



**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-sixth Session
General debate on Item 9**

Second right of reply in response to the statement made by the delegation of the Republic of Armenia delivered by Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, first secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

26 September 2017

Thank you Mr. President,

First of all we invite the delegation of Armenia to land back to the Earth and understand the reality in the ground. Never in the history half million Armenians lived in Azerbaijan. According to the official statistics, more than one hundred twenty thousand of Armenians are now living in the territory of Azerbaijan. However, I did not get answer to my question which was how many Azerbaijanis are living in Armenia?

I can answer that question by myself referring to the official statistics provided by the deputy-minister of foreign affairs of Armenia in the latest report of this country to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination this year, which was zero. Zero Azerbaijanis are living now in Armenia, while one hundred twenty thousand of Armenians living in Azerbaijan. How can the delegation of Armenia compare these two figures when talking about discriminatory policy of Azerbaijan?

The delegate of Armenia referred to the case of Lapshin who was the citizen of Israel and Russian Federation. Firstly, this is purely legal matter between Azerbaijan and those countries and Armenia does not have any right to interfere into this case. Secondly, Lapshin recognized the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, asked for the pardon of the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan and as a humanitarian gesture, the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan pardoned him and he was released from arrest.

All countries in this room respect their own territorial integrity and when any person, irrespective of his or her profession, violates the state borders and territorial integrity of those countries of course he/she would be punished and arrested. If the humanitarian condition necessitates, the humanist policy demands this person to be released and this is what the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan did.

Thank you Mr. President.