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**The Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

32<sup>nd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

27 June 2016

Mr. President,

The Republic of Azerbaijan welcomes the Special Rapporteur and thanks for the comprehensive report.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is concerned that people in all parts of the world continue to suffer daily from racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which is still a permanent challenge to the enjoyment of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Azerbaijan as a multiethnic and multi-confessional country carries out its national policy in all fields with the consideration of traditional tolerance and harmonic coexistence of different national, ethnic, linguistic and religious groups. In this regard, the establishment of Baku International Multiculturalism Center and the Year of Multiculturalism, both aimed to protect and promote multiculturalism.

Very recently, Azerbaijan hosted the 7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, which aimed to work towards a more peaceful, more socially inclusive world, by building mutual respect among peoples of different cultural and religious identities, and highlighting the will of the world to embrace diversity.

Mr. President,

As a result of the aggression by Armenia, almost 20 percent of the territory of Azerbaijan continues to remain under occupation and more than one million Azerbaijani refugees and IDPs are unable to return to their homes. Armenia by implementing a policy of ethnic cleansing of all non-Armenians in its own territory, forcibly evicted the only Muslim ethnic group in Armenia, that is 250,000

ethnic Azerbaijanis at the end of 1980s. In the meantime, Azerbaijan has preserved its ethnic and cultural diversity to the present day, and there are still 30,000 armenians living in Baku alone. At the same time, the Armenian church has been preserved in Baku.

It is ridiculous that with all belligerent and inflammatory rhetoric and hysteria of the government of Armenia which only promotes the policy of aggression, it lectures others about the “glorification of the criminals” issues. The international community is well aware of the criminal activities of Armenian terrorist organizations such as ASALA and “Justice Commandos”, as well as about the continuous glorification by Armenia of its own terrorists, such as Varujan Karapetyan, Monte Melkonian and others who convicted on terrorism charges in several European countries.

Nazi fascist generals Garegin Nzhdeh and Drastamat Kanayan, who committed the massacres of civilians in Azerbaijan's Zangazur district in 1918-1920, continued them with extreme cruelty as part of the fascist army against Jews and other nations in USSR territories occupied during the World War II. The racist Armenian nationalist ideology developed by Nzhdeh Garegin on the basis of the fascist ideologies of racial discrimination, “Aryan race” and anti-Semitism is the ideological tendency of Armenia’s ruling Republic party and consequently the Armenian government today. What is even worse is that this ideology, known as Nzhdehizm, is included in the curriculum of Armenian secondary and higher schools, and the younger generation are being brought up in these spirits.

Armenia’s exaltation of fascism, including the unveiling of a big monument to Nzhdeh Garegin with the participation of the country’s leadership in downtown Yerevan in 28 May 2016, was an extreme manifestation of disrespect for the millions of people killed during the World War, as well as their families and veterans.

In conclusion, while reiterating our commitment to this mandate, we call Special Rapporteur on racism to react to such cases.

Thank you for your attention.