council and General Assembly.

Regarding the claims of Armenian delegate on ceasefire violations, I wish to underline that the escalation of the situation in the front and perpetration of military provocations are continuation of Armenia's political provocations as holding of **illegal "referendum"** in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan on February 20, 2017.

We have repeatedly emphasized that the illegal presence of armed forces of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan remains the prime reason for the escalation of the situation. The international community on many occasions has also stated that the **status quo is unacceptable** and unsustainable and it must be changed.

I call the delegate of the aggressor country – Armenia to refrain from unsuccessful attempts of lecturing others about the principles and values, which his Government disregards and opposes.

We can bring countless number of examples about deteriorating human rights situation in Armenia documented and reported by human rights organizations: continued restrictions of media pluralism, impunity for attacks on journalists, including by the police, tightened repression against political opponents by arresting activists, increased number of political prisoners and so on are just few of them.

To conceal this worsening situation of human rights and avoid international scrutiny, Armenia **does not even cooperate with the Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights**. This was stated by the High Commissioner himself at the September session of last year. During his update, the

Commissioner expressed his regret that Armenia has so far not accorded access to OHCHR presence in Tbilisi, which supports countries in the South Caucasus. He followed by saying that: I quote “We have therefore, unable to cooperate and engage fully with the Government, its state entities and civil society organizations.”

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Right of reply.**

Mr. Chair,

I apologize for being obliged to take the floor second time:

Following my last point in the previous right of reply, I will list only some of human rights violations which Armenia tries to hide from the Office of High Commissioner:

Mr. President

We all are aware of the military dictatorship in Armenia established after murdering the entire political elite of the country and killing a number of peaceful demonstrators protesting rigged presidential elections.

We are also aware of the constitutional amendments imposed by the ruling party to allow the military regime to remain in power.

Suffice to mention discourse of senior politicians representing the ruling Republican Party against their political opponents to like “cut off their head”, “rape them”, “poke their eyes out” in order to understand the nature of political regime in Armenia.

Furthermore, relatives of those who were killed on 1 March 2008, when government security forces used lethal force to disperse demonstrators protesting against electoral fraud is in desperate need of justice, and, since there is no independent judiciary in Armenia.

Presidential censorship of TV media in Armenia by granting all of the artificially restricted number of technically available frequencies to his relatives and friends is another example of so called Armenian democracy.

We all saw the reports regarding the recent attempts of people to use their right of assembly in Yerevan while hundreds of protesters and journalists were severely beaten and 237 people, including number of journalists were arrested, their cameras and other media equipments were smashed, prompting the harsh statements from the Commissioner for Human Rights and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

Reports of large-scale vote-buying, ballot box stuffing, and intimidation and violence against observers during the Referendum have neither been forgotten.

Thank you.