



**UN Human Rights Council  
Forty-seventh Session**

**Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges  
and lawyers**

**Right of reply  
exercised by Ms. Marziyya Vakilova-Mardaliyeva, Permanent Representative of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other International Organizations in  
Geneva**

**June 28, 2021**

I am exercising this right of reply in response to the statement made by Armenia during the Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on independence of judges and lawyers.

We are amazed at the audacity of the Armenian delegation to give sermon on human rights and independence of judiciary. Human rights are massively violated in Armenia, judges are pressured and blackmailed. Suffice it to mention unprecedented appeal by the Armenian Prime Minister to his supporters to block the entrances to court buildings in and outside Yerevan, disrupting the administration of justice and violating constitutional rights, as well as Armenia's international obligations.

As for the groundless allegations raised by the Armenian representative on the Armenian prisoners of war kept in Azerbaijan, let me reiterate that Azerbaijan has returned all Armenian prisoners of war to Armenia in further fulfilment of the provisions of the Trilateral Statement of November 2020. Azerbaijan currently holds no detainees classified as prisoners of war under the international humanitarian law.

As regards to the detention of the members of the terrorist-sabotage group of the armed forces of Armenia captured in the liberated Xocavənd region of Azerbaijan who are not considered prisoners of war in accordance with the international humanitarian law, the members of this group were deployed to the territories of Azerbaijan on 26 November 2020 – two weeks after the trilateral Statement on cessation of hostilities had been signed – by illegally crossing the state border of Azerbaijan and carried out attacks against the Azerbaijani civilians and military personnel, that resulted in killing of four Azerbaijani soldiers

and seriously wounding one civilian. These members of terrorist-sabotage groups are liable under the criminal legislation of Azerbaijan and the investigation is underway.

Moreover, the European Court of Human Rights rejected Armenia's appeals to immediately release Armenian nationals currently detained in Azerbaijan. By rejecting the appeals lodged by Armenia, the Court confirmed Azerbaijan's rights and obligations under the international law to investigate and detain as well as prosecute individuals suspected of violating national and international law, including committing heinous war crimes.

Madame President,

We reiterate our call to Armenia to try to grasp the current situation emerged in the region in the aftermath of signing of the Trilateral Statement on 10 November 2020 and effective restoration by Azerbaijan its territorial integrity and sovereignty over its internationally recognized territories, which is so hard for Armenia to swallow.

I thank you.