



**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-fourth Session
Clustered Interactive Dialogue
with the Special Rapporteur on cultural rights and
the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and
fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism**

2nd 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 6, 2017

Regarding points of Armenian delegation on preservation of cultural heritage in occupied territories, let me draw your attention to a personal note: The city I was born - Aghdam - once referred as the pearl of Karabakh for its being the centre of art, culture as well as for its beautiful and cultural monuments is now ruined by Armenian military and two years ago well-known British travel writer - George Mitchell, who visited the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, called my city “a ghost town” and “Hiroshima of the Caucasus” because of the total devastation of nature and heritage all around. And this is how they preserve cultural heritage.

Another evidence of the Armenian crimes against the Azerbaijani culture is the export to Armenia of historical items found in more than 15 destroyed and looted mounds in the occupied Aghdam region of Azerbaijan.

Another example of vandalism carried out by the Government of Armenia is about altering the historical toponyms of Karabakh region of my country.

I would like to remind Armenian colleague that, mass destruction and falsification of historical and cultural monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan is in contrary to, the Hague Convention of the 1954 (on the protection of cultural property during armed conflicts).

Regarding allegations on the situation of human rights in Azerbaijan, it is not to Armenia to speak about human rights issues in Azerbaijan. The international community still recalls brutal massacres

by invading Armenian troops of Azerbaijani civilians, including children, women and the elderly, as well as the establishment of the military dictatorship in Armenia after murdering the entire political elite of the country and killing a number of peaceful demonstrators protesting rigged presidential elections.

Thank you.