



**UN Human Rights Council
Thirty-fourth Session
High Level Segment**

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 1, 2017

Mr. President,

We have taken floor for exercising right of reply with regard to the statement of Armenian representative delivered this morning.

Time and again, Armenian representative delivered a statement full of usual set of falsifications, distortions and misinterpretations. It was nothing but another desperate attempt to divert attention of international community from Armenia's military aggression.

It is well known fact that, Armenia unleashed a war and used force against Azerbaijan, occupied almost one fifth of its territory, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent districts; It carried out ethnic cleansing by expelling about one million of Azerbaijanis from their homes and committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide during the conflict.

The international community has consistently deplored, in the strongest terms, the use of force by Armenia against Azerbaijan and the resulting occupation of its territories. However, in total disregard of the norms and principles of international law, Armenia for the last 25 years continues its military occupation in flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

As regards the allegations of Armenian representative concerning April events of last year, I would like to underline that it was armed forces of Armenia who started fighting from their positions in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

If Armenian representative is interested in bringing up human rights issues in the context of the conflict, first and foremost we have to mention systematic and gross human rights violations of more than 1 million Azerbaijani IDPs and refugees, as reflected in the relevant Security Council, General Assembly resolutions, as well as the recent judgment of the European Court of Human Rights against Armenia.

Furthermore, we might discuss the Khojaly genocide perpetrated by the Armenian armed forces in February 1992 against Azerbaijani civilians, including children, women and elderly.

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 and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan are included in the black list and their entry to the Republic of Azerbaijan is denied.